

Purton Magazine



*The new River Ray bridge, Tadpole Lane
photo: Rick Dixon*

April 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, Royal 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, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

Parish Priest Father J Reville tel 852366

Church of the Sacred Heart, High Street, Royal 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

So – according to Len Spiers, the outgoing Headteacher at Bradon Forest on [page 26](#) – your monthly magazine is both vibrant and valuable! But before any of us get a little too carried away, the continued success that he wishes for us will always remain totally dependant on our contributors, our distributors and our advertisers and this is an excellent opportunity to thank everyone concerned.

Underneath it all is the fabulous fact that, among our readers and residents, there are many truly remarkable people living in Purton and who daily help to make our community just that bit better for everyone else. Even while you are reading this, it is quite likely that numerous names of those special individuals – and families – will have sprung to your mind.

On [page 30](#) in this issue we are pleased to resurrect our all-too-occasional series of Purton People with a profile of a rather remarkable person. It would be really interesting if we could publish more profiles of Purton people in the coming months. We encourage anyone to submit their contributions with, of course, the permission of the individual concerned. Contact details for the magazine are always on [page 4](#) if you would like to discuss a possible article.

So often it is the slow and steady accumulation of many seemingly minor actions that mark out the really caring people in our community. A few examples of the multitude of small actions that help to make the difference between a good day and another day for other people are described in a plea from a carer on [page 14](#).

Simply saying “hello” when you pass someone on the pavement, especially when you don’t know them, is such a simple way to brighten their day and to continue building our caring reputation. For those yet to be convinced about how our community does care for others, they might like to read the letter about The Cedars on [page 29](#).

If the past is any guide, copies of this April issue may well be delivered just before or during the Easter weekend at the very end of March by when this unseasonably cold weather may have relented. Then, with the longer evenings after the clocks have changed as Easter Day dawns, the opportunities to get out and about should be much better, especially now that Mud Lane has re-opened after 50 years – see [page 34](#). **Happy Easter!**

3Bs

on Friday 12 April
in the Silver
Threads Hall
– see [page 11](#)

30

Purton maximums
of 180 with three darts
are listed
– see [page 38](#)

£228

raised at the
delayed Purton Guide
Dogs jumble sale
– see [page 29](#)

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The logo for Purton Magazine, featuring the word 'Purton' in a large, stylized serif font with 'Magazine' written in a smaller, simpler font underneath it.

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Magazine Committee

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

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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



New Web Site – In our December news report we announced that the Parish Council was in the process of preparing a new web site. We are delighted to say that it is now up and running and can be viewed at www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk. The site is still being developed and we would welcome feedback from you about the site. You can now register for regular updates on news items, so please take a few moments to register.

We hope you like the site and that it will prove to be a good means of communication. We are also looking at Facebook as another means of contact ... so watch this space.

Environment Agency – In the event of an incident such as a bad smell then please call the Incident Hotline (*Freephone 24hr Service*) Tel 0800 807060. The Floodline number is 0845 6026340.

Hedges – Just a reminder that spring is here and the hedges will be starting to grow again. If you have a hedge that is close to the road or a footpath then please ensure it does not cause an obstruction as it grows. The Parish Council receives a lot of calls from local residents about overgrown hedges as the spring and summer progresses. It takes time to write to the people concerned and they often resent being written to. To avoid this please look at your property to ensure there is nothing protruding that could cause an obstruction or nuisance to others. Thank you.

Bonfire Guidelines – If a bonfire is your best practicable option for disposing of garden waste, follow these guidelines and the chances are you won't annoy your neighbours or cause a serious nuisance:

- Speak to your neighbours first;
- Only burn dry material;
- Never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres, or anything containing plastic, foam or paint;
- Never use old engine oil, meths or petrol to light the fire or to encourage it;
- Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions – smoke hangs in the air on damp, still days and in the evening. If it is windy, smoke may be blown into neighbours' gardens and across roads;
- Avoid burning at weekends and on bank holidays when people want to enjoy their gardens;
- Avoid burning when air pollution in your area is high or very high;
- Never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder – douse it with water if necessary.

Cemetery Gates – We are pleased to tell you that the main cemetery gates are about to be replaced with new wooden gates. The old gates have been in place now for a number of years and have been slowly deteriorating; we now have enough money set aside to renew them. So when you visit the cemetery next time we hope you will notice the new improved gates.

Garden of Remembrance – you may have noticed that over the past few months Paul and David, our groundstaff, have been working on the Garden of

Remembrance. The grass has all been replaced and the beds dug over. We are now going to embark on a planting scheme to enhance the area. We have compiled a list of plants we would like to put in to give it a country garden look. If you have any plants to offer then please contact the Parish Council Office and we will put you in contact with Paul.

Parish Council Elections – Parish Council (as well as Wiltshire Council) elections will be held on Thursday 2 May 2013. If you would like to stand as a Parish Councillor you will have to fill in a form which will need to be returned to Wiltshire Council by noon on Friday 5 April 2013. Any nomination papers received after this time and date will not be accepted.

Wiltshire Council's web site www.wiltshire.gov.uk will have all the necessary information on it about the elections and the new Parish Council web site will have a link set up. Nomination packs will be available to download from the web site from Friday 1 March 2013. If you cannot access the web site then call the Elections team on 0300 456 0112 to request a pack. Or a pack can be picked up from The Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham, Wilts SN15 1ER or The Council Offices, Snuff Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1FG.

Wiltshire Council has approved the following planning applications:

N12/04156/FUL *7 Witts Lane*, single storey rear extension

N12/04014/FUL *Folly Down Farm*, erection of new two-storey office (following demolition of existing office)

N13/00005/TCA *Purton Court, High Street*, crown reduce 1 acacia by 20%

N12/04112/FUL *62 Station Road*, single storey rear extension and garage to side of property (previously granted on 08/01582/FUL)

N12/04113/FUL *37 Vasterne Close*, two-storey side and rear extension

The following Planning Appeal has been determined - N12/01601/FUL – *1 The Fox, Purton* – the appeal has been allowed however this does not allow for the diversion of the right of way which will have to be applied for separately.

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

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

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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.

Cricklade Country Market

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

Just a Thought

When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.

Prince Philip

News from The Trustees

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

We are looking into ways to stop vandalism at the Centre and have come up with several ideas which we would like to put before the users before we proceed any further. It is such a shame when there is a facility for all to enjoy and you get problems like vandalism.

The Tennis Club seems to be enjoying their floodlights and, being able to play tennis all the year round at the Centre must be a great advantage to them. I am sure we will see some improved results in the summer – mind they were quite good before. We wish them a very happy and successful summer season.

The Football Club is more than halfway through the season, or should I say should be, as all the rain meant waterlogged pitches. I think they had seven games cancelled which meant they struggled as they didn't have any money coming in. The gentleman who looks after the pitch should be proud of his achievements as it always looks a picture. He must have patience because the footballers play on it and churn it all up but, after his tender loving care it still looks a picture for them to play on the following week.

By the time you read this, the bowls season will nearly be under way. I know the green will be in tip top condition with all the money, time and effort they have spent on it. They have redecorated the Club House, or perhaps the right word should be Bowls Pavilion and, as with anything they do, it is always a good job. We wish them a very enjoyable and successful season.

The problems with skate boarders leaving the Centre and skating down the road is still ongoing and we are very concerned about it. We do wish they would take notice of the warnings and, as a parent, if any of your children go to the Skate Board park, would you please warn them of the dangers.

Purton Institute and Village Hall Charity

Things have started moving visibly regarding the Institute and Village Hall or they will be shortly. As you all know, the Institute is a listed building and four windows need replacing, so it has to be like-for-like and they are wooden, so they all have to be purpose-made at a cost of £7,108. The Parish Council are putting in half – £3,554 and we applied to the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board to see if they would fund the remainder, which they kindly did, so we thank them most sincerely for that and also the Parish Council. The Institute is a very important building in Purton, given to the village by James Sadler of Lydiard House. The cost includes fitting and painting, including scaffolding – think of the height!

The other project that has been ongoing is the gents' toilet in the Village Hall. This is another quite expensive decision we had to make but, due to the kindness of Hills (Landfill tax) we were able to go ahead and make our plans which are now in place and this work will commence as soon as the new window has been put in the gents' toilets. We have made the men wait until last but, once this is done, the Hall will be to a pretty high standard. I would think our biggest problem in the hall is storage space – still, who knows, we might come up with a solution for that one day.

I spoke earlier on about Hills kindness but let's not forget the Parish Council's

donation and another very important input was from organisations and individuals because we had to show that members of the public supported the project. Well they certainly did that alright, to the tune of £1,100 so could I thank everyone personally for all the input we have had in this project. We are going ahead with it but are still a little short of funding, so if anyone else would like to make a donation, no matter how small, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Cllr. TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

Wiltshire Online

Wiltshire Online has been set up by Wiltshire Council to provide free assistance to people who wish to improve their general computer skills, particularly Internet access. If you need help with:

- Mastering computer basics;
- Using social networking sites;
- Shopping online;
- Using Skype;
- Setting up and using emails;
- Using Tablet computers etc,

then please contact, in the first instance, the Wiltshire Online team using any of the following methods:

Phone: 01225 793349

E Mail: digitalinclusion@wiltshire.gov.uk Web: www.wiltshireonline.org

Christian Aid Week News.

Christian Aid Week is on its way (12 - 18 May) and we are so grateful to all those who have already said they would like to be involved.



We even have one or two new helpers this year, who will be giving out and collecting up the little red envelopes ...

The more help we get the better ... so thank you in advance.

As usual there are events planned during the week so please keep an eye on Purton Placard for further details.

For now the dates to consider and put in your diary include:

- Sunday 12 May: when there will be Breakfast in the Church from 9 am to 10 am, followed by a special Christian Aid service. Please do come and join us for bacon butties etc, the full works!
- Tuesday 14 May: A Curry Night at *The Maharajah*; two sittings 6.30 pm and 8 pm.
- Saturday 18 May: our now famous Cake and Plant Stall at the Top Shops all morning.
- There will also be the usual quiz, available from 7 April, which seems to provide hours of fun and fury!

Please come and support Christian Aid as much as you can.

The message this year is that IF everyone shares there will be enough food and resources for all.

LIBBIE SHEPPARD

Purton & District Age Concern



It is with great regret that I have to tell you of the loss of a gentleman who you only had to look at to make you feel at ease and be as happy as he was, always smiling. The person I am talking about is **Joe Bailey**. I would think that he and his wife Margaret came to Purton about twenty-five years ago and they became part of our village and appreciated living here.

Joe was born in Roscrea, County Tipperary in April 1923. He had one sister and two brothers and was always a live wire and, in his younger days, was very friendly with the local tailor who would always patch up his clothes for him so his mother didn't find out, as he was that type of lad who is a bit of a daredevil, always falling about and tearing his clothes, although the day he fell off a high wall could not be covered up as he broke his elbow. On another occasion he was playing close to the local mill stream, fell in and got sucked under the mill's water wheel. If it hadn't been for a worker close by who rescued him I would not be writing this piece now, so you can tell he had a pretty adventurous childhood.

At the age of eighteen, he decided to take the King's shilling and join the forces, coming to England and joining the RAF. He served for ten years during which time he went to North Africa, Gibraltar and Malta to name just a few. He was an MT driver in the RAF and it was during that time he met Margaret and they courted. There was a problem when they decided to get married as Joe was a Church of Ireland member and Margaret was a Catholic – Joe's family was dead against the marriage so they split up. What the family did not take into consideration was their love for one another – talk about love finding a way – it certainly did here because about ten months later they got married – 18 September 1948 in Billericay, Essex – and that love has stood them in good stead all their married life. They honeymooned in Ireland where they met Joe's parents and family and, once they had met Margaret and realised what a lovely lady she was, the family gave their blessing to the marriage.

After the war ended, Joe found employment with Marconi in Chelmsford, Essex, where they set up home. Joe had another love affair – this was with his beloved Matchless motor bike (we both had something in common here!) but his love for Margaret proved the strongest as he sold his motor bike to find the deposit for a new bungalow that was being built in Wickford in 1952. They had an addition to the family, a son David by this time and Joe had changed jobs and was working for Fords at Dagenham where he was a crane driver. After twenty-five years Joe took early retirement in the mid-1980s and relocated to Purton. They had come to see their son who had lived here for a few years and they loved the country life and especially the Purton area and were so pleased they made the move.

Joe loved gardening and was a specialist on lawns – if you ever saw his lawn it was so immaculate that you were frightened to walk on it – that was how you felt but Joe did not mind. I can see where the phrase came from when you say his lawn was like a billiard table. I can see why Joe and Margaret were regulars on our mystery tours, loving the countryside like they did, because we tend to go round the countryside rather than use motorways. Joe was very helpful to people around his

area of Peartree Close, even cutting their grass when they couldn't do it themselves as well as doing other jobs for them. His nature was to help anyone where he could. Joe and Margaret looked forward to the annual Elsham Wold RAF reunion in Lincolnshire which they have attended for the last twenty years and would meet up with many old friends and, of course, this was where Margaret was stationed when in the WAAFs.

In 2009 Joe lost the lower part of his leg but, being Joe, he was still smiling. I bet he was a marvellous patient but what surprised them all was how quickly he learnt to come to terms with it, especially walking again and to the end he was still driving. He was a very contented man who didn't look for the world. The family even teased him that he could watch paint dry. He was intrigued about things going on around him no matter how small. Sadly Joe had breathing problems and was admitted to the London Chest Hospital where he died on 25 February.

I know that Joe and Margaret enjoyed Luncheon Club and Silver Threads like they enjoyed life altogether. We offer Margaret, her family and friends our deepest sympathy and thank them that donations in lieu of flowers are being shared between the Silver Threads and Purton Age Concern. I have just been thinking what a wonderful world it would be if we all had Joe's contentment and that sentiment applies to the people I wrote about in last month's magazine.

After thinking about last month's magazine, I wrote that I did not know how Joe O'Leary came to Blake Hill air field and met Joan. Well Joe was a carpenter (making coffins) and he was seconded to Blake Hill to maintain and put together the Horsa gliders they had there as they were built of wood. *[These gliders were used for the the paratrooper landings at both D-Day in June 1944 and Arnhem in September 1944. Ed.]*

I must tell you that our official title now is Purton and District Age Concern Friends of Age UK. Before our last committee meeting we had a very informative session on health and safety kindly arranged for us by Mick Looker, our Vice Chairman, and very interesting and helpful it was, so many thanks Mick for bringing us into the modern world. By the time you read this we will have launched our befriending service and you will also have had one of our leaflets explaining what we are trying to do. I sincerely hope we can try and make a few lives a little less lonely. Would you like a befriender to call on you or would you like to be a befriender and call on a lonely person for a chat? These are the numbers to ring if you are interested in either of the above or would like more information – Vicki Fowler on 772777, who is the co-ordinator, Louise Tidman, our secretary, on 772558 or me on 770696.

Our last jumble sale was a great success, so many thanks to all concerned who gave us jumble, bought our jumble or helped on the day. Following on from this we had our thirty-third annual auction. I am frightened to say it but, apart from the first one, we haven't had a bad one. The first one was alright reward-wise but it was our novice way of running it that caused the problems. We were taking items that hadn't sold back to their owners until 10 pm that night. We sought advice from that great friend of Purton Age Concern, the late Victor Cook, who put us on the right road which we have been on ever since and I know he would be as proud as we are to know that his grandson Jack Cook is following on where Vic left off – thanks Jack.

Another person who has helped us enormously, or should I say *family*, are the Wightmans. First it was Bob and now Roderick is following in his father's footsteps. I have always thought of them as part of the Age Concern team and I still think that Roderick is now. I suppose we must not be complacent but they have been so kind to us over the years, they make us feel that they are part of us. We mustn't forget our own part of the team – to run something for thirty-three years we must be doing something right. We must also thank the vendors and the buyers – it has been a very good fundraiser for us and here again we thank you one and all. Another big thank-you is to the kind gentleman who came in and gave us a very generous donation which I know was from his wife as well. How can you go wrong when you get a start to the day like that. Very many thanks to that generous couple.

The next fundraising event is our market stall at the Pavenhill shops on Saturday 30 March from 9 am to 12 noon. Knowing the efficiency of the magazine network, you might just about get the magazine to read about it. As usual we need things for the stall, especially cakes, books, bric a brac and raffle prizes. Come along and taste Andrew's world famous sausages – taste before you buy. Or perhaps you have tasted the sausages and like them so why not come along to our 3B's evening – Bingo, Bangers and Beans and, of course it will be Andrew's world famous sausages again! The cost of the tickets is £6 and includes supper and they are available from Ron and Heather Harris on 770850 – bingo tickets are bought on the night. This is on Friday 12 April at the Silver Threads Hall starting at 7.30 pm.

Before that evening we have our first mystery tour of the season with a 10 am start, lunch will be provided and the cost is £13, £14.50 for outsiders – the date for this is Wednesday 3 April. We are concerned about the falling numbers and would like more people to join us. I am sure you would enjoy the trips – they are excellent value for money with a lovely hot lunch. Why not give it a go? The next trip after that is an afternoon one on Wednesday 1 May starting at 2 pm, cost £13, £14.50 for outsiders with tea laid on. Following on from that we have a half day trip on Wednesday 5 June – more information next month.

We are so pleased that Best One may be taking on the Post Office and have seen plans to alter the access. Our big concern is crossing the road. We need some pedestrian crossings in the area, as traffic comes up Station Road so fast and also down the High Street and round the corner by the Institute. People need to cross the High Street and Church Street but if all traffic stopped at the halt sign in Church Street this would help the problem. The pedestrian access to Best One will be fine – we will have to see what is going to happen on the roads. [See page 49. Ed.]

We are looking for a street warden for The Peak as Vicky Shepherd, our present street warden, has to resign through family commitments. We thank Vicky for her past services and wish her well. It would be nice if somebody would come forward. I am sure you would find it rewarding as the elderly do appreciate you. It is not a very time-consuming, demanding job. You are a link between the elderly and the main committee and you get a copy of our minutes from our monthly meetings to let you know what is going on. If you live in The Peak or close by and are interested, give me a ring on 770696.

TONY PRICE

Transforming Purton Parish

This is the second extract from the most comprehensive review ever of parish issues (Transforming Purton Parish).

After housing, transport-related issues have appeared universally high on the list from previous Ps and Qs surveys. The two are linked of course and, to a certain extent, simply reflect modern-day life and needs. Recent decisions on housing developments of course do not help. The effects of housing developments (e.g. Tadpole Farm or Ridgeway Farm) are never properly tested for their impact on nearby settlements. The parish has been blighted for years by outside traffic passing through. Sometimes Purton is used as an informal park and ride whereby those from outside, park up and then use one car to go to work. Of course, car sharing is nominally a good thing, though it needs to be done thoughtfully.

Given the recent approvals of large housing developments on the perimeter of the parish at Tadpole Farm (about 1700 houses) and Ridgeway Farm (about 700 homes) it is inconceivable that this will not have a deleterious effect along Station Road and the High Street.

Speeding (perceived or otherwise), inappropriate parking, difficulties in crossing the road will continue to plague residents. The key to all this is to avoid the knee-jerk reaction and gratification of short term fixes which bring longer term problems. A classic was recent yellow lining of various areas including near Pavenhill shops. During the consultations in 2009, comments were made that the effect on local businesses had not been adequately taken in to account, that much of the proposed yellow lining would merely shunt the problem elsewhere, and, that if the parking attitudes were not addressed, simply putting up signs and painting yellow lines will be futile. This has been the case.

Wiltshire Council Highways routinely makes No Objection to planning applications even though it is easy to foresee parking challenges. Many new applications result in more on-road parking because Government guidelines are such that the amount of cars to be assumed by a house or cluster of houses is under-estimated.

Not only is the car pictured right parking on double yellow lines, it is also parked across a dropped kerb that is specifically there to assist those with mobility challenges. Also top right in the picture is yet another car parked on double yellow lines and obscuring the view of those exiting Hoggs Lane. These two problems, alone, occur dozens of times each day, every day, in this location.

There are some local solutions to transport provision (Purton & District Age Concern for instance) and there are various bus services (times etc available from the parish council) but it has to be recognised that for regular commuting and shopping, the car is here to stay.

And so, too, are HGVs. Although the main thoroughfare is weight-restricted, there



are still some HGVs (local access is allowable) that do use the Station Road/High Street as a means to access the M4. There should be more reporting of this by both the local residents to the parish council and then published information on follow-up.

But what of a station: every few years someone or a group raises the issue of a station at Purton, so Ps and Qs set out the issues earlier in 2012 as one of its Thinking Points. If trains stopped at Purton then the village character would change irreversibly. So, lobbying for a station requires very careful consideration.

Probably of more widespread usefulness, would be a review of the parish road network much of which is now serving several purposes which, whilst not incompatible, create local difficulties; road sharing with speed cycling, horse riding, HGVs, walkers, passing-through traffic, local (within parish) traffic. Typical issues include local speeding (along Station Road, High Street, and The Fox) damaged verges by HGVs (Jubilee Estate) and eroded road edges (Hoggs Lane).

There has been some useful research on new ways to slow traffic. Many offer different ways to address perennial issues, and are now working in Dorset. [www.hamilton-baillie.co.uk/files/publications/50-1.pdf]

- Understanding and exploiting the quality and character of the built and natural environment to increase driver awareness and to influence driver behaviour;
- Avoiding the imposition of standardised highway measures that can erode the distinctiveness and quality of the villages and serve to isolate drivers from their surroundings;
- Signs, road markings, barriers should be kept to a minimum to reduce roadside clutter, and to engage drivers with the environment outside their car;
- Employing the principles of “psychological traffic calming” to influence driver speeds and responses;
- “Self-reading” roads, that inform drivers, appear to reduce speeds and improve drivers’ awareness of their surroundings by increasing interest and changing perceptions of time. Research suggests that the more the brain engages with interpreting the immediate environment, the less time is sensed as passing. This seems in turn to promote lower speeds and a reduced sense of urgency;
- Expanding the menu of measures available to local communities and local highway authorities beyond standardised highway measures. Such measures are intended to build on the principles of “place-making”, to make the villages more distinctive and recognisable, introducing elements of intrigue, uncertainty and interest to alert drivers to the specific context of their surroundings; and,
- Redefining the boundaries for responsibility and management of village streets and spaces.

In the foreseeable future, cars are here to stay and it is time to be more innovative than simply calling for sleeping policemen, 20 mph speed limits, more urbanised structures such as mini-roundabouts and flashing signs and so on. The mind set needs to be changed; both of those drivers who cause nuisance and those who experience the problem.

As with speeding, yellow lines and parking on pavements addressed in the section on Our Safety, general parking is a reflection of current lifestyles, poor

housing developments, mind-sets and a village infrastructure that can no longer absorb the numbers of cars. The usual solutions, such as tinkering with lay-by parking times, adding/removing yellow lines (double and single) are largely ineffective. The problem is overwhelming and needs a far more thoughtful approach. The views of all users need to be considered including those of businesses.

The challenges posed by the “school bus” have been dealt with under Our Education. These challenges are set to become significantly greater with the approval of Ridgeway Farm and the assumption that most secondary school age pupils will commute to Bradon Forest (via school bus and car) rather than Nova Hreod.

The full report, Transforming Purton Parish, 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. There is also a leaflet that features the contents page with various examples of the maps, photographs and diagrams, available at Best One, One Stop, Andrew Hiscock The Butchers and at the Library.

RICHARD PAGETT

On The Lighter Side

A possible speed control suggestion for Transforming Purton Parish?



Purton is a Caring Village

So, please note this plea from a carer, who suggested that it is the cumulative effect of small actions that will help alleviate loneliness; dropping in a Sunday paper, helping put out the bin, saying good morning over the garden fence. It is these small interactions that make us feel human, that make the difference between a good day and a bad day.

And then these small actions unite our community in the face of government cuts. We all need to become more aware and involved with our local community, for our own good, for the good of our neighbours and for the good of our village.

LIBBIE SHEPPARD

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Just a reminder that I am here to help with information to (hopefully) solve problems and make your life a little easier. Please call me, Ellen Blacker on 07557 110414 or email me at rwbrickladeqnc@communityfirst.org.uk



PURTON PLACARD

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

PURTON AND DISTRICT AGE CONCERN

invite you to our

'3 B's EVENING'

with Bingo, Bangers and Beans
on Friday 12 April at 7.30 pm.

Tickets £6 includes supper
available from Ron and Heather Harris
on 770850. Sorry no tickets on the door.
BUY YOUR BINGO TICKETS ON THE NIGHT

Soft drinks, tea and coffee available
Please bring your own alcoholic drinks

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

Coffee Morning

18 Church Path
Friday 12 April
10 am - noon

Books, Bric-a-brac, cakes etc.
In aid of Jubilee Gardens

Cricklade Cricket Club

Race Night

7.30 pm Saturday 27 April

Cricklade Club, High St, Cricklade
Admission £5 includes;
Entrance, Sausage & Chip Supper
and Race Card!

For tickets or more information
contact Rob Milican 07881662486
or John Youe 07514 035177

Purton Helping Hand TABLE TOP SALE

In the Village Hall
on Saturday 13 April
from 1.30 pm.

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

Ladies Pamper Evening

Everyone is welcome
for a girls night out!
Friday 19th April 7pm

Head & Hand
massages
Shellac
Jewellery
Jamie at Home
Henna
Phoenix cards



Eye brow
waxing and
threading
Pampered Chef
PartyLite
Fair Trade food
scrapbooking

Silver Threads Hall

Tickets £5,

(including a glass of bucks fizz on entry)

Raffle drawn at 9.15pm

Ring Kathryn Bartlett Tel: 778059

All proceeds towards India Link Fund For
Grace Bartlett
Elesha Keil
Charlotte Butler

St George's Spring Concert

Saturday 27 April at 7.30 pm
With Chedworth Silver Band at
Purton Village Hall

Proceeds in aid of Help for Heroes
Tickets £7.50 include
a glass of wine and refreshments.
Raffle

Tickets from Doreen Fregard

After 8

February

A late Christmas meal was a good excuse for a social gathering in the dark days of February. Our choice of Swindon College training restaurant proved to be a good one.

We enjoyed an excellent, well-served meal in pleasant surroundings. There was a choice of dishes for each course and a reasonably priced bar – all served and prepared by polite and helpful students.

This provides valuable experience for bar work, front of house, waiting and cooking skills for the 2nd year students. There is also an opportunity to chat to the students during and after the meal.

The restaurant is on the North Star site, with parking. Lunches are from Monday to Thursday and dinner on Thursdays at 6.30 pm. Booking is necessary either on-line at www.micros.swindon-college.ac.uk/restaurant/welcome or by phoning 01793 498244.

For £10 for 3 courses we would highly recommend giving it a go!

MARY HODGES

March

We gathered at Janet's home for a meeting entitled 'Holiday Anecdotes'. I don't think anyone quite realised how the evening would evolve, in fact we began by thinking back to how we had thought of the subject in the first place! No-one could really remember.

Janet started us off by asking for a definition of a holiday ... a cessation of work; a 'holy day'. When did Bank Holidays first start? Someone said it was in the 1800s.

We then thought of horror tales and happy tales. Our first contribution was that of an 11-year-old who was so inspired by Gaudi in Barcelona that he is quite determined to be an architect. We then heard about a holiday with mother-in-law and teenage children – did it work? Mother-in-law hated water while the rest of the party wanted to go on a boat trip which entailed boarding a rather unsteady tender to reach the boat ... she needed to be almost carried!! Can you keep them all happy!?

We heard more stories of boat trips – notably one off Croatia when the band played 'Titanic'!

We then heard stories of toilets around the world, and what stories there are – in Jordan sleeping under the stars in Wadi Rum where there were no loos at all; in Zanzibar where there was a hole in the ground of a village hut with a board on top; at the Red Fort in Delhi where the smell was so strong it was impossible to get near the loos – and we all agreed with the adage 'if you see one then use it while you can!!'

There were stories of outdoor showers; of walking through Hezekiah's Tunnel in Jerusalem (which is about a third of a mile long and only wide enough for one) when the water was waist-high, the ground was uneven and there were local lads sitting on ledges at intervals.

We heard the story of the time a partner was hospitalised in Spain for almost the entire holiday, going straight from the hospital to the plane home.



Then we heard of tragedies and disasters which happened in the country after we had left for home – bombing in Beirut; the shooting of tourists in Egypt at Queen Hatshepsut's Tomb; the Tamil Tigers uprising in Sri Lanka; a bomb scare in Alexandria; the tsunami in Sri Lanka; and a hurricane in Grenada.

While we were all keen to share our less savoury experiences we also made sure we heard lovely stories of perfect moments – in Cannes after the Film Festival, walking on the red carpet just before it was rolled up (and there's a photo to prove it!); magical moments on safari in Uganda trekking gorillas and after a 2-hour trek coming across a group of around 17 led by a 'silver back'.

What a wealth of stories, and we didn't have time to relay them all. Several of us said we hadn't thought the evening would turn out like this, but as we hadn't known how it would evolve then anything was possible ...

NB ... Since our meeting I've checked on the start of Bank Holidays and readers may be interested to know that:

'Prior to 1834, the Bank of England observed about 33 saints' days and religious festivals as holidays, but in 1834 this was reduced to four: 1 May (May Day) 1 November (All Saints' Day), Good Friday and Christmas Day. In 1871, the first legislation relating to bank holidays was passed when Liberal politician and banker Sir John Lubbock introduced the Bank Holidays Act 1871, which specified Bank Holidays as in the table set out below:

Bank Holidays 1871

England, Wales, Ireland

New Year's Day

Easter Monday

Whit Monday

First Monday in August

Boxing Day / St Stephen's Day

Scotland

Good Friday

First Monday in May

First Monday in August

Christmas Day

The English people were so thankful that some called the first Bank Holidays St Lubbock's Days for a while. Scotland was treated separately because of its separate traditions: for example, New Year's a more important holiday there.

The Act did not specify Good Friday and Christmas Day as bank holidays in England, Wales, and Ireland because they were already recognised as common law holidays: they had been customary holidays since before records began.

In 1903, the Bank Holiday (Ireland) Act added 17 March, Saint Patrick's Day, as a bank holiday for Ireland only. New Year's Day did not become a bank holiday in England until 1 January 1974'

SHEILA FOWLER

The next meeting is *Likes & Dislikes* at Sandra's - contact [Avril](#) for details.

Coffee and Chat

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

BOB TINSON

Purton Evening WI



Whatever the weather, Purtonians turn out for their various groups and committees, a habit much to be admired. But they could be forgiven for giving a weary sigh this year as they continue to wrap up before leaving home, and praying that rain, snow and ice will not be confronting them as they leave the meeting. Even as we go to print there is a little snow in the air, so do keep your winter woollies to hand!

Regarding the meeting of 20 February: because of the extreme youth of some of our entertainers, the business matters were put back to later in the evening, to enable us enjoy Tanya Riley's dancing children. A combination of ballet and pop meant a great variety of movement and it appeared that a good memory would be the first requirement for a dancer! No wonder they all looked so fit – excellent team work, fine teenagers in leotards, sweet little ones in pretty tutus – and we applauded the admirable small boy's nautical dance. It was a most enjoyable half-hour.

Business time was addressed to the AGM but we should be involved in other village happenings, of course. Purton Carnival will be 50 years old this month, and it is hoped to have 50 village organisations involved in the celebrations. Please put on your thinking caps as to how best we can participate.

Susan Pagett, our active and efficient Secretary, listed the many other activities available to us, particularly at Denman but also with other WIs nearer to home. There really is no excuse for fit members to feel lonely or without entertainment. And if you are somewhat disabled and can't get around, then we shall come to you. We have a good Buddies system.

By the time you read this issue of the magazine, the AGM will be over and the much-anticipated programme for the coming year will be revealed. There should be a brand new Committee with bright ideas. Like me, you will have to be patient, but I am sure all will be tip-top and Bristol fashion!

As many of you will know, the WI is not just about having a monthly social get together, but is a campaigning body so each year we have a resolution that is discussed and voted upon at our local meeting and then at the national AGM. The resolution for 2011 related to 'The Closure of Local Libraries' and 2012 was about 'The Need for More Midwives'. Many of our past resolutions have helped influence government policy.

At our next meeting on Wednesday 17 April at 7.30 pm at Purton Village Hall we will be discussing the resolution for 2013 which is 'The Decline of our High Streets and Town Centres'. We will also be welcoming Anne Howes who will be talking about hats and we hope she will be bringing along a few samples for us to admire. Come along and you might find the perfect hat for Ascot or that very special wedding!

CONSTANCE REED

How True!

As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder.

John Glenn

Church Floodlighting

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



- 5 March **Jeff Chamberlain**
The Church was floodlit in memory of
My Darling Jeff of 17 years.
With love from Iris, his daughters Ann and Julie,
and my daughters Roslyne and Lesley
- 31 March St Mary's will be floodlit to celebrate **Easter Day**.
ALLELUIA!
- 9 April St Mary's will be floodlit
in memory of **Leslie Holland** on his birthday.
From all the family.
- 22 April The Church will be lit up
in loving memory of **Roger Hunt**
on the 10th anniversary of his death.
Sadly missed by Lesley and Neil, Adam, Craig and Ella:
and Wayne and Beccy, Toby and Maisie

Floodlighting contact: [Libbie](#)

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

Purton Methodist Church

Lent Lunches are once again proving very popular, and as I write we have just finished the fourth one, with £685 raised so far for this year's charities – a final report next month.

To enable us to carry on with events such as Lent Lunches and the many other activities our kitchen is used for, we need to replace our cooker fairly quickly. To help with this expense we are holding a fund-raising lunch on Wednesday 17 April from 12 noon to 1 pm at the Methodist Church. Everyone welcome – please support us in our on-going works.

LINDA TINSON

Prayer for Purton

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

WHAT'S ON?

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society

PADS would like to thank all those who supported us in our Pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor* which, it seems from all the feedback we have had, was our best so far!



From the proceeds we are making donations to the Village Hall toilet refurbishment and Children in Need.

On 23 March we will have held a stand at the Village Hall for the drop-in day for the Neighbourhood Plan; also come and see our display at the Museum in May/June.

We hope to dress up again for the Carnival in our Sinbad costumes and then, in the Autumn, will be putting on a play.

We are holding workshops on 9, 16, 23 & 30 April at the Village Hall 8 pm to 10 pm to learn about Stage Make-up, Characterisation & Stage Fighting. These will also be open to non-PADS members for a fee of £5 per session, so if you are interested please contact Sue on 772581 or Lindsey on 771890.

St George's Day Concert

The Annual St George's concert by the Chedworth Silver Band (conductor David Broad) will take place at Purton Village Hall on Saturday 27 April at 7.30 pm. The Concert is being organised by Doreen Freegard and tickets will be available on the door if not purchased beforehand.

The band prides its self in the varied types of music it plays such as popular classics by Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Holst, music from the shows, The Beatles, Elvis Presley, Tom Jones along with traditional marches and original Brass Band Music.

The proceeds are for *Help for Heroes*. Do come along and enjoy a pleasant evening and contribute to this very worthy cause.

BRIAN BROAD, Deputy Bandmaster

Wessex Male Choir

Tickets are now on sale for the Choir's 12th Annual International Choral Concert at STEAM Museum, Swindon, on 6 July, priced £12 for adults and £5 for under-16s.



This year the Choir will be joined by guest choirs *Colla Voce Youth Choir* from South Africa and the renowned *Cor Meibion Pontarddulais* from South Wales.

Ticket prices allow admission to STEAM and bar from 6.30 pm with the concert doors opening at 7 pm and the concert starting at 7.30 pm. There is free parking in the Outlet Centre North Car Park.

Tickets are available from the Information Office, Regent Street, Swindon (01793) 466454, the STEAM Ticket Office, Kemble Drive, Swindon (in person), from the Choir on (01793) 852786, or our website www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk and from In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill, Purton.

Bell Ball Bonanza

On Saturday 7 September we will be holding THE BELL BALL BONANZA, a charity ball at the Bell Inn, Purton Stoke, in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

We realise that this will be hot on the heels of the Children in Need Ball in June but have tried our best not to compete with them!

We are looking for sponsorship in any form, and raffle prizes, and are taking bookings now for tickets or tables. Tickets are priced at £50 per head and include Champagne on arrival, a sit-down 3-course meal and dancing to *The Edge*. Tables of 10 can be reserved.

Details from Lindsey Hall (771890), Sarah Kernon (772856) or Jackie at *The Bell* (770434).



Swindon & Cricklade Railway

Sunday 28 April: CREAM TEA ON THE MOONRAKER from 12 noon. Tickets cost £5.50. This is in addition to a ticket to ride. No booking required.



When special events are not planned, steam services will operate on Sundays and diesel services will operate on Saturdays from 24 March onward. Facilities include café, shop, museums, picnic area and free parking.

Blunsdon Station is two miles from Purton village on Tadpole Lane. From Packhorse Lane carry straight on over the railway bridge. The car park entrance is then immediately on the right. (Tadpole Lane is now fully open to traffic.)

Enquiries 01793 771615 or on line at www.swindon-cricklade-railway.org

Sewing Machine Update!

In the October magazine last year I put out a 'wanted' appeal for 'electric sewing machine for use by Deaf people with additional needs' in their workshop in Bath. In the November magazine I announced, with delight, that five machines had been donated by Purtonians.

This was a staggering response. But little did I know! ... In the January magazine there was a photograph showing all machines in use in Bath and a message of gratitude from Action on Hearing Loss. Also a STOP PRESS...a sixth machine had been donated! And by the time the February magazine came out the number had increased to seven!

And now, I am delighted to say that NINE machines have been given to the Workshop and are in constant use.

So thank you very, very much Purtonians. I can't tell you how amazed I am at such generosity.

The machines are being used for making bunting, cushions, flags...all sorts of exciting crafts and fundraising projects. If anyone would like to know more please contact [Libbie](#).

Purton Diary - April 2013

1	M		Easter Monday Bank Holiday Registration for St Mary's Electoral Roll (<i>until 14 Apr</i> - page 23)
2	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Quiz with Lynda Warren
3	W	10.00am	Age Concern Mystery tour with lunch provided
4	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
5	F	12 noon	Nomination papers deadline for WC and PC elections (page 6)
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7	Su		Christian Aid Quiz sheets on sale
		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
9	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
10	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill: Jenny Corkett - <i>On the Buses</i>
11	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
12	F		Public Consultation on Post Office relocation ends (page 32)
		9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
		10.00am	<i>to noon</i> : Coffee Morning at 18 Church Path
		7.30pm	3 B's evening at the Silver Threads Hall (Age Concern)
13	Sa	1.30pm	Table Top Sale at Village Hall (by Helping Hand)
		7.30pm	British Legion Concert at Bradon Forest School (page 15)
		7.30pm	Bingo Evening at the Red House(Tennis Club)
<hr/>			
14	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
16	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Musical Companions</i>
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	<i>After 8: Likes & Dislikes</i> : led by Sandra at her house
17	W	12 noon	<i>to 1pm</i> : Fund-raising lunch at Methodist Church
		2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening Women's Institute at Village Hall: Resolution Meeting, followed by Anne Howes - <i>Hats</i>
18	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at St Mary's School Hall: Stewart Wardrop - <i>Feral and Racing Pigeons</i>
19	F	7.00pm	Ladies Pamper Evening at Silver Threads Hall (page 15)
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21	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church

23		St George's Day
	Tu 7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Moira White - <i>A Cutting Garden</i>
26	F 3.30pm	Communion at The Cedars
27	Sa 7.30pm	St George's Spring Concert with Chedworth Silver Band at Village Hall
	7.30pm	Cricklade Cricket Club Race Night at Cricklade Club
	8.30pm	Purton Cricket Club Race Night at the Red House

28	Su 8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
29	M 7.00pm	St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (see below)
30	Tu 2.00pm	Silver Threads AGM

May - for your diary

2	Th	Parish and Wiltshire Council election day
4	Sa 1.30pm	Collectors' Market at Village Hall (<i>book tables on 770251</i>)
25	Sa 10.00am	<i>to 12 noon</i> : Coffee Morning and Plant Sale at Silver Threads

Every week

Tu	9.15am	<i>to 11.30am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
	7.30pm	Bridge Club at the Red House
W	10.00am	<i>to 12noon</i> : Coffee and Chat at Silver Threads Hall
	6.30pm	Rock Solid at the Methodist Church
W	7.30pm	RAOB Excelsior Lodge at The Red House
Th	9.15am	<i>to 11.30am</i> : Purton Toddler Group at Village Hall
Th	11.15am	<i>to 1pm</i> : New Beginnings at Purton Youth Centre
Th	2.00pm	<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

 3 April
  10 April
  18 April
  25 April

St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) & Electoral Roll

What is happening this year? St Mary's Church APCM will be held on Monday 29 April in St Mary's School Hall at 7 pm. This will be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Purton Ecumenical Group.

Every 6 years, the Electoral Roll of St Mary's Church has to be renewed and this is now due. The process requires compiling an electoral roll register between the specific dates of 1 and 14 April, when Electoral Roll Forms will be made available in the church. Only those on this Electoral Roll will be permitted to vote at the APCM on 29 April. A list of those who have registered will be posted in the church between 15 and 29 April.

Nominations for the next Parochial Church Council (PCC) also have to be taken from the Electoral Roll and are then approved at the APCM.

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



World Thinking Day is always a focus in February. On 22 February we consider the international aspect of guiding, often by undertaking international themed activities and finding out about our sister organisations and their cultures across the globe. Rainbows focused this year on New Zealand as one of their Leaders was on holiday there at the time. Guides learnt about their counterparts in Hong Kong and 2nd Purton Brownies made World Thinking Day cards to give as a token of friendship to another Brownie, Guide, Rainbow or Leader. We also got together as a District with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Purton, Lydiard Millicent and Minety enjoying an afternoon of African-themed activities.

Staying on an international theme, the Guides have been working on the Interpreter badge. They learnt phrases in Mandarin Chinese, along with how to write their names. They linked this in with Chinese New Year and enjoyed a dinner of noodles, lychees and fortune cookies. Investigating what their Chinese horoscope character said about them proved to be an interesting exercise and they found that playing with tangram puzzles wasn't as easy as it first appeared.

Promise ceremonies have been held: for Megan, Georgina, Lydia and Jessica in Rainbows for Aimee in 1st Purton Brownies and for Grace, Amber and Lucy in 2nd Purton Brownies.

Preparations for Mothers' Day and Easter are underway. The Rainbows made Mothers' Day cards and 2nd Purton Brownies made gifts of chocolate and foam flowers at their 'Bring a Friend' evening. 1st Purton Brownies have made Easter cards for the residents of Hooks Hill and Guides have made chocolate nests and felt egg cosies.

Amongst all of this other activities have included the Rainbows' *Best Dressed Teddy* competition at which all bears won a prize for their owners and lots of badge work. Katy-Erin, Holly, Maria and Lucy have all completed the Hostess badge, Eva and Kelly the Craft badge and Eva the Friend to Animals badge. Following their success last month, Erin and Isobel took to the stage at the County round of the Region singing competition. Unfortunately they didn't make it to the next round, but are to be congratulated on their achievement.

To get involved, either as an adult volunteer or as a girl member, 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

We Record ...

Funeral

6 March Mervyn Charles Ockwood *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 ...



Thames Waterways Volunteers

Last year, the Games Makers were lauded as making a tremendous contribution to the success of the Olympics. On the river Thames, volunteers were making a similar impact helping boaters at the 45 locks along its length between Lechlade and Teddington.

The Environment Agency, which is navigation authority for the Thames, is now recruiting for the 2013 season and are looking for volunteers who can commit to assisting at least one day a week between May and the end of September. Volunteers can agree their hours with lock keepers but need to be available at least from 11 am to 5 pm. Volunteers are particularly needed along the river between Reading and Lechlade. Volunteering is a great way to meet people and to find out more about the Thames, its history, wildlife and management. At the same time volunteers know that they are doing something worthwhile that is really appreciated.



Our Volunteer Assistant Lock Keepers work alongside paid lock keepers. They help boats pass through the lock safely: taking ropes, directing traffic, and operating sluices and lock gates. They help maintain the site: painting, tidying and gardening. They provide information to visitors, be they on foot or afloat, so that they can make the best of their time on the river. Visitors really appreciate the local knowledge that volunteers can provide.

All applicants are invited to an assessment at a local lock. Here they will have the role explained to them and be shown what it involves in practical terms. They will also be assessed to decide which site may be most appropriate for them and to ensure that they have the physical capabilities required. After successful completion of the assessment, they attend an induction course which focuses on safety and preparing them for the lock side.

On the lock side the volunteers follow a documented training programme before being signed off to take charge of the lock on their own. This will only be for short periods, while the paid keeper is at lunch for example. The volunteers are there to augment the service provided by paid staff rather than to replace them.



Volunteers are provided with some uniform and can claim mileage for travel to and from their lock (subject to a daily maximum). They also receive a monthly newsletter which keeps them in touch with what is going on along the river and other activities of the Environment Agency.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering on the Thames and to receive an information pack and application form, please contact the Volunteer team on 01491 828360 or email thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk

DEMETRI SOMARAKIS, River Thames Volunteer Team - Waterways



Ski Trip To Risoul, February 2013

Mrs Evans reports: I can report that the ski trip to Risoul during half-term was a great success. Everything from the hotel, the skiing to the children's behaviour was outstanding. The ski instructors and the hotel staff commented on the students' good manners throughout the whole week. Thank you to my fellow PE teachers and all the students involved for making the trip so memorable. Here's to Risoul 2015! See Ski Trip Photo Gallery on the web site via



the following link: www.bradonforest.org.uk/inc/sub_SS_box.asp?SSID=1460

New York Trip, February 2013

Miss Cole reports: 42 students in Years 10 and 11 enjoyed a visit to New York during the end of term break. We had a packed schedule. We took a boat to see the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and Brooklyn Bridge, followed by a walk along Wall Street and a moving afternoon spent at Ground Zero



We also enjoyed the views from the Empire State Building, some time spent in Times Square, and sampled classic American food at a diner with singing waiters. We took a walk through Central Park, stopping at Strawberry Fields, the John Lennon memorial and the Bethesda Fountain. We rode the subway, visited the Public Library and Grand Central Terminal and even had some

time for shopping on 5th Avenue. Students were enthusiastic and great company, despite the cold weather. Many thanks to all involved, especially the staff and students who made it such a pleasure to organise.

Visit the New York Gallery of photos on the web site or see the trip 'video' via the following link: www.bradonforest.org.uk/News/New-York-Video

UK Maths Challenge: Our top set Year 9 and 10 Mathematicians took part in the UK Mathematics Challenge. This is an intense one-hour examination which challenges students to use efficient and carefully thought out techniques in order to complete unusual and challenging mathematics. We are delighted to report that the following students gained awards. Well done to all involved. **Gold Awards** Jing Zhang (9T) **Best in Year 9** and Joshua Wolfsohn (10Q) **Best in Year 10** James Harbour (9W) and Hamish Murray (10P) **Silver Awards** Brody Anderson (9T), Grace Bartlett (10Q), Nathan Groom (10T), Ryota Imai (9W), James Keen (9W), Alice Mulley (10S), Sufia Ruhomaun (10S), Cameron Shaw (10S), Lucy Taylor (10W) and Anna Witka (10P) **Bronze Awards** Thomas Buckingham (9P), Samantha Evans (10Z), Ben Hares (10T), Kirsten Harris (10S), Charlotte Holmes (9Y), James Howse (9T), Miles Jolliffe (9W), Elliot Mayo (10S), Danielle Spiers (9T) and William Rogers (10X).

Year 9 Honda Visit: Our Year 9 students were given the exciting opportunity to visit the Honda UK manufacturing plant at South Marston. In a well-organised event, Mr Hutchings, Mr Parkes and 30 students were given an insight into the world of engineering at Honda. The morning began with an introduction to Honda and the products



they manufacture. This was followed by a tour of the building where the engine blocks are cast as well as a look at part of the production line. Then in small groups, students were given the opportunity to ask some of the engineers the questions they had prepared during the week. The next task was to build some simple systems using pneumatics which the students thoroughly enjoyed. To finish off there was an interactive quiz about Honda and engineering in general, with a bag of goodies for the victor. It was clear that the students had thoroughly enjoyed the visit to Honda; they had learned much about the role of an engineer, as well as the advantages of using pneumatics in such an environment. I would like to thank the staff at Honda for an informative, enjoyable and well organised event.

Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition 2012/13

Mr Winward reports: On Saturday 9 March 2013 several AGAT students took place in The Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition held at Swindon Magistrates Court. The competition aims to introduce the legal system to young people in an innovative and exciting way, giving them the opportunity to gain hands on experience. The students worked extremely hard, maintaining their commitment resulting in finishing in joint second place in the competition. Many thanks to Mrs Sykes and Mrs Styles, the School Librarians, for organising and supporting the students and also to parents for their support on the day. Mrs Valerie Webb,

Magistrate, wrote the following to Mrs Sykes after the Trial: *"I thought your team did a fantastic job on Saturday, and only missed the win by very few points. As you will have gathered the scores were very close. You and your team are to be congratulated on excellent preparation and presentation."*

Basketball - Season Overview:

Mr Matthews reports: When we last reported on the Basketball, the season was still in progress with the Year 8 and Year 11 teams still making progress in the national cup competition. Now the season is over, we can update you as to the final standings.

The lads should be proud of their endeavours as they have once again shown great attitude, effort, commitment and ability. A total of 64 boys have represented the school this year and each one of them has been magnificent, as well as fantastic ambassadors for the school. They should all be hugely proud of their contributions.

A special mention goes to the Year 11 boys who finished their Bradon Basketball careers having never lost a Swindon school fixture over the last 5 years.

The final standings for the season are as follows.

Year 7 (No Swindon School or national competitions at this age group)

Year 8 Swindon Schools quarter finalists. National Cup regional rounds.

Year 9 Swindon School winners, county runners up.

Year 10 Swindon School runners up. National Cup regional rounds.

Year 11 Swindon School winners. National Cup regional rounds.

Farewell: This is the final report that I will be submitting to *Purton Magazine* as I will have retired as Headteacher of Bradon Forest School when this is published. I would like to thank the editorial team for all their support for Bradon Forest School over my 12 years as Headteacher – it has been a privilege to report on the many and varied successes of the students and the school. I would like to send my best wishes to the ‘Purton Community’ and to the continued success of such a vibrant and valuable *Purton Magazine*.

LEN SPIERS, Headteacher

Marie Curie ‘Walk Ten’

Marie Curie Cancer Care based in the South West will be holding their *Walk Ten* event at the Badminton Estate this summer, on Saturday 31 August as part of 17 *Walk Tens* taking place in various locations throughout the UK this summer.

The event starts at 7 pm and is a sponsored 10km twilight walk through the deer park and woodland of the Badminton estate as the sun begins to set. Following the walk as the stars light up the night, you will be invited to settle down to your homemade picnic by the Worcester Lodge or enjoy the food on offer from local caterers as live music and entertainment play on, culminating in a fireworks display at 10 pm, to mark the time when Marie Curie nurses begin their night shift, caring for patients with a terminal illness in Wiltshire, South Gloucestershire and throughout the South West.

Anyone who registers **before 30 June** will be included in a prize draw to win their picnic on the night, courtesy of *Papadeli* and *The Organic Hamper Company*.

You can watch a video about *Walk Ten* and get a real feel for the event by clicking on www.mariecurie.org.uk/walkten and if you would like to sign up and take part yourself (and possibly win a picnic hamper) you can either register online at www.mariecurie.org.uk/badminton or call **0845 052 4184**. Under 16s walk for FREE and dogs are welcome too!

This will be a truly magical night and a fantastic way to celebrate the British summer time whilst supporting the work of Marie Curie nurses, so your participation would be fantastic.

MATT CARRUTHERS, Regional Events, Wales & South West

Wise Words

Wood burns faster when you have to cut and chop it yourself.

Harrison Ford

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.



■ FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS

On 21 January, I fell over on the ice and broke my ankle. A few days later my husband Michael was admitted to hospital with a rare and serious blood disorder.

We would like to thank all our friends and neighbours (too numerous to name) for their tremendous support and physical help at this difficult time.

We don't know what we (including our Labrador, Olly) would have done without them.

So, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Pat & Michael Breeds

■ AN OUTSIDER

We have received a letter from someone who makes an interesting point but wishes to remain anonymous. We would be very pleased to print the letter and mark it "*Name & Address Supplied*" but our editorial policy is that we, the editors must now who it is from.

Please let us know who you are and we will publish it next month.

The Editors

■ A VERY BIG THANK-YOU

My family and I would like to say many thanks to all who know me and have supported me the last few months during my illness. It is very much appreciated. Once again a very big thank-you.

Johnny Coole and family

■ THE CEDARS

This week a friend phoned me to tell me that her very elderly Mother had died ... peacefully, happily.

I asked her where her Mother had been living, for her last few months and was told 'Oh it's a little village called Purton: there's a wonderful care home there called 'The Cedars.' She then said, 'The Cedars gave Mum her life back: she was so happy there'.

What a wonderful thing to hear. I think that should be written up over the door of The Cedars.

Thank you to all who work there. We are so lucky to have your dedication and care.

Libbie Sheppard

Purton Guide Dogs

Our delayed Jumble Sale can be hailed as a success; Barbara Herron came and did her stall, and again donated all the proceeds to us £63.60 – wonderful. Our stalwart team very quickly set the hall up for Jumble and Bric- a -Brac, and we made £165.17, so all the hard work paid off. Our thanks to all of you who turned up to support us, at the end of the day we made an amazing total of £228.77.

Many thanks for everybody's continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES for the Purton Support Group



Purton People

An occasional series ... that we would like to make less occasional.

Dr Richard Pagett

The following article is reprinted from the *Swindon Advertiser* with their permission.

Dr Richard Pagett is an international development adviser and founder member of Purton Ps and Qs, a pioneering community group that has spent nearly 20 years lobbying on residents' behalf. He recently announced his retirement from community activism. He lives in Purton with wife Susan, a retired head teacher.



Not many people have been held captive on an oil rig raided by bandits or hidden from bullets in a near civil war zone, let alone done both. And the number who've not only done both but also used the down time to catch up on their duties as English parish councillors? That club almost certainly has a membership of precisely one, and Dr Richard Pagett is it.

As with a lot of people who lead extraordinary lives, the stories have to be coaxed from him and are delivered self-effacingly. The oil rig seizure happened in the early 2000s off Nigeria. "I was in a room with no windows, but there was a computer and I managed to get online. I can remember running the parish council from the room – I was chairman."

It took four days for the authorities to restore order and release the captives on the rig. "Because I wasn't an oil worker I got a ride back in the helicopter with the bandits. I was dropped off in Effurun. It was an interesting place. When the first Gulf War was going on, the most dangerous place in the world was said to be Baghdad, but number two was Effurun. I thought 'just my luck,' but it was alright. "You just walk up to somebody, have a quiet word, wave some US dollars, get a car to take you to an airport and blag your way onto a small plane."

And the civil strife? That was in the Macedonian capital, Skopje, again in the early 2000s, which was an era of protests by ethnic Albanians and armed civil unrest. The phone lines to England were open. "There was a fire-fight outside my apartment window. I had a bullet-proof screen that you pulled down. I remember sheltering under the bed and talking to one of my parish councillors." He was trying to persuade her not to resign from a local community organisation. He said: "I remember she asked what the noise was."

The scientific rigour of his professional life has served him well in Purton Ps and Qs, which was founded in 1994, and during his four years as a parish councillor from 1999. Purton Ps and Qs prides itself on opposing things such as poor planning strategies and coming up with alternatives backed by sound data and logic.

Dr Pagett's community activism began after he was asked to give a talk to the Women's Institute branch. "Somebody said we should have a local environmental group. We had a little meeting and started a little group." Early campaigns included one against the spread of landfill. "We had a meeting at the village hall and it was the biggest village meeting in the history of Purton. We had more than 300 people – they were spilling out into the car park."

The Ps and Qs ethos of giving local people a voice was carried over to his parish council duties. "It's not a case of challenging everything and being difficult; it's a case of challenging things that don't make much sense. I'm hoping that it's well understood now by parish councils everywhere that they need to be more muscular and need to challenge where appropriate."

Dr Pagett was born in Braintree, Essex, and one of his earliest memories is of the Birmingham orphanage from which he was adopted by a housewife and a sales representative at the age of two. He said, "I remember the playroom where people came to look and select. I had a brilliant childhood."

He credits a television show called *Zoo Time*, presented by Swindonian Desmond Morris, with inspiring him to become both a scientist and passionate about nature. *The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau*, a documentary series following the legendary French oceanographer, led to a love of diving that's lasted 39 years.

A science degree at the University of London was followed by a PhD there and a post graduate fellowship in Leeds, which involved gathering data about the ocean floor and its chemical and mineral stability. He is the author of a book called *Undersea World*. Academic jobs were thin on the ground in the late 1970s, so he embarked on a career as an environmental advisor to governments and other organisations that has taken him to more than 110 countries. His work has seen him ride in a submarine sold to the Colombian government by East Germany and dodge the secret police in Iran and Libya, among other adventures*.

His professional remit covers many complex disciplines, but sustainability and climate change have been especially prominent. Dr Pagett believes available evidence shows that climate change is caused by humans rather than a natural cycle, but regards this debate as far less significant than climate change itself. Dr Pagett has now decided to withdraw from community activism in order to concentrate on his profession. "I have a personal target to work in the rest of the countries that I have not worked in before. That's about 80-something. At the moment I'm running at about 10 new countries per year."

Dr Pagett's website is www.RichardPagett.com and The Purton Ps and Qs website is www.purtoninfo.org.uk

*Ed: *In addition we understand that he was also temporarily arrested aged 14 by Russians in Tel Aviv after the six day war and was even shot at by the British Army while he was diving off Malta in his early 20s. We look forward to further revelations in future issues of Purton Magazine!*

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.

Purton Post Office Relocation

There is currently a proposal on the table from Post Office Ltd to move Purton's Post Office from its current location at 5 High Street to Best One, at 1 Station Road. Below are extracts from the consultation letter, which is available in full at Purton Post Office.

Proposed move to new premises & branch modernisation

I'm writing to let you know that we are proposing, with the subpostmaster's agreement, to move the above Post Office branch to a new location – Harford House Stores (Best One), 1 Station Road, Purton, Swindon, SN5 4AQ. And I'm pleased to tell you that, if the move goes ahead, subject to consultation and the appointment of the new operator, it will change to one of our new local style branches.

The move of this branch is part of a three-year investment and support programme, the largest in the history of Post Office Ltd, which will see around 6,000 branches (about half the Post Office network) converting to new-style branches.

What will this mean for customers?

- Post Office services will be offered from a till on the retail counter in a modern open plan branch;
- Longer opening hours;
- The majority of Post Office products and services will still be available.

Consulting on the proposed new location

Public Consultation is currently under way, and we would like you to tell us what you think about the suitability of the proposed new location. Before we finalise our plans, we would really like to hear your views on the proposed location, particularly on the following areas:

- How suitable you think the new location and premises are and how easy it is to get there?
- Are the new premises easy for you to get into and is the inside easily accessible?
- Do you have any concerns about the new location?
- If so, do you have any suggestions that could help us make it better for you?
- Are there any local community issues which you think could be affected by the proposed move?
- Is there anything you particularly like about the proposed change?

Please email or write to me via our Communication and Consultation team, whose contact details are below. Please note that your comments will not be kept confidential unless you expressly ask us to do so by clearly marking them "In Confidence". Any information we receive will be considered as we finalise our plans for the new branch. Public Consultation ends 12 April 2013, and the proposed month of change is May 2013.

It is also proposed that the new Post Office would be open from 6 am to 9.30 pm Monday to Saturday, and 6 am to 9 pm on Sunday, mirroring the opening hours of

Best One. A ramp will be installed outside Best one, and internally there will be a hearing loop and space for wheelchairs.

How to contact us:

Via our website: www.postofficeviews.co.uk / email: comments@postoffice.co.uk

Freepost: Items sent by Freepost take 2 working days to arrive. Therefore, responses by Freepost should be sent in sufficient time to arrive before the end of the consultation period. Working days do not include Saturdays or Sundays. Responses received after the deadline will not be considered.

Customer Helpline: 08457 22 33 44 / Textphone: 08457 22 33 55

TONY JONES, Regional Network Manager

Dixon Group Tours / Chiseldon Travel Club

We have just returned from our 14th trip to New Zealand. As always we never fail to marvel at the stunning scenery and enjoy their summer weather during our winter. This will possibly be our last trip to the Southern Hemisphere as the cost of the airfares and the great distance involved is moving it out of the reach of most of the club members.

Our next trip, in August this year, is a lot closer to home and we will be heading for 5 nights in August to the 4* *Chateau Montvillargenne* in the suburbs of Chantilly. From this base we will take day trips around the area and to the city of Reims. The highlights of the tour will be a day around Paris and a evening dinner cruise on the Seine. The trip will not involve a lot of walking as we will use our own coach and a French guide to do the tour and it will be very leisurely throughout. Full breakfasts and evening meals with wine, beer or soft drink are included for the whole 5 days as are all the sightseeing and excursions (including dinner cruise). Cost is £795 based on a twin share, single supplement £155 extra.

We still have some places left on this tour and if you would like to come and see the beautiful city of Paris and surrounding area with us call Sharon and Ian Dixon 01793 741210 or email sharian@clara.co.uk for the full itinerary.

MAYDAY: Purton Artists need your help

The Purton Artist's Exhibition is a major function in the village. We host a large exhibition of local artists 'work. Membership is open to all Over 16 living within a five mile radius of Purton.

Until now we have had free loan and transportation of display boards, but the owners now need to sell them. To carry on as a Society we would like to purchase them – £250 for the boards and £350 for their purpose-built trailer. We are not able to store them in the Village Hall.

Can anyone help us to raise the funds to buy them? Or could you offer us sponsorship? We would credit sponsorship on the display boards. We hold no funds and all monies go to sellers or for hall hire and running costs.

If you can help, please contact Avril Ainscough by email at avrilainscough@yahoo.co.uk.

PURTON ARTISTS COMMITTEE

Historic path re-opens after more than 50 years

Ramblers North-East Wiltshire Group is celebrating the fact that a path in Purton, known as Mud Lane, is once again available for use by walkers. This historic sunken lane which leads to Ringsbury Camp, an iron age fort, is believed to have existed as a public right of way since at least 1200. However, it had been obstructed and impassable since 1956, during which time Wiltshire Council, the highway authority responsible for the path, had failed to clear it.

Wiltshire Council made an order to divert the right of way at the request of the landowner but Ramblers, Purton Parish Council, local societies and a number of individuals objected. Following a two-day Public Inquiry held at Purton Village Hall last November, an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State refused to confirm the order, saying that “the loss of such a historic route ... would have a serious negative effect on the enjoyment of many current and potential users of the right of way”.

Ramblers welcomes the fact that Wiltshire Council and the landowner, Mr Moseley, have since acted promptly to clear the path, which is now fully open for use. Joan Crosbee, a keen walker who gave evidence at the Inquiry on Ramblers behalf, said “this decision acknowledges the history of our paths and the long fight to save this path has been justified”.

For further information please contact Peter Gallagher, North East Wilts Ramblers Walking Environment Officer: 01793 537472.

Marion Hobbs of Purton said, “An ancient road can now be enjoyed and is saved for future generations.”

Mud Lane



Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Following a brief AGM on 26 February in which the previous office holders and committee were confirmed for this year, members welcomed Dr Bryan Lawton for what we thought was to be a talk on *The History of Windmills*. Unexpectedly this turned out to be a talk on a local subject – *Coleshill Watermill* which we learned was one of 5621 watermills listed in the Domesday survey of 1086.

The mill stands alone now, the house to which at one time it was adjacent, was acquired in the 1930s by the Ministry of War as a base for training resistance fighters should there have been a German invasion. However at the end of the war it was found to be in a poor state of repair and was subsequently sold. Regrettably, during its renovation by the new owners, a fire broke out and the house was totally destroyed. In 1952 the watermill passed into the hands of the National Trust who have overseen its renovation and eventual restoration to full working order in 2005. It is a small 3-storey watermill with two pairs of millstones and an iron low-breast waterwheel.

Bryan explained that at the time of the Domesday survey most families would have had their own stone for grinding corn for flour. People were heavily fined for using their own stone, forcing them to use the local miller and to pay the tax levied by the Crown, for this service. At that time there was estimated to be a ratio of 1 mill to every 26 households in the country.

Supply of water to all mills was in the form of a 'leat' with a weir controlling the height of the water to the leat: the longer the leat, the greater the head of water, and as a consequence, the greater the power. The Coleshill leat has a head of about 1 metre and is 450 metres long. As leats had to be dug and banked by hand, construction of the Coleshill leat would have been an arduous task for the peasants of the day.

Originally the water wheels were constructed with sloping paddles until it was discovered that curved paddles improved water retention which in turn increased torque and power. By building a 'breast', water was prevented from falling off the paddles. This was useful where there was a low head of water as is the case with Coleshill watermill, where water enters at low level to drive the shaft. Coleshill water wheel is 7'8" in diameter with a 2'10" variance between the water coming in and going out. In the 1920s, corn milling at the mill ceased but the water wheel continued to be used for pumping.

To mill the flour, a leather belt and pulley system operated a hoist on the top floor. The belt could be tensioned from the top floor forcing the beam to rotate which raised the pulley holding the sack of corn and raising it up to the top floor. The corn would then be sieved depending on the type of flour needed and then dropped through a cloth sieve. Any remnants or 'tailings' as they were known, would be ground and re-sieved for use as animal feed.

The miller was responsible for producing flour of optimum thickness. Too fine and it would overheat and burn. By rubbing the flour between his finger and thumb the miller could determine when the requisite texture and quality of the

flour had been reached – hence the saying ‘the rule of thumb’. Any necessary adjustments were achieved by lifting and lowering the cross beam. This would raise and lower the stones as necessary until the desired texture of the flour was produced. The stones can vary between 30” and 48” in diameter.

Bryan went on to discuss various other mechanisms in the operation of the mill at Coleshill. These included ‘damsels’ that drive the vertical shaft, the hopper that feeds the grain to the stone and the feed tray.

This was an informative account of the Coleshill water mill which I’m sure few of us were aware existed in our local area.

Our next meeting, to be held in the Silver Threads Hall as usual, will be on 23 April at 7.30 pm. One of our own members, Moira White, will be the speaker. Her subject will be ‘A cutting garden’. The competition will be ‘A spring arrangement’.

We have a varied program for this year so if you enjoy gardening and would like to join us we meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month with a guest speaker, competition and raffle.

MARGARET GOODALL (Secretary), DIONNE CHILD (Chair)

Purton FC



The Hellenic league side have managed just one win and a draw in their last 9 league encounters due to the fact that Manager Chris Pethick has been short on numbers having lost Johnny Coole and Nick McCrae with long term injuries, several players due to work commitments being unavailable and a several players serving suspensions. Currently they are 11th in the table with Steve Avenell the leading goal-scorer. Hopes are still alive in the Supplementary Cup competition though having reached round 3.

The Wiltshire league side however under Albert Dearing are lying 2nd in the Wilts Premier league, nine points behind the leaders Wilts Caine Town FC but with two games in hand and are having a great season and are still in the Corsham Print Senior Cup competition. Devan Bryan leads the way in goal-scoring stakes having netted an impressive 33 goals.

On the Youth front the under 9s are well placed in their while the under 14s top their league table and the under 15s are well placed and still in the Wilts County Cup competition. The under 16s playing in a really tough league however find themselves at the wrong end of the table but are battling on while the under 17/18s have gone out of the Wilts County cup after defeat at home by Salisbury City but are well placed in their league

Due to the recent bad weather quite a few games have been called off, in particular under 16s and under 17/18s games scheduled at the Red House Ground which will mean in April/early May mid-week evening games will be a regular occurrence at the ground. Despite the bad weather Colin Richards should be congratulated on all his hard work on keeping the pitch up to scratch spending many hours rolling, cutting and marking out.

ALAN EASTWOOD, Chairman/Hon Sec



Purton Carnival - 50th Anniversary 14 - 30 June 2013

Not very inspiring weather to talk Carnival, nevertheless things are slotting into place and your support is wanted to make a great 50th. Below is a brief list for your guidance. Some changes from the Planner are shown by * and in **bold**. Entry forms and tickets will be available by the end of April from Kevin (07768 456989) or Pauline (tel 770251). If you can spare some time during the Carnival to help, we will be very grateful - contact Kevin or Pauline

June 14	F	Coffee Morning	Silver Threads Hall	10 - 12.30pm
15	Sa	Family Skittles	Red House	6pm / £5 team of 7
19	W	Bingo	Silver Threads Hall	7.30pm
22	Sa	5-a-Side	Bradon Forest School	from 10.00am £10 team 7 (inc subs)
		Pig Roast	The Angel car park	5.30pm
		(Music stalls, Pride of Purton, Table Top (£6 tables - book 770251)		
23	Su	Round Houses Race	Village Hall car park	11.30am (£2)
25	Tu	Teddy Bear's Party	Purton Club	*1.30 - 2.30 (£2)
		Quiz	Purton Club	7.30pm / £8 team of 4
26	W	Crib	The Angel	7.30pm / £4 team of 2
28	F	Carnival Lunch	Silver Threads Hall	12 - 2pm
29	Sa	PROCESSION	Witts Lane	1pm
		FETE	Bradon Forest School	from 12.30pm
30	Su	Golf	*Cricklade Hotel	10am
			(Stableford Rules / £15 per person / teams up to 3)	

Carnival Procession

Yet again I am pleased to announce more organisations that have committed to taking part in the procession this year on 29 June. St Mary's School PTA, the Young Farmers and the Scouting movement have all put their names down for it.

The Scouts would very much like to do a float, but do not have access to a vehicle, so may have to do a walking float. However, I thought that there might be someone in the village who might have a contact who could provide a vehicle for them to use. If that's you, then please email marynettleton@hotmail.co.uk and I'll let the Scouts know.

This year's procession is going to be the best one for a very long time (if not ever!) and it's not too late to join in! So, please think about it and see if we can make the 50 floats/walking floats/banners for Carnival's 50th year.

MARY NETTLETON

Lifestyle!

Having more money doesn't make you happier. I have 50 million dollars but I'm just as happy as when I had 48 million.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

Eyes down! Any one for Bingo?

The Tennis Club is holding a Bingo evening on Saturday 13 April at the Red House Club, Purton. It would be great to see you. Please arrive at 7.30 pm ready for an 8 pm start. Everyone is very welcome!

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 holidays. Our membership secretary Mary Turner 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 & 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 Gardiner or Justin Miller our captains.

STEPH BROWN, Secretary

Purton & District Darts League

This is the second of the monthly updates of the Darts League.

We have been very lucky with the weather really and this has meant that only a handful of games have had to be postponed and replayed.

Thank you to everyone who has had to replay their games, these have all been quickly completed and cards handed in.

Again some great darts has been played and some 9 and 12 darts finishes recorded. This is outstanding darts and has been closely followed by even more 180s being scored. The list is growing – see the names so far:

Dave Gould, Matt Carruthers, Martin Richell, Clive Taylor, James Forty, Jim McDonald, Luke Gough, Ian Normington, Justin Frost, Mark Northall, John Knight, Mick Heran, Adam Woolford, Derek Stewart, Tom Bowler, Billy York, Steve Compton, Kevin Richell, Dave Warner, Robert Cook, Paul Birch, Jamie Elms, Steve Monk, Bob Knight, Paul Lewis, Pete Harding, Tad Tovey, Ray Thomas, Chris Martin, Mike Forty.

So as not to leave out the ladies here are some of the highest starts:

Nicky Pickett 177, Hannah Forty 168 and Louisa Davis 138. Well Done To You All!!

If you want an up to date picture of where your team are within the league, please visit the website at www.d4rts.com/paddl/ and there you will also get the fixtures list.

Keep going with the great games, good fun, 180s and highest starts/finishes. Let's see if we can improve on even more high scores next month.

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



Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com

Having read Tony Price's account of how John Vincent was such a good friend of the cricket club, I looked out the photograph showing him (*inset*) with other club members during the building of the new garage in 1980. It will be a constant reminder of John's good nature and the help he gave so freely. He will always have a place in the story of Purton CC.

As reported last month the club is holding a 'Race Night' at the Red House on 27 April starting at 8.30 pm – please support us if you can. Please remember that the display of 'Some Aspects of Purton CC's History' is open to view during library hours in the Purton Museum until the end of April. (*See inside front cover for Library opening times.*)

Fixtures for April

6 th	Purton XI v Westbury (A)	1.30 pm
13 th	Purton XI v Potterne (H)	1.30 pm
21 st	Purton U13 v Shrivenham (H)	1.30 pm
27 th	Purton XI v Marshfield (A)	1.30 pm

From the Archives

Season 1902 – Captains for the matches played in June were:- 7th v Kemble (J.Haskins), 14th v Evans O'Donnell (J.D.Beak), 21st v Tetbury (H.B.Jay) and 28th v Cricklade (T.C. Hastings).

Cricket Statistic

Even for Chris Gayle or Shahid Afridi hitting a century from 21 balls barely seems possible. So congratulations to Shane Basile, a humble Australian club cricketer with a very broad blade who smashed his way to 127 runs from 27 deliveries with his century scored from 21 balls only – four more than the arithmetical minimum.

JOE GARDNER

Purton Historical Society

We didn't quite have angels at our last meeting but we had the next best thing in the form of Chris Kinder playing her harps and telling us about the history and the myths surrounding the harp. A delightful evening.

Changing the subject, pigeons have been used by the Military as long as history itself. There are records of their use by the Ancient Egyptians. Pliny used them in the siege of Rome, and they were of great value in the siege of Paris. In the last two World Wars many thousands of lives were saved by the racing pigeon.

If this has whetted your appetite do come to hear more from Mr Stewart Wardrop of The Royal Pigeon Racing Association, who will be speaking at our meeting on Thursday 16 April, 7.30 pm at St Mary's C of E Primary School Hall, College Road, Purton. Visitors are very welcome.

[HELEN DIXON](#), Secretary



Exhibit of the Month: A Ceremonial Sash

This month's exhibit is a Ceremonial Sash from the Purton Friendly Society dating to around 1888 and would have been worn across his shoulders by the Chairman of the Society at public meetings. It measures 145mm wide x 2.25m long (5¾in x 7ft 4in) and appears to be made of blue and white ribbed silk with silver wire tassels on each end. There is an embroidered "badge" on it (*lower picture*) consisting of an eight-pointed star in silver wire and sequins with a domed centrepiece consisting of a gold wire (brass wire?) cross on a pommel of blue and pink silk and with silver wire tassels. It looks very imposing but the badge doesn't appear to have any specific motifs or connection to Purton, suggesting that it was bought as a stock item from a company that dealt in regalia for small societies.



Friendly Societies are mutual associations, owned by their members. Their beginnings in the 18th century were very local and started within villages and towns where pooled funds were able to provide small amounts of insurance to members including loss of property or sickness. Some provided funds to enable out-of-work members to travel to another part of the country to look for work. The Purton Friendly Society was formed in 1787 at *The Angel* in the High Street.



Societies came into existence around the time of the American and French Revolutions. The government was suspicious that they were secret revolutionary organisations and in The Friendly Societies Act of 1793 attempted to licence them. Societies had to register under the Act and regulations were imposed on them.

As time went on, Societies needed to grow and attract new members. They developed a sense of a brotherhood and with that they introduced costumes, songs and secret rituals that only the members knew and, with members outings and events, created a bond between them. Our sash is a symbol of this costume and ritual. Some Societies developed Lodge systems expanding into other towns but still pooling the overall funds. By the end of the 1800s there were estimated to be some 30,000 Friendly Societies in Britain, some with over a million members, but others had only a handful – like village Cow Societies or those funding funeral costs.

With the introduction of State benefits from the early 1900s, Societies were among the organisations approved to distribute sickness benefits. However in 1948 the State took over this role and the number of Societies has declined from 2,740 in 1945 to around 290 today as some folded and some merged. Of those still in existence, many of the best known are big: The Liverpool Victoria, Foresters and Shepherds Friendly Societies to name but three. These days they are controlled under the Friendly Societies Commission as part of the Financial Services Authority.

As always, there will be clearer pictures on the Museum's web site at www.purtonmuseum.com

RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer
