

Purton Magazine



Purton's 50th Anniversary Carnival: See article on [Page 30 and 31](#)

August 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>(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>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.communicate.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

There are plenty of opportunities for you to use your imagination with many of the articles in this month's magazine. Starting with youngsters between the ages of 4 and 11, the Summer Reading Challenge has come around again at the Library. It runs until 7 September and this year the theme is "Creepy House" – see [page 10](#) for details.

With all this hot weather around at the moment, it does raise a question about whether or not ghouls and ghosts are more active in high temperatures or do they restrict their nocturnal activities to cooler evenings? Perhaps a reader (of any age) might like to write a story around that subject and we would be pleased to publish it in a future edition.

Children's Activity Week has also come round again and will be held at St Mary's school. More information is on [page 23](#) and there you can find details of a new Activity Week Talent Show that will be hosted on the Friday afternoon. Plenty of scope for imagination there!

It is clear from the articles and many photographs on the cover and on [pages 30 and 31](#) that Purtonians are very good at using their imagination, especially for the village Carnival. It was a huge success with a wonderful procession and the Carnival Fete full. There will be the usual Open Meeting on Wednesday 21 August when the results of the Carnival will be announced. Imaginations will be needed when it comes to thinking about the theme for next year's Carnival.

The very first article in Rick Dixon's mammoth project to replace his "Exhibit of the Month" with a month-by-month centennial reflection on The Great War is on [page 24](#). All the details in the fascinating article really do help the reader to imagine the circumstances that surrounded the build-up to this overwhelmingly important piece of social history – all of which is now beyond living memory.

Indeed, Empires themselves are now things of the past, even if older readers can remember the days of the British – and other – Empires. These days "Empires" are usually restricted to the fictional creations of writers with the Galactic Empire being made famous by the Star Wars films.

Back in Purton, the Parish Council has adopted the telephone box outside the Library and, on [page 6](#) we're told to look out for some exciting plans. More opportunities for your imagination!

1/-

was the cost of a
Mothers' Union badge
in 1928
– see [page 18](#)

25

years of service to
Purton Parish Council
by our Parish Clerk
– see [page 7](#)

53751

vehicles were checked for
speed travelling in Purton
on 12 days in June
– see [page 6](#)

CONTENTS

[25 Years Service](#)

[Activity Week](#)

[After 8](#)

[Age Concern](#)

[Bradon Forest School News](#)

[Carnival News and Pictures](#)

[Coffee & Chat](#)

[Crafty Flower-making](#)

[Cricket Club](#)

[Cricklade Country Market](#)

[Darts League](#)

[Diary Pages](#)

[Evening WI](#)

[Floodlighting](#)

[Gardeners' Guild](#)

[Great War Project](#)

[Guide Dogs](#)

[Helping Hand Open Day](#)

[Historical Society](#)

[Library Hours](#)

[Library News](#)

[Minibus Appeal](#)

[Mothers' Union](#)

[Mrs Christian Knock](#)

[Obituary Contacts](#)

[On the Lighter Side](#)

[P&L Charity Fund](#)

[Parish Council News](#)

[Prayer for Purton](#)

[Purton FC](#)

[Purton Placard](#)

[Purton Postbag - Letters](#)

[Purton Profferings](#)

[Rainbows, Brownies & Guides](#)

[RBL Horticultural Show](#)

[Swindon & Cricklade Railway](#)

[Transforming Purton](#)

[We Record](#)

[Willows Counselling Service](#)

[Wiltshire Good Neighbours](#)

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

Magazine Committee

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Parish Council News



Parish Council Web Site – remember to sign up for regular updates from the Parish Council via its web site at www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk. We would welcome your feedback on the web site now that it has been running for a while. Is there any particular information you would like included that we have not already thought of? If so please let us know.

Neighbourhood Plan – the Neighbourhood Plan is progressing well. We need as much public participation as possible to develop the plan. A survey is available for you to complete on the dedicated Neighbourhood Plan web site at www.new-v.co.uk. The schools have been issued with questionnaires for the pupils and it would be helpful to receive a quick response.

If you require more information you can either contact the Parish Council Office or contact Mark@commonplaces.co.uk. Mark and Sara are helping us to develop the plan and would be happy to talk to you about the process as would the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has been advised of the following road closures:

Temporary Closure of: B4553 (Part) Cricklade and Purton B4553 (Part) Cricklade and Purton; from its junction with B4040 High Street in a southerly direction for a distance of approximately 2.7 kilometres to its junction with Stoke Common Lane, Purton Stoke. *[In other words, the road from Cricklade as far as Purton Stoke. Ed.]* To enable: Wiltshire Council to carry out carriageway patching and associated works.

Alternative Route: via B4040 Common Hill / Malmesbury Road – B4696 (Lydiard Plain) – B4042 Brinkworth Road – A3102 Coped Hall Roundabout (Royal Wootton Bassett) – C414 Hook / Lydiard Millicent – Restrop Road / High Street / Station Road / Cricklade Road, Purton – B4553 (unaffected length) and vice versa.

The closure will be clearly indicated by traffic signs.

These works will commence on 20 August 2013 and it is anticipated that the works will take one night to complete between 7pm - 6am.

For further information regarding these works please contact Ali Kattana (Atkins) on 01225 730377.

Collins Lane will also be temporarily closed to enable Network Rail to double the track and re-align the level crossing and associated works. Work will commence on 9 August, and it is anticipated the works will take four weeks and two days to complete. Foot access will also be restricted during this time.

For further information regarding these works please contact Royston Downing (Network Rail) on 01908 723500. Sustainable Transport Group, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN.

Speed Monitors (Metro Counts)

You may have noticed some strips across Station Road and on Church Street during June. These had been put down at the request of the Parish Council to determine at what speed people are travelling and the number of vehicles using the roads. The following are the results of the counts:

Metro Count Speed Survey Result C414 Station Road, Purton (30mph Speed Limit)

The survey was carried out between 06/06/2013 and 18/06/2013. A total of 53751 vehicles were checked. The 85th percentile was 42.5mph (the 85th percentile is the speed at which 85% of the traffic is travelling at or below).

The thresholds for interventions are below;

In a 30mph speed limit the following criteria will be applied;

30 to 34.9mph 85th percentile = No Further Action (NFA)

35 to 38.9 mph 85th percentile = eligible for Community Speed Watch

39 to 42mph 85th percentile = eligible for the Speed Indicator Device (SID) programme

Community Speed Watch does not operate in any speed limit above 40mph.

Given that the speed in Station Road is recorded (85th percentile) as being above 42mph, Station Road will be included on the Speed Indicator Device programme.

Metro Count Speed Survey Result Church Street, Purton (30 mph Speed Limit)

The survey was carried out between 06/06/2013 and 18/06/2013. A total of 36148 vehicles were checked. The 85th percentile was 31.8mph (the 85th percentile is the speed at which 85% of the traffic is travelling at or below).

No further action will be taken as a result of this metro count.

The Station Road result is very disappointing and we would urge people to slow down when travelling through the village.

Pedestrian Crossing in Purton High Street close to the Willis Way entrance –

The Parish Council is in the process of trying to get a second pedestrian crossing installed on the High Street. It has been established that it would be feasible to get a crossing installed outside of the old scout hall. The Parish Council has pledged to put £5,000 towards the cost of a crossing which would cost in the region of £20,000. There is some way to go yet before we will know if this can be achieved but we are hopeful of a successful outcome.

Bonfires – we are still getting some complaints about bonfires being lit at inappropriate times of the day and causing a nuisance to neighbouring residents. Given the recycling facilities that we have available to use today it should not be necessary to light bonfires. However if the occasional fire is necessary then please consider your neighbours before lighting the fire; avoid burning at weekends and on bank holidays and summer evenings when people want to enjoy their gardens, and never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder.

Telephone Box outside the Library – the Parish Council has adopted the telephone kiosk outside of the library and we have some exciting plans for it ... so watch this space.

Ridgeway Farm Development – as most people will be aware by now this development has been approved following a public inquiry. Discussions are currently going on about the reserved matters which is part of the application process. Once it is finally approved we will be asked to provide some suitable street names. We would welcome your input therefore if you can suggest some names we would be pleased to receive them. Thank you in anticipation.

Wiltshire Council has approved the following Planning Applications:

- N13/00851/FUL *14 Locks Lane*, single storey side and rear extension
N13/00833/FUL *Coombfield, Restrop*, two-storey extension
N13/01248/CLP *14 Station Road*, Certificate of Proposed Lawfulness for a Velux loft conversion
N13/00936/FUL *Oaklands, Wood Lane, Braydon*, Extension and alterations to existing bungalow, construction of new stables, erection of garage with studio over and alterations to existing vehicular access. (Revision of 12/01498/FUL)
N13/00523/FUL *Polana, Wood Lane, Braydon*, ground floor and first floor extension
N13/00244/FUL *8 Willowbrook & Ashgrove House*, demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new building and link to adjacent nursing home
N13/00941/FUL & N13/00942/CAC *4 Church Street*, partial demolition and rebuilding of boundary wall and relocation of part of wall

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.

25 Years Service

On 1 July Shirley Bevington, the Parish Clerk, had been working for the Parish Council for 25 years. A surprise presentation was held before the Council meeting on 8 July, where Councillors and Staff presented Shirley with a glass flower vase, a bouquet of flowers and a cake. Shirley's family was also present to share this wonderful achievement.



Cricklade Country Market

The next Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on **Friday 30 August** from 9 am to 11 am. Please call Anne on 01793 750125 for more details, to place an order or to become a market producer (baking or growing).

Purton & District Age Concern



Our trip to Cardiff was enjoyed by all who went, according to reports. It is a very beautiful city – I haven't been there for many years and it has certainly been enhanced by work that has been done. We went on an open-top bus tour for a brief insight into what they had to offer. I can assure you that it was quite a bit. There was not enough time to see everything so maybe we will go there again. The next trip is to Weston on Wednesday 7 August and this is our annual trip, open to anyone, and has been running for twenty-six years. We leave Purton at 9.30 am. and Weston at 6.30 pm. The cost to children and the elderly is £13 and others £15. If you haven't already booked, give me a ring on 770696. After that we have our September mystery tour with a 2 pm start with tea provided – this is on Wednesday 4 September – do hope you can join us.

We are very fortunate that Jane Cox, our street warden for part of Reid's Piece, has kindly offered to take on the job of street warden for The Peak and will be calling round to introduce herself to those of you who live in The Peak. Jane is an excellent street warden so we feel her new customers will be very fortunate, as are we. This gap in our street warden system has now been filled, completing the jigsaw. An area where we are struggling at the moment is with the minibuses where we have had drivers retire for various reasons. We thank Gordon and Sheila Kirk, along with Marlene and Leon Slee, who have been driving or acting as shotguns for over twenty years each. All the work you have done is greatly appreciated. We would hope that we can fill your places with someone with such dedication as you have shown over the years. THANK YOU. If any of you reading this magazine feel that you could get involved, either with driving or as a shotgun, give Maurice a ring on 770338 or me on 770696. While on about minibuses, it was great to see them in the Carnival and many thanks to the Carnival committee for giving us such an entertaining time during their celebrations. Such a lot of hard work goes into something like that so well done and many thanks to you all.

Another big thank from us to the kind lady and gentleman who gave us a very generous donation – it is greatly appreciated.

The T'ai Chi classes that we run at the Millennium Hall on Thursday afternoons from 2 pm to 3 pm have a few vacancies. I am sure you would enjoy the gentle exercise and find it very beneficial, so why not give it a go. For more information contact Mick Hull on 772453 or Alan and Rita Webb on 770453.

There are also vacancies at the Lunch Club where they serve excellent food. I have seen some of the meals and they certainly do make your mouth water. A two course meal, plus tea or coffee costs just £3.50. Why not give it a try – our minibuses go round and pick up people who need a lift. The contact for this is Pat Suddaby on 771331.

What a fantastic coffee morning we had at the home of Dick and Jackie Scott in Bentham Lane. The weather was brilliant and the company was even better. As you know, last year we had it in the Young Farmer's hut because the weather was bad but this year it was the difference between chalk and cheese – a really beautiful

day. It was delightful to have the coffee morning in such magical surroundings – a lovely garden and we could see Purton up on the hill. It was the first time we have held the coffee morning at Bentham House Farm so it was a bit of a learning exercise for us. From reports we have had back, people did not like being separated – we had the coffee and stalls one side of the house and the seating area the other – so Jackie suggested we do everything from the front of the house next year so that will be nice. Yes there will be one next year – Jackie and Dick have already invited us. It was such a lovely sociable occasion the way Purton Stoke supported us, or was it the hosts? It doesn't really matter – there were many people from Purton as well as from Stoke and I still can't get over it when I tell you that we made £807.16. Thanks to all of you who came and a special mention to Margaret Carter for all the biscuits to go with the coffee (also for my little treats – I think a couple of others have cottoned on to this!), Marg Linsell for the tombola and Joan Frost for that amazing plant stall (I don't know whether she was ably assisted by husband Brian but we will mention him! – seriously though he is such a great help). Another lady I would like to mention is my cousin Gill Maltby who made that lovely 'guess the weight' cake. Gill has been through a sad time along with the rest of the family and it was very brave of her to offer to still make it as she has done in the past. Thanks Gill. Of course, last but certainly not least, Dick and Jackie for all their help. Nothing was too much trouble for them and, as I have already said, we shall be back next year.

We have been invited to put on an exhibition in the museum to celebrate our fifty years next February so, if anyone has anything that would help with that, it would be appreciated.

The Parish Council invited James Cawley from Wilts Council to give us an update on The Cedars but quite frankly we are no further forward. He said there were no future plans at the moment but, being cynical like I am, I do not think that is strictly true. Whatever happens we shall fight to keep The Cedars open and could I thank members of Age Concern and the other people who came along to hear what he had to say and to ask questions.

Could I, on behalf of Age Concern, congratulate Shirley Bevington, the Parish Clerk, on completing twenty-five years loyal service to the Parish? I know that, if any of our elderly want any advice or help, she is always very helpful, the same as she is to me as a Councillor. So many thanks Shirley, you are greatly appreciated.

I have been very lucky lately – well, looking at my life altogether, I have done very well. Why I said 'lately' is because we have had the chance to attend several choral concerts during the past fortnight. Firstly we went to Cricklade Town Hall where that talented musician Mary New has virtually got people off the street if they want to sing and formed the 'Sing 4/4' community choir. Mary is an expert in her field, as we know, and her mixed choir lived up to expectation and gave us a great evening of entertainment, so many thanks for that Mary.

Then we were treated to an evening of choral music at Steam in Swindon. It was the Wessex Male Choir's 12th annual concert and the supporting choirs were the Colla Voce Youth Choir from South Africa and the Pontarddulais Male Choir from South Wales. The ages of the Youth Choir ranged from 14 to 24; they were

some sixty strong and what an exceptional sound they made. I have never heard a youth choir sing with such harmony. The Pontarddulais Choir speaks for itself with the Eisteddfods they have won and they certainly didn't let the audience down with the quality of their singing – it was superb, and let's not forget the Wessex Male Choir who were in tip top form as usual – in fact it was an exceptional evening.

Today we have been to see our granddaughter at Orchid Vale School in the musical Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat. The children were from years 5 and 6 (10 and 11 years old) and they sang all the songs without any prompting or script. The boy playing Joseph had a good voice and didn't falter through the whole production. All the cast and the teachers who produced the show should be congratulated. Why am I telling you this? Well firstly we have had three lots of first class singing that we enjoyed, secondly it is one of my pleasures, choirs, especially male voice choirs and thirdly we listened to some two hundred and sixty people in all enjoying what they were doing, giving pleasure to hundreds of people in harmony. The greatest pleasure in life is giving and they certainly did that, **so how about seeing if you could give a little pleasure to elderly people and a little time on the minibuses?**

TONY PRICE

Summer at Purton Library

Summer time is a great chance for everyone to catch up on that book which may have been sitting on your bookshelf for the last month or two. Your ideal read could be waiting for you at Purton Library.

This year the national Summer Reading Challenge for 4 to 11 year olds will run in Wiltshire libraries from 13 July to 7 September, and the theme will be 'Creepy House'. The challenge is simple; children read six books over the summer, talk to library volunteers about the books and collect 'rewards' to mark their progress. Incentives this year include a glow-in-the-dark wristband, scratch and sniff stickers, a medal and certificate on completion.

Creepy House is not a competition, but a fun personal challenge to encourage children to read more and use libraries more. Families love the challenge and last year 96% of the participants said that by taking part in the challenge their reading had improved a little or a lot.

This year there will also be a 'Creepy Library' short story and cartoon competition for children aged 4 to 16, the winners will win signed copies of Chris Riddell books (Chris is the illustrator of the Creepy House materials).

Adults and anyone over 12 may like to take part in the South West Reading Passport. We invite you to take a reading journey around the beautiful South West. The authors featured have either lived or written about the location in which they are featured. Collect your passports from the library, get reading, write a review and there is a chance to win a Wiltshire prize.

Finally, on Tuesday, 13 August, 2.30 to 3.30 pm, we have a 'Funnybones' story and craft activity for children aged 4 to 7 years. Book your free space at Purton Library or phone 01793 770870.

Happy summer reading,

CAROLYN, PAT, PAM and all the Library Volunteers.

Mrs Christian Knock

Mrs Christian Knock was a lady in every way and sadly she has died recently. Most of you would not know her – she lived in a bungalow called Edge Wood at Red Lodge, Braydon. Mrs Knock was born in Suffolk and later moved to Essex when she got married, where she lived until she lost her husband, who was tragically killed in 1983 when the aeroplane he was teaching a cadet to fly in crashed. It was then that she moved to Edgewood. The first thing she had done was to have a stable built for her horse and trap, as she was very much into carriage driving. In fact she used to enter the horse shows that we used to run a few years ago at Purton House and usually came away with a rosette or two. While she loved her driving and was very competitive, knowing the type of lady Christian was she should have been driven in a coach with four horses and waving to people along the way rather than driving herself. She was such an elegant lady and treated everyone she met with the greatest of respect.

Another of Christian's hobbies was showing her dogs at Crufts where, as with our horse show, she was among the rosettes with her Boston terriers. She certainly knew her dogs as she was actually a judge at Crufts and you cannot get any higher than that in the dog world. Christian also kept bantams – I don't know whether she showed these or not but one thing is certain – you would have to be on your guard at Braydon with all the foxes about!

Christian was a very sociable and interesting person when you met her and this was quite a regular occurrence for me as Miss Elizabeth Ward, our president, would pick Christian up and bring her to the 8 o'clock service at St Mary's every week.

Sadly a few years ago her health deteriorated and she went into The Cedars where she was very happy and the staff were very kind to her. She was the type of person you would want to help as I am sure she would be very appreciative and grateful for any help given. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends, especially her sister Mrs Cowderoy and we thank them for money in lieu of flowers being donated to Age Concern.

TONY PRICE

Willows Counselling Service

Charity No: 1037677

One year extended level 3 course in Integrative Counselling: The Basic Practice Course of the ACC recognised Programme "The Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes Framework for Counselling" Level 3, fulfilling the criteria of Open College Network.

Course commences 4 September 2013, on Wednesdays day-time (Term-time) 9.30 am - 2.30 pm, plus some Saturday Workshops. The cost is £1,080, plus books, topic workshops and own personal counselling. (Deposit and monthly payments by arrangement.)

Held at The Willows Centre, 11 Prospect Place, Old Town, Swindon SN1 3LQ. Further information from Avril Fray, Training Manager, Willows Counselling Service tel no. 01793 426650, email: training@willowscounselling.org.uk or from the web site www.willowscounselling.org.uk

Transforming Purton Parish: Our Energy

Following the initial overview in this magazine of the Ps and Qs flagship project, Transforming Purton Parish which 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, we have been summarising brief extracts. So far we have extracted key messages and options on transport, waste, water and on food. This extract is about energy. Interest in local energy has been growing steadily in recent years (several Ps and Qs magazine articles during the last ten years).

Energy, in the form of electricity, gas, solid fuel, and oil comes from a variety of sources; all of which are not renewable, and all of which are subject to geopolitical changes and price fluctuations. During the previous ten years, prices have increased year-on-year and even if the UK government moves to try and manage this (some say for pure, short term political gain) prices will form an increasingly large part of household budgets. To think otherwise would be completely foolish.

In terms of renewable energy for average households, the options are: solar photovoltaic (electricity-producing), heat pumps (ground and air) and wind. With a life span of at least twenty years and an average cost for an average 4 kW household system of £6000 to £7000 (2013 prices) solar panels could pay for themselves within ten years (and perhaps shorter if the roof faces due south) with the current government subsidies. If a house or any roof space faces south or south west it makes financial sense for some to install such panels.

If houses have sufficient garden then a ground source heat pump is the obvious answer and again pays for itself in a few years. For those with less garden space to spare, then an air source heat pump is the next best thing. To produce serious energy, for a wider basis than a single household, the only candidate is wind. There are at least a couple of places where wind would work in the parish.

A bit like local shopping; either one “likes” wind or solar, or does not. Surveys and conversations suggest that resistance to wind and solar is ideological, and thus difficult/impossible to engage in debate. The parish has plenty of opportunity to produce a lot of its own energy either as electricity or as heat (water or space). The challenge, as for “local shopping” or “local food”, is all about attitude – probably the hardest challenge of all.

Most of the built-up area in the parish lies within the settlement framework boundary (see the map on the next page). Dozens of properties would be suitable for producing their own electricity; perhaps 300 (a quarter of the properties within the settlement framework boundary) or more could be capable of producing 4 kWh (about 3400 units). Ofgem notes that an average UK household uses about 3300 units of electricity each year (a working couple: about 4167 units, a family with two children about 5480 units: and a single person about 3084 units).

There are some interesting proposals for solar arrays at Lower Moor Farm Nature Reserve, just outside Oaksey which demonstrate just what could be done with a former sand and gravel quarry and landfill site. Another example even closer



to home is next to Chelworth Industrial Estate with proposals for another development of a solar array. There is potential for such developments within the parish which could supply energy to parts of the parish community.

Of course, a basic action when thinking about energy is to manage well, what we use already. It is disappointing that several community buildings in Purton leave their outside lights blazing away all day, incurring costs and using up energy unnecessarily.

Perhaps, just as disappointing is the Wiltshire Council policy of requiring “affordable” (or more accurately known as social) housing to be designed and constructed to satisfy the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 – a fairly modest requirement given that exemplar building would be to Level 6. Level 3 locks-in far more running costs to those already managing with constrained budgets.

The Ps and Qs Foresight and Resilience Plan calls for:

- Some minimal efforts to develop local energy sources and demand;
- Some minimal efforts to develop awareness of local energy sources and encourage demand;
- Develop data sets and models to test feasibility and desirability of developing local community solar and wind.

The full report, *Transforming Purton Parish*, is freely downloadable from www.CarbonBrake.com. It is quite large (about 5Mb) and 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 the two Ridgeway Farm detailed applications, continuing problems

with local neighbourhood planning, and the Hannick Homes plans for developing the land behind Jewel's Ash 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! Subscription is very straightforward, simply go to www.CarbonBrake.com and click on the E-mail Subscription on right-hand side just below the photo banner. 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.

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

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



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

On The Lighter Side

One for the Road

Some of us have been known to have had brushes with the Authorities on our way home from social occasions over the years. A few nights ago, a friend of ours was out on the town for some drinks with friends and had a few too many beers and over-indulged on some very good red wine.

Knowing full well he was over the limit, he did something he'd never done before – he took the bus home. It was the right decision because, sure enough, there was a police drink-drive check en route, but they waved the bus through.

So our friend arrived home safely without incident ... which was a real surprise as he'd never driven a bus before and wasn't even sure where he got it from.



Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Witts Lane, Jewels Ash, Waite Meads Close and Pear Tree Close*. If there is anyone or anything that you would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship, please contact Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, Revd Judith Wells or Revd David Perkins. Their contact details can be found on the inside cover of this magazine. You can give as much or little information as you wish. We don't even have to know a name.

We Record ...

Weddings

- 22 June Simon James Ward and Hannah Lucy Binstead *at St Mary's Church*
- 29 June Mark Theodore Weaver and Kelly Dullea *at St Mary's Church*

Funerals

- 14 June Brian Cook *at St Mary's Church*
- 28 June Allison Jayne Maltby *at St Mary's Church*

In Memoriam

- 16 July In loving memory of Jim Young who passed away on 16 July 2011. We will always cherish the happy memories. From your loving family.

Peggy and family

Diamond Wedding

- 27 June Congratulations to Jean and Harold Wynniatt on their 60th Wedding Anniversary

Silver Wedding

- 6 August Congratulations to Mark and Julie Wadsworth on their 25th Wedding Anniversary

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 ...



Crafty Flower-making Day

On Saturday 19 October there will be a Crafty Flower-making Day, at the Methodist Church from 10.30 to 3.30.

Come for as long as you want ... to learn new skills to do with flowers ... painting flower pictures; making felt flowers; possibly sugar flowers; cards with flowers ... You make what you want and you pay for what you make.

There will be food provided throughout the day as well.

All profits will go to Christian Aid. More details will be in the next magazine or for further details contact Libbie: 771018.

A MESSAGE FROM PURTON AGE CONCERN



You've seen our minibuses driving up and down the village, helping our senior citizens and the disabled get to their doctor's appointments, maybe a local outing, perhaps to the shops or Post Office. They also run to The Cedars and to the Lunch Club.

Now you could be part of our Great Team of Voluntary Drivers and Driver's Assistants

**Can you spare a couple of hours or so a week?
If so we would love to hear from you.**

We will arrange for you to start as a driver's assistant, or 'shotgun', as we like to call them! So you will be a 'shotgun' accompanied by an established driver until you feel ready to drive.

Experience is not necessary as you will be given full training

We supply the training - you get the feel good factor!

Please contact the Purton Age Concern Minibus Co-ordinator:

Maurice Card
18 Vasterne Close
Purton SN5 4EZ

01793 770338

Come on Ladies ... our Minibus needs YOU!

Whilst driving the Age Concern Minibus and picking up someone new, I am frequently greeted with a surprised "Oh it's a lady driver to-day", to which I reply "Well, actually the only lady driver!" I am sure that there are several of you reading this who are more than capable of doing exactly what I do, and that is drive, as a volunteer, one of our village minibuses to take people from Purton and the surrounding areas to the Doctor's surgery, Lunch Club, Day Care, Hairdressers, coffee mornings, trips to the theatre or garden centres and a host of other activities that make up everyday life. Without the help of the minibuses many people would be totally housebound, either because they have no family living locally or because they are wheelchair-bound and need the facility of a ramp to transport them and their chair. Many of the people who come with us are well into their 90s and still like to join in with village events and have fun but rely on the minibus to get them there.

I started driving the buses probably more than 15 years ago and when I retired from work. 7 years ago I was able to take a regular spot in the rotas (once every four weeks) as well as filling in for surgery runs and outings when needed. In recent months this has been far more frequent as we have become desperately short of drivers, due to retirements from ill health and age and this has put greater pressure on those of us who remain.

Driving the buses is not difficult and not a great deal bigger than some of the larger people-carriers that are frequently seen in the village; they both have power steering, reversing cameras and huge mirrors so you can see what is behind you to help when reversing etc. I am extremely proud to be one of the team and it would be great if you could come and join me.

If you would like to know more please feel free to give me a call on 770862 or an email hazeldwoodbidge@yahoo.co.uk and I will be pleased to chat about what I do.

Look forward to hearing from you

HAZEL WOODBRIDGE

Guide Dogs for the Blind, Purton Group

Slowly working my way back into harness, my sincere thanks for all your messages and support following my heart attack in March.

We had a great Carnival Day. My thanks to Doreen Freegard, and her daughter Sandra who supplied the open-top BMW and drove us around the village, with me in the back seat wearing the dog suit. Don't think I could have managed, had it been as hot as it is while I am writing this. We made £106.83 on the Fete Stall, thanks to the team and Brian Freegard. We look forward now hopefully to The Cricklade Show.

Many thanks for everybody's continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group



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.

After 8



On a for once dry Tuesday night, 12 members of After 8 plus a guest met in Royal Wootton Bassett to complete a Treasure Trail. We'd had such a good time last year completing the Purton Trail that we thought that we'd go to the wilds of Bassett's Borough Fields car park where the Trail started.

The popular inn keeper at "Coachways" had been found dead beneath the archway to the Smithy's yard. Foul play was suspected as the inn is frequented by some unscrupulous characters and a jeweller shares the premises.

From a booklet we had to solve the clues to find the murder and the murder weapon. Some examples:

Clue 10: On Station Rd dismiss a suspect who shares a name with someone associated with Fundamental Motherhood.

Clue 14: On the High St where music tells the time, link the letters N, M, P and C to the nearest clock face numerals to form a date to discount a weapon.

We set off in twos but with general collusion and some plain cheating; we had all completed the trail and found the murderer and weapon used. Trails are available for all over the country from www.treasuretrails.co.uk for £6.99.

After all this brain work some of the group decided to do what you do in Purton ... retire to The Angel, but the one in Royal Wootton Bassett. Although there is the fun of solving the clues the trail is interspersed with interesting facts along the way. One of interest to Purtonians is "The market charter was renewed in the 17th century when the Hyde family donated the Town Hall near to the corn exchange and butter market. There were traders' stalls, a lock-up and stocks beneath the pillars and a council chamber above."

EVE BOOY

Our next meeting will be in August (date to be confirmed) and will be a Summer Walk or Bike Ride led by Sandra. For further details contact Sandra on 770157 or Avril on 771542.

Mothers' Union

On Tuesday 18 June, a Festival Service was held at St Mary's Church to mark the closing of Purton Mothers' Union after 85 years. During the service a short history of the branch was told on behalf of the Enrolling Member Gladys Legg who unfortunately was unwell in hospital, so we were asked to print it in the magazine.

"The Purton M.U. was opened in 1928 by the then vicar's wife Mrs Willis with 22 members. The tribute was 6d per year (2½p) and an M.U. badge one shilling (a lot of money in those days.) By 1930 membership had grown to 30; of course numbers have fluctuated over the years. We have seen six Enrolling Members. The M.U. ladies were the ones relied upon for refreshment at any church events.

"In 1974 Roy Blake became vicar and he wanted a restoration of the church. That was when the historic wall paintings were found, so the MU formed a working party meeting at Mrs Kennett's once a month making dusters out of old flannelette sheet, knitting gloves and socks and sewing etc, to help fund raise for the church.

"In 1976, I became E.M. so we as a branch refurbished the Lady Chapel, new

banner altar frontal (made by one of our own members) new carpet, chairs and kneelers worked by all our members ... even the ones with arthritis put a stitch or two in. They were made to commemorate our 50 years.

"We celebrated our Golden Jubilee with a family meal and entertainment by Clem Smith on the Saturday evening. Canon Willis returned to join us and Mary Edwards (Diocesan MU President) and Bishop Freddy and his wife Joan, for a Thanksgiving Service in which the kneelers were dedicated and Bishop Freddy preached the sermon. The church was full for that occasion.

"We have had many outings trying to visit a church for a short service and often the ladies of the church would lay on tea for us. We have held garden parties and coffee mornings to help keep our own bank balance in the black. Through these events we have made many gifts to our own church, St Mary's.

"But sadly this will be no more. We have wonderful memories and had great fellowship over the years, so we hope and pray somebody younger in years will in the future feel the need for an M.U. branch in Purton and that it will flourish again. We hope to be able to join in the diocesan and deanery services.

"Thank you all for joining us today."

VIVIEN LAWRENCE, Acting Enrolling Member

Purton Evening WI www.purtonevewi.org.uk



As we arrive in the Village Hall for WI meetings there is always general interest, and sometimes puzzlement, at what our speaker for the evening would bring to entertain/educate us, but there was no mystery on 19 June – large African drums and accompanying instruments, sufficient for everyone present to use! It was large-scale Playschool and though at the beginning the word "cacophony" came to mind, we gradually improved, had enormous fun, and possibly the whole of Purton heard us! Certainly an evening full of laughter.

Our President gave her report on the Annual Meeting, held this year in Cardiff, and the Resolution was passed there, though not approved by absolutely everybody.

Orders are now being taken for 2014 Diaries and Calendars, so please be sure to put in your requests at the next meeting.

The speaker for 21 August will be Paul Booy, who will give an illustrated talk on "Blackbeard and his Pirate Mates". We are welcome to wear suitable gear if we want to create the appropriate atmosphere – and the competition is for the Best Dressed Pirate, with social time given over to pirate games and songs. Gilbert and Sullivan should provide some good examples!

See you then – yo ho ho!

CONSTANCE REED (771 571)

STOP PRESS ... A Food Festival on Saturday, 2 November at the Village Hall. Fun for all the family. More information next month.

Maxim for Life

I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it.

Robert Benchley

Purton Diary - August 2013

(There is no Parish Council Meeting in August)

1	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
4	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Family Service at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
6	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: <i>Musical Companions</i>
7	W	9.30am	Age Concern Annual outing to Weston
8	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at the Cedars
9	F		Collins Lane closed for 4 weeks (railway line doubling)
		9.30am	Age Concern minibus to Swindon
10	Sa	11.00am	to 4pm: Steam & Vintage Weekend at Swindon & Cricklade Railway
11	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		11.00am	to 4pm: Steam & Vintage Weekend at Swindon & Cricklade Railway
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
12	M		Purton Churches' Activity Week (12-16 August) see page 33
13	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
16	F	3.30pm	Communion at the Cedars
18	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
20	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Films by Dave Seviour
		2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
21	W	2.00pm	Communion at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Evening Women's Institute at the Village Hall: <i>"Blackbeard"</i> , speaker Paul Booy
		7.30pm	Carnival Open Meeting at Silver Threads Hall
22	Th	8.30pm	Darts League AGM at The Angel
25	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion and Baptism at St Mary's Church
		11.00am	to 4pm: Children's Treasure Hunt at Swindon & Cricklade Railway
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
26	M		Summer Bank Holiday
		11.00am	to 4pm: Children's Treasure Hunt at Swindon & Cricklade Rly

27	Tu	7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Jenny Tidman - <i>Roses: Their Care & Selection for Different Sites</i>
31	Sa	2.00pm	to 7.30pm: RBL Horticultural Show at Red House (exhibitors, please see page 30)

September

2	M	7.00pm	Purton & Lydiard Charity Fund AGM at Silver Threads Hall
4	W	2.00pm	Age Concern Mystery Tour

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

● 6 August ● 14 August ○ 21 August ● 28 August

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.

For Your Diary

Saturday 14 September at Silver Threads Hall from 10 am.

This is an OPEN DAY by the Helping Hand to celebrate the 50th Anniversary. Many memories will be on display. There will also be refreshments and a raffle, etc.

Do come along and look out for posters for details.

PAULINE WARD, Chairman

Purton & Lydiard Charity Fund – Reminder

Jenny Peabody and Lynda Warren will be holding their final AGM at 7 pm on Monday 2 September at the Silver Threads Hall, High Street, Purton. All are welcome. The balance of monies raised will be presented to a local organisation at the AGM, together with a final balance sheet. Apologies to Jenny for omitting her name from last month's magazine and thanks to her family for all their support.



Pause for Thought

A handful of patience is worth a bushel of brains.

Dutch Proverb

Character is made by many acts; it may be lost by a single one.

Anon

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

BRINKWORTH VILLAGE FAYRE

WITH
PRODUCE AND HANDICRAFT SHOW

Sunday 1st September 2013
11 am- 5pm
Brinkworth Recreation Field
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

- craft marquee
- produce auction
- Punch & Judy
- Chippenharn hog roast
- vintage cars
- fun dog show
- animal area
- morris dancers
- licensed bar
- cars and machinery
- Bert the clown
- donkey rides
- refreshments
- + much, much more!

Purton Helping Hand
50th Anniversary
Helping Hand OPEN DAY
 Saturday 14 September from 10 am
 at Silver Threads Hall

Lots of Memorabilia
 Raffle Refreshments
 Fabulous Selection of Books
 Tombola Bric-a-brac
 Various competitions
 Information: tel 770251

* Reminder *
 Purton Silver Threads
Books & Bangers Evening
 Friday 26 July, 6 pm
 Red Lodge, Braydon

Raffle Refreshments
 Fabulous Selection of Books
 Cakes Bric-a-brac Competitions
 Mini-bus: tel 770251
 Tickets: £1 (including 'cuppa')

Please come along to...

Brinkworth Village Hall
17th August at 10.30am - 2.30pm

Raffle, Tombola, Handmade and Unique Gifts
 Plus
 Large Selection of Homemade Cakes

Fun for all the family

Raffle prizes include Signed Autobiographies,
 Shopping Vouchers for local businesses
 plus much much more...

Search 'Strawberry Tea in Brinkworth' on Facebook for full details

£1 entry includes tea and coffee

All proceeds to Breast Cancer Care
www.breastcancercare.org.uk/donations

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 August 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 or Kim O'Brien.

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 ...

The only reason that they say, 'Women and children first' is to test the strength of the lifeboats.

Jean Kerr

Great War Project

Last month I introduced this series and said we would need to spend some time looking at the period leading up to the Great War in order to understand it. We start this month with the creation of Germany.

Rick

Part 1. German Unification

The world in 1914 didn't look much like it does today ... and the world in 1914 had very little resemblance to what it looked like when Queen Victoria came to the throne in Britain in 1837. Looking at a map of Europe, one of the major differences you would spot right in the middle would be the absence of Germany. We have to go back a little way to find out how Germany came into existence.

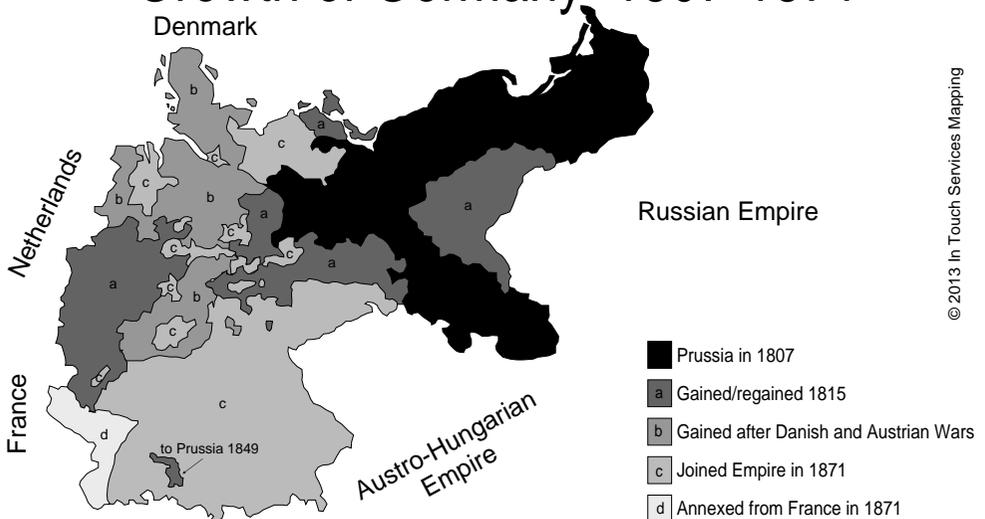
Following the collapse of the Roman Empire and during the Middle Ages, the Holy Roman Empire (the Empire) came into prominence in central Europe. This was a confederation of hundreds of small kingdoms, principalities, dukedoms and bishoprics and as such was not a State in the way we would consider one today. Although there was an Emperor, who had some lands he owned directly, the Emperor could not govern the Empire directly. This severely limited his powers and ultimately the strength of the Empire itself. The fragmented nature of the Empire also goes some way to explain why German fairy stories and folk tales are full of Princes, Princesses and castle towers.

The French Revolutions put France at odds with most of its neighbours and, from 1792 onwards, France was at war with various parts of the Empire for numerous reasons – some ideological, some political and some territorial including wanting to retrieve Alsace from the Empire's control. Following the accession of Napoleon Bonaparte as Emperor of France in 1804, a series of military defeats caused the Holy Roman Emperor Francis II to abdicate and the Empire was dissolved on 6 August 1806. In 1807, Napoleon reorganised much of the Empire into the Confederation of the Rhine, which became a French puppet. Francis' Royal House of Habsburg-Lorraine survived the demise of the Empire, continuing to reign as Emperors of Austria and Kings of Hungary.

After the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815, the Confederation of the Rhine was replaced by a new union, the German Confederation, with Austria as one of its guarantors.

Meanwhile the kingdom of Prussia, allied with Brandenburg, both to the east of the Confederation was becoming more powerful in the political vacuum left by the demise of the Holy Roman Empire and of French power. King Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia (House of Hohenzollern) died in 1861, and his son and regent became King Wilhelm I. In 1862, Wilhelm was in political and financial conflict with the Prussian Diet, a parliament chiefly of nobles and landowners, especially over reform of the army; he threatened to abdicate. However his son opposed the abdication and believed that Otto von Bismarck was the only politician capable of handling the crisis. Bismarck had in fact been sidelined in politics and was currently the Prussian ambassador to the Russian Empire in

Growth of Germany 1807-1871



St Petersburg. Wilhelm recalled Bismarck and appointed him Minister-President and Foreign Minister with sweeping powers in foreign affairs. Bismarck, together with Helmuth von Moltke, the new Army Chief of Staff, and Albrecht von Roon, the Minister of War, also pushed through the major army reforms.

Frederick VII of Denmark died in 1863 and the ownership of the German-speaking duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, loosely tied to Denmark, were claimed by the new Danish king Christian IX, but also by a German duke (Frederick von Augustenburg). Denmark acted to annex Schleswig and, after a Prussian ultimatum was refused, Austria and Prussia invaded. Denmark sued for peace and ceded Schleswig to Prussia and Holstein to Austria.

Then in 1866, Austria demanded that the German Confederation should decide ownership, rather than Prussia. This back-tracking allowed Bismarck an excuse to declare war on Austria, and Prussian troops occupied Holstein. The newly-reorganised Prussian army quickly defeated Austria and its allies in the German Confederation in the Austro-Prussian War.

Prussia dominated German politics from that point on. The German Confederation was dissolved being replaced by a North German Confederation in 1867, including Prussia and several other North German states. King Wilhelm I became its President, and Bismarck was appointed to be its Chancellor. Prussia also annexed Schleswig, Holstein, Hanover, Hesse-Kassel, Frankfurt and other former Austrian allies. Austria also accepted Prussian demands to keep out of German affairs.

Prussia's victory over Austria increased tensions with France who saw a new great power emerging. This was heightened in 1870, when a German Prince of the same House as Wilhelm I (Hohenzollern) was offered the vacant Spanish throne. France saw the threat of Hohenzollerns on its eastern and south-western borders

and demanded that no member of the House of Hohenzollern become King of Spain. Bismarck provoked France into declaring war with Prussia which it did in July 1870. The Franco-Prussian War (1870-71) saw a total defeat for France who had to surrender Alsace and part of Lorraine, and also pay reparations to Prussia for the cost of the war. Bismarck acted immediately to secure the unification of Germany while the war with France was closing. Wilhelm I of Prussia was proclaimed German Emperor on 18 January 1871 at Versailles. The new German Empire was a federation with each of its states keeping some autonomy.

Before 1600 the small kingdom of Prussia had been in modern day Poland. By 1871 it had grown to become the leading force in a new German Empire with its capital in the Brandenburg capital of Berlin.

With the unification, we also see at least three major tensions which would have repercussions on politics in the years up to the Great War, and in its aftermath:

- France's loss of face and payment of major war reparations in the catastrophe of the Franco-Prussian War combined with a desire to gain back Alsace and Lorraine;
- The unresolved issue of Schleswig and Holstein;
- A new and powerful Empire in the middle of Europe sandwiched between Russia to the east, France to the west and Austria to the south.

RICK DIXON

Swindon & Cricklade Railway www.swindon-cricklade-railway.org



10 & 11 August: STEAM AND VINTAGE WEEKEND 11 am to 4 pm

A spectacular collection of steam and vintage road, agricultural and specialist vehicles. Ticket prices to include steam hauled ride.

11 August: STEAM HAULED CREAM TEA ON THE MOONRAKER from 12 noon £5 in addition to ticket to ride. The Moonraker is a luxurious dining car, which can also be hired for special occasions.

25 & 26 August: CHILDREN'S TREASURE HUNT 11 am to 4 pm

Spot 30 little prizes around the railway and win a prize Tickets cost £7 for adults, £6 for seniors and £5 for children for steam hauled ride.

26 July & 30 August: MURDER MYSTERY EVENING 7.15 pm start

Tickets to include a hot buffet. Come and have a fun evening exercising your powers of deduction. Booking essential on 01672 564547

Diesel train rides available from 11am to 4 pm on Wednesdays during the school holidays at £6 for adults. £5 for seniors and £4 for children.

Cafeteria, shop, museums, picnic area and free parking. Some event prices are not known at time of printing. Enquiries on 01793 750335 or 771615. Email scr@gmx.co.uk

The railway is volunteer operated and all profits are used for maintenance and the extension of the line.

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.



Peer Mentor Training: Mr Bray reports: 18 students were selected this year to be Peer Mentors for our incoming Year 7 tutor groups. The group had an intensive day's training at the Purton Youth Centre on Friday 14 June where they were put through their paces in a number of different challenges and tasks.

The purpose of the training was to prepare the Peer Mentors for the work they will do as they support new students throughout the year.



Key Stage 3 Sports Day: Mr Hartley reports: Having almost become obsessed with the weather forecast and sports day, after last year's wet summer, to our great relief Thursday 27 June was a beautiful summer's day!

With the javelins sharpened, shot put polished and stop watches at the ready it was time for Key Stage 3 Sports Day!

The weather was perfect and the students were eager to rise to the challenge, the gauntlet had been laid down and there were school records ready to be broken. The students set fantastic standards and thoroughly enjoyed the day. The atmosphere was superb making for an excellent day of inclusive sport for all abilities enjoyed by students and staff.

The Olympic 2012 legacy lived on with medals awarded to the top three finishers of each event which carried the symbol of the Olympic flame and the history of the 2012 London Olympics.

Unfortunately for Key Stage 4, the weather was not so kind!

(Right: Ms Wilkinson awarding the young men of Year 8 their medals!)



Ravensroost: All students in Year 8 have now visited Ravensroost Wood to extend their experience of ecology fieldwork beyond what we can do on the school site.



The students used quadrat techniques (*left*) to assess the range and variety of plants growing in different parts of the woodland that have been managed in different ways. They took light-intensity readings and temperature measurements and collected soil samples which they then analysed in the school laboratories. They used their data to suggest reasons for the differences in plant growth.

We hope the students enjoyed the

opportunity to carry out fieldwork in a wider range of habitats and also that they have developed their understanding of the kinds of rural landscape that can be found in this area of Britain.

This year our work was helped by some nice weather. Ecology is nicer when it is studied in the sunshine! Thank you to land owners Wiltshire Wildlife Trust for facilitating our visit to this site of special scientific interest and to parents for supporting the visit financially.

Maths News: Mrs Griggs reports: On Thursday 13 June the Maths department took Year 7 students on a visit to the Mathamagic show at Techniquet in Cardiff.

Techniquet's exhibits and puzzles (*right*) are informative and fun. The large colourful displays encourage children to try to work out the huge variety of puzzles, whilst still 'having fun' and learning at the same time.



The students visited the 'hands on' displays and puzzle exhibits and also watched and took part in the Mathamagic show.

All the students behaved in an impeccable manner and showed great interest in the 'Mathamagic' show and were also eager to take part in it.

HELEN WILKINSON, Acting Headteacher

Purton Historical Society

PHS Outing

Our outing this year took us to the Clifton Suspension Bridge and Tyntesfield. We were not enjoying the best of weather back in June so we departed with brollies and waterproofs packed! At Clifton we were welcomed by some very knowledgeable guides who told us about the history of the bridge and pointed out various things of interest and explained that Brunel who was the eventual designer of the bridge never saw it as he had died by the time it was built! Our tour was curtailed by torrential rain so we were grateful to get back on board the coach and drive the short distance to Tyntesfield. It was still raining on arrival but thankfully after a while the weather improved.

Tyntesfield is a National Trust property that was acquired by the trust in 2002. The house was bought by William Gibb in 1843 who made his fortune in manufacturing fertiliser from the guano of South American birds! He took a simple Regency house and remodelled it into the amazing Gothic extravaganza we see today. The house is very much a 'work in progress' as the property was open to the public as soon as the Trust acquired it. An amazing house with church attached and surrounded by parkland and wonderful countryside and well worth a visit.

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](#)

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

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.



■ MARATHON & DREAMFLIGHT

Mark, Megan and Family would like to say a big thank-you to those of you who sponsored Mark when he participated in the Brighton marathon which he completed in 3 hrs 35 mins. Also to many who sponsored Megan when, as a family, we took part in the local 5k dreamflight run/walk/push in wheelchair.

We have so far raised approximately £1,500 which will go towards another child's dream being fulfilled.

Thank you all for your generosity and support, it really is very much appreciated.

The Gardner Family

■ BRIAN COOK

Janet Susan and Stephen would like to thank everyone who sent cards flowers and messages, on the sad loss of Brian
Thank you.

Janet Cook

■ ALLISON MALTBY

Gill, Richard, Sheena and Jacob Maltby would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the kindness shown to them after the sad loss of Allison.

■ TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY FROM PURTON AND BEYOND

A big thank-you to you all for the cards and best wishes that you sent us for our Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Jean and Harold Wynniatt

■ NOW RECOVERING

I would like to say a big thank-you to all my lovely family and friends for the lovely flowers, cards and all the meals, etc. I am recovering very well since my stay in hospital.

With love,

Karen Gough

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

OFFERED: Black & Decker Hover Mower 12". Dave 01793 772350

OFFERED: Ocean Upright Freezer (auto-defrosts) and Frigidaire Fridge. Freezer - 62"/158cm high; Fridge - 44"/113cm high. Will need to collect items from Purton address. Please tel 07768 401456

WANTED: A hand carder, for spinning and weaving, with a turning handle, as in the photo. Libbie: 771018.

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



Royal British Legion Purton Branch Horticultural Show



Annual Horticultural Show 2013

The committee will welcome your entries at The Red House Purton on the evening of Friday 30 August from 7.45 pm to 9 pm.

On the day of the show (**Saturday 31 August**), staging is from 9 to 11 am and we are open to the public from 2 to 7.30 pm. We then have AN AUCTION of exhibits. Your chance to buy some prize-winning veg etc for Sunday lunch!

The schedules are available from 'Best One' in Lower Square and John Toomer, Stone Lane. Committee members too.

Any queries? Tel: Dave Herbert (Chairman) 770002 or Heather Harris (Show Sec.) 770850.



Carnival

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

I think Carnival Day showed just what an amazing village Purton is! I may not have managed to nag/bribe/encourage 50 groups to take part in the procession for our 50th year, but well over 25 took part and made a procession to be proud of. Thank you to every one of you for making it such a wonderful event!

It astounded me how many people came up and said how much they had enjoyed taking part in/watching the procession. So, please let's do the same again

next year, with even more people involved! As soon as we know the theme (probably in October) I will be chasing people again! Maybe 51 for our 51st year?!

You have been warned!!

MARY NETTLETON

Another year over and what a finale! The weather could not have been better, the Procession was fantastic and the Carnival Fete was full.

Thank you to all the helpers who worked so hard, the procession entries and all of you who supported us throughout the two weeks.

The Open Meeting is on Wednesday 21 August at the Silver Threads Hall at 7.30 pm when the final result will be announced.

Thank you everyone.

PAULINE WARD



CARNIVAL GALLERY



Purton & District Gardeners' Guild

This was to be Dee Child's final meeting as our chairman and we paid her a fond farewell as she moves on to pastures new. She welcomed new members, Sue and Peter Berry, before introducing Frank Hardy paying us a welcome return visit to entertain us with his talk entitled 'All our Yesterdays', a reminder to us all of the fashions and innovations in gardening and horticulture since the 1950s.

Frank reminded us of the stereotype gardener of the **1950s** sporting a waistcoat and pocket watch and chain, whilst pricking out seedlings into handmade wooden trays. How times have changed! The black plastic plant pots we are so familiar with today were introduced with the advantage of being warmer so plants grow quicker, the aim of every gardener. Many of us remember the gardens of the 1950s, divided down the middle by a concrete path, complete with coal bunker and often with a chicken run. This post-war era had little emphasis on decorative plants.

The **1960s** was the era of the rose, popularised by Harry Wheatcroft the famous English rose grower. Fashionable varieties were *Iceberg*, *Fragrant Cloud*, *Piccadilly* and *Whisky Mac*. For obvious reasons *Peace* with its pink-edged cream flowers was a particular post-war favourite. Surprisingly 80% of all roses purchased were sold through the 'News of the World' which carried an average of 14 pages of rose advertisements in each edition. Rose plants with less than 3 stems would be discarded and burnt, but Woolworths arranged to buy them from the growers for 'tuppence'. They packaged them and sold them to the public for two shillings a plant – a substantial profit for their ingenuity. By the end of the decade the popularity of the rose declined.

In the **1970s**, bedding plants became popular as people copied what they could see in their local parks. Often they were grown for sale by local people in their greenhouses. However, the 1972 oil crisis 1972 doubled oil prices, making it unviable for the 'little person' to continue. Conifers and heathers became popular at this time but interest waned after just 5 years. Informal borders with curved edges started to appear and these were considered revolutionary. The late 70s was very dry so plants such as buddleia, potentilla and weigelia that could withstand dry conditions proved popular. Other innovations included '*gro-bags*', patterned concrete walling, kidney-shaped ponds and BBQs, brick-built by 'dad'. Frank maintains that '*gro-bags*' are still the cheapest bag of compost on the market today and that when filled with narcissus and tulips they produce a brilliant display.

The **1980s** saw the commercial development of 'micropropagation' which enabled nurseries to produce 500 plantlets from a 1/16th inch of stem, making it possible for new varieties to be produced exceedingly quickly. It was also the era of herbaceous plants – veronica, astilbe, delphinium and coreopsis to name but a few.

The **1990s** was the era of 'garden makeovers' – think Alan Titchmarsh, Tommy Walsh and Charlie Dimmock. In the latter part of the decade tropical looking plants such as *Agapanthus* and *Physocarpus* gained popularity.

The **new millennium** heralded in the era of water plants such as *Hostas*, *Iris* and *Candelabra Primulas* and by the mid-2000s bedding plants were back in fashion.

Bringing us up to date, **the last two years** have seen the introduction of

vegetable-growing in containers and the planting of wildflower gardens although Frank advised that wild flowers only grow naturally in very poor soils. His hope for the future is a re-emergence in the popularity of conifers so 'watch this space'.

Leon Slee proposed a vote of thanks for an evocative trip down memory lane.

Competition winners: 1st Dee Child, 2nd Linda Roberts, 3rd Janice Simpkins.

Join us for our next meeting at 7.30 pm on 27 August in Silver Threads Hall when Jenny Tidman's talk will be on the subject of 'Roses: Their Care & Selection for Different Sites'. The competition will be 'A single rose'.

MARGARET GOODALL, Secretary

Church Floodlighting

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



- 30 July St Mary's was floodlit in memory of **Albert Parkinson**, on the occasion of his birthday.
Dearly loved and sadly missed Husband, Dad and Grandad
- 5 August The church will be floodlit in memory of Mother, **Mabel Goodings**, on her birthday.
Lovingly remembered by Pete, Les, Rex and their families
- 6 August St Mary's Church will be floodlit to celebrate the Silver Wedding Anniversary of **Julie and Mark Wadsworth**, who were married in St Mary's 25 years ago on 6 August.
- 16 August St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Lily Strange**.
Always in our thoughts: Frank, Gill and Ange

Floodlighting contact: [Libbie](#)

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

Purton & District Darts League

What a year we have had – culminating in a fabulous Finals Night at the Purton Club on 17 May 2013. That all seems such a long time ago now.

Darts have now ceased for the Summer, however a date for the diary is Thursday 22 August at 8.30 pm. This is the date of the AGM to be held at *The Angel*, upstairs.

We require at least one player from each team to attend with a list of players they would like to sign up for the coming season.

You will be asked for a £10.00 signing-on fee and any changes to teams must be notified to the Secretary immediately.

If you have any changes to the Rules you wish to propose at the AGM, these must be in writing and given to the Secretary a minimum 3 days prior to the AGM



date. Otherwise they will not be considered as an Agenda item.

We hope to see as many of you there as possible, your support is greatly appreciated.

Hope you all have a great summer and see you in August.

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 success of the club's coaching programme was well illustrated recently by the performances of U15 players Joe Atkin 96 and Patrick Whittaker 104 not out in a match versus Calne. Elijah Samuel (aged 14) recently promoted to the 1st XI gave two mature batting performances while opening the innings with young U19 player Akar Gomel and Tom Whittaker (U16) and George Russ (U16) shared in a match winning stand against White Horse in the 2nd XI.

Although we recently suffered a break in at the ground when a window was smashed nothing of significance was taken. Some random destruction of photo frames and wrenching of towels off their rollers did take place. We welcome dog walkers who keep an eye on anything suspicious and ask them to report any incidents or observations to us.

Fixtures in August at Purton

3 rd 1 st XI v Hinton Charterhouse	1.30pm	24 th 1 st XI v Beanacre/Melksham	1.30pm
4 th U15 v Trowbridge	1.30pm	25 th U13 v Calne	1.30pm
10 th 1 st XI v Urchfont	1.30pm	31 st 2 nd XI v Cherill	1.30pm
17 th 2 nd XI v Biddestone	1.30pm		

Fixtures in September at Purton

1st U11 v Malmesbury 10.30am

From the Archives (2005)

Adam Miles produced an extraordinary batting performance. His innings was the highlight in Purton's 130 run victory over Calne. He and fellow opener Elliot Hill (30) put on 102 for the first wicket. Following his dismissal Miles dominated to such an extent that he scored all but two of the remaining runs off the bat as Purton totalled 259-8. Miles finished on 177 not out

PS. Elliot is captain of the current 1st XI and Adam plays his cricket elsewhere now.

JOE GARDNER

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Purton FC



The new season starts for the Hellenic side on Saturday 10 August and the Wilts League side on 17 August, with Purton Youth teams starting their fixtures early in September.

Pre-season training has already taken place at the Red House and at Lydiard Park and by the time this is published friendly matches will have taken place.

The Hellenic league management team under Chris Pethick, Stephen Hall and Jamie Cowley will be hoping to do better than last Season when a bad run of results after Christmas saw them finish 13th.

The Reserves, who had their best season for some 10 years, have lost their manager Albert Dearing, who resigned at the end of the season, and sadly most of the players have departed as well. Tony Webb and Ben Lewis have been appointed the management team of the Reserves for the forthcoming season; both were formerly running Cricklade Town Reserves and will be looking for players to sign on.

At the Purton Presentation Night awards went to:

First Team Player of the Season	Jamie Richards
First Team Players Player	Ashley Gooch
Supporters Player of the Season	Darren Brown
Res Team Player of the Season	Adam Mayhew
Res Team Players Player	Devan Bryan
Chairman's Award	Colin Richards
Clubman/Women Award	Albert Dearing
Training Award	Mike Lees
Most Improved Player Award	Andy Lewis
Sporting Award	Steve Shaw

At the Purton AGM held on 29 June the following were elected or re-elected:

President/Chairman/Hon Sec	Alan Eastwood - re-elected
Hon Treasurer	Wendy Phillips - re-elected
Youth & Development Officer	Gary Norman - re-elected
Committee members	Chris Pethick, Stephen Hall, Jamie Cowley, Colin Richards - re-elected Tony Webb, Ben Lewis, Phil Storey - elected

The club are still looking for sponsors, anyone interested can contact Alan Eastwood on 729844 evenings only or email to: alan.eastwood83@ntlworld.com would be most welcome.

Match programmes will be available at Hellenic and Wilts League matches. The Hellenic programme will cost £3 (this has gone up £1 to bring the club into line with charges that are made at away fixtures), while the Wilts League one will remain at £1.

Support by locals has always been favourable at all our games at the Red House and is much appreciated by everyone at the Club. Your support for the 2013/4 will help a lot to encourage those players participating and help the club in 'cash terms' when attending.

ALAN EASTWOOD, Chairman/Hon Sec

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



Lots of outdoor activities to report on this month: Guides have been kayaking and orienteering at Coate Water; 2nd Purton Brownies have made and flown kites, been on a treasure hunt around the village, had a fun sports evening and spent an evening at Lydiard Park on countryside related activities; 1st Purton Brownies went pond dipping at Mouldon Hill with a Park Ranger – Lucy catching a stickleback was very exciting!

It's always good for units to get together with others. Purton Guides held a joint meeting with Cricklade Guides for wide games at Lydiard Park, whilst the Brownie units took part in a Division Brownie event on a seaside theme. Around 70 girls from Purton, Minety, Lyneham and Royal Wootton Bassett enjoyed beach games, giant bubble blowing, playing in purple sand, crafts, cocktail making, a scavenger hunt, and lots more besides.

We've been very grateful for community support this month: the Rainbows enjoyed a walk to the Pear Tree Hotel to view the flowers growing in the beautiful gardens there. They played flower bingo and in teams had to locate various flowers growing in the borders; this was followed by team games and refreshments. Special thanks must go to Alix, Anne and Francis Young for making this visit possible. Another thank-you goes to Ben, a coach from Purton Tennis Club for enabling the Rainbows to have a go at playing tennis. 1st Purton Brownies thank Jonathan and Alison at Quarry Farm for allowing them to visit the farm to see the pigs and chickens and watch the cows being milked.

Thanks also go to those who supported 1st Purton Brownies' fundraising evening, when £130.25 was raised for the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. The Brownies were lucky enough to have a visit from a real hedgehog a couple of weeks later, as well as an owl. Both were brought along by Sue Hulbert from the South West Swan Sanctuary. It was a great opportunity to see these creatures up close and as well as learning about hedgehogs and owls the Brownies also discovered what they could do to help protect creatures in the wild and their natural habitats.

Rainbows and their Leaders were out and about in the village with their biscuit-icing stall at the carnival fete. They also talked to parents about opportunities for girls to join Guiding units.

It's hard to have a month without fitting in craft somewhere: Guides made coasters for Fathers' Day using Hama beads and Rainbows also made Fathers' Day gifts. The Guide Wimbledon evening included making Jackson Pollock inspired art using paint and tennis balls – some paint even managed to make it onto the paper!

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

Quiz Sheets For Sale

1st Purton Brownies are selling quiz sheets on the theme of nature to raise money for the RSPB. The sheets are £1 each and available in the butcher's shop as well as from Jane Templar on 771554.