

Purton Magazine

July 2013



Purton Carriage Driving passing St Mary's Church, 2012
Photo: Colin Freemantle
See article on [Page 35](#)

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>(Mondays 2 - 5pm; Tuesdays 2 - 7pm; Wednesdays 10am - 5pm; Fridays 2 - 5pm)</i>	
Museum	Curator: Jan Walker	770124
	<i>(Wednesdays 2 - 5pm; Saturdays 10am - 1pm)</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

<i>Vicar:</i>	<i>Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith (Priest-in-charge), tel 770077 (for emergencies only, 773031) email: vicarage@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Curate:</i>	<i>Revd Judith Wells, tel 770627, email curate@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Pastoral Assistant:</i>	<i>Mrs Gladys Legg, tel 770375</i>	
<i>Wardens:</i>	<i>David Nettleton, tel 772298 Sandra Horsnall, tel 770157</i>	
<i>Administrator:</i>	<i>Rosie Harris, tel 773035, email administrator@stmaryspurton.org.uk</i>	
<i>Web site:</i>	<i>www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/stmaryspurton</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<i>See Diary Page in this magazine</i>	

METHODIST CHURCHES

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Rev David Perkins, tel 853197 1 Garraways, Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett SN4 8LT</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<i>PURTON See Diary Page in this magazine BRAYDON Sundays 6.00pm Evening Worship</i>	

CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT		
<i>Parish Priest</i>	<i>Father J Reville tel 852366 Church of the Sacred Heart, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett</i>	
<i>Services:</i>	<i>Holy Days Vigil 7.00pm Holy day 9.30am Sundays 10.30am Mass For times of weekday services please see Church notice board</i>	

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRICKLADE

<i>Priest</i>	<i>Father Philip Beisly tel 01285 712586 St Mary's Church, High Street, Cricklade</i>	
<i>Holy Days</i>	<i>7.00pm Mass</i>	<i>Sundays 9.30am Mass</i>

From The Editors

The Localism Act was introduced in November 2011 with the aim of devolving more decision making powers from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils.

Nearest to the aim of the Act is the article on [page 7](#) about the seven rural parishes in North East Wiltshire that includes Purton who have now been accepted as a group by Wiltshire Council as being a “Neighbourhood Area.” Consultations, especially with younger age groups, are the next stage and include an on-line survey.

What happens in Purton will often be as a result of decisions and activities from way beyond the parish boundary. Considering the possible effects of an international event or emergency on our local community can sometimes seem like the script of a disaster movie. Apparently Lord Cameron of Dillington – a farmer who was the first head of the Countryside Agency – coined the phrase “*nine meals from anarchy*” to highlight the fragility of food supply chains.

If you feel that is rather far fetched, do read the article on [page 11](#) which reminds us of the major disruptions caused by the eruption of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull in 2010 and the occasional anarchic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in America nearly 8 years ago. That article is this month’s extract from *Transforming Purton Parish* is about food and the opportunities for local food in particular.

Perhaps one of the more shocking statistics comes from a recent report from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. They suggest that as much as 30% – yes, nearly a third – of crops in the UK are never harvested simply because supermarkets dismiss whole fields of crops based on appearance and lack of conformity. Outsourcing the production of food to the cheapest suppliers is now beginning to look like an economic ‘own goal’ in the current circumstances and re-localising could have many local benefits.

The effects on Purton of the monstrous international event that was the First World War will be serialised month by month in these pages by Rick Dixon, starting next month. On [page 16](#) he prefaces this mammoth undertaking and asks for stories, support and contributions for this six-year project.

Help will surely be available locally – not least because, on [page 36](#), we learn that the Christian Aid organisers for the South West of England are amazed by Purton because we never cease to come up with the goods.

9

meals
from anarchy?
– see [page 11](#)

50

years of
Purton and District
Age Concern
– see [page 9](#)

£349.28

raised from
St Mary’s School
quiz
– see [page 28](#)

CONTENTS

Activity Week	Luncheon Club
Age Concern	Magic in the Marquee
Bradon Forest School News	Neighbourhood Plan
Carnival News	Obituary contact
Carriage Driving Show	P&L Charity Fund
Christian Aid	Parish Council News
Citizens Advice	Police & Crime Commissioner
Coffee & Chat	Prayer for Purton
Cricket Club	Purton Placard
Cricklade Country Market	Purton Postbag - Letters
Darts League	Purton Profferings
Diary Pages	Rainbows, Brownies & Guides
Evening WI	RBL Horticultural Show
Every Girl Deserves a Pretty Dress	Ridgeway Breast Care Support
Exhibit of the Month	St Mary's School
Friends of St Mary's	Swindon & Cricklade Railway
Gardeners' Guild	Tennis Club
Group for Patients	Transforming Purton
Historical Society	We Record
'IF' Rally	Wiltshire Good Neighbours
Library Hours	



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Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News

In the June magazine we said we would let you know the contact details of the Parish Councillors and the positions they hold, they are as follows:



- Chair of Council: Mr Ray Thomas - 28 Restrop View, Purton, SN5 4DG; tel. 771462 stags@btinternet.com
- Vice Chair of Council: Mrs Susan Matthews - 59A Pavenhill, Purton SN5 4DA; tel. 771091
- Chair of Planning Committee: Mr Geoffrey Greenaway - 44 The Hyde, Purton SN5 4EA; tel. 771140 greenaway414@btinternet.com
- Chair of Finance, Staff and General Purposes Committee: Mr Bob Tinson - 12 Vasterne Close, Purton SN5 4EY; tel. 771282 bob@tinson.eclipse.co.uk
- Chair of Rights of Way and Burials Committees: Mr Ron Harris - 73 Witts Lane, Purton SN5 4EP; tel. 770850
- Chair of Charities: Mr Anthony Price - 16 Church Path, Purton SN5 4DR; tel. 770696
- Chair of Play Areas/Recreation Committee: Mrs Elizabeth Wilson - 74 Witts Lane, Purton SN5 4EP; tel. 771854 elizabeth.wilson74@gmail.com
- Councillor: Mrs Vicky McKerrow - 25 The Hyde, Purton SN5 4DX; tel. 778190 vicky@wintz.plus.com
- Councillor: Mr Kevin Law – Setter House Church Street, Purton SN5 4DS; tel. 07768 456989 Council@KevinLaw.co.uk
- Councillor: Mr John Papworth – 26 High Street, Purton SN5 4AE; tel. 772214 papworthjohn@yahoo.co.uk

We still have vacancies on the Parish Council therefore if you would like to become a Councillor then please write to the Parish Clerk or speak to one of the Councillors to find out more details about the role. It can be a very interesting and rewarding way of getting involved with the community and helping to deal with many aspects of village life.

Church Path – the Parish Council has been asked to remind people that Church Path is not a bridleway and as such should not be used by horse riders.

Trees/Hedges – Please remember to keep your trees and hedges cut back that are close to roads and footpaths so as to avoid any obstruction. Thank you.

Finance Officer – the Parish Council is sad to be saying goodbye to its Finance Officer Stephanie Woods on 31 July. Stephanie has worked for the Parish Council for 12 years and has done a sterling job. She has decided that the time is right now for her to leave the Parish Council to pursue other interests. We wish her well with her new ventures.

The following Planning Applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council:

- N13/00715/FUL *15 Witts Lane, Rear single-storey extension*
- N13/00829/SCR *Land South of Braydon Manor Farm, Screening opinion as to whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required in relation to a proposed Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Farm. (Decision Screening Option)*
- N13/00887/FUL *Buryhill Farm, Braydon, Change of use from agriculture to livery yard and riding school, including new access, outdoor riding arena, covered yard and associated works*
- N13/00792/LBC *Purton Institute and Village Hall, Refurbishment of telephone kiosk*

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 / Fax 772646

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

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

On our new web site you can join up to receive regular updates which will keep you informed of ongoing Parish Council news such as planning updates. Please have a look at the site and join up.

Purton & Lydiard Charity Fund

We will be holding our final AGM at 7 pm on Monday 2 September at the Silver Threads Hall, High Street, Purton.

There are several reasons for closing Purton & Lydiard Charity Fund. These include: ever-increasing costs for hall hire and insurance (some functions we did were merely to raise the public liability insurance payments!); the fact there are only the two of us on the committee makes it difficult to do any event on a large scale; my being ill for the last 12 months and finally the sheer amount of time and effort it takes to get people to attend an event! The latter is something I know some other organisations are also suffering from.

We would like to thank everyone for their support, particularly Robert Miles who was on our committee for the first few years, Pauline, Audrey, Pearl and our own families for their help with events, and all those who attended an event, either as a contributor or visitor.

The balance of monies raised will be presented to a local organisation at the AGM, together with a final balance sheet. All are invited to attend.

LYNDA WARREN

Cricklade Country Market

The next Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on Friday 26 July 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).

North East Wiltshire Villages (NEW-V) Neighbourhood Plan

Next stage of public consultation begins to set out the future of villages

The next stage of engaging local communities to set out their future has been launched by the seven rural parishes making up the NEW-V area. This stage follows the formal acceptance of the group by Wiltshire Council as being a "Neighbourhood Area."

Introductory events took place earlier in the year in the parishes of Broad Town, Clyffe Pypard, Lydiard Millicent, Lydiard Tregoz, Lyneham and Bradenstoke, Purton and Tockenham and the group are now aiming to analyse the information received from them. The upcoming stage of consultation will have particular emphasis on ensuring that younger age groups (from the ages of 9 to 40!) have the opportunity to contribute to the plan. Consultation within local schools and an online survey will be included as part of this process. The on-line survey can be accessed by following this address: www.surveymonkey.com/s/NEWVNPSurvey.

Each of the parishes will be producing their own plan, based on their own particular issues, which the local people will ultimately agree on through a local vote in their parish. Following this, the local Parish Councils will be in a position to endorse their own local plan. The plans will also be looked at to see if any policies are common with the other parishes and any appropriate policies will be developed with that in mind. Ultimately, the plan will go on to Referendum to be voted on.

The types of issues that have been raised so far as part of the initial process have been those of new housing, roads and green space. Reports on these events and further information are available at the web site www.new-v.co.uk; this web site will develop as the process moves on.

Neighbourhood Planning forms part of the government's Localism Act and aims to present communities that opt to take part with a way to influence local planning policy and the building and development of their areas, both by large developers and smaller planning applications. The process in the NEW-V area is being led by a Partnership of representatives from the seven Parishes; Parish and Wiltshire Councillor representation for each Parish and a member of the Community-led Planning Group from each Parish where such a group exists. The plan receives Project Management support from Common Places and is supported by Wiltshire Council.

For further information contact Mark@CommonPlaces.co.uk or visit the web site: www.new-v.co.uk

Ridgeway Breast Care Support Group

Registered Charity
No: 1148694

AN INVITATION

Are you affected by Breast Cancer, or know someone who is? Come along to our support group – a very warm welcome awaits you! Open to anyone from anywhere.

During treatment and after, we provide information and support each other. "Everyone knows someone".

For more information, visit www.ridgewaybreastcaresupportgroup.org.uk or telephone Kay Sharpe (07813 493572) or Kerry Magee (01793 816010).



Wiltshire Good Neighbours

The **Good Neighbour Scheme** is a **free** and **confidential** service, which provides **information** and **signposts** older



residents living in Wiltshire to the excellent services and organisations that are available to them. The Good Neighbour Scheme provides information about services available to help older people to live more independent and fulfilling lives.

Summer months can sometimes be as bleak as the winter ones as there is often the perception that everyone else is having a great time in the sun with friends and family. So I wanted to draw your attention in this article to some of the groups within the villages which offer a huge variety for older (and not so old) people whatever your interest or ability.

Sometimes it's hard to find out what's on and how to access these groups or a bit scary to turn up on your own for the first time, so that's where I come in. I can provide you or your friends or neighbours with information about these groups and even come along with you for the first time. As ever the LINK schemes are happy to help when they can with transport issues.

Below are just some of the activities / events you can get involved with in the area:

- Gentle exercise groups,
- Friendly coffee mornings / afternoons and lunch clubs,
- Local Arts and Craft groups,
- Gardening, bowls and bridge groups.
- Etc – just ask and there may be a group near you!

There are also several great befriending services in the area, where someone can pop in for a cuppa and a chat once a week or fortnight if you don't fancy leaving your home or aren't able to.

So if you think I can help you or someone you know, or if you have any questions, do please ring me (**Ellen Blacker**) for a chat or to arrange a home visit on: **07557 110414** or email me at: rwbrickladedgnc@communityfirst.org.uk

Every Girl Deserves a Pretty Dress

Following on from a previous article kindly put in the Purton and Lydiard magazines, I would like to thank those people who are either making their own pillowcase dresses or who have given me materials to supplement my own sewing.

The first 12 of the 24 dresses I plan to make have already gone on their way to children who are in need of clothing so I am ahead on my planned schedule for 24 dresses in 6 months. Many thanks to those kind people who have supplied materials. I now have enough fabric however, if you have some bias binding lying around in your cupboards, it would be appreciated!

If you would like to support this cause, please contact the organiser, Louise Horler, direct, by email to louisehorler@blueyonder.co.uk, or by post to 20 Station Road, Nailsea, North Somerset BS48 4PD.

In case you are wondering, there is also a scheme for shorts for boys!

LYNDA WARREN, 32 Station Road, Purton

Purton & District Age Concern



We have had our AGM and are now in our fiftieth year as Purton and District Age Concern although, as us older ones know, before that it was Purton Care of the Elderly. I am not completely sure but I wonder whether Chris May and Harold Waldron were the founder members of Care of the Elderly because they were certainly involved with Age Concern when I joined some 37 years ago. I think of all the joy, pleasure and friendship belonging to Purton Age Concern has brought me. It was said at the meeting that we have to make sure it continues for another fifty years so that's what we will be aiming at. We want it to be a gradual process, blending the old with the new. We old stalwarts were comparatively young when we joined the committee and we are fortunate to have some younger people joining us already. We need younger people to ensure the continuity of the organisation so if you would like to join us you would be most welcome. I am sure you would enjoy it and it would give you a lot of pleasure.

Because of the continued support of the village and also a lot of work by the committee and friends, we are in a stable position financially. After covering all our expenses last year we made a small profit which we aim to do every year to keep our heads above water. The committee and officers were all re-elected so we are there for another year, hoping that one or two younger ones might join us. As always, we have been inspired by our President Miss Elizabeth Ward for her continued support. The minibuses are also in a sound financial position – this is due to the volunteers who man them and, of course, we have been lucky to get a new co-ordinator during the past year, so our thanks to Maurice Card for filling that position for us. Don't forget, anything to do with the minibuses, please ring Maurice on 770338. What about helping us out – WE NEED MINIBUS DRIVERS. This is another service we would like to keep running but, if we do not get more, then the service will suffer **so please have a think about it**. If you are interested, contact Maurice on 770338 or myself on 770696. THANK YOU.

Louise our Secretary has, over the course of the year, helped people with benefit advice. This is all strictly confidential between the person and Louise. All we need to know is that she has visited someone for our records, so if you feel Louise could help you, give her a ring on 772558. Another excellent service we have is from the Bobby Van regarding house security and the Fire Service with reference to smoke alarms. If you require either of these services, contact your street warden.

During the last year we gave pens to all the elderly to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, which were very well received. On about diamond celebrations, could we offer our congratulations and best wishes to Harold and Jean Wyniatt of Station Road, who will have celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 27 June. Just a little footnote that I am sure you would like to know – Harold's father was the signalman at Purton Station and I was in the same class as Jean at St Mary's.

The Tai Chi classes at the Millennium Hall at the Purton War Memorial and Village Centre on a Thursday afternoon at 2 pm are enjoyed by all who go. There are a few vacancies so, if anyone would like to join them, just turn up or if you would

like further details, give Mick Hull a ring on 772453 or Alan and Rita Webb on 770453.

One thing we are determined to get off the ground is our befriending service. We have had problems with the paperwork where the goal posts have been moved but, as they say, there is no pain without gain and, with the type of people involved and their determination, we will win through.

Praise and thanks was given at the AGM to our committee for all their hard work and this was coupled with the minibus personnel and the street wardens. As you know, these two services that these groups provide are so vital to our organisation and it connects Age Concern Purton together in a united organisation. Sadly there is one piece of the jigsaw missing which is a street warden for The Peak. I keep on appealing for someone to come forward so far to no avail so, if anyone who lives in or near The Peak would like to take this on or find out more about what it entails, please give me a ring on 770696. It is the same with the elderly in that area- if you require anything, information, help etc, give me a ring and we will do what we can. We all feel that we are very lucky in Age Concern for the way we are supported by the village and beyond, not only financially but help wise, like the young ladies who come along to help at the Christmas parties, decorating the tables, helping with the catering and doing the washing up, also all the help we get on our Burns Night. Very many thanks to you all – we do really appreciate it.

The trip to Evesham Country Park and Garden Centre from all accounts was very enjoyable, with plenty of purchases being made. It was a nice day and the coach went through Broadway on the way there and back via Winchcombe. Could I say a personal thank you to Maureen and Arthur Griffin for taking charge of proceedings as I was otherwise engaged. Many thanks to you both. The next trip is to Cardiff on Wednesday 3 July with a 9.30 am start, leaving Cardiff at 4 pm and the cost is £10. The cost might seem a bit high but this is because of the cost of the toll over the Severn. There might still be room for you when you read this, so give Colin and Sylvia Freemantle a ring on 770686 to find out, not me. After that we have our annual trip to Weston on Wednesday 7 August, which is open to all who would like to come. We start at 9.30 am and return from Weston at 6.30 pm. The cost is £13 for the elderly and children and £15 for others. Names and payment to your street wardens by Monday 29 July or direct to me.

We are still looking into ways of celebrating our fifty years of Age Concern. As with anything to do with Age Concern, your ideas would be most welcome. Do not forget our coffee morning kindly hosted for us by Dick and Jackie Scott at Bentham House Farm. This is on Saturday 6 July, 10 am to 12 noon and the cost is £1 which includes tea or coffee, with one of Margaret Carter's special home made biscuits. There will also be an excellent plant stall, tombola, home made cakes, bric a brac and a practically new stall and much more. If you would like transport, please contact Maurice, our minibus co-ordinator, on 770338 for arrangements. As usual anything for the stalls would be most welcome and can be collected. Hope to see you there.

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.

Transforming Purton Parish - Our Food

Following the initial overview in this magazine of the *Ps and Qs* flagship project, *Transforming Purton Parish** we have been summarising brief extracts. So far we have extracted key messages and options on transport, waste and on water. This extract is about food.

Interest in local food has been growing steadily in recent years (several *Ps and Qs* magazine articles during the last ten years) with people seeing not only just its nutritional and taste benefits, but also its ability to strengthen local economies (food hubs, farmers' markets and so on).

The eruption of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull in 2010 demonstrated very clearly just how fragile our supply chains are. Also, Government reports on climate change indicate that changes to our climate and weather patterns are anticipated to affect the agricultural landscape quite profoundly. With only a few days of food in the supermarkets at any one time (and much less in local shops) parishioners are quite exposed.

The phrase '*nine meals from anarchy*' sounds more like the title of a bad Hollywood movie than any genuine threat. But that was the expression coined by Lord Cameron of Dillington, a farmer who was the first head of the Countryside Agency. The scenario goes like this:

Imagine a sudden shutdown of oil supplies; a sudden collapse in the petrol supply at the pumps, lack of fuel for the lorries which deliver food around the country, stocking up supermarket shelves as soon as any item runs out;

If the trucks stopped moving, people would start to worry and would dash to the shops, stocking up. By the end of Day One, if there was still no petrol, the shelves would be looking pretty empty. Imagine, then, Day Two: the fourth, fifth and sixth meal. People would be in a panic. Day Three: still no petrol; so,

What then? With hunger kicking in, and no notion of how long it might take for the supermarkets to restock, how long before those who had not stocked up began stealing from their neighbours? Or looting shops for remaining supplies? There might be 11 million gardeners in Britain, but the summer peas will not go far when people are hungry and the baked beans have run out.

It was Lord Cameron's estimation that it would take just nine meals - three full days without food on supermarket shelves - before law and order started to break down and British streets would descend into chaos. Hardly far-fetched because that is exactly what happened in the US in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. People looted in order to feed themselves and their families. And we know what it is like when petrol delivery tankers block the refineries in the UK and the panicky-buying begins. We know how we behave.

Britain is not self-sufficient in food production; it imports 40% of the total food consumed and the proportion is rising. Britain relies on imports to feed itself. Food chains are sensitive to markets. Behind the always-full-looking supermarket

* *Transforming Purton Parish aims to address and improve the overall resilience of the parish concerning: water, food, energy, waste, health, education, safety, housing, transport, economy, recreation, connectivity and democracy.*

shelves lies a supply chain that is at risk of economic, political, environmental and climatic shocks. Too much or too little rain can reduce harvests. Emerging exotic diseases such as bluetongue and African swine fever threaten to devastate livestock industries. We are also exposed to volatile global markets for products such as animal feed that have strong impacts on supermarket prices.

Yet despite this, a recent report by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, *Global Food; Waste Not, Want Not*, has noted that as much as 30% of crops in the UK are never harvested simply because supermarkets dismiss whole fields of crops based on appearance and lack of conformity.

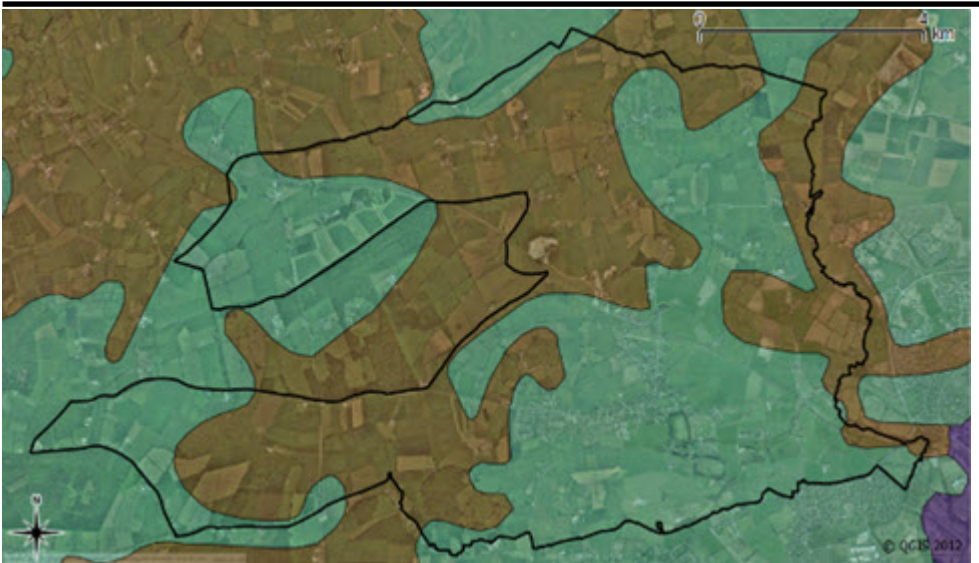
Several have written about what it might take to change the dependency on food from abroad. The conclusions identify the need for a rethink of how agriculture is practised, as well as the urgent need for research into new models of food production for the UK. The UK Foresight Committee has completed its work on *The Future of Food and Farming*, advising Government on the options.

So where does that leave our parish? The parish is rich in undeveloped land space, as the simple *Google Earth* graphic below indicates:



The outline of the parish boundary is indicated for reference

All agricultural land across the country has been classified by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and assigned a grade based on the quality of the land, the limitations of crop production, climate, location, and soil characteristics. The proportion of high quality agricultural land (grades 1 and 2) is roughly equivalent in Wiltshire and England. The proportion of Grade 3 is significantly higher in Wiltshire, and the county also contains significantly less poor quality land (Grades 4 and 5). Below, the darker patches are the Grade 4 agricultural land within our parish boundary, the rest within the parish boundary is mostly Grade 3.



Agricultural land status within our parish

Recent studies have suggested the following characteristics of a system capable of feeding the parish into the future:

- Able to withstand shocks, such as to the food supply system itself; of rapidly rising energy costs and of climate change. The UK Climate Projections 2009 estimate that by 2050 the climate for the south west in 2050 will be 2-3°C warmer than present, with around 30% less summer rainfall;
- Deliver improved access to nutritious and affordable food;
- Deliver far more diversity than at present, in terms of produce, occupations, and so on;
- Provide a significantly greater source of employment than at present;
- Provide an enhanced carbon sink and remove more carbon dioxide (which will lead to farming becoming more based on perennial, tree-based systems);
- Be more intrinsically linked to local markets than at present, both supplying and being supplied by local markets by default, reducing the need for extensive transport of foodstuffs and people; and,
- Provide a much-reduced dependence on fossil fuel-based fertilisers and other agrochemicals (ideally enabled by a shift to organic practices).

In addition, there will also be the need for a large increase in the amount of food produced from back gardens, allotments and other more 'urban' food sources. It could be foreseen that the countryside could be home to a range of businesses and a greater range of land use types with a landscape that fully integrates food production and intensive market gardening. Of course, this is not about reverting to some dimly-imagined rural idyll (pre-World War II). Rather, it is about preparing for tomorrow in such a way as to be able to thrive and flourish in uncertain and volatile times.

It would be necessary to determine how land in the parish is being used. There

are estimated to be more than 15 working farms active in our parish (though some also have, and work with, land parcels lying outside the parish). It would be necessary to know what could be done with the land; what is grown, and importantly, what could be grown. Although much of the agricultural activities have been shaped by decades of EU subsidy and the Common Agricultural Policy, it would be necessary to consider, from first principles, the potential of the parish land. For instance, mixed farming systems and agro-forestry may offer greater opportunities to increase overall yields, especially on Grade 3 land. Even if it is possible to produce and supply vegetables, especially to feed a population eating more seasonal produce, meeting demand for cereals would be harder, and for meat, more challenging still.

The above are just a few thinking points to identify some of the challenges and issues. Much of the land in our parish is unsuited for grain production. Exploration of new ways of using such land productively will be a key part of the conversations to be had for the future.

Of course all this is just the supply side: the equally difficult aspect is that of creating the demand for locally-grown produce, in the age of supermarkets and convenience foods. We are aware from the *Ps and Qs Climate Change and Local Attitudes Survey* in 2007 that there is some resistance to shopping locally. Another challenge revolves around issue of nature conservation. Clearly the expansion of food production requires reassessment of current concepts of nature conservation, in which food production and habitat protection are often viewed as being mutually exclusive (as indeed with intensive agriculture they often are).

Another challenge lies with the planning system, and the tensions that will arise as more people need to live in agricultural areas. The area of re-skilling is also vital. Most people no longer have experience or knowledge of food growing on any kind of scale, and farming as a profession has lost skills during the last 40 years.

Previously, far more people lived on and worked the land; and a very different diet was eaten to the one consumed today. Our current eating habits, current levels of meat consumption, as well as the long supply chain, and just-in-time distribution models on which the current food system is based, are all key factors in the inability of our parish to meet our food needs. An alternative to the current situation could be envisaged, arguing that interests of resilience, health and nutrition and long-term economic stability are best served by a move, through a well-designed and integrated approach, towards the parish meeting its food needs as close to home as is practicably possible. **But will current generations buy into that?**

It raises the question as to whether, in times of increasing unemployment and economic contraction, the 'outsourcing' of food to whoever can produce it cheapest in the world was, and is, an economic own goal. It could be that the re-localisation of the food economy would have huge benefits to the local economy, creating a wide range of jobs. The mechanisms and structures needed to make this possible are, in some cases, still at a very early stage of development.

The *Ps and Qs Foresight and Resilience Plan* calls for:

- Some minimal efforts to develop local food sources and demand;
- Some minimal efforts to develop awareness of food sources and encourage demand;
- All new homes to have adequate gardens to grow food*;
- New allotments areas to be considered in relation to any new build clusters; and,
- Develop data sets and models to test feasibility and desirability of feeding the parish in part.



* owners may not wish to of course but the important thing is that the potential is there for future owners.

The full report, *Transforming Purton Parish*, is freely downloadable from www.CarbonBrake.com. It is quite large (about 5Mb) because it contains some 80+ pages of text supported by 60+ pages of appendices, with purpose-designed maps, photographs and diagrams. There is a hard copy in Purton Library.

RICHARD PAGETT (secure@richardpagett.com)

P.S. Quite a few people have asked how they could stay in touch or informed about local developments since Ps and Qs retired. We had hoped that others would step in but sadly that was optimistic. Much new information already seems out of date when it is posted on local web sites, and events often move on quite quickly. Matters such as another footpath diversion, the new housing numbers from Government, the continuing Ridgeway Farm debacle, problems with the neighbourhood plan in Malmesbury have all been of importance to us in the parish recently.

These local matters are still of importance to me and, I imagine, to many readers. Consequently I have added a “Local” section to www.CarbonBrake.com (which is used mainly for my professional writing on national and international issues which are part of my day job). This “Local” section is designed to do the same sort of thing as the Ps and Qs Alert! It will deal with the critical or important issues relevant to our parish and is set up to react quickly in getting information out. It works differently to the Alert! which was an email-based system. This system operates like a newspaper or web site feed and uses an RSS link to your e-mail In-Box (or RSS app if you use an iPad).

It is an opt-in system which means if you are interested and would like to try it, simply go to www.CarbonBrake.com and click on the familiar orange RSS icon  on the right-hand side just under the photo-banner. When you click on the Local  it will then say that you should only continue if you know the link is safe – it is because it is from me, so you can click yes and continue. A few seconds later various postings should be safely appearing in your In-Box. The first time you do this you may receive quite a few recent postings. Please feel free to delete them unless some of them are of interest to you. From then on you should just get postings on parish interests as and when. Each posting is small and does not have attachments. You simply click on the link in the message and you will be taken to the relevant part of the web site for further information. You can unsubscribe in the usual way, just as you please.

RICHARD PAGETT (secure@richardpagett.com)

Exhibit of the Month: A Great War

I'll tell you straight ... I'm quite scared. I'm taking on a huge project which will take six years to complete and I'll be nearly 70 when it's done.

Over the years since 1999, I have produced an Exhibit of the Month in this Magazine, usually using the "exhibit" to tell a story that it represented. Often, you might have guessed, I've not necessarily let a fact stand in the way of a good story! My themes have always been social history, though political history can never be ignored as that is the framework within which the ordinary person has to live.

I'm going to stop the "Exhibit of the Month" series to report on an overwhelmingly important piece of social history ... variously known as the First World War, the Great War, the War to end all Wars but, whatever you care to call it, one of the worst disasters that mankind has inflicted upon itself.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War, there will be loads of Memorial items in books and on TV about it. But I want to talk about the effects the Great War had on Purton and her young people who fought, died, and even survived in far-flung places most had never even heard of. RAF Mechanic Bob Lloyd who has published two books on Purton and the Great War has kindly agreed to help me with this project and I will be drawing heavily on his research. His most recent book *Purton & The Great War 1914-1918* is being updated and Bob plans to have it available in 2014.

History books, certainly in the "old days", used to talk about the Great War as the 1914-18 War, but those dates are rather misleading. They only cover the period of armed hostilities between the Great Powers, those countries being mainly the old empires and powers of Europe: Britain, Germany, Austro-Hungary, Russia, France, the Ottomans ... and the United States from 1917. However the War itself was perhaps only the most deadly phase of a virus of conflict that started way back in the 1800s with the creation of Germany between and after the Austro-Prussian and Franco-Prussian Wars and the progressive decline of the Ottoman Empire especially in its inability to hold onto its European territories in the Balkans. There are seeds that go back even further.



Then again, the War didn't really stop in 1918. White Russians were still fighting Red Russians well into the middle of the 1920s. The 1918 Armistice terms led to the rise of Hitler and the Second World War, and the end of that War resulted in the Cold War. The collapse of the Ottoman Empire led to the creation of states in the Levant and North Africa that are now in

Left: Central Europe in 1913

conflict internally and with their neighbours: Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Tunisia, Palestine ... While the abrupt retreats from Empire have caused the problems we see today in Mali, Algeria, and earlier in Malaya, Aden, Kenya, Vietnam ...

In Europe, lands of the Austro-Hungarian Empire were carved off to form new states based on a perceived "ethnicity" such as Yugoslavia (the land of the southern Slavs), Czechoslovakia (the land of the Czechs and Slovaks). Neither of these is one country still today, but thank heavens the Czechs and Slovaks parted company more peacefully than the Yugoslavs.

Anyway, we're getting ahead of ourselves.

What I would like to do over the next six years (gosh, yes I am scared!) is to talk about the War on a month-by-month basis.

- As the Great War started in August 1914, I will start next month (August 2013). Until spring 2014 (1914), each month I will cover a facet of the causes of the Great War. There are quite a lot of them and I feel that would take us up to the beginning of 2014.
- From 2014 to 2018 (1914-1918) I will tell the story as it happened, month-by-month ... and how Purton people were affected.
- In 2019 we get the summing up.

I will be most grateful to hear, from anyone, stories and anecdotes with a Purton connection, however serious or trivial, and I will try to fit them in. I will try to deal with them as they relate to the Purton Story so, if you send me something in 2015 (1915) that relates specifically to 1917, it will be included but will have to wait to the appropriate issue for the 100th anniversary of that story.

Your support in this project is anticipated with grateful thanks. And if anyone wants to help take over the "torch" in the coming years, that person's hand will be grasped and not let go of!

RICK DIXON

Museum Opening Times: Weds 2 pm to 5pm Sats 10 am to 1pm

Purton Historical Society

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. Meet outside St Nicholas' parish church at 10.30 am. There is car parking opposite the church. If you need a lift, please ring me.



There is no Society meeting over the summer but we meet again on 19 September when Martin Buckland will give us a History of World Canals.

HELEN DIXON, Chair (770648)

Wiltshire Citizens Advice

Volunteers needed

Learn new skills. Gain confidence. Make a difference.

To join us, or to find out more, visit: www.cabwiltshire.org.uk or email: volunteer@cabwiltshire.org.uk



Police and Crime Commissioner

PCC launches £1 million Innovation Fund

Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon Angus Macpherson is launching a £1 million Innovation Fund on Friday 7 June.

The Commissioner is looking to fund community and voluntary initiatives throughout Wiltshire and Swindon which will help towards achieving his six main priorities as set out in his Police and Crime Plan.

Mr Macpherson said: "I am really excited about launching this £1 million Innovation Fund and making this money available to projects on the ground that can make a real difference to communities."

The Commissioner's six main priorities, working with communities as partners are to:

- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Protect the most vulnerable in society
- Put victims and witnesses first
- Reduce offending and re-offending
- Drive up standards of customer service
- Ensure unfailing and timely response to calls for assistance

Mr Macpherson added: "This fund is about supporting innovative new ideas which will make a lasting difference to community safety and I'm particularly interested in projects that help to break cycles of crime and anti-social behaviour, including supporting repeat offenders."

The funding will be awarded in three tranches as follows:

- £400,000 by 31 July 2013 in respect of applications received by 15 July 2013
- £300,000 by 30 November 2013 in respect of applications received by 15 November 2013
- £300,000 by 31 March 2014 in respect of applications received by 15 March 2014

Any organisation with aims and activities that meet the criteria can apply for funding. Any funds not awarded in one tranche will be 'rolled-over' to the next funding tranche.

The £1 million Innovation Fund is being funded from Office of the PCC reserves.

The Commissioner will consult with an advisory panel, made up of representatives from Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council and The Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon, before deciding which applications to fund.

For more information, including a downloadable leaflet and an application form, visit www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk. If you have any other questions about the fund, please call the Office of the PCC on 01380 734022

CLAIRE WOODS, PCC Communications Officer

Just a Thought

Vision without action is a daydream. Action with without vision is a nightmare.

Japanese Proverb

It is always good to hear of a member's success and at the meeting of 15 May we opened our Wiltshire News to read that Barbara Woolford had won the March 50/50 Club draw – congratulations, Barbara! And there was further joy when the door opened and – still in a wheelchair but looking so much better – there was our great member and long-time support, Gladys Legg! You couldn't ask for a better start to a meeting than that, could you? The meeting was also ornamented by photographs of many of us trying on the hats provided by Anne Howse last month. Our members are so photogenic, and the pictures of beautiful hats added to the bright faces were really enjoyable to see.

The meeting opened with a talk by Khalique of *The Maharajah Restaurant*. He told the history of his opening the restaurant in 1995, of dishes named after his three sons, and of visitors to his restaurant from all over the world. Then he spoke of the food value of various spices and herbs used in the cooking at the restaurant – and he generously gave us all a copy of the recipe for his own basic curry sauce. We did enjoy the bhajis and other nibbles and drinks he had brought with him. Then, more seriously, Khalique spoke of the charities in which he is interested, both here and at home. He sends monies to his brother, a barrister in Bangladesh, with instructions to distribute them to reliable organisations that look after the poor, the orphans and the elderly. In this sensible way he knows exactly how he is helping the needy and nothing is wasted or misplaced. We already knew of his support of UK charities through Purton organisations and so the applause was unstinted.

Producing a Purton Evening WI Cookery Book became feasible as the competition brought forth a useful number of interesting favourite recipes. Further offerings would be greatly appreciated so please keep them rolling in to members of the Committee!

The speaker for the meeting of 17 July is well-known to many of us and we look forward to a great evening: Di Greenaway will be telling of her adventures as an Olympic Games Maker at Wimbledon. Not only an interesting subject but a speaker known for her humour, and you might like to bring along a visitor for that evening; I am sure it will be well worth it and may well get us new members. The competition will be "Old sports gear/clothes or equipment", and social time will be taken up with an Olympic Quiz.

Do look at the Events table as there is so much to enjoy in the next few months. One attraction is tea at The Pear Tree at 3 pm on 20 July, open to husbands and friends too, what a pleasant thought! Please phone Helen on 770648 by 13 July to book for this event. And please enter into your diaries Monday 28 October, when we shall be holding an ever-popular "Soup and Sweet Lunch" at the Silver Threads Hall.

Believe it or not, we shall soon be ordering our diaries and calendars for 2014! Where does the time go?

CONSTANCE REED (771 571)

Wise Words

You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself.

Harvey Firestone

Purton Diary - July 2013

3	W	9.30am	Age Concern Day trip to Cardiff
4	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
6	Sa	10.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> The Bentham Coffee morning at Bentham House Farm, the home of Dick and Jack Scott (for Age Concern)
<hr/>			
7	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Parade Service at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
8	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
9	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>A Night at the Music Hall</i>
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
10	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill: <i>Our favourite hymns - Take 2</i>
11	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at The Cedars
12	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
13	Sa	2.00pm	Jumble Sale by Helping Hand at Silver Threads Hall
<hr/>			
14	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
16	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
		8.00pm	After 8: "Summer BBQ" at Helen's
17	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening Women's Institute at Village Hall: <i>Di Greenaway - An Olympic Games Maker at Wimbledon</i>
19	F	late p.m.	St Mary's School Summer Fayre (after school)
20	Sa	10.00am	Historical Society visit to Bromham - meet at St Nicholas' parish church
		10.00am	<i>to 12 noon:</i> Coffee Morning at Silver Threads Hall
		3.00pm	Purton Evening WI takes tea at The Pear Tree
<hr/>			
21	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	United LEP Anniversary Service at St Mary's Church
		5.00pm	Youth Service at St Mary's Church
23	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>W.I. Entertainers</i>
		2.30pm	Songs of Praise at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: <i>Mike Burgess - Potted Fruit and Vegetables</i>
26	F	6.00pm	Books & Bangers by Silver Threads at Red Lodge, Braydon

28	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at Purton Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church



August

7	W	9.30am	Age Concern Annual outing to Weston
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Every week

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

Moon Phases

 8 July
  16 July
  22 July
  29 July

If your Club or Organization's Events are not included in the Diary Pages, contact:
 Purton Magazine c/o In Touch Services, 115 Pavenhill
 or email mail@purtonmagazine.co.uk

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

DISCLAIMER

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Luncheon Club

Do you know where you can get a two course meal and a cuppa for £3.50, not to mention a good natter? Well if you are 60+ you can find us at the Silver Threads Hall on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes. For more information or to book a lunch phone Pat on 771331. Transport can also be arranged through Age Concern.

Our thanks to Age Concern for the amazing transport that they provide for the more mature inhabitants of Purton but Luncheon Club would also like to thank them for funding all the 'spuds' consumed by the hungry diners!

PURTON PLACARD

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

Purton Churches Activity Week 2013



12th-16th August
St Mary's School, College Road, Purton

Open to Pupils of St Mary's
or living or staying in Purton
School Years 2-6

Mon & Tues - 10am-3pm £7 a day
Wed Supervised Coach Trip £15
Thur & Fri - 10am-3pm £7 a day
Or £25 for Mon/Tues/Thu/Fri

For more information contact Kathryn Bartlett 778059 or Kim O'Brien 770703

St Mary's School Summer Fayre Friday 19 July

On the School Field, after School
(Weather Permitting!)

Raffle: £100 1st prize

Various Stalls & attractions
inc Bottle Tombola

Cake Sale

Children's games

Entertainment - Bradon Forest Ukulele Group
Free Entrance

Purton Helping Hand Jumble Sale

Saturday 13 July, 2 pm
at Silver Threads Hall

Raffle Refreshments Bargains
Any donations from 10 am

Purton Silver Threads

Books & Bangers Evening

Friday 26 July, 6 pm
Red Lodge, Braydon

Lovely surroundings

Raffle Refreshments

Fabulous Selection of Books

Cakes Bric-a-brac

Various competitions

Mini-bus: tel 770251

Tickets: £1 (including 'cuppa')

Audrey Wheeler & Family
are holding a

Coffee Morning

at the Silver Threads Hall
on Saturday 20 July

10 am - 12 noon

to raise funds for

The Heart Foundation

60 Years of Sue Ryder

Tea Party

at the Jenner Hall, Cricklade
Saturday 6 July 10 am to 3 pm
Tea/Coffee and Cake
all at reasonable prices
Tombola Silent Auction
Kiddies Face Painting
Vintage/Repro Table

THE BENTHAM COFFEE MORNING

at Bentham House Farm
home of Dick and Jackie Scott
on Saturday 6 July 10 am to 12 noon
Lots of bargains, cakes, plants, raffle
and much more
Come along and join in the fun!

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.



■ THE ROYAL GEORGE

I am writing this letter from outside of the Purton boundary, well to be fair from New Zealand.

I have lived in New Zealand, yes the country who are not much good at cricket, but the rugby team is fairly good, for the last 16 years, and like to keep up to date with Purton news via your magazine.

So I was very pleased to read that the Royal George had reopened, as I can remember when there were a lot more pubs in Purton and the surrounding villages, and I must admit to visiting a few.

On a recent visit back "home" I was shocked to see how many of these pubs had closed, with some barricaded up with steel shutters, I was informed, that in some cases, old pubs can no longer be returned to be private dwellings, and with the Royal George closed at the time I feared it would become a steel shuttered eyesore in the village. It is important for villagers

old and new to support all local businesses, sports and social clubs as these are the backbone of village life and in many ways are the village.

I would like to wish the Royal George, much success, and a long life, and encourage you all to visit and enjoy what the pub has to offer, I will raise a glass myself (of very cold beer) to this piece of good news.

Mike Saunders

■ TO ALL MY FRIENDS IN PURTON AND BRAYDON

A big thank-you for all the lovely cards, gifts and best wishes.

I am now at home and making slow progress.

Mary Hunt

■ BETTY FIMMERS

Henry Fimmers and Family would like to thank everyone who sent cards flowers, and messages, on the sad loss of Betty Fimmers.

The Friends of St Mary's Church

Cheese & Wine Evening On Friday 24 May



The Friends of St Mary's were invited to a Cheese & Wine evening at St Mary's Church to thank them for their on-going support.

The highlight of the evening was a lively and engaging tour through the history of the church lead by Hector McLean. In his own inimitable style, Hector pointed out many of the fascinating historical features both inside and outside the church. For example, did you know that the exterior of the building was once covered in a lime render? It certainly would have looked very different from the stone-grey building we know today. Back inside the building, Hector brought the now faded wall paintings back to life, pointing out the fine details, explaining their meaning and inviting the group to imagine the impression the colourful interior would have made on

Purton's medieval congregations. Special focus was given to the extensive alterations made by the Victorians, who, having installed both the tiled floor and the pews, are responsible for much of the overall look of St Mary's as we know it today.

Following Hector's talk, wine and a selection of cheeses were served, whilst churchwarden David Nettleton spoke to thank the Friends of St Mary's for their vital contribution towards the upkeep of the church building, to highlight some of the current maintenance challenges, and to talk about longer-term future plans.



Purton's vicar, Rev Ian Tweedie-Smith, also spoke to thank the Friends for their continued generosity.

The organisers would like to thank all those who helped to make the evening such an enjoyable occasion and especially Hector McLean and Helen Dixon.

The Friends of St Mary's scheme is open to all those who would like to make a regular contribution towards the care and maintenance of Purton's historic church building. If you'd like more information, or to join, please contact Christine Gill either by email to bwcegill@googlemail.com or by telephone on 771563.



Purton Churches Activity Week 2013

12 -16 August: St Mary's School, College Road

Every summer for many, many years Purton Churches have organised a Children's Activity Week which has seen hundreds of children pass through enjoying many diverse activities. Some of these young children have now returned as adult and young helpers giving testament to the popularity, enjoyment and experiences that the activity week offers.

Activity week will be held in the new St Mary's School with the kind permission of Mr Tucker. St Mary's is a large modern building providing us with enough space to offer more daily activities. The use of the large sports field on the doorstep will allow us to plan trails and treasure hunts as well as the usual sports and games.

The activity week is for children in school years 2-6 and who are pupils of St Mary's or children who are living or staying in Purton Parish.

Opening Times

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10 am to 3 pm at St Mary's School

Wednesday 14 July Supervised coach trip to @Bristol Science Centre "Bringing science to life!" "*Hundreds of hands-on exhibits to explore, live shows and a Planetarium*" www.at-bristol.org.uk

The cost per child:

- £7.00 per day or £25.00 for 4 days
- @Bristol £15.00

Activities this year include: Art and Crafts, Board Games, Sports, Playground Games, Talent Show, Tae Kwan-do Workshop and Cooking. We are still planning so watch this space.

We are always looking for new ways of entertaining the children so, if you have a hidden skill or talent and you would like to share your experience with them, or you would like to help out, even for a few hours, we would love to hear from you.

The Activity week is run and supervised by DBS checked adults. Registration forms will be sent out through the school or you can register on the door on your chosen days.

Wear old clothes, bring a packed lunch and spending money for the tuck shop.

For further information - Kathryn Bartlett 778059, Kim O'Brien 770703

Calling all performers - Activity Week Talent show 2013

This year we will be hosting our first Talent Show, which will be preformed on the Friday afternoon. Auditions and registration will take place on the Tuesday, so if you think you would like to take part either on your own or as a group you will need to start planning. You could sing, play an instrument, perform a dance routine, or do some magic tricks the choice is yours. You will have to provide your own props and music, but we will provide a music player and a whole lot of encouragement. Looking forward to seeing you there!

It must be True

Sometimes you have to get to know someone really well to realize you're really strangers.

Mary Tyler Moore

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Hillside, Station Road, Willowbrook, Bamford Close, Shaftesbury Close, Smiths Court, Widham, Clardon Lane, and New Road*. 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.

We Record ...

Baptisms

- | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 19 May | Henry John Gessey at St Mary's Church |
| 26 May | Jacob Davis at St Mary's Church |
| 26 May | Archie Oram at St Mary's Church |
| 26 May | Oliver Pullen at St Mary's Church |

Weddings

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 25 May | Lee Smith and Jodie Webb at St Mary's Church |
| 1 June | Thomas Stuart Morley and Antonia Eliason at St Mary's Church |

Funerals

- | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 14 May | Gordon Bevington at St Mary's Church |
| 15 May | Charlotte Telling at St Mary's Church |

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



Purton and Green Gable Surgery

Group for Patients - G4P

Talk on Dementia – Wednesday 25 September, 7.30-9pm

As there were a number of people who were unable to attend our last talk on Dementia, we will be hosting our second talk on this subject, this time in Cricklade in the Town Hall Annex, on Wednesday 25 September. The speakers will be Dr Simon Manchip, Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry and Memory Problems, Heather Wannell, Legal Executive for Forrester and Forrester, solicitors specialising in Wills, Probate and Elderly Client Affairs, both as last time, and this time we also have Trish Chatterton from the Alzheimer's Society.

Although this is a free event, tickets are required due to limited seating and will be available nearer the time.

Follow us on Twitter: G4P now has its own Twitter feed and 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.

SHEILA FOWLER, Secretary, G4P

Group for Patients





Music News: Spring Music Concert

Mrs Hutchings reports: Thursday 21 March saw the final traditional music concert of the academic year. With over forty students taking part it was another showcase of just some of the talent that is in the school.

Year 11 students dominated the solos as this was their final opportunity to perform at Bradon Forest School before they spread their wings and fly to college.

A sell-out audience were not disappointed as George and George narrated them through a great evening.



Humanities News

Miss Cole reports: On our Deep Learning Day on Wednesday 24 April, Year 9 students had the opportunity to taste their first choice GCSE Humanities options through a range of visits.

Religious Studies students went to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm to explore issues of stewardship and animal welfare.

Geographers investigated tourism and its effects in Swanage and Studland and also completed a coastal walk between the two settlements and take in Old Harry Rocks.



History students had a visit to Blenheim Palace to learn about the Churchill family, having studied the achievements of Winston Churchill in their classrooms. Students gained inspiration and ideas to help them design their own museum, based on their own future achievements and legacies.

Business Studies students visited the BMW plant in Oxford to learn about production of the great British Mini. Each group will complete follow up work designed to improve their skills and knowledge in their chosen GCSE. We all had a great day. The students were enthusiastic and were a credit to the school. Many thanks to the wide range of staff involved with supporting the visits.

Catherine Badcock 9Z gave us this report from her trip to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm:





On 24 April we went to a Christian zoo farm to research animals in captivity and animal welfare. We all had a very good time and it was fun for everyone because we had a mix of free time, educational workshops and opportunities to fill out worksheets about animal welfare which will help us with our report. The workshops provided by Noah's Ark Zoo Farm were very interesting and the workers were very nice; we had lots of chances to ask questions and take part in group discussions. We also got the chance to hold a snake, if we wanted to!

At the zoo there were a range of creatures from lions to monkeys to farm animals, which was good because they are not normally kept in the same place, but the zoo farm combined the types of animals making it even more interesting. We all had a good day out and everyone enjoyed it, including the teachers! I personally think it was a great experience to be able to learn and have fun!

Food Technology News: Mrs Jones reports: Simon Rhodes from the Lobster Pot, near Marlborough, recently visited our Year 10 Food Technology students to give them a lesson about catching and cooking fish. The students brought a food item each for Simon to cook with the fish. This was a fantastic opportunity for the students, who were able to sample foods and learn new techniques. We are very grateful to Simon for giving up his valuable time to support us.



We were delighted to see an article regarding Simon's visit in the Swindon Advertiser (go to the link below to read the full article).

www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/10312080.Fishmonger_dishes_up_a_tasty_lesson

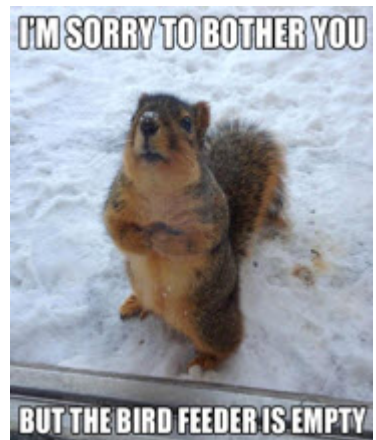
HELEN WILKINSON, Acting Headteacher

St Mary's CE Primary School

The PTA would like to say a very big thank-you to everyone who supported their quiz night, on Friday 10 May. We all enjoyed a very lively evening, with some interesting and tricky questions. These were set by three members of staff, who ran the event very professionally and enjoyed it so much, that they would like to do it all over again! I am delighted to say that we raised £349.28, which helped to fund a series of Science shows, that all children are enjoying this week. It was great to see people of all ages taking part and, yes, we would like to run more community events in the future!

Thank you again.

NICKI BRICE, Chair



Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

May's meeting was on the subject of 'The Secret Life of Garden Birds' taken by John Cromarty, a 'Ringer' (a person who catch's birds, takes statistics and places a ring around the birds leg), with many years of experience from all around the world. In particular, the Falkland Islands where he lived for months without any electricity so that he could study the birds of the Island.



John judged our competition 'A photo of a Garden Bird'. Taking a photograph of a garden bird is much harder than you think, well done to both Maureen Griffin who came 2nd and Janice Simpkins who came 1st.

John started off with a few general bird facts. For example, birds do not only sing to entice a mate, but they will often sing to maintain their territory. Also during the winter months a blue tit box can nest up to 61 birds, protecting them from the harsh winter weather, and usually have one male bird acting as a doorman. Bird or nest boxes do not need to have a perch in front of the entrance, the birds do not use them and it only makes it easier for predators such as the squirrel to gain access to young birds. Placing a cover of chicken wire around the box can deter squirrels and woodpeckers from getting to the boxes. All birds will only nest in a certain place if they have adequate food nearby.

John then went on to a bird that many of us know of but do not often see in our gardens, the Wren '*Troglodytes troglodytes*' (meaning *Cave dweller*), they live for approximately 2 years, the males may make up to 5 to 8 nests a year to impress female who will check each nest before committing.

The second breed he discussed was the blue tit '*Cyanistes caeruleus*' which, during the breeding season, lay one egg a day for up to 16 days and all eggs hatch out together. This is because the blue tit will not apply heat to the eggs until 2-3 days before the end of laying. Eggs have the ability to talk to each other while developing by making 'pip' noises. The reason they hatch out together is so they all have an equal opportunity to gain access to food. Once hatched the chicks will make a lot of noise until they are fed and only then will they be quiet. Blue tits see in ultra violet, so to make themselves more attractive to the female the males have a larger amount of blue in their plumage.

John then talked about the great tit '*Parus major*' whose chicks will consume 70 caterpillars a day during the breeding season and therefore nest in woodland areas. Due to global warming caterpillars have started to hatch three weeks earlier in spring and this has led to great tits breeding three weeks earlier to ensure they have a food supply.

The fourth was the sparrowhawk '*Accipiter nisus*'; we currently have only 39,000 breeding pairs in the UK. Most people don't like sparrowhawks but they do an essential job in only hunting the weak or old birds, ensuring only the best birds live to breed. Unlike cats who currently number 6-9 million in the UK, and who kill all birds, mostly for pleasure.

The fifth bird was the swift '*Apus apus*', which hunt in packs for insects. These birds are at risk and the RSPB believe it is to do with what happens to the birds during their migration from Africa to the UK. The RSPB are currently funding

research into what is happening to many of our birds when they migrate. Swifts can live for up to 9 years, and will only breed once mature, usually around the age of 4 years.

Dunnocks '*Prunella modularis*', and house sparrows '*Passer domesticus*', are both in decline for many reasons but the lack of winter food available due to changing in farming techniques, and the fact that our homes are sealed leaving very few nesting options, are thought to be two of the main causes for their decline.

Our Chairman, Dee Child, announced that she is standing down due to her family relocating; her last meeting will be 25 June.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 23 July at the Silver Threads Hall; the presentation will be from Mike Burgess on 'Potted Fruit and Vegetables'. The competition is a dish of seasonal fruit.

We look forward to seeing you there, and as always, new members and visitors are very welcome. Doors open at 7 pm to start at 7.30 pm.

DEE CHILD, Chairman (tel: 771672) & MARGARET GOODHALL, Secretary

Royal British Legion Purton Branch Horticultural Show

30 August

The schedule will be available at the end of the month from John Toomer in Stone Lane, Lydiard Millicent, from *Best One*, Lower Square, Purton, and from all committee members too.

Do have a look at the schedule; there is something for everyone to enter – veggies of all descriptions, make a cake or a pot of jam, arrange some flowers or maybe take a photograph or two, and classes to keep the children occupied too! Let's keep this village tradition alive!

Any queries? Contact David Herbert (Chairman) 770002 or Heather Harris (Hon.Sec.) 770850.





Carnival

It is now all over and time to take a breath and relax. The final results will be announced at the Open Meeting at Silver Threads Hall on Wednesday 21 August at 7.30 pm.

In the meantime, a big thank-you to all the hard-working helpers and all the public who came along and supported us to celebrate the 50th Anniversary.

There will be an Open Day on Saturday 14 September at Silver Threads Hall – more details in the next issue of the magazine.

PAULINE WARD, Carnival 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

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



Community action, sports, performing arts, adventurous activities, residential experiences and enjoying the out of doors. These are all part of what's gone on in the units in the last month.

As part of the Guides' yearly challenges, they delivered Christian Aid envelopes around Purton for their Community Action clause. Despite a thorough soaking, the Guides were in good spirits. The Brownie and Rainbow Leaders supported Christian Aid by enjoying the *Maharajah* meal – in the dry!

Although the Guides got a soaking one evening, many other meetings have been held in the sunshine. Rainbows enjoyed a nature hunt along Church Path, 2nd Purton Brownies played parachute games and had a scavenger hunt, Guides had a treasure hunt and played rounders when competitive tendencies were displayed! Rainbows brought the outdoors indoors by planting seeds, making butterfly pictures and minibeast idials to identify minibeasts in the air and on the ground.

1st Purton Brownies are preparing for a fundraising evening in aid of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society as part of their Rustle, Bustle & Squeak challenges. The unit will also be selling quiz sheets to raise money for the RSPB. Look out for them in outlets in the village from July. If you'd like to buy a sheet but don't know where to get one, please email northwilts@wncounty.org.uk or phone 01793 771554.

Rainbows have learnt about the Promise ready for a Promise Ceremony for Imogen, Lois, Maddie and Sarah whilst both Brownie units have held Promise Ceremonies for Rhiannon, Lauren, Esme and Isabelle. These meetings have also given the opportunity for other Brownies to gain their Hostess and Entertainer badges. 2nd Purton were grateful to Lindsey Hall for attending to test all the Entertainer badges. The Brownies had worked hard with their singing, dancing, poems, card tricks and a puppet show, all compèred very professionally by Katy-Erin.

As the girls progress through the sections, Rainbow to Brownie and Brownie to Guide, they have the opportunity to develop their skills at different levels. And so Guides took performing to the next level. On a Sunday in May they enjoyed a day of drama in order to earn their Performing Arts badge, creating their own sets and costumes. Everyone was involved in the performance: actors, stage hands and even foley artists. For those not in the know, this is the term for the people who make noises in radio plays – think coconut shells for horses galloping.

For the Brownie units, May was an exciting month as it was the time for the annual Brownie Holiday, which this year took place at Thirtover Place, near Newbury. The girls had chosen Harry Potter as the theme so the holiday house became Hogwarts for four days and 21 Brownies became pupils there after arriving via Platform 9¾ and donning the sorting hat. As well as activities relating to the theme, the Brownies (and the Leaders!) enjoyed low ropes and archery sessions led by Thirtover instructors on site. Do read more about the holiday in the account written by Holly from 2nd Purton Brownies on the next page.

For enquiries about guiding in Purton, contact Braydon District Commissioner Jo Begg by phone on 874066 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You

can also register interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Brownie Pack Holiday

I would recommend pack holiday to other people because I did loads of activities that were fun.

Our theme was 'Harry Potter'. We made beaded critters, papier-mâché eggs, filled in my activity book and even did a Brownie Diary.

On Saturday for lunch I had sandwiches, yoghurts and cakes.

The jobs I did were health, cooking, house maids and I even cleaned the toilets!! Yuk! To my surprise cleaning toilets wasn't that bad!

I got to cook on Sunday with my group. We cooked chicken nuggets. It was a bit messy because the batter stuck to my fingers like glue.

On Monday for lunch we were meant to have a baguette but the cook left it in the oven too long and it got burnt!! We had to have sandwiches instead, they were delicious anyway.

Everyday at 2 pm we had a tuck shop. We were only allowed to spend 25p each day on sweets. On Monday I decided to buy 50 dolly mixtures because you could get 2 for 1p which I thought was great! There were lots of scrumptious sweets!!

I enjoyed Archery the most and even got the arrow on the red! For Low Ropes I went blindfolded over a course and my friend had to guide me safely across the obstacle. it was really fun!!

I got my Cooking badge, Craft badge and even my Low Ropes badge.

On Monday night we had a midnight feast that was good.

Every night before bed we all had a hot drink and a marshmallow, I had tea!!

But the thing I liked the most was being with all my friends!!

*By Holly Nadin
2nd Purton Brownies*

Merchant's House: Magic in the Marquee

Enjoy Magical Entertainment from Bertie Pearce, a member of The Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star at The Merchant's House Summer Lunch on Sunday 28 July at Marlborough College (by kind permission of MCSS) 12 noon to 3.30 pm.

Tickets are available from The Merchant's House, 132 High Street, Marlborough: £20, £17 MH Friends, £12 children under 14. Includes a welcome glass of fizz and a 2-course meal. In aid of The Merchant's House Appeal

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

The league matches are now well under way after a rainy start and you may have seen a few of the matches at the courts. Here is an update on where we are so far

this season:

Men A	1 st Division 1	Ladies A	3 rd Division 1	Mixed A	2 nd Division 1
Men B	4 th Division 2	Ladies B	2 nd Division 3	Mixed B	2 nd Division 2
Men C	2 nd Division 5	Ladies C	3 rd Division 4	Mixed C	3 rd Division 4
Men D	1 st Division 8	Ladies D	5 th Division 5	Mixed D	6 th Division 5

I am sure you will agree it is really pleasing to see so many teams in the league this year and for them to be doing so well especially the Men's A and D. No pressure, gents!

I would like to let you know about our summer camps for this year which could help you keep your children entertained:

Summer Holiday Camps (7-16 yrs) 10 am -3 pm Monday - Friday 22 July - 30 Aug
This includes tennis, ball games, quiz and a competition.

- £20 per day for Members. £25 Non-members. Please bring a packed lunch.
- If you book and pay 4 weeks in advance then you will receive 1 FREE tennis lesson.
- An early drop-off and late pick-up is available at an additional cost and with prior agreement. You can make daily or weekly bookings.
- If you are interested please call Phil Kerley on 07711 852222

The social membership for this year is only £60 for an adult and the family social membership is only £100. Our membership secretary Mary Turner (07779 580893) would be happy to talk through the options for you. Please visit our web site purtontennis.net as it makes a good read and keeps you informed of the social events, fee rates, coaching availability and match calendars.

STEPH BROWN, Secretary

Purton & District Darts League

What a year we have had! – culminating in a fabulous Finals Night at the Purton Club on 17 May 2013.

Colliers Cup - the last four played down to Angel A and Sun B. Some fabulous darts were played and the overall winners were Angel A – well done you and to the Sun B for battling well.

The Pairs competition with 8 pairs who fought valiantly to produce some excellent scores. Ending up with Wayne Franklin and Steve Monk playing Pete and Bob Knight in the final, with Pete and Bob Knight from the Phoenix Club being the overall winners. Well done to you all.

The Singles competition played down to the last 16 whereby the final was played between Dave Gould and Luke Gough. Some great darts played with Dave Gould just pipping Luke to the winning podium.

Ladies Finals – 8 ladies took part in this competition with some fabulous darts especially from Alison Evans and Angie Franklin who played out in the final match.



Angie just proved too strong for Alison and she won the overall competition.

The Four-a-Side competition played out in January was a hard-fought battle for all 4 teams. The Semi-finals were between Phoenix B and Red House C, with Phoenix B the overall winners. Well done to you all

Special thanks were attributed to Bim Herbert by Pete Harding on behalf of the Dart League for his 51 years association in the league and on the committee. He was presented with an electric drill and electric shaver (which we have on good authority were just what he wanted). Thank you for all your hard work and long may it continue.

Louisa Davis presented the cups and trophies and gave out over thirty-five 180 trophies – this is an outstanding achievement and well done to you all that achieved this. Thanks were also given to the committee for helping to keep the league on an even keel.

Bevan Night held on 16 May whereby 2 men from each team played with a prize fund of £30 for the winners and runners up of £20. Thank you to the Red House Club for hosting the event. The overall winners had a closely-fought match with Red House C (Wayne Franklin/Steve Monk) playing Purton Club X (Martin Richell/Mike Forty). The overall winners were Purton Club X – well done to both finalists.

Thank you to all teams for paying their fees on time and for your continued support to the league – we could not have done it without you.

Don't forget to visit the website at www.d4rts.com/paddl/

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

LISA MARTIN, Secretary

Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com

The better weekend weather has resulted in all junior and senior teams recording victories although evening cricket at the ground has been disrupted by inclement weather.



The 1st XI has benefited greatly from the services of our young Indian player, Aakarshit Gomel, who has made a huge difference to both the batting and bowling performances of the team. He has adapted well to living and playing in England and with his considerable contribution the 1st XI is currently first in the Wiltshire County League Division 1. The 2nd XI is currently in 4th place in division 6.

July fixtures at Purton

6 th 1 st XI v Bradford-on-Avon	1.45pm	17 th U14 Wiltshire v Somerset	1.00pm
7 th U11 v Shrivenham	10.30am	20 th 1 st XI v Malmesbury	1.45pm
7 th U13 N.E.Wilts v Salisbury	2.00pm	21 st U15 v Burbage	2.00pm
13 th 2 nd XI v Beckington	1.45pm	27 th 2 nd XI v Collingbourne	1.45pm
14 th U12 Wilts v Isle of Wight	1.00pm		

FROM THE ARCHIVES

In 1834, when six agricultural workers protested against wage cuts and tried to form a union which resulted in the men being tried and sentenced to be transported to

Australia, Purton CC's first recorded match was played against Lansdown CC. Purton won by 111 runs – a huge margin in the nineteenth century when team scores rarely reached a hundred in village cricket.

Travel to early matches was by horse transport and cricket was available only to those of independent means. From the 1840s players began to travel by train and special permission was given for trains to stop at Purton Station to drop off and pick up players. A horse taxi was then available to take the gentlemen players to the Purton cricket field.

JOE GARDNER

Carriage Driving Show

The next Carriage Driving Show is on Sunday 21 July at The Fox opposite Purton House all day. Entry is free but there will be a collection box for Purton Age Concern. The Show starts at 10 am and goes on to about 4 pm.

Come and see traditional vehicles and Hackneys, together with horses and ponies being driven, which is a rare sight in Wiltshire. Refreshments are available.

HAZEL WOODBRIDGE

Ed. We wish the Show good weather! During last year's wash-out of a summer, they managed to get one of the few sunny days! See our cover picture.

Swindon & Cricklade Railway

Sunday 14 July Cream Tea in The Moonraker from 12 noon

Enjoy a cream tea in our luxurious dining car. Tickets cost £5.50 in addition to a ticket to ride.

Sat & Sun 20 & 21 July

Kids Go Free Weekend from 11 am to 4 pm

Diesel train rides on Saturday cost £6 for adults and £5 for seniors.

Steam train rides on Sunday cost £7 for adults and £6 for seniors.

Friday 26 July Murder Mystery Evening with Buffet 7.15 start

Pre-booking required on 01672 564547

Sunday 28 July High Tea in The Moonraker from 12 noon

Please ring 01367 820623 for prices.

Diesel train rides are also available from 11am until 4 pm on each Wednesday during the school holidays. Café, shop, museums, picnic area and free parking.

Blunsdon Station is two miles from Purton village on Tadpole Lane. From Packhorse Lane carry straight on over the railway bridge. The car park entrance is then immediately on the right.

Please see web site for further details, www.swindon-cricklade-railway.org or ring 01793 750335 or 771615.



Maxim for Life

I don't believe in astrology. I am a Sagittarius and we're very sceptical.

Arthur C. Clarke

The IF Rally

On a beautiful day in early June several Purtonians went to London to attend the 'IF' rally. The aim was to draw attention to world hunger and to point out to the politicians, as they meet for the G8 conference, that 'IF' we share there should be enough for all and no one should be under-nourished.

According to the research 20,000 children DIE every day from malnutrition. 1 in 8 children go to bed hungry. And this is NOT necessary 'IF' ...



- IF landowners are encouraged to grow food rather than bio fuels; and if land grabs are discouraged;
- IF all companies pay their taxes and the UK government ends tax havens, and
- IF we share what we have: then there will be enough for all.



250,000 little whirligig flowers each with 8 petals (*left*) were planted in Hyde Park, to represent the 2 million children who die each year from malnutrition ... each petal represents a child.

Speakers at the event included Danny Boyle, Rowan Williams and Bill Gates. 45,000 people came to Hyde Park ... a wonderful crowd. Hopefully the politicians will take note.

As one young campaigner said, 'I'm 13 and I think we can eradicate malnutrition, so why don't we just do it' ... Let's hope we can.

Please check out further information on 'IF' on the web site:
<http://enoughfoodif.org/g8/london>

Christian Aid Update

We have not yet completed all the counting of money raised this year for Christian Aid in Purton. But it looks as if we could have made about £5,000, which is an absolutely amazing achievement, in these difficult times.



So thank you, once again, to all in Purton who have been involved ... which is just about all of the village! We include the envelope distributors and collectors; the cake makers and plant growers and buyers; the croissant cooks and the bacon chefs; the curry kings and the quiz puzzlers; the coffee morning organisers and the church service and breakfast organisers ... and all the others who have helped and haven't been mentioned! We couldn't manage without you and we can't believe how much time and effort you have given to Christian Aid this year.

The Christian Aid organisers for the South West of England are amazed by Purton. We never cease to come up with the goods! Thank you all, once again.

LIBBIE SHEPPARD