

# Purton Magazine



*The southern extension of the Swindon & Cricklade Railway to Taw Valley Halt opened for passengers in August 2012. In the photo, hauling the first train, GWR Prairie No 5521 has just run round and is about to return to Blunsdon and Hayes Knoll.*

*photo: Swindon & Cricklade Railway*

May 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](mailto: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](http://www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/stmaryspurton)*

*Services: See Diary Page in this magazine*

### **METHODIST CHURCHES**

*Minister Rev David Perkins, tel 853197*

*1 Garraways, Woodshaw, 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

Spring finally seems to have arrived in the middle of April, bringing its tempting promises of warmer weather, signalled by many cheerful yellow flowers from daffodils and primroses through to many displays of forsythia which seem to thrive in our gardens.

Members of the Gardeners' Guild are now even more knowledgeable about plants for different soils and situations following a talk at their meeting in March. Readers with only very slightly green fingers will find more details about what thrives where on [page 35](#).

The sounds of lawn mowers and the smell of freshly cut grass provide further evidence of the many in our community who take a pride in their gardens and, weather permitting, some interesting and colourful displays will soon become evident. Even in public areas such as around the Cenotaph, the working group of volunteers keep it looking attractive.

On [page 5](#), the Parish Council specifically extends thanks to all groups and individuals who regularly undertake a wide range of tasks around the village and the cumulative effect helps our community in so many ways. These people often work quietly in the background and don't expect any particular thanks for what they do – rather they do it because our village is important to them while new skills can often be learnt and new friendships forged at the same time.

There well may be more people who would like to help by doing something but are not really sure where to start. Well – this issue of your magazine contains many suggestions and ideas where additional contributions would enhance the caring and quality of our community a little further. Readers will find an interesting new project on [page 39](#) where people make simple but pretty dresses out of pillow cases for girls living in poverty in the developing world. Like many good ideas, it is remarkably simple and patterns are easily available.

The Scout Centre appeal is getting very active and well known local mountain climber has agreed to become the appeal's Patron. While the challenge on [page 23](#) sounds rather too extreme and exciting for many older readers, further details will be available at a talk in the village hall. If all that sounds a bit too exhausting, we learn on [page 33](#) that many forms of refreshment are now available at the newly renovated and re-opened Royal George pub – now there's a good idea!

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young Purton cricketers included in county squads – see [page 42](#)

24<sup>th</sup>

May for a conducted tour of St Mary's church with cheese and wine – see [page 16](#)

£1210

raised from the Lent lunches this year – see [page 17](#)

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**Purton**  
Magazine

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**Also on line at [www.purtonmagazine.co.uk](http://www.purtonmagazine.co.uk)**

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## Parish Council News



**Parish Council Elections** – At the time of going to print it looks as though ten people have put themselves forward to serve on the Parish Council from May 2013; some are re-standing with two new names on the list. This will mean that as we have not exceeded fifteen there will be no Parish Council election in Purton, only a Wiltshire Council election for the Unitary Councillor on 2 May. Sadly we are losing some Councillors, namely Michael Bell and John Crawford. They were the serving Chair and Vice Chair of Council. Michael Bell joined the Council in September 2006 and became the Chairman in May 2009. He has done a sterling job and will be missed, we wish him well in his future endeavours. John Crawford joined the Council in November 2010 and became the Vice Chairman of Council at its next Annual Meeting in May 2011. Likewise he will be missed, he is however still planning to work with two groups that he has a particular interest in, namely the rights-of-way gang and the flood working group. As with Mike we wish him well for the future and thank them both for the valued input they have made.

As we are likely to have five vacancies on the Council the opportunity to be co-opted on to Council will be available so it is not too late if you would like to join the Parish Council. Please contact the Council Office to find out more details.

**Parish Council Web Site** – we have a new web site at [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk). Please pay it a visit. We would welcome your feedback on it and would like to know if there are any other items you would like included, we are still in the process of developing it. You can also sign up to received regular updates.

**Purton's Volunteers** – The Parish Council would like to extend its thanks to the working group that looks after the Cenotaph in the High Street. Also to the other groups of people and individuals who undertake tasks in the village on a regular basis such as litter picking, doing reports on the play areas, working on the Parish Plan, working on the rights of way etc. There are too many to mention individually. All of these people help our village in so many ways. These people often work quietly in the background and do not expect any particular thanks for what they do; they do it because the village is important to them. We feel it is important to acknowledge these people, you know who you are, and to say thank you on behalf of the village.

**Connect 2 bus service** – This service provides you with opportunities to travel to and from Royal Wootton Bassett, Great Western Hospital, around Bradenstoke or travel between towns and villages in surrounding area.

Services run Monday to Saturday. (Not Sundays or Public Holidays)

Towns and villages covered include: Royal Wootton Bassett, Hook, Lydiard Millicent, Purton, Tockenham, Broad Town, Broad Hinton, Clyffe Pypard, Winterbourne Bassett, Dauntsey, Grittenham.

Timetables are available online at Connect2 web site or from your Parish Council and Village Hall.

[See [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/connect2/wilts-bradenstoke-taxi-service.pdf](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/connect2/wilts-bradenstoke-taxi-service.pdf). Ed.]

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Connect 2 taxis are wheelchair accessible.

All journeys must be booked in advance, due to limited seating.

For bookings and more information please telephone 01249 890794 and speak to Sue or Heather.

Connect 2 service is funded by Wiltshire Council and Bradies Taxis and operated by Bradies Taxis.

Bradies Royal Wootton Bassett to GWH Service: Monday - Friday

Arrives GWH	Departs GWH	Arrives GWH	Departs GWH
07.20		13.20	13.30
07.55	08.05	14.20	14.30
09.10	09.15	15.30	15.30
10.10	10.20	16.15	16.20
11.10	11.20	17.10	17.20
12.10	12.20		

**Fares:** Adult: £4.30 Single Child: £2.10 Single Bus Pass Holders: Free  
Connections from the High Street (Royal Wootton Bassett) for village areas covered by Connect 2 Service. This service can be used to attend hospital appointments, accompany someone to hospital, visit or commute to work.

**Church Street Junction** – a constant complaint received relating to traffic is about the fact that people do not Stop at the bottom of Church Street at the junction where it meets the square (Triangle). The following advice is offered by the Police:

Drivers, no matter from what direction they approach this junction, must give way to any vehicles already on the small stretch of road outside the *Best One Shop*.

If two vehicles arrive at the junction at the same time, i.e. one from the Church End direction (at the Stop Sign) and one from the High Street (next to *Cycle Care*) then by default the 'Church End' vehicle will give way to the 'Cycle Care' as the 'Church End' vehicle has to stop where as the 'Cycle Care' only has to give way.

Saying that, if the vehicle at 'Cycle Care' hesitates for too long then the 'Church End' vehicle could move off from their stop position.

The two pieces of guidance from the Highway Code that are relevant in this instance are as follows:

171: You MUST stop behind the line at a junction with a 'Stop' sign and a solid white line across the road. Wait for a safe gap in the traffic before you move off.

Laws RTA 1988 sect 36 & TSRGD regs 10 & 16

172: The approach to a junction may have a 'Give Way' sign or a triangle marked on the road. You MUST give way to traffic on the main road when emerging from a junction with broken white lines across the road.

Laws RTA 1988 sect 36 & TSRGD regs 10(1),16(1) & 25

The ultimate advice though on this and any other junction is that you must approach and negotiate it with care. Similar to a mini-roundabout where everyone arrives at the same time and then looks at each other trying to decide who wants to move off first, a certain degree of caution and common sense are required.

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

- N12/01479/FUL *Longcroft, Station Road*, Change of use and extension to create new self contained dwelling.
- N13/00207/FUL *71A Pavenhill*, Extension and alterations to convert bungalow to two-storey dwelling.
- N13/00334/FUL *1 Springfield Court, 48 Station Road*, single storey conservatory on rear of ground floor apartment.
- N13/00403/FUL *New Moon Leaze Farm, Braydon*, Conversion of existing outbuilding to ancillary residential accommodation.
- N13/00237/FUL *65 Ringsbury Close*, Porch, side garage & first floor extension.
- N13/00439/FUL *2 Vasterne Close*, Single storey rear extension.

**How to contact the Parish Council:**

Telephone number 01793 771066 Fax 772646

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

Website [www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://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.

## We Record ...

### *Funeral*

25 March Donald John Carter 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 ...*



## Wiltshire Good Neighbours – Keeping Safe

I should confess right now that I did an article on how to cope in hot weather last year – and what happened to the weather last summer? So it is with some reluctance I say: hopefully by the time you read this we will be having some warmer weather! At the very least, the daylight hours should be longer and we will be hoping to get out for some fresh air. Which brings me onto a couple of things to consider:

How easy is it to get in and out of your home? Would it be easier if you had some grab handles at the door? Or maybe a slope rather than a doorstep?

Is mobility a problem generally? Have you thought of using a frame or “rollator” to give extra stability and reduce risk of falling?

Is your home secure? Could you use some advice on home security?

When in your back garden, is your front door locked? Could someone walk straight in?

If you need any information on home safety, security or mobility, get in touch. Give me a call on 07557 110414 or email [rwbcrickladeqnc@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:rwbcrickladeqnc@communityfirst.org.uk).

*ELLEN BLACKER, Good Neighbour Co-ordinator*



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## Purton & District Age Concern



We have launched our befriending service and although we didn't have too many people coming to it that was understandable because most of the people we are aiming at are those who cannot get out, but the service has started and if you need someone to visit you give us a call or contact your street warden. You can ring Vicki Fowler, the co-ordinator, on 772777 or Louise Tidman, our secretary, on 772558. If we feel there is someone who might like a call, we will get in touch and ask their permission.

Here is a date for your diary – Saturday 6 July, when Dick and Jackie Scott will be hosting a coffee morning (and more) for Age Concern Purton. We are grateful to them for this kind gesture – we know that Joan Frost will be selling her fine plants and there will be the usual excellent cake stall all of which are given – people are so kind.

We are still looking for a street warden for The Peak. I am sure you would find it a very interesting job, not taking too much time. Basically you are the link between the elderly in The Peak and the general committee, so please have a think about it.

From all reports the last mystery tour went well. Everyone is saying what an excellent lunch it was – it was a bit more costly than normal but, as long as you get value for money, our committee are the first ones to say that's what we raise the money for. By the way, the trip was quite good. Many thanks to Richard Park for taking over as I was on holiday.

The June trip will be a half-day one and will be a little different as it will be a 10 am start and we are going to Evesham Garden Centre, which has a lot more there than just a garden centre. There is no food provided on this trip but, as we know, there is a nice restaurant there and you will be able to buy yourself a lunch or what ever you require. We shall be leaving Evesham at 3 pm to come home and I am sure we will go one way and back another. The cost for this will be £8.

Next year we are celebrating fifty years of Age Concern in Purton – any ideas on how we can celebrate would be most welcome. Tell your street warden or give me a ring on 770696.

We have been invited to Bradford on Avon & District Seniors' Forum AGM to tell them about ourselves and how we operate. There will be four of us going, Louise Tidman, our secretary, Maurice Card, our minibus co-ordinator, Maureen Griffin, with her expertise as a street warden and a former treasurer with many, many years experience on our committee, and yours truly. We feel quite honoured to be asked.

The Easter market stall went very well – thanks to all who braved the weather by coming and buying, giving and let's not forget our members who braved the elements and the extra hands who came to their rescue when we were a bit short of helpers. Special thanks to Andrew for his delicious sausages – the smell of them cooking always attracts extra customers. Many thanks to you all and I am pleased to tell you that the profit was £239 – nothing to do with me this time as I was on my way to Cornwall.

Could I thank Joe Gardner for the photo in last month's magazine of John Vincent after I wrote a little bit about him.

TONY PRICE

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## Donald Carter 1916-2013

Donald was more of a Purton Stoke man than Purton, but he was very kind to all, no matter where you came from. He was a true Purtonian, born at Benthams Farm on 31 December 1916 – he also died there – it is an amazing record. He moved five times but never off the two farms the family owned. Recently he had been in hospital for nine weeks, never once complaining, but he was that type of person, very contented with life. Sadly his wife Doreen has been in Ashgrove House Nursing Home for over twelve months but Donald was able to visit her every week up until his spell in hospital.

Donald went to Purton Stoke School up until the age of eleven, then, having passed exams, he went to Euclid Street School in Swindon, which was a secondary school, riding his bicycle in all sorts of weather. Before going to school he would ride up to Coxhill to check the cattle were alright up there or perhaps to milk a few cows – yes he was taught how to milk at five years old – and all this before riding to Swindon to school. Mind it was not all work and no play because one of his joys was swimming and diving, especially at Coate water. Who can remember the area, with booms around the diving board to section the area off from the rest of the water. In fact Donald was the last person I knew to dive off the top board before they closed Coate for swimming.

Donald's family were great Methodists and were the backbone of Stoke Chapel along with others. Reg, Donald's brother, was a Methodist preacher and Donald was property steward right up to the time the Chapel closed. What an asset someone like that would be to the Chapel – someone who could turn his hand to anything. I have been told, rightly or wrongly, that the Sunday School children at Stoke had two treats a year, one at Pond Farm, the home of Tommy Ponting, and one at Benthams Farm, the home of Joe Carter. Donald's father owned Coxhill farm where Donald would ride to check the cattle and it was a farm that had no official entrance but they had permission to use a drive they used to call the Red Road that went in opposite the entrance to Gospel Oak Farm, Braydon, where the forestry cottages are. I wonder whether Joe, Donald's father, bought Coxhill Farm from Sir David Gamble, who owned a lot of land that way including White Lodge, which joins up to Coxhill Farm. Sorry, this isn't telling you much about Donald.

After leaving school, Donald worked for his father along with Reg his brother – all very hard-working people. Donald loved everything about the countryside and all that goes with it, like the animals, but his particular love was pigs. His father allowed him to keep a few and one night during the war he was out seeing to a sow that was farrowing when all these German aircraft were going over. He didn't know quite what to do as he was in the Home Guard, Purton Stoke section. Were we being invaded? Would he get a call? In the end he stayed with the sow and the next day he found out it was the night they flattened Coventry. Donald was exempt from the services because he was considered a key worker on the land.

There has always been a marvellous community spirit at Purton Stoke, revolving around the Chapel and the Reading Room. I wonder if either of these venues was the start of a very fond, loving relationship between Donald and Doreen, his wife of

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seventy-two years. That celebration was spent with the two of them together quietly at Ashgrove – the centre of attraction, apart from Donald and Doreen, was a congratulations card from Her Majesty the Queen. Donald and Doreen were married in Stoke Chapel – Doreen was formerly Doreen Neville of Purton Stoke Spa – in fact Donald's brother Reg married Doreen's sister Joy. Their first home was a semi-detached farm cottage at Bentham, where Ken was born in March 1943. They were thrashing at the time in a heat wave – a bit different to this year! In 1945 they moved to Coxhill in their own right and this was where Gerald and Gill were born. It was only supposed to be for a few years but turned out to be twenty-five and living at the farm would have been very primitive. I have told you about the access and there was no electricity laid on. Donald, as I said previously, was a pretty useful chap and he put in a generator by himself and a milking plant and he soon made things a little better. What about the children – how did they get to school? Did Donald run them down to Bentham in his old jeep? This shows how practical he was because the fuel tank rusted and was leaking and Donald did no more than fix a five-gallon drum on the bonnet of the jeep and got some tubing to run it from the drum to the carburettor. This lasted for years – a bit like the old Studebaker car he had – when it had worn out he turned it into a trailer for the milk he used to take to Purton Station, then later on to the United Dairies at Wootton Bassett. As I have said, he was a pretty handy chap. He borrowed his dad's car for road work until he saved up enough to buy his own. He was well supported by his wife as, when they had put Ken to bed, they would go out muck spreading by moonlight, all by fork. Donald worked hard and quite rightly expected others to do the same – he retired in 1994 at the age of seventy-five. It was the fact that he had a couple of little strokes, otherwise he would have been working up until now. It was only last year he was caught cutting thistles with a hook out in the field.

In the 1960s Doreen and Donald, along with Gerald and Gill moved back to Bentham and, in 1966, opened their door wide to Philip Neville when his mum died. I know that Philip looks back on the years spent at Bentham with pleasure, enjoyment and appreciation, for helping him through a very difficult time and that kindness will never be forgotten. Unfortunately Philip was unable to do his tribute to Donald at the funeral as he was poorly, but his thoughts and prayers were with all the family. Donald was a lovely man who did not expect much out of life but gave so much. He was a governor of Purton Stoke School until it closed and what great support he must have been for the school, working away quietly in the background without any fuss.

Donald loved the holidays with friends Phil and Joyce Bryant – one photo they treasure is at Lands End with the sign to Purton saying how many miles it is! (I think it is about 229 miles as the crow flies). I can understand them enjoying themselves quietly with the simple things in life that nature gives us. In his retirement Donald loved reading the local papers which he would do from cover to cover. Another of Donald's loves was gardening – he would tend his plants like everything else with care and expertise. Donald and I had something in common – we both loved Sunday half hour in the evening (they've changed it now to about 6.30 on Sunday mornings – ridiculous) and brass bands. I think Cricklade Band would go round to his house at Christmas in days gone by.

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Donald was a gentleman, firm but kind – he had his own views but you would find it difficult to fall out with him. The funeral service was a very well thought-out tribute to him with contributions from many sources, none more so than the poem by Jenny, his granddaughter, which you can read below. Donald loved his grandchildren and they thought the world of him and I am sure Jenny is speaking for them all in her poem. Many thanks to the Rev. Judith Wells for her contribution for a very fitting tribute to this gentleman. Thank you to the family for donations in Donald's memory being shared between Farm Crisis Network and Purton Age Concern. It is greatly appreciated.

*TONY PRICE*

*PS:* While mentioning Donald as property steward at Purton Stoke, another property steward we are all thinking of at this moment in time is Brian Davies, who is property steward at Playclose Methodist Church. He has been poorly and in hospital but is now back at home recovering. He is such a helpful, considerate man, always putting everybody else first and himself last, involved with many organisations. He will be missed during this period so get well soon Brian, Purton needs you.

## Grandad ...

As we prepare to say goodbye,  
And pass you to God's care,  
We thank you for the love you gave,  
And the times we had to share.

A farmer born through generations,  
of "Carters" down the line,  
A loving husband, father, brother,  
and special Grandad of mine.

We will cherish happy memories,  
And try not to shed a tear,  
For in our hearts you will be with us,  
Though your journey's end is near.

The heavenly gates are opening.  
God has saved a perfect space.  
We'll let him take you to his garden,  
Your final resting place.

*By Jennifer (Granddaughter)*

## Norman Mills

Norman, of Highridge Close, had been poorly for the last few years. He was another person who hadn't moved far from his roots, having been born in Wootton Bassett Road – that's what Restrop Road was known as in those days. His parents were Jack and Nan Mills – Nan along with Mrs Rushen and Mrs Braddon etc. were the people we had to thank for that lovely slide that used to be at the Red House. It was condemned by the new health and safety rules mainly because it was too

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high with no safety cage around the top. Norman went to Purton School and would have been taught by the likes of Decker Thomas, Billy Osbourne and Sammy Freegard with Pa Greenhill being headmaster. I do not know much about Norman's school life but I am sure he would go over to Ringsbury Camp to play and he loved going to relatives at Dorton in Buckinghamshire – I think that was around the area of the great train robbery. Norman's mum and dad went to pick him up from holiday but he had disappeared and they came home without him. The reason he went missing was that he had let his hair grow long and he was frightened they would be cross as he had about eight weeks' growth. He had it cut by the time they came back – I don't know what excuse he used! Jack and Nan Mills were quite strict people – both were Sunday School teachers at Hoggs Lane Chapel as well so you can rest assured that Norman attended Hoggs Lane too.

On leaving school Norman was apprenticed as a Body Maker in the Swindon Railway Works constructing coaches (not creating children!). These coaches would then be transferred to the finishing shop to have the final touches to the woodwork done before the trimmers did the upholstery. He was in good company in that department as the likes of Paul Webb, Jim Young, Les Smith, my brother Godfrey, Harry May and Derek Evans worked there and two of the chargemen were Purton people – Billy May and Ernie Lloyd. The whole group of them used to have some fun.

I would go so far as to say that Norman was one of the greatest all round sportsmen of my time. What made me think that? Well, he was good at football, tennis, cricket, golf and even bowls when he played. I was on holiday at Cliftonville and the ladies went off shopping and we decided to go and have a game of bowls – that was Norman, my brother Godfrey and me. We went to the Bowling Club and a chap asked if he could make up a four. We explained that I had never played before and that Norman and Godfrey had only played once but we said OK. This chap said that he would just slip home and get his woods and I played with him. Well, Norman and Godfrey beat us every end hands down and the local chap could not believe that this was only their second game of bowls, especially Norman. He played football at the County Ground and the Wiltshire Youth side he played for got to the semifinal of the English Youth Cup, being beaten by Stoke City 2-1. This is the ground where the likes of Stanley Matthews played and I think that Norman was more disappointed with the facilities than the result – things like having to wash in a tin bath.

Norman moved into semi-professional fields after that – first with Bath City, Headington which is now Oxford United, for whom he was leading scorer one year, then Cheltenham Town, finally finishing up at Trowbridge. He did play a short time for Purton between times. Norman played tennis at the Red House and his partner was Harry Bunce. There were not many teams that beat them over the couple of years they were together. I think cricket was his favourite sport and a man more qualified than I am will be writing a little about Norman on that side but what I do know is that he used to play for Thompsons' garage in the annual match against the Cricket Club and he was a great asset to us. He played for nineteen years at Purton and in one days time a whole group of cricketers and friends would go to Paignton on holiday, staying at various guest houses and meeting up in the day on the beach at Goodrington Sands. From all reports they used to have some fun.

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As time moved on Norman moved to Pressed Steel and became friendly with Jimmy Cross, an old Everton and Swindon player who persuaded Norman to take up golf at Ogbourne. As with other sports he was good and his par soon came down to single figures. He thoroughly enjoyed his golf and, along with Jimmy and his wife, Norman and his wife Mary would go to Whitesand on a golfing holiday. Mary and Norman had sixty-two years of a happy married life and I am sure this will be a great comfort to Mary as will their two children Karen and Tim and their families of whom Norman was so fond. One of their great pleasures was dancing together, especially to the big bands. In days gone by Mary was such a great asset to Age Concern – she was a street warden and always ready to help out at our functions. To Mary and all her family we offer our deepest sympathy and thank them for donations in lieu of flowers being shared between the Cricket Club and ourselves.

*TONY PRICE*

## Alice Shailes

We have lost one of Purton's oldest residents – that grand lady Alice Shailes, who was ninety-nine – shall we say the Purton hundred? – that is a common Purton saying; where it came from I don't know, but perhaps someone will tell me. Alice was born and bred in Purton and lived here all her life. She was born in one of what were then three cottages opposite the old Maltsters and the old Chemist – (that is now the Indian restaurant) and next door to the old Co-op. These cottages have been made into one. Alice's father was gardener, groom, handyman at the Court and her mother was the cook – not far to go to work. Her mother was a lovely lady so you can see that Alice followed her mother. I would say that Alice had a hard life, but she would argue with that and say it was enjoyable. To start with when she was born the nurses had to get through six feet of snow drifts to reach her home.

The people who owned the Court in those days were a well-to-do American family whose name was Bickford – in fact we believe that a descendant was in Purton not too long ago making enquiries about the Court but sadly they didn't go to Alice, who would have provided them with all they wanted to know. The Bickfords had three children, Dulcie, Edith and Oscar, and Alice used to play with them at the Court. Alice didn't have far to go to school as everyone in those days went to St Mary's until they were fourteen, except those clever enough to pass exams to go to secondary school in Swindon. One thing I forgot to mention about Alice's mum was that she was an excellent cook and would be called on to cook for quite famous people. In fact she cooked for Winston Churchill once. Just going back to Alice's school days, I wonder if Pa Greenhill was headmaster with Sammy Freegard, Billy Osborne and Miss Wheeler and the like. I included Miss Wheeler as Alice loved needlework. When Alice left school she was apprenticed to Mrs Worley to learn tailoring and dressmaking and this was at 16 Church Path, where Sheila and I now live. I know our fondness for Alice had a little bit more to it than knowing her. She loved coming to our house, especially at Christmas when the Cricklade Band came and she would show us where she did her training and would tell us little stories about it.

Later on she worked for Mr Harold Osbourne, who lived in Ashgrove House no,

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not as a domestic, but using her apprenticeship skills because Mr Osbourne was a top West End tailor. He was also the owner of the Dental Factory which, of course, is now Associated Dental Products. I cannot quite see the connection between teeth and tailoring, but perhaps someone knows the answer. One little snippet with the tailoring – there was a certain piece on the suits that Mr Osbourne didn't like doing – the lapels along with the buttonholes – so he got Alice to do that part. Another interesting point is that Alice eventually went to work at the Dental Factory – I wonder if Mr Osbourne gave up tailoring because of the war. Eventually the family moved to Witts Lane. I don't know when those Council houses were built but perhaps this is when they moved in. Alice lost her mother and she looked after her father as well as going out to work but that did not stop her getting involved in village life, like the uniform sections of brownies, guides and rangers. She went on to be a Brown Owl and I expect one or two of you ladies have fond memories of Alice taking you under her wing. I do not know when the Purton pack was formed. I would not be surprised if Alice was one of the early members.

Alice, like Norman Mills, was a great all-round sports lady. She was a great athlete, even at County level – you name it, she would have a go. I know that, at the area sports, she broke the record for the high jump and still had the certificate to show for it. Another of her joys was playing cricket in proper matches. She was a member of the Tennis Club when they used to play down at the far end of the cricket field in the 1930s, then the war came and they put a tank trap right through the middle of the court, so that was the end of tennis at the cricket field. What is amazing is that she has her tennis outfit in her wardrobe. One of the most pleasant things I have done, and it was a great honour, was to escort Alice to the Tennis Club's hundred years celebration. They really did her proud and she was treated as a very special person. Alice was only too pleased to answer their questions about bygone times at the Club. I tried to persuade her to wear her old tennis outfit but she declined although she would have been still sprightly enough to wear it.

Alice played cricket and then went on to umpire and, when the Bowls Club started at Purton War Memorial and Village Centre, Alice was one of four people who ran it and she became an accomplished bowler, so she must have had a good eye for a ball in all her sports. On about a good eye and sewing expertise, something that gave her great pleasure was the making of Jackie, her daughter's wedding dress, along with the bridesmaids dresses when Jackie married Cyril Walters. Sadly neither Jackie nor Cyril enjoy the best of health but they are in our thoughts and prayers at the moment. Alice was a great supporter of Age Concern, as Jackie and Cyril were, and she would fold all our raffle tickets up for us at Christmas – a mammoth task. She also loved coming to the befriending tea parties at Battlelake Farm, where she would have a good natter about days gone by to people who were her contemporaries. To Jackie, Cyril, Jane, Ian and their families we offer our deepest sympathy.

TONY PRICE

## Obituaries

*Purton Magazine* is always happy to include obituaries. If you wish to have us publish an obituary of a loved one, please send it via the contacts on page 4 of the Magazine.

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## News about St Mary's Church

Arguably the most beautiful and certainly the most historic building in Purton is St Mary's church. Looking after such an important building is a significant responsibility and we are required every five years to have the condition of the building surveyed by our inspecting architect. The latest survey was carried out on 4 February. It is pleasing that the architect reports that "*St Mary's church remains generally in reasonable condition*". However, he has provided lists of works required urgently, within the next 12 months and within five years.

The most significant urgent work is to renew defective lead work in the valley gutter between the chancel and the Lady Chapel.

This is not a surprise because the PCC had contracted a temporary emergency repair last year when the fault was discovered during our preparation for welcoming Ian Tweedie-Smith to the Parish as our new vicar. A permanent repair now needs to be made. The architect has also asked that we carry out some patch repairs on parts of the stone slate roofs.

However, the architect has particular concerns about the condition of the tiled roofs on the Chancel and North Transept and will be carrying out a more detailed inspection of these areas when the patch repairs are carried out. His report anticipates that we will need to renew the stone slate roof covering to these parts of the building within the next 12 months. If this is necessary the cost will be considerable.

Other remedial works he has identified for the next 12 months are a repair to the lead roof over the South Porch and some masonry repairs at a high level to the West Tower, see photograph above. He recommends we take advantage of the scaffolding that will be required for this masonry repair to renew the tower roof at the same time.

We are very grateful for the support many in the village give to the maintenance of St Mary's; particularly to those who are Friends of St Mary's and who make regular donations for its upkeep. Please see the article on page 22 of this month's Magazine about an event of the Friends of St Mary's.

DAVID NETTLETON, Churchwarden

*Photo: Damage to Pinnacle on West Tower*

## Cricklade Country Market

The next Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 24 May 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).



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## Friends of St Mary's

Here's a date for your diary: Friday 24 May at 7.30 pm in St Mary's. We would like to say thank you to all Friends who have made contributions to St Mary's over the years and which we value so much, so we are proposing wine, cheese and nibbles in the church. We will begin with a conducted tour which we hope may draw to your attention things around and in the building that you may not know about. We will also tell you what work that will probably have to be done over the next five years.



Feel free to bring along friends who may be interested; and, of course, we shall be delighted to see anyone else who loves the building and might consider becoming a Friend. Any contribution you make will be spent on the building and help keep it in good order into the future. After all it is as much there for the village as those who worship in it, so all contributions are in a good cause.

*CHRISTINE GILL, Secretary, Friends of St Mary's*

### Church Floodlighting

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

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|-------------|---|
| 11 April    | The Church was floodlit in memory of <b>Owen Woolford</b> , on what would have been his 90 <sup>th</sup> birthday. From his wife Sheila; and Patrick and Lisa |
| 18 & 19 May | St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of <b>Dave Binstead</b> . Always in our thoughts: forever in our hearts. Greatly missed by Dorn and family               |
| 30 May      | The Church will be floodlit in memory of <b>James ( Jim ) Marsh</b> . Missing you so much on this our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. All my love: Ann           |



*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.*

### Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Kibblewhite Close, Proud Close, Reids Piece, The Peak, Willis Way, Long Acre, High Street, College Road and Hooks Hill*

. 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.

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## Lent Lunches 2013

The six lunches once again proved to be very popular. A total of £1,210 was raised, to be divided between TEAR Fund and Mission Aviation Fellowship. A big thank-you goes to all our faithful supporters, our willing band of helpers, and our cake makers – what a wonderful selection of cakes once again. See you all next year.

*LINDA TINSON, on behalf of the Lent Lunch team*

## Purton Artists

### **Purton Artists Exhibition has been saved but we still need your help!**

Due to donations from Purton residents, we have been able to purchase both the display boards and the trailer for their transportation. (See April Purton Magazine.) Purton Artists are immensely grateful and thank everyone concerned for their kind donations and Purton Magazine for including the article. It means that our annual exhibition will be able to continue. (Usually Armistice weekend every year).

However we now need to find somewhere to store our trailer. It is purpose-built to store the boards and is 9'9" long, 4'10" tall and 4'4" wide.

Can you help? Do you have space in your garage, car port, out building or farm building? We would only need access a maximum of eight times per year.

If so, please get in touch with Avril Ainscough tel 771542, email [avrilainscough@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:avrilainscough@yahoo.co.uk) or Brian Coe tel 770102, email [briancoe@aol.com](mailto:briancoe@aol.com) or any committee member.

## Children In Need Rock Night



It was the start of the Easter holidays so a lot of people went away, quite a few of the village were down with some horrible bug, and the weather was rubbish. Despite all that, we managed to entice enough people out to make our Rock Night worth doing and we had an excellent night as well.

We had three bands, the *Jo Farrell Band* opened, followed by *Oscillator* with Purton's very own *S-Hit 5* headlining. This was to be the last gig that *S-Hit 5* played with their existing line up, so it was a good send off for those that are leaving. All the bands performed for free and all sound equipment was also provided for free by AFS Music which is based in Purton.

As usual, we couldn't have put on this event without the support of the people and organisations who give their time and expertise to such events. So, huge thanks to our three bands and to Steve Yorke of AFS Music, who not only supplied all the equipment but spent the entire evening at the sound desk making sure everything sounded as it should. We also couldn't put on these events without an audience so thanks also to all of you who came out despite the rotten weather.

As well as having a very good night, we managed to raise a very healthy £602.16. We might do it again next year.

*TONY RICHARDSON*

## Wise Words

When you want to test the depths of a stream, don't use both feet.

*Chinese Proverb*

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## Purton Evening WI



It was the night of the AGM (20 March) and we arrived at the Village Hall wearing our red cardies/jumpers, as suggested to support the Red Nose charity. (Actually, some had forgotten but insisted they had conformed with their underwear, though not one soul would prove it.) Our fine banner was on display; one table was absolutely covered with details of outings and courses to come; another was momentarily laden with home-made produce (you have to be there early to get that!) and another was covered with cakes and biscuits for social time. Three lovely raffle prizes were in place, and the top table was decorated with a super flower arrangement.

We looked anxiously at each other – as with so many groups, there is annual tension at the time of choosing the officers, as very often over the years practically everyone has already taken their turn! This time only seven members seemed willing to stand, which makes a lot of work for each of them.

Where are all those bright young things (Sixth formers? Young brides?) who could come along and have a jolly good time and perhaps learn about administration, committee work, delegation, finance, etc? To have held office in a Women's Institute is something to everyone's credit. It could be such a useful item to have on your CV. And perhaps, if you wished, you could learn about jam-making and singing Jerusalem – and you could undoubtedly teach useful modern skills to some of us, too!

Back to the AGM. We heard the reports for the past year, and it was with some pride, too. One report was actually given in rhyme, very clever! We have had interesting speakers, demonstrations, visits; nationally competitive games, too (for example, we won seven out of our eight Skittles matches) – and we have a super choir. It has indeed been an action-packed year. Now we look forward to getting the programme for next year, and so this is a great time to join!

Eventually it was election time and sadly some of our brightest stars felt they should hand over their responsibilities and let someone else have a go. We did have five names put forward for the Presidency. A difficult choice as all were popular ladies, but we had already enjoyed two successful years with Trisha Baker at the helm and with our current rules she could stay in office another year, so it was not entirely surprising that she would be asked to remain as President for that further year. The applause must have convinced her that she was the most popular lady of the evening! We shall know further details of the Committee at our next meeting – but there is still time for any shy members to step forward and offer support.

Social Time was fun, with a variety of cakes to go with our drinks and for which we offered some coins towards the Red Nose charity jollifications. Then favourite poems were read out – many of these, such as "Trees" (which older members recalled as a popular song some years ago) almost brought a tear, but were counterbalanced by a delightfully humorous selection and much laughter. You really cannot go home from a WI meeting without feeling uplifted and cheered.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 May at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall and this will be an Open Meeting, so do bring along a friend. The speaker will be

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Khalique from *The Maharajah* Restaurant on “The Asian Experience”, telling us of a charitable project he runs in Bangladesh, and he will also demonstrate some of that delicious Asian food ... Social time will be well spent in tasting the demonstration!

There is also talk of producing a Purton Evening Cookery Book, so if members could bring along favourite recipes, sweet or savoury, we could get an idea of how this could be produced.

We shall also enjoy the new 2013 programme which will be ready for the May meeting. I expect you are as eager as I am to see it and I understand there will be a great variety of subjects, to include drumming, a Pirates’ evening, a speaker from an Arboretum – and Di Greenaway will be along to tell us about her part in the Olympics, at Wimbledon as a Tennis Games Maker! A good time will be had by all.

CONSTANCE REED, tel:771571

## Christian Aid Week: May 12 - 18



Purton always tries its best for Christian Aid Week! Our big effort this year is to remember that if we all share, then there is enough for all!

Please do help us and support us in any way you can, especially as we are a bit down on our list of regular helpers this year.

**Sunday 12 May:** Breakfast in St Mary’s Church ... you are ALL welcome. 9 am to 9.30 serving Breakfast includes porridge, cereal; bacon butties; real coffee. Suggested donation £5.

Last year we had about 50 people in church all enjoying eating and chatting together. It was lovely. Please come and join us this year.

The winner of the Quiz will also be announced!

Breakfast will be followed by:

**Sunday 12 May:** Christian Aid Service at 10.30 am with a guest speaker, Katrine Musgrave, from Christian Aid.

**Tuesday 14 May:** Curry Night at the Maharajah. Two sittings 6.30 pm and 8 pm. Please contact Wendy Johnson for more details. 771749.

Cost £15 (same as the last two years!)

Book NOW to avoid disappointment.

**Saturday 18 May:** Cakes and Plants Sale: Top Shops from 8.30 am. All donations of cakes, buns, cupcakes, scones, cookies very welcome. Put in your orders for Mary’s famous hanging plant pouches too

**The Christian Aid Quiz**, which is rapidly becoming infamous, is now out in the shops. Have a go ... hours of guaranteed fun and frustration for only £2.

Over 1,000 **little red envelopes** need to be distributed and collected up during the week. If you can offer a couple of hours of help it would be much appreciated.

We are planning several other activities that will take place during the coming months, so please watch this space!

For all further information please contact [Libbie](#).

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## Transforming Purton Parish - Our Waste

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

In general, household waste is one of the things to which little attention is paid. It is put out and it is collected. In recent years, kerbside collection has been introduced (something *Ps and Qs* was advocating for a full decade before it was introduced) increasing the recycling rate, though even now some Purton residents are reluctant to recycle.

For more than 100 years the site at Mopes Lane has dominated the landscape of the parish; first as a brickworks site and then later as a landfill site. It has been expanded three times; its second was when it went “across the railway”. As *Ps and Qs* said at the time (1996) once the railway line is crossed it can continue right the way round “under” Upper Pavenhill. And, in the last year (2012) intentions for that became clear.

Of wider concern, is that the site, at Mopes Lane, has been designated as a strategic waste management site, that is, it serves more than the immediate area. From *Ps and Qs* road surveys in the late 1990s, HGVs were observed coming from all contiguous counties (Avon, Berkshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Somerset) and as far to the west as south Wales. One villager also recorded waste originating in Plymouth (South Devon).

When the site was first given its waste disposal licence and its planning permission, it was always expected that it would cease operations and close after 14 years. As those years drew to a close, an extension was requested; local opinion acquiesced assuming this would be the last time. Then another extension was requested and the site came south across the railway. Then planning permission was requested for a cement-bagging factory and then for tyre shredding and so on. *Ps and Qs* always argued that need for landfill would decline as pressure on land space increased and the short-sightedness of just putting waste into the ground without extracting further value (e.g. as heat or energy) would be recognised for what it was – folly, and short-sighted folly at that.

Now, of course, waste is recognised as a resource with value but the parish is saddled with being designated as a strategic waste management site and the site operators are planning to bus green waste from all over Wiltshire. This does not make much sense since it elevates the Council’s greenhouse gas emissions which runs counter to its commitments to reduce those emissions (the Carbon Reduction Commitment). Unfortunately, the Council is locked into long term (20 years) agreements with contractors so is unable to respond to



*The thick black line on the map indicates the approved potential growth of waste management activities between Upper and Lower Pavenhill*

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changes in need without hefty penalties.

During the long drawn out process into where waste sites are allocated, *Ps and Qs* made strenuous efforts (for more than seven years) arguing that the Mopes Lane site should cease to be a strategic site but a local need one.

The Planning Inspector's report (on the examination into the Waste Site Allocations Local Plan of Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council) was issued and the two councils adopted, formally, the Plan during January and February 2013 at their respective Council meetings.

In relation to the Parkgate Farm and Purton Brickworks sites the Inspector noted that the sites are already associated with various large scale facilities. The Inspector noted the problematic nature of the links to the primary route network and that the sites are not ideally located for strategic scale development (as continually pointed out by *Ps and Qs*). However, the Inspector concluded that if further development was to be restricted to local scale only, this would run counter to national policy due to the risk of stifling the scope for further innovation in relation to the existing facilities. Surprisingly, the Inspector commented that whilst the links to Swindon may be affected by the planned expansion in the area of Ridgeway Farm, the information at this stage suggests that it would not adversely affect vehicle movements for these sites. Sadly, the "information" referred to was poor in its scope and quality.

The Inspector noted further that although some villages (i.e. Purton) would be particularly vulnerable to impacts associated with higher levels of traffic movement, this would fall within the scope of a Transport Assessment (in other words the problem would be dealt with later when the decision to extend the strategic nature of Mopes Lane would be a done deal and therefore irreversible). As such, the Inspector concluded that it had not been demonstrated that the sites should be designated as suitable only for local scale development. In conclusion, the Inspector did record that the Parkgate Farm allocation (see map above) would allow waste-related activities to extend beyond the existing public rights of way so that there is some basis for the concerns over the potential visual impact within this area of open countryside. This concern was simply dismissed by stating that all mitigation measures should be used.

The Household Recycling Centre at Mopes Lane is well-used and obtains good recycling rates, and attracts many from outside the parish which means there is a carbon penalty for the car journeys involved. *Ps and Qs* would like to see more of these facilities closer to the point of waste production, and that all new builds are designed with efficient waste storage areas. *Ps and Qs* would also like to see clusters of new builds (e.g. at Ridgeway Farm) with a centralised waste management facility.

The full report, *Transforming Purton Parish*, is freely downloadable from the *Ps and Qs* web site [www.purtoninfo.org.uk](http://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.

RICHARD PAGETT, [secure@richardpagett.com](mailto:secure@richardpagett.com)

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## Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



Easter involved the Rainbows making cards and baskets, 2<sup>nd</sup> Purton Brownies decorating polystyrene eggs, making chocolate nests and playing egg games whilst 1<sup>st</sup> Purton Brownies visited the residents of Hooks Hill and provided an evening of entertainment. As well as taking gifts and cards they had made, the Brownies involved the residents in a riotous Easter egg challenge game.

The end of one term and the start of a new one means some girls moving on and others joining: Rainbows said goodbye to Isabelle and Esme with a Pot of Gold celebration and then welcomed Lois, Sarah, Imogen and Maddie. Isabelle and Esme moved on to 1<sup>st</sup> Purton Brownies whilst girls from Lydiard Millicent Rainbows joined 2<sup>nd</sup> Purton Brownies. Emily, a former Rainbow, is now helping at Rainbow meetings for the volunteering section of her Duke of Edinburgh Award.

2<sup>nd</sup> Purton Brownies celebrated St Patrick's Day with an Irish themed evening. They had a quiz and made Hama bead rainbows, leprechauns and shamrocks. Megan also brought in her Irish dancing shoes and trophies she had won.

The Guides enjoyed an evening on Fairtrade organised by Kirstie as part of her Baden-Powell Challenge Award. She provided an interesting and engaging evening on what Fairtrade means; the Guides made posters about the benefits of Fairtrade and they played games about Fairtrade items. As an end of term treat, the unit went to Pizza Hut; the ice cream factory has never been so much in demand!

Thoughts are turning to the outdoors and nature this term so we hope the weather will be kind to us in the coming weeks! The Rainbows iced spring flower decorations on biscuits whilst 2<sup>nd</sup> Purton Brownies made butterflies from coloured coffee filter papers and pipecleaners. 1<sup>st</sup> Purton Brownies are starting work on a resource called *Rustle, Bustle & Squeak* focusing on all sorts of different aspects of nature. They began this with a very active animal quiz which got extremely competitive!

To get involved in guiding locally, 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

[www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested).

## Purton & Lydiard Beavers, Cubs and Scouts



Over 60 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts (and their leaders) are preparing to meet the Lions of Longleat, when they join in the County camp this June. We will be joining over 2,000 other Scouting members to sleep under the stars, and enjoy the safari park as well as the usual scouting traditions like the 'old camp fire'.

Beavers will join us for a full day on the Saturday, while Cubs and Scouts will enjoy a 2-night camp.

Scout camps are a challenge for all (not least the leaders who manage to survive on 8 hours' sleep in 48 if they are lucky and turn up for work on the Monday bleary eyed). For some children this is their first night away from home and mum

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and dad. Sleeping in a musty tent, like sardines – listening to the night sounds can set the mind racing, not to mention trying to find your socks the next morning! For most of us though, the memory of our first camp will stay with us for ever. We will be praying for good weather of course.

**New Scout Centre update** – Thank you to everyone who supported our Mother's Day market when we raised a wonderful £470. We particularly thank everyone who contributed in any way, with wonderful donations of cakes and goodies to sell, as well as those of you who attended on a very cold Saturday morning.

**Quiz Night at Lydiard Parish Rooms** – on Friday 10 May, 7.30 pm. £2.50 per person, teams of 4-6, or do come along on your own and we will find you a team to join! Raffle and light refreshments available – Tickets available from Tricia Roberts: 772417, or email [tricia.f.roberts@gmail.com](mailto:tricia.f.roberts@gmail.com). We hope to see you there, and let your brain be baffled for an evening of fun!

## 1<sup>st</sup> Purton and Lydiard Scout Centre Appeal – Great News!

We are really pleased to announce that Ben 'Spiderling', the director of a local expedition company has agreed to become our 'Patron of the Scout Centre Appeal'!

Ben, who is about to publish a book '*The above average Spiderling*' on his journey in becoming a top mountain climber, will be giving a public talk for us, on his fascinating story on what drives 'free climbers' to do what they do and take the risks that they do to scale some of the toughest mountain faces ever! Obsessed with something you can't explain and willing to take risks that will make you cringe, '*The Spiderling*' is the story of a young boy who took a route he was unable to turn back on. Everyone knew the outcome was inevitable!

Ben has lived in Purton for the past year now, and has in the past reached the dizzy heights of some of the world's highest peaks, rising in reputation in the mountain climbing community as a fast solo-free climber! (For those of you who don't know, a 'free climber' is someone who wears no safety harness, protective gear or ropes with which to climb).

These days, Ben inspires young people to achieve, for their Duke of Edinburgh's expedition challenges and leads adults who wish to take part in the 3 Peaks Challenge, amongst other things. There will be the opportunity to sign up to take part in a 3 Peaks Challenge event yourself on this evening. If you have ever wanted to take part to climb our highest peaks in the UK (Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon) this could be your chance!

The talk is on Thursday 6 June at 7.30 pm, in Purton Village Hall. Tickets for this event will be £5 for adults and £3 for children under 14yrs. (All proceeds for the Scout Centre Appeal). There will be a raffle and light refreshments. This is an evening you won't want to miss as Ben will bring the mountains to life, here to us, in Purton.

Tickets are available from *In Touch Services*, Purton, or Jan Fisher on 771216.

## Lifestyle!

I'm an enormously talented man, and there's no use pretending that I'm not.

*Noel Coward*

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## Purton Diary - May 2013

1	W	2.00pm	Age Concern Mystery tour with tea provided.
2	Th		<b>Wiltshire Council election day</b>
4	Sa	10.30am 11.00am	<i>to 4pm:</i> Collectors' Market at Village Hall <i>to 3pm:</i> Purton Food Festival, Purton House
<hr/>			
5	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 11.00am 6.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church Service at Methodist Church Family Service at St Mary's Church <i>to 3pm:</i> Purton Food Festival, Purton House Evensong at St Mary's Church
6	M		<b>Early May Bank Holiday</b>
7	Tu	2.30pm	Service at White Lodge
8	W	???	Methodist Women's Fellowship members' outing to Cricklade.
9	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
10	F	9.30am 7.00pm 7.30pm	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon <i>for 7.30pm start:</i> Quiz Night at St Mary's School (PTA) Dodecantus concert at St Mary's Church, Kempsford
11	Sa	7.30pm	Dodecantus concert at St Bartholomew's Church, W/Bassett
<hr/>			
12	Su	8.00am 9.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Communion at St Mary's Church <i>to 9.30am:</i> Christian Aid Breakfast in St Mary's Church Christian Aid Service with speaker at St Mary's Church Evensong at St Mary's Church
13	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
14	Tu	11.00am 2.00pm 6.30pm:  7.30pm 8.00pm	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House Silver Threads Club <i>and 8pm:</i> (2 sittings) Christian Aid Curry Night at <i>The Maharajah</i> Purton Yacht Club at The Angel <i>After 8: Changes in communication</i> - led by Eve at Christine's
15	W	2.00pm 7.30pm  7.30pm	Communion at Ashgrove House Purton Evening W.I. Open Meeting at Village Hall: <i>Asian Experience</i> with Khaliq from <i>The Maharajah</i> Restaurant <i>Alice in Wonderland, Who Stole the Tarts?</i> at Bradon Forest Theatre
16	Th	7.30pm  7.30pm	Historical Society at St Mary's School Hall: Martin Vandervelde: <i>An Evacuee tells his Story</i> <i>Alice in Wonderland, Who Stole the Tarts?</i> at Bradon Forest Theatre
18	Sa	8.30am	<i>onwards:</i> Christian Aid Cakes and Plants Sale by Top Shops
<hr/>			
19	Su	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church Family Service at St Mary's Church Communion at St Mary's Church

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		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
21	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
24	F	3.30pm	Communion at The Cedars
		7.30pm	Friends of St Mary's Wine and Cheese at St Mary's Church
25	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Coffee Morning and Plant Sale at Silver Threads
		10.00am	<i>to 3pm:</i> Jubilee Gardens Open Day

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26	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Trinity Sunday Service with Baptisms at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
27	M		<b>Spring Bank Holiday</b>
28	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Melksham Pearlies</i>
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: John Cromarty - <i>The Secret Life of Garden Birds</i>

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### Every week

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

 2 May     
  10 May     
  18 May     
  25 May     
  31 May

## Carnival Procession

Well, the entries keep coming in! This month we've agreement to take part from the Bowls Club, Purton Under 5s Play Group and an individual on a horse!! I'm not sure whether we will make the 50 floats for 50 years that we want, but I'm hoping for a sudden influx of entries as people realise how close it is (29 June). Let me know if you are willing to join in the best Carnival procession for many a year.

MARY NETTLETON

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

*OFFERED:* Under-bed storage drawer - 80 cm x 90 cm x 18 cm high (including castors). Barbecue accessories (grid and tools). Tel 01793 771390 Jean Robson

*OFFERED:* Filing cabinet, light, 2 drawer, brown melamine, hanging folders. w 32" h 29" d 20". Tel 770552.

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

# PURTON PLACARD

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

St Mary's Primary School

## **Quiz Night**

Friday 10 May

7 pm for a 7.30 start.

Teams of up to 6.

Light supper included in entrance price of £3 per person.

Licensed bar & raffle.

Teams to pre register

by Tuesday 7 May please.

Contact Jane Farr.

## **Friends of St Mary's Wine and Cheese and Nibbles**

Friday 24 May at 7.30 pm  
at St Mary's Church

We would like to say thank-you to all Friends who have made contributions to St Mary's over the years

We will begin with a conducted tour

## **Jubilee Gardens Open Day**

Saturday 25 May

from 10 am to 3 pm

Sale of bedding plants, hanging baskets and much more.

Orders for hanging baskets also taken in advance

Refreshments

Raffle and tombola

Free admission

Bradon Forest Theatre

Lower School Drama Club presents

## **Alice in Wonderland, Who Stole the Tarts?**

Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 May  
at 7.30 pm

Tickets: £4 ( students £3 )

See details on page 59

Come see and be wondered by  
Wonderland!

WI Open Meeting  
All Welcome

## **Asian Evening**

Wednesday 15 May at 7.30 pm  
at the Village Hall

The speaker: Khalique from  
*The Maharajah Restaurant*

"The Asian Experience"

Visitors - £3

## **PLANT FAIR & OPEN GARDEN**

Bank Holiday Monday 6 May  
11 - 4 pm

Bushton Manor, Bushton. SN4 7PX  
Plants, Shrubs, Annual Bedding,

Pots. Planters, Rural Crafts,

Refreshments. Adults £1

In aid of Bushton Church Funds

## **Collectors' Market**

Saturday 4 May 10.30 am to 4 pm

Village Hall

Tables £10, tel 770251

Admission Free Raffle, Refreshments

**RED SKYE CAKES**  
**A Vintage Tea Experience**  
**at Purton Methodist Church**

on Friday 7 June 2013

3 pm - 4.30 pm

Raising funds for  
Purton Methodist Church

Come and enjoy a delicious Vintage Tea  
served on fine china

Including:

A sumptuous selection of sandwiches,  
cakes and pastries,  
unlimited teas and coffee

To book places

call Bob & Linda Tinson 771282

£10 per person (limited numbers)

Purton Silver Threads

**Coffee Morning**  
**& Plant Sale**

Saturday 25 May

10 am to 12 noon

Silver Threads Hall

Raffle, Refreshments, Tombola



Tandoori & Balti  
Restaurant

6 High Street  
Purton, Swindon  
Wilts SN5 4AA  
01793 770253

Come and join us for good company  
and good food at the Maharajah's  
Curry night!

**Tuesday**  
**May 14th**

Tickets £15  
per head, two  
sittings 6:30pm  
and 8:00pm

Book to avoid disappointment

With thanks to Khalique  
all Proceeds to ...



Contact Wendy 771749 or Kate 772930  
for tickets

Choral Concert by

*Dodecantus*

Tickets £10/concessions £8

Available on the door

[www.dodecantus.org](http://www.dodecantus.org)

*Springtime*

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013

7.30pm St Mary's Church, Kempsford

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013

7.30pm St Bartholomew's Church, Royal Wootton Bassett

Vivaldi's Gloria

Moeran's Songs of Springtime

plus works by Britten, Birley & Morley

Conductor: David Ripley

Accompanist: Victoria Burton



## Purton Carnival - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 14 - 30 June 2013

It will not be long now and I hope you are all praying for fine weather and if you can help in some way. Also have you sent in your Entry Forms yet? Hurry up!

Below is a reminder of Carnival Events for you.

*PAULINE WARD*

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	<b>*1.30 - 2.30</b> (£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 FETE	Witts Lane	1pm
30	Su	Golf	Bradon Forest School	from 12.30pm
			<b>*Cricklade Hotel</b>	10am
			(Stableford Rules / £15 per person / teams up to 3)	

## Purton Helping Hand

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1953-2013

Fifty Glorious Years – something to celebrate.

We are holding a QUEEN COMPETITION to mark a special year.

Date: Thursday 13 June at the Village Hall

Age: 18 years and over – small cash prize

This will be an evening of entertainment and Queen Selection. Bar, tea, coffee. No food but if you wish you can bring your own. Raffle. Admission £3, Children £1.

Please enter or come along to enjoy the evening and help us celebrate. Entry Forms are available now: telephone me on 770251.

Another date for your diary:

**16 September**, 10 am to 6 pm at Silver Threads Hall

**Birthday Party & Memory Lane.** There will be Light Refreshments available all day, if required. Tombola & Raffle. Admission free.

Do come along and see who you recognise in photos. Looking forward to seeing you there.

*PAULINE WARD, Chairman*





**Year 10 Work Experience:** From 4 to 8 March all of our Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit an employer and learn more about the world of work. Students had to find and arrange the placements themselves which meant there were a huge variety of placements. Examples included: solicitors, vets, electricians, animal sanctuaries, hairdressers, as well as schools, hospitals and local garages. The week ran very smoothly and the response from students during their initial feedback session was overwhelmingly positive.

There have been several letters from employers praising students for their hard work, initiative and conduct in the work place. For some students it has reaffirmed their career pathway and for some it has opened their eyes to new opportunities. We would like to thank both the students and employers for making the week so successful.

**World Challenge:** The fund raising is forging ahead, with a plethora of upcoming events including curry nights at the Bombay Lounge, race nights and more bag packing. This year there have been some new and innovative ideas including selling advertising space on t-shirts.



### **What's Your Goal Programme with GCSE Year 10 Students**

I was delighted to receive the following letter from Clive Maguire (STFC Community Trust) and he agreed I could share his comments more widely

*This morning I came to your school to deliver the What's Your Goal programme sponsored by the Football League sponsors NPower. This is the second year I have delivered to several of the local senior schools including yourselves at Bradon Forest. Last year I delivered the lesson to nearly 900 students and this year we have rolled the programme out to another 650 local youngsters. My liaisons at your school have been Tracey Moore and Martin Bray.*

*This morning's lesson was held in your gymnasium for your year 10 PE GCSE students. I was supported by Martin Bray and Andrew Hartley, who were both very supportive and professional throughout the duration of the 50 minute lesson.*

*The main reason for my email to you Mr Spiers is to say what an absolute pleasure it was to come to your school and deliver the programme to 45 of your students, who were all a great credit to Bradon Forest School.*

*They were all respectful, engaging and motivated the whole time. Out of all the lessons I have delivered to some 1500 students, this has been the most enjoyable and productive by a long margin. I would like you to pass on my sincere thanks to both your staff and students for their support and cooperation today.*

*Clive Maguire, Development Manager, STFC Football in the Community Trust*

### **Art News**

Mrs Cooke reports: A busy time again in the Art Department this term: Friday 1 and Saturday 2 March saw our annual, fantastic 'Artists Days' for Year 10 Art and



Design students. 84 students took part in six workshops over the two days. We welcomed to the school again Ron Holmes, a local sculptor/artist who ran an abstract sculpture session, Matthew Jeanes, an illustrator from Bristol who ran a cartoon characters workshop and Kaz Lammie, a graphic designer who ran a graphic illustration session. Mrs Holmes ran a graffiti/painting workshop where twenty

students worked in four groups on huge painted boards, Mrs Cooke ran a clay African masks workshop and Mr Martch-Harry ran a sculpture workshop where the students covered Easter Island heads. Our finished polystyrene sculptures from last year's workshops are now standing outside in all weather in our sculpture garden. A great time was had by both students and the six staff/artists. Thank you to everybody involved who helped/supported us over the two days. Special thanks to Mr Calder for his support as always.

Over the next few weeks we will be welcoming a local artist from Corsham to run a series of workshops with a selection of Year 9 students, culminating in an exhibition at the Corsham Pound Arts Centre, entitled 'Other Worlds'. The Year 8 Gifted and Talented group have just completed landscape plaques and are currently creating clay "converses" – photos will follow when finished!

**Student News:** Congratulations to Josh Musty who was selected to play in the Under 15 National Badminton Championships at the end of February. Joshua played brilliantly scooping bronze medals in both the singles and doubles.

The Swindon Advertiser featured an article and photograph on Josh on 13 March. Well done Josh!



**Primary Gymnastics Festival:** Miss Moore reports: What a fun-filled afternoon the primary children had in our school gym on Wednesday 6 March 2013. The gymnastics festival was run entirely



by our student gymnasts and they did a fantastic job! I think every primary teacher and parent there made a point of telling me how friendly they were and how well they coached their children. The children in Years 1-6 had the chance to experience different activities led by our gymnasts, who really enjoyed coaching the younger children and seeing them improve. A special mention must go to Alyssa Weymouth and Rhianna Bryon, both in 9S. They made up the sequences for the KS1 and KS2 competition element, were videoed performing the sequences, and did the scoring on the day! What superstars! A huge thank-you to all our Bradon Forest gymnasts who ensured that this year's gymnastics festival was a great success.

*HELEN WILKINSON, Acting Headteacher*

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## The New Forest & Hampshire County Show 30 July to 1 August

### Get Involved with the New Forest Show

Following on from last year's highly successful 'Best of British' theme, the New Forest & Hampshire County Show's (NFHCS) theme this year is 'Get Involved'. The idea is for as many people as possible to come along and enjoy the Show and join in with all the demonstrations and interactive events on offer. Every section of the Show is organising something for our visitors to do – whether it is taking part in the tug of war with a tractor in the Old Time Farming area, making pottery in the Art Tent or having your face painted in the Church Tent – everyone attending will be assured a great day out!

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

This Show's aims are so much more than just agriculture, offering the opportunity to learn about everything in the countryside but also to provide entertainment for all ages. Attractions this year will include the exciting Devil's Horsemen (*right*), One Man and His Dog, displaying the very best sheep dog techniques, the Pony Club Mounted Games and of course, the stunning Heavy Horse Musical Drive, all of which are on every day of the Show.



Remember there are also over 600 trade stands providing one of the most varied and unusual goods and produce – definitely the place to get that special purchase.

15% off advance tickets bought online until 11 July 2013 at [www.newforestshow.co.uk](http://www.newforestshow.co.uk).

### Teachings from Noah's Ark

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit - when you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float a while.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, there's always a rainbow waiting.

# 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.



## ■ BRIAN DAVIES THANK YOU

I would like to say a huge thank-you to all my friends, neighbours and fellow members of the churches, for the amazing number of phone calls, get well messages, cards and treats. Prayers, and visitors to both the Great Western and the John Radcliffe hospitals. After I suffered a heart attack on my way home from the Post Office on 11 March, and have had to have coronary artery bypass surgery. I came back home late on Friday 5 April, complete with my list of does and don'ts which tells me even I have to do as I am told, and it will take some time to claw my way back to health.

There is an army of wonderful people, and you know who you are, who have stepped in to do the tasks I would be involved in during the months ahead. I will of course have to give up processing the cans and foil for the Guide Dogs, but I understand they can go into your black box recycling, or the Household Recycling Centre.

Bless you all.

*Brian Davies*

## ■ GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Dennis and Della Kelly of Norbury Court would like to thank everyone who has been so kind during recent weeks supporting them and showing their concern whilst Della was so poorly. Della has made a wonderful recovery. Dennis at the moment has difficulties with mobility. They both feel so blessed

that organisations such as the Helping Hand and neighbours such as Brian are there to support them in such a caring way. The many cards and good wishes received brought a tear to the eye.

Thank you.

## ■ DONALD CARTER

Through the Magazine the family would like to thank all those who sent messages of sympathy on the sad loss of a dear husband, father and grandfather, Donald Carter. Thank you to all who attended the funeral and the donations given in his memory.

Our grateful thanks to the Revd Judith Wells for her help and guidance at this sad time.

We would also like to say a special thank-you to Joyce and Phil Bryant for their friendship and help over the years to both Dad and Mum.

Many thanks also to Katherine for the lovely food and hot cup of tea on what was an extremely cold day!

*Ken & Margaret, Gerald & Moira,  
Jill & Brian*

## ■ PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

For the history section of the Purton Parish Plan, I would like to add some information and preferably photos of the Prisoner of War Camp that was between Hyde Lane and the Millennium Hall. If anybody has any information on this camp please contact Geoff Tappern on 772985. Thanks.

■ THE ROYAL GEORGE IS OPEN!

Good, I hear you say, but for how long?

It is fair to say that in recent years the Royal George has not benefited from a good reputation. With this added to the enormous challenges that all village pubs are currently facing it is a fantastic achievement that Will Cooke and his team have managed to get the Royal George up and running once again.

During its recent closure the Royal George has benefited from a complete makeover: the function room and restaurant area are now better than ever with seating for between 20 and 30 covers. Will has also created a relaxed and friendly seating area for the village to enjoy; an area which lends itself well to parties, private functions, music nights, afternoon tea or a simple read of the paper on a Sunday afternoon.

The bar has moved back into the snug at the far end of the building, proving a cosy and inviting room with really good feel which suits the locals very well.

At the time of writing this our village pub has already produced over 60 Sunday lunches and dozens of fish and chip suppers in only two weeks. Will is creating a simple and traditional menu for us all to enjoy either inside or, when the weather improves, in the new garden area.

The Royal George is open from 4 pm Monday to Friday and 12 noon on the weekends. To contact the landlord Will Cooke tel: 07788 992277.

I hope that you will take the time to give the "New" Royal George a go, as without it I think the village would be a poorer place.

*Neil Saunders*

■ SPONSORSHIP THANKS

Eve Collett would like to thank everyone who sponsored her daughter Lynn and grandson Paul who ran in the Exeter 10k on 24 March in memory of Trevor. Seven hundred and sixty-one pounds was raised for the Prospect Hospice.

## The Cricklade Band - Spring Table-Top Sale

The fundraising arm of The Cricklade Band – that's our 'Crew' – will be holding an extraordinary Table-Top Sale on Saturday 11 May. 'Extraordinary' because our usual 'clock-change' Saturday was changed this year because it coincided with Easter – then we had a heavy snowstorm which put paid to the whole thing!

The Table-Top Sale will now be at The Club at Cricklade from 11 am to 1 pm.

If you're a Table-Top seller, please give Val or Rob a call on 01793 750516 to book your table, still at just £5. Setting up is from 10 am.

If you're a Table-Top browser, who knows what you might find? Although the band itself will have our now famous cake array, tea, coffee, some games of skill (or chance!) and a raffle.

And whether you're a seller or a browser why not start the day off well with a hearty Club Breakfast, from 9.30 am – you might just have room for some cake at the Table-Top Sale afterwards – see you then!

## Just a Thought

If you want truly to understand something, try to change it.

*Kurt Lewin*

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## Exhibit of the Month: Purton's Past

It is now many years since *Purton's Past* has been in print. Written by the Museum's founding curator, the late Alec Robbins (*pictured right*), the book was very popular and we have had several requests for a reprint, but never sufficient numbers to warrant the cost of a full reprint run.

However, we have now found a way of reproducing the book in manageable print batches and will soon be able to offer it for sale again.

The book is in landscape A4 format containing 178 pages. In the original 1991 edition, Alec Robbins described the content with the words, "It is hoped that this book will be enjoyed both by those who wish just to browse through its pages and to contemplate the past; and by those who will use the Bibliography and research more thoroughly, the topics which they find interesting.

"An attempt has been made to select subjects which should have a broad appeal and to arrange the topics as far as possible in chronological order. There may well be an emphasis on social history, for which there is no apology.

"Readers are asked to consider that sources of the history of a village are far more limited than those of the national scene. More may be brought to light by further research, but much of Purton's past will never now be known.

"Some items of relatively recent times [1980s and 1990s] have been included as a record for future reference. A.R. 1991."

The reprint will be exactly that; there is no intention to update or add to the content, merely to make once again available a valuable book on the village's history to accompany other books currently still available from Purton Historical Society: *Records and Recollections of Purton & District*, and *The Workhouses of the Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Union* (both by Alec Robbins); and *From Marsh Farm to the Moon* by Brian Fregard.

I, myself, have found the book immensely valuable as an occasional source for some of my *Exhibits of the Month* over the past 13 years and in celebration of the reopening of the *Royal George* pub [Postbag page 49] I leave you with a picture from *Purton's Past* showing that building in around 1900.



We anticipate that the price will be no more than £15 per copy sold locally, or by post with postage and packing added.

We will keep you updated with progress on the Museum's web site at [www.purtonmuseum.com](http://www.purtonmuseum.com) and in these pages

RICK DIXON, Outreach Officer

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## Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Our 26 March meeting gave members, albeit for a short time, the opportunity to forget the wintry conditions outside whilst we enjoyed the colourful garden slides, evocative of Spring and Summer, forming the backdrop to Elaine Horton's most informative talk on the subject of 'Plants for different soils and situations'.

Elaine explained that her knowledge of the subject has been acquired over the 40+ years she has spent gardening on a variety of soils: from sand in Essex, brash in the Cotswolds and latterly, clay in Tewkesbury.

Number one priority before buying plants should always be to determine the character of the soil in which the plants are to be grown, as different soils have different properties. For example, clay soil is very rich but lacks oxygen whilst fine soil lacks nutrition and will need feeding.

By knowing the character of the soil, specific soil problems, such as slugs and snails, can be addressed early on in the season, before planting begins.

Experience has taught Elaine to always buy plants that are hardy. Information regarding a plant's hardiness and the recommended soil type will be displayed on the plant label, enabling buyers to make purchases appropriate to their needs. However it should always be remembered that plants cossetted in garden centres and nurseries will not happily transfer to cold outside conditions immediately after purchase.

The superb pictures projected on the screen were accompanied by Elaine's clear and informative commentary, enabling us to learn more about plants suited to specific soils and situations, including :

**Primula** - certain types will only tolerate full sun and a well-drained soil, whilst others like wet conditions with their heads in the sun. This is a prime example of the need to know your soil before planting.

**Violas**, such as '*Inverary Beauty*', do not like a hot, dry summer and therefore should be planted in a semi - shaded spot.

**Trilliums** are a native of American woodlands and can take up to 7 years to produce one flower from seed. Whilst Elaine has grown them on limey clay, there are others that will grow on acid soil. Again know you soil!

**Pulmonaria** (*Jacob's Ladder*), will tolerate most soils. However it will 'turn up' its toes if planted in a hot and sunny spot, preferring a semi-shaded position.

**Irises** - The growth of bearded irises is dependent on its situation, either tall in full sun or short in a shady situation.

**Delphiniums** will grow on clay but the problem of slugs and snails should be dealt with in early spring.

**Hemerocalis** (day lily) - '*Cranberry Baby*' and '*Naomi Ruth*' are both good specimens and will grow on sand, chalk or clay soils in full sun.

**Geraniums** - Provided that the right choice is made, there is a geranium to suit any soil or situation.

The evening ended with members agreeing that this had been a most enjoyable talk and feeling the better for the promise of spring it had evoked.

The speakers arranged for this year will cover a wide variety of subjects so why

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not join us and see if something appeals to you. We are a friendly group and meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month in Silver Threads Hall with a competition and raffle as well as the speaker. Our next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on 28 May when John Cromarty will be talking to us on the subject of 'The secret life of garden birds'. The competition on the night will be 'A photo of garden birds'.

Please make a note in your diaries for our outing to Webbs of Wychbold on Tuesday 11 June. Webbs is a large garden centre. It has an extensive plant area and a large restaurant with an outdoor seating area adjacent to themed riverside gardens designed by the Chelsea Flower Show gold medal winner, Marigold Webb. There will be a charge of £9.00 per person for the coach.

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

## Purton & Green Gable Surgery Group for Patients

Group for Patients



### 1. Patient Information evenings

We held our third information meeting on 12 March when the subject was Ovarian Cancer. This was a very informative evening and there were a good number of attendees. Debbie Denley, Gynae/oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist at GWH, spoke on the symptoms and treatment of ovarian cancer. Also present were Tracey and her husband and all present were impressed with how they are coping with their situation following her diagnosis. Her courage and positive attitude were an inspiration to all.

Our next information meeting will be in the autumn.

**2. Telephone contact with doctors:** The surgery has asked us to let you know that it is not always possible to speak to a doctor on the phone except in genuinely urgent situations. Please be understanding in your contact with surgery staff.

**3. Online repeat prescriptions:** When requesting repeat prescriptions online please only add important and necessary information in the lower box of the form as anything added to this box can require doctor review and slow the process.

### 4. Follow us on Twitter

G4P now has its own Twitter feed, the username is @PurtonSurgery – a useful way of keeping up to date with G4P. However, this should not be used as a way of raising issues with the surgery, and we ask that communication with G4P is through the surgery or by emailing [groupforpatients@gmail.com](mailto:groupforpatients@gmail.com).

SHEILA FOWLER, *Secretary*

## Guide Dogs for the Blind, Purton Group

Brian Davies has been in the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford. He is now back home after having bypass surgery.

I am sure that everyone who knows Brian is aware of how hard he works for all of his good causes. So we wish him well and for him to have a well deserved rest and a good recovery.

Best wishes Brian from the support group members; Jenny Barnes, Doreen Tuck, Sue Matthews and Doreen Freegard.



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## Science Pioneers: Great Scientists of the Past meet at Lacock



Last October a planning group met in the National Trust Office at Lacock. Representatives from three professional Museums had decided to hold a joint event at the end of March this year to celebrate the end of National Science and Engineering Week.

From the late eighteenth century for almost a hundred years a group of great scientists who lived and worked in this part of England, or had family connections with the area, were changing the world with their discoveries and experiments. They were aware of, and took an interest in, each other's research, some were colleagues and friends. In Bath William Herschel discovered the planet Uranus and infrared radiation. He built the largest reflecting telescopes of his day. His sister Caroline became the first woman to gain fame as an astronomer while his son, Sir John, a physicist and chemist, continued and developed their work in Slough. Dr Edward Jenner of Berkeley, Gloucestershire, pioneered the smallpox vaccination, one of the most important medical discoveries of all time. While living at Lacock, William Fox Talbot created the first photographic negative, the basis of modern photography.

Susan Dann, the Education Officer at the Herschel Museum of Astronomy, came to assist the Purton Historical Society with its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary project in 2011. She realized one great scientist was missing from the list at the Lacock meeting so she suggested that the PHS should be included to promote the contribution made by Rev Dr Nevil Maskelyne, 5<sup>th</sup> Astronomer Royal, another multi-talented man who knew the Herschels well.

The invitation was accepted and so nine PHS members assembled in the bitterly cold Tithe Barn at 9.30 am on 24 March to arrange the splendid Maskelyne panels and other display material relating to the family and Purton. As Brian Freegard remarked he hadn't noticed "hypothermia" on the risk assessment list! David Sweet gave a presentation on Maskelyne – the afternoon session was particularly well attended – and members took turns to welcome visitors. There were roughly two hundred, about half the number to be expected on a fine, warm spring day. The solar viewing had to be cancelled due to thick cloud cover and only a few hardy youngsters braved the chill to follow the pioneer's trail, discovering facts about each scientist on a walk around Lacock.

Four other Purtonians were spotted during the day – there could have been others! The whole event was a revealing experience. The organising took weeks of effort and coordinating the involvement of four scattered groups must have been complicated. Some activities had to be cancelled because of the weather but the two impersonators of Herschel and Jenner enjoyed themselves as did other visitors in

*Right: the Herschel Museum's representative was dressed as William Herschel, here playing a violin. Herschel was a musician before he became an astronomer!*



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spite of the cold. The panels have proved to be a good investment and are much travelled, having been to Salisbury to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee last May. It was a privilege for the Purton Historical Society to be associated with "Science Pioneers".

JEAN BELT

## Purton Historical Society



Our last meeting was our AGM and after the business items we listened to the second part of Paul Booy's talk on the Titanic. Many of the tales surrounding this tragedy, quite rightly, focus on the massive loss of life and why this 'unsinkable' ship sank. It was interesting to hear Paul reflect on the effect that this disaster had on survivors and on those who came to the stricken vessel's rescue and, indeed, those who did not!

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16 May at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Primary School. Martin Vandervelde will be telling us about life as a WWII evacuee in Wroughton. As a young child, to find yourself parted from your family and friends, and in a strange environment with people you didn't know must have been very difficult. I look forward, with interest, to hearing about Martin's experiences. Our meetings are open to members and non-members (£3 entrance) and we look forward to welcoming you.

### **PHS Outing Saturday 15 June**

Our outing this year takes us to Clifton Suspension Bridge in the morning where we will have a guided tour and then on to the National Trust Property at Tyntesfield.

Many of us will be familiar with the bridge, but just the story of the competition to find a design for the bridge makes fascinating listening and, as they say, the rest is history!

We will spend the rest of the day at Tyntesfield in Wraxall. This property was owned by the Gibb family who made their fortune in fertiliser made from South American bird droppings! The Gothic-style house was acquired in 2002 by the National Trust and has been open to the public from day one, enabling everyone to observe the massive conservation and restoration project in progress. Interesting and imaginative use of outbuildings now provides excellent catering and retail facilities. Students from Bath University are involved in the restoration of many of the buildings on the estate including a delightful orangery which provided useful shelter from the rain on our last visit! The delightful surroundings should make this a day to remember.

The cost will be £24 for non-NT members and £12 for NT members. You don't have to be a PHS member to come on the outing. Booking forms can be obtained at society meetings or from *In Touch Services* at 115 Pavenhill or can be downloaded from our website [www.purtonmuseum.com](http://www.purtonmuseum.com). For further information please contact me on 01793 770648 or email [mail@purtonquarry.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mail@purtonquarry.fsnet.co.uk)

HELEN DIXON, Chair

Stop Press ... Our village tour is on Saturday 20 July. We are going to Bromham where the church warden will take us on a conducted tour of the church and village. More details next month or contact [Helen](#).

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## Every girl deserves a pretty dress!

Recently, I received an entry on Twitter that really touched my heart and made me think how simple it would be to help someone who had very little. Please take a minute to read what Louise Horler has to say.

“At the beginning of 2011 an article in a sewing magazine about a charity in America called ‘Dress A Girl Around the World’ caught my eye. People who could sew were asked to make simple pillowcase dresses which were then delivered to girls living in poverty in the developing world. Girls in countries like Uganda, Rwanda, Haiti and India. The charity felt that every girl should own at least one pretty dress.

As the mother of a little girl with a wardrobe full of pretty dresses, this struck a chord with me and it didn’t seem too much to ask to make a dress as I could sew and had lots of fabric lying around. I made a few dresses and roped in some of my blogging friends to make dresses too, thinking that would be it. Little did I know that 6 months later I would be the UK International Partner for the charity having collected over 4,000 dresses from lovely people all over the UK and Ireland!

We are still looking for people to make dresses. It’s a very simple pattern to follow and very easy to make. Once you start it’s a bit addictive and people often end up making more than one dress! It’s been such a pleasure collecting the dresses and seeing what people have made. Some use new fabric, some recycled pillowcases (hence the name) and some upcycle old clothes into new dresses. Most are made from the same simple pattern but they are all individual and each one has been made with love. (If you are using pillowcases, please ensure that they are clean and have no marks on them and also that they are not too see-through).”

*Louise Horler*

I thought the idea of making a pretty dress out of a pillowcase was a wonderful idea, and very simple to do. Louise has even provided a pattern for armholes for different sizes. If you want something more detailed she also has a pattern for dresses from scratch. However the idea of a pillowcase dress appeals to me. Pillowcases are just a couple of pounds in supermarkets, the sewing is simple and can be done by hand or machine. I am going to start on this straight away and try to aim for a dress a week for the next six months – making 24 or more in all. I’ll see where I go from there. I’ll update on Twitter.

If you like this idea but can’t sew, any donations of money for distribution should go direct to Louise, if you see a pretty pillow case and pass it on to me, I would be happy to do the sewing and send the dress on with your name. I think it would be nice for each dress to have a tag with a message of hope and name of the sender. If you like to sew and are unable to print off the pattern please let me know, I can let you have a copy of the armhole pattern.

My details are Lynda Warren, 32 Station Road, Purton, SN5 4EN. Tel 771453.

[lynda.warren@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lynda.warren@hotmail.co.uk), Twitter: @lyndawarren1

Louise’s details are: [louisehorler@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:louisehorler@blueyonder.co.uk),

Blog: [sewscrumptious.blogspot.com](http://sewscrumptious.blogspot.com) Twitter: @SewScrumptious

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/DressagirlaroundtheWorldUK](http://www.facebook.com/DressagirlaroundtheWorldUK)

Louise Horler, 20 Station Road, Nailsea, North Somerset BS48 4PD

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## “Springtime”

Dodecantus UK invite you to join them for an exciting musical evening to celebrate the belated arrival of spring with a picnic of Moeran’s wistful yet exuberant *Songs of Springtime*, two of Britten’s colourful *Five Flower Songs*, two familiar yet unusual ditties by the modern English composer Rick Birley, and the toe-tapping *Now is the Month of Maying* by Elizabethan composer Thomas Morley, with a strawberries and cream dessert of Vivaldi’s *Gloria*.

The first concert is on Friday 10 May in our Gloucestershire venue of St Mary’s Church, Kempsford, and we are delighted to return to what used to be our usual Wiltshire venue of St Bartholomew’s Church, Royal Wootton Bassett, after a three-year absence, for our second concert on Saturday 11 May. Both concerts begin at 7.30 pm.

Tickets are £10 (£8 for concessions) on the door. For more information please visit [www.dodecantus.org](http://www.dodecantus.org) or contact [info@dodecantus.org](mailto:info@dodecantus.org)

## Bradon Forest Theatre

The Lower School Drama Club presents *Alice in Wonderland, Who Stole the Tarts?* on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 May at 7.30 pm. Tickets: £4 ( students £3 )

This is a devised performance inspired by ‘Alice in Wonderland’ and its many characters. Created by and partly written by students & Mrs Stimson.

Set on the grassy banks of Oxfordshire, Alice drifts off into a crazy world where the Queen is on the warpath after her Tarts have gone missing! Somebody has them and the Queen wants their head!

Come see and be wondered by Wonderland!

In July, Bradon Forest Theatre presents *Bugsy Malone*. This fast-paced musical comedy is an enormously entertaining show. Set in 1920s New York, we follow Bugsy Malone as he becomes employed by hapless mobster, ‘Fat Sam’ Stacetto. Bugsy soon finds himself in a world of would-be gangsters and show girls but it’s the star-struck Blousey Brown, on her quest to find fame, which really catches his eye. With iconic songs, ‘Fat Sam’s Grand Slam’, ‘Bad Guys’ and ‘Bugsy Malone’, this show promises to bring much fun and laughter to all audiences, irrespective of age.

Thurs 4 July, 7.30 Fri 5 July, 7.30 Sat 6 July, 2.30 Sat 6 July, 7.30

Tickets: £5.00

## Marlborough Open Gardens

An opportunity to have a pleasant afternoon stroll around a dozen of Marlborough’s most attractive gardens, several not open before, on Sunday 9 June from 2 to 6 pm.

Tickets are available in advance £4.50 (children under 14 free) from The Merchant’s House, 132 High Street or £5 on the day, only from The Merchant’s House garden. Tickets 3 to 6 pm, £3.50 at Kingsbury Croft. Entrance in Ironmonger Lane.

Marlborough Open Gardens is sponsored by Brewin Dolphin, in aid of The Merchant’s House Appeal.

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## Foggy's Awareness Fortnight

May 2013 holds Foggy's Awareness Fortnight. In addition to our normal meeting, we are holding a central open day and fundraiser on Wednesday 1 May, 12 pm to 2 pm, during our normal meeting at Liden Community Centre Swindon SN3 6HF. On Saturday 11 May, we will have our ASDA West Swindon fundraiser. Then on Monday 13 May, 6 pm to 8 pm, we end Foggy's awareness fortnight at Central Community Centre Swindon at The Lounge!

Whether you're a new face, or an old face, you'll be very welcome. Please come along, and bring a friend/partner/loved one along for support.

Primarily setup as Fibromyalgia Support, we now provide support where possible for other "invisible illnesses". Currently our primary support is for:

- Arthritic and Rheumatic conditions
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- Fibromyalgia
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- M. E. - Myalgic Encephalopathy
- Peripheral Neuropathy
- Polymyalgia Rheumatica & Giant Cell Arteritis
- Seasonal Affective Disorder
- Trigeminal Neuralgia

Informal, drop-in basis Group meetings at Liden Community Centre, every first Wednesday of the month, 12 noon to 2 pm and United Reformed Church, Fisherton Street, Salisbury SP2 7RG every second Friday of the month 7 pm to 9 pm.

We encourage and welcome partners, friends and carers to attend too. We like carers / loved ones getting together as we tend to forget how hard, confusing and frustrating it must be for them too. You may feel put off joining/attending due to shyness etc, someone with you can give you that extra confidence. Many shy people who have attended said how confident and comfortable they felt in being around people who understood. The meetings are informal drop-in session based, and it gives you the chance to discuss coping mechanisms and to generally share any concerns that you may have dealing with this invisible illness.

We have guest speakers attend from various organisations offering tips and various techniques on controlling symptoms – for upcoming meetings and speakers please go to our website [www.butyoudontlooksick.co.uk](http://www.butyoudontlooksick.co.uk) or call one of our helplines: 0844 887 2377 (Ann) or 0844 887 2485 (Barbara P.)

For further information contact Deb Cooke at [deb.cooke@butyoudontlooksick.co.uk](mailto:deb.cooke@butyoudontlooksick.co.uk)

## Wessex Male Choir

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



Ticket prices allow admission to STEAM and bar from 6.30 pm with 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 web site [www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk](http://www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk) and from In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill, Purton.

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



In the autumn of 2011 I wrote the following about **John Sorsby** (*left*), a Purton cricketer, who had then recently died – ‘He gave unstintingly of his time and was for many years a hard-working committee member.’ He always did more than his share and in his will he left the club a generous bequest which will benefit members for years to come. It is warming to know that he is still supporting us. Thank you, John.



The recent passing of **Norman Mills** (*right*) means that the village has not only lost a fine man but, in his day, an accomplished all-round cricketer. Captain of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI in the early 1970s, he was a forceful batsman and although not renowned for long innings, or scoring singles when a boundary would do, he certainly scored heavily recording several centuries and numerous half centuries. In 1971 he was in three century run partnerships with Frank Brown. A good leg break bowler and a fielder with a most powerful throw he graced all the matches he played in. Thank you Norman for your contribution to Purton cricket.



The season 2013 will start on an encouraging note. As a result of intensive winter/spring coaching sessions seven of our young players have been included in county squads for this summer’s matches. Well done youngsters and thank you to the club coaches.

Club Captain, Mark Gardner, would like to thank all who sponsored him in the Brighton Marathon on 14 April. He completed the course in 3 hours 35 minutes and 31 seconds and the money raised will be donated to Dreamflight, an organisation which provides holidays, all expenses paid, in Florida for disabled children.

### May Fixtures at Purton

4 <sup>th</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI v White Horse	1.30 pm	11 <sup>th</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Spye Park	1.30 pm
5 <sup>th</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Winsley	1.30 pm	18 <sup>th</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI v Potterne	1.30 pm

### From the Archives

On Monday 14 January 2008 the Purton cricket ground was visited by Derek Underwood, the Kent and England slow left arm bowler. He discussed with Alex Grant, Dale Bowler and Mark Gardner the positioning of the club’s new nets which, with the help of the English Cricket Board, were officially opened by Peter Sykes, Wiltshire Cricket Development Officer, in 2009.

JOE GARDNER

## Purton Bowls Club

The Club opened on 13 April. New members are welcome. Coaching will start on Friday evenings at 6.15, commencing in May. For further information call Alison Fail on 770017.



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## Purton & District Darts League



Currently we have 2 players who have completed 9 dart finishes and 2 other players who have completed 12 dart finishes. A huge well done to Jim McDonald and Dave Gould for the 9 darters and Adam Woolford and Clive Taylor for the 12 darters. This is fantastic darts, in fact Dave Gould is recorded as having two 9 darts finishes! Who will get another one – watch this space!

The Pairs competition will be on 2 May – the venues will include The Phoenix, The Bell, Angel Inn, Purton Club, Riffs Bar, Sun Inn and Red House Club.

The Singles competition will be held on 9 May – the venues will include The Bell, Angel Inn, Riffs Bar, Sun Inn, Purton Club and the Red House Club.

All names will be sent to the respective teams week before the games.

Rules of both competitions include: Bull to start, 401 with a double in and out, make the draw on the night, best 2 of 3 games, losing team goes first in the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg, Two singles and One pair from each venue to go through to the finals, completed sheets to be returned to me as soon as possible or call me with the results.

Colliers Cup will be held between 13 March to 10 April. Teams are to arrange the games and let me know by 11 April latest. Teams who are playing are: *Sun B v The Bell* and *Sun A v Angel A*.

Bevan Night will be held on 16 May - 2 men from each team to play for a prize fund of £30.00 and runners up of £20.00. Names on the night please. To be held at the Red House Club.

Registration Fees - £60.00 payable per team by 25 April latest. Also £10.00 competition fees per team is also required by the same date.

Dont forget to visit the website at [www.d4rts.com/paddl](http://www.d4rts.com/paddl)

**Please ensure cards are delivered to me** by the weekend following the game on Thursday – we need to keep the tables up to date. Also sign and date cards – I cannot add anything to the scores after cards have been handed in. A couple of cards are still outstanding. You know who you are so I need these in please.

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!

*Also, Just a quick note of thanks that we have received from Macmillan Cancer Support – we donated £150.00 from the dart raffle at Christmas - many thanks to all of you who participated.*

*LISA MARTIN, Secretary*

## 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*

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