

Purton Magazine



*Sue Budd is retiring as Postmistress in September - see story on page 8
Photo: Martin Blackmore*

September 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.communitigate.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

It must the time of year because change is all around our community. The first obvious sign has been one or two misty mornings with a tide mark of fog seen hanging well below the tree tops when viewed from the top of Hoggs Lane.

In this month's magazine you will find several articles describing changes in our community. Firstly, especially because of the front cover photograph kindly provided by Martin Blackmore, is the confirmation on page 10 that Mrs Budd is retiring as our postmistress. She and her extra-helpful team have been looking after us so well for many years. The new facility will be at Best One opposite the library.

Both our schools start their new year with new Headteachers. While Mr Tucker is on secondment from St Mary's, Naomi Clarke has written about the school on page 32 and on page 46 we learn about Dr Andrew Morrison who has taken over at Bradon Forest. Purton Magazine offers the warmest of welcomes to both principals and we look forward to publishing further news from both schools in the coming months.

We are also very pleased to include some introductory details about Purton Churches' new Youth Worker, Ross Cartwright on page 33. There will be a service to welcome him at Purton Methodist Church on Sunday 1 September at 6 pm.

A possible change that rightly is worrying many people at the moment concerns the future of The Cedars. It is hugely disappointing to learn on page 10 that, at a meeting called by the Parish Council, it seems that the Wiltshire Council representative, James Cawley, was both rude and negative throughout, with several at the meeting being disgusted by his attitude.

A much more positive change is being discussed on page 19 by Dave and Mary Nettleton. Like so many others, they were attracted to Purton by the very active social life of our village which your magazine is always pleased to report. Now they are looking into establishing a community café in the village along with all their other contributions.

The last change to report is on page 9. The new gent's toilets in the Village Hall have been completed although knowing quite how to have an official opening ceremony for the new facilities seems to have been a bit difficult.

In conclusion, readers may consider that change is inevitable except from a parking meter!

50/52

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– see page 30

£300

finances for Wiltshire businesses for incorrectly disposing their waste
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9551

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

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Typeset & Printed by: **In Touch Services**

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by 10th of each month, please

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Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



Business alert – All businesses should have a licence to dispose of their waste. These licences can be obtained from Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council's web site gives details about the licences and how to obtain them: www.wiltshire.gov.uk. The purpose of the licence is to ensure that business waste is being disposed of correctly and not via domestic waste means. Wiltshire Council has just carried out a trial scheme in Royal Wootton Bassett which resulted in fines of £300 to those businesses who did not have a licence. It is now intended to roll this programme out to the rest of the County, so be warned, if you do not have a licence and receive a letter from Wiltshire Council you will be required to pay the fine. It is advisable to contact Wiltshire Council as soon as possible if you do not already have a licence in place.

Flower Beds – you may have noticed our Groundstaff David and Paul have made some new flower beds which have been placed at the entrance to the village at Bentham and on Church Street and which have enhanced these areas. Also the planters at Pavenhill shops have looked particularly grand this season and have been much admired. We thank David and Paul for their work in helping to improve the appearance of the village. We will be looking at other possible sites for planters for next summer.

We would like to remind you that if you have any spare plants that we could plant in the Garden of Remembrance in the cemetery we would be pleased to hear from you. We would like to create a country cottage garden effect if possible.

Hedgehogs - Ecologists based at the University of Reading, are currently conducting a project examining the possible impact of road networks on hedgehog populations. It is estimated that hedgehog populations in some parts of the UK have declined by approximately 20% in the last 20 years, and one possible factor contributing to this decline is the fragmentation effect of major roads on hedgehog populations i.e. hedgehogs avoid crossing these major roads, leading to populations becoming more and more isolated from one another, which potentially makes them more vulnerable to other factors.

For this study, the ecologists are looking to obtain genetic samples from hedgehogs in a zone approximately 10 miles north and south of the M4 between Bristol and Reading. One source of these genetic samples is the bodies of hedgehogs that have been killed on the roads. As many hedgehogs now seem to be living in and around villages, they are hoping to enlist the help of people living in this study zone by getting them to report any sightings they have of dead hedgehogs so that they can collect the remains and take a small tissue sample for their analyses.

The Parish Council has been asked if we would broadcast this request to people living in and around Purton. To report any sightings, please get in touch via this email: hedgehogs@reading.ac.uk. If you would like any more information please do not hesitate to contact Ben on b.williams@pgr.reading.ac.uk.

Churchyard Wall, Church End – a recent surveyor's report on the condition of the wall has revealed that some maintenance work is required. This will be done as soon

as the funds are available. Given the narrowness of the road, we are giving out this notice as a pre-warning to drivers to be carefully when using the road as it will be necessary for the contractors to work in the road hence narrowing it further. This work is necessary and will be done in the shortest time possible. We ask that drivers are patient and take extra care whilst the work is carried out. Thank you in anticipation.

Parish Plan and Neighbourhood Plan – the Parish Plan is now nearing completion and will soon be available for people to view and comment on. Having seen the seventh draft it looks like an impressive document with a lot of interesting and useful information in it. Thanks must go all of those who have contributed to the plan, it has not been an easy process and there have been frustrations along the way, but the end result looks as though it was well worthwhile.

The Neighbourhood Plan is still work in progress and some way off completion. We do need some more input from local residents, and a dedicated web site has been set up so that you can make your views known, visit www.new-v.co.uk or you can contact Mark Goodman of Common Places who is overseeing the project and whose email address is mark@commonplaces.co.uk. The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Ray Thomas, chairs the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Geoff Tappern, who has been the Chairman of the Parish Plan group, attends the Steering Group meetings. If you would like more information on the process then please contact the Parish Council Office.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a different document to the Parish Plan although they do cover some of the same areas. The Neighbourhood Plan is about planning and land use. If adopted it will be a very important document and Planning Officers and Planning Inspectors will use it when making decision about future planning applications so please have your say now, it is no good complaining after the event, now is the time to get involved.

The more responses to this survey the more accurate the information. Survey closes end of September. Please complete and ask friends to complete we need as broad a cross-section of the community as possible.

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.

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

News from The Trustees

Purton War Memorial and Village Centre

From previous notes you will know that we have had trouble with vandalism and bad behaviour at the Village Centre. We hope to put a stop to this with various introductions. We have had discussions with representatives of the various users of the Village Centre and the Police and have taken up some of their suggestions. It is a shame we have to resort to this.

- 1 We are going to put two removable posts in at the side of the Red House Club between the Club and the beech hedge that was planted in memory of the late Eric Webber – and a fine hedge it is – so you will not be able to drive from one side of the Red House to the other. There will be ‘No Entry’ signs to that effect so we hope this does not cause the users too much of a problem.
- 2 We are investing in a *Mosquito* security device. This will be on a timer in the groundsman’s workshop. We have to be careful so that it does not interfere with the junior users of the Centre.
- 3 A suggested time restriction as to when you can park so that the Police will be able to move on cars etc. that have no right to be there. These times will be on display.
- 4 Security lighting on the changing rooms, the Millennium Hall and the tennis pavilion which should deter people from hanging around.
- 5 Anti-climb paint to go on a buttress behind the Millennium Hall to prevent youths climbing up it onto the roof of the Hall.

I must say the football pitch and bowling green look in good condition. It is a credit to all who look after them. Our best wishes go to the Football Club for an enjoyable and successful season.

The Village Hall Complex

The good news is that the toilets are finished. Because of regulations, the pans are not in the centre of the cubicles – if they had been nobody would have been able to get in or out of the toilets. Could I thank all the kind people and organisations for their support, especially Hills who were our greatest subscriber through Landfill Tax, so very many thanks to you all.

We are having problems with the windows we are repairing at the Institute. We wanted to replace them with new but identical wooden ones but the Listed Planning Officer at Trowbridge said no – we had to repair the old ones. When the work started there was more rot in the windows than was first thought and more rotten wood had to be replaced with pieces of timber, which is a very fiddly job and has to be done on a scaffold. This meant extra expense and having the scaffolding longer. It is alright for people like the planning officer to make you do things like this without any logical reason but they don’t think about the cost and the fact that the wood that hasn’t been replaced will need to be replaced in the future.

By the way, we are not having an official opening of the gents’ toilets as we did not quite know how to do it!

TONY PRICE, Chair of Trustees

Purton & District Age Concern



We are pleased to still be having a Post Office after Mrs Budd retires. [See cover picture. Ed.] I am sure everyone would like me to thank Mrs Budd and her staff for the excellent service they have given us over the years. It could not have been easy for them – their patience, understanding and advice has been greatly appreciated. It is a long time since it was Dickie New's shoe shop and he used to do the repairs in a building out the back. When the building became a Post Office this is where they used to sort the mail in days gone by before this was moved to Swindon. I know we used to take our leather footballs to Dickie New's to be stitched up – it was usually twopence or else 'Be a bit more careful' with no charge, which was usually the case. Sorry my mind does wander. We all wish Mrs Budd a happy and enjoyable retirement and thank Best One for taking over the Post Office business. I am sure they will give us excellent service.

In Age Concern we are very worried about our elderly crossing the road to get to the Post Office. You have got drivers coming down Church Street who do not stop at the halt sign, then there is the speed of traffic coming up and going down Station Road as a recent survey showed. The plan was to move the present post box to outside Best One but we feel it would be better across the road on the Institute and Library side. If you have to go into the Post Office to have your letter weighed or to buy a stamp for it you will be able to hand anything for posting over the counter so it wouldn't matter that the Post Box wasn't outside. We are in the process of asking Wilts Council to consider a twenty-mile-an-hour speed limit through the village and traffic calming measures to make the area safer.

Several of our committee attended the meeting the Parish Council had called regarding The Cedars which was attended by James Cawley from Wilts Council. From what I can gather most of those that attended the meeting were disgusted by his attitude and the replies he gave to the questions he was asked. Tolerance, patience and politeness is the least we can expect from someone in his position and he was quite rude at times; also the answers he gave were very negative. However, we fought for The Cedars before and we will do the same again.

We have had one or two responses to our appeal for minibus personnel. Special thanks here to Hazel Woodbridge for her piece – it has stirred interest in some ladies already – the request applies to them as well as to men. I was talking to Peg Matthews the other day – she used to be 'shotgun' to my brother Godfrey and she said what a lot of pleasure the job gave her so PLEASE HAVE A THINK ABOUT HELPING – and give Maurice a ring on 770338 or myself on 770696. THANK YOU.

Another area where they could do with more customers – but this is to enjoy a service provided for you – is the Luncheon Club held in the Silver Threads Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can be picked up by the minibus and the cost is £3.50 for a home cooked two course lunch, plus tea or coffee. Contact Pat Suddaby on 771331 if you are interested. I had a nice surprise today – I saw Della Kelly – it was only the second time she has been out since January so I would imagine she will soon be back enjoying her meals at the Luncheon Club. She was with Dennis – a man who amazes me as he is always so happy and cheerful.

Another area where numbers have declined a bit is the T'ai Chi classes. These are held on Thursday afternoons in the Millennium Hall from 2 to 3 pm. and they start up again in September. You can go along and have the first lesson free to see if you would like it before committing yourself then, after that, it is £3 a lesson. If you would like more details ring Mick Hull on 772453 or Alan and Rita Webb on 770453. It is very gentle exercise which is very beneficial.

We have our usual Jumble Sale on Saturday 7 September at 2 pm in the Village Hall. Jumble can be left between 12 noon and 1 pm – anything you have for us would be greatly appreciated.

On the Wednesday before that (4 September) we have a mystery tour with tea provided, cost £13 or £14.50 for outsiders. There might some room so, if you are interested, give me a ring on 770696. After that we have our last outing of the season which is a mystery tour with a 10 am start and lunch provided. The cost is the same – £13 and £14.50 for outsiders. Names and money to your street wardens by Wednesday 21 September. If any of you have any ideas for trips next year, let your street wardens know.

This is very short notice but Khalique, the owner of *The Maharajah* restaurant, has very kindly offered his premises for an English afternoon tea again – I'm sure some of you reading this enjoyed the event last year. It is going to be held on August Bank Holiday Monday (26th) from 12 noon to 4 pm. The proceeds, as before, will be shared between Purton Age Concern and the Special Needs Hostel, Udaipur. Professor R.K. Garg, PhD, a volunteer worker for the charity will be present – he is the father of Khalique's friend Ashish, and the date has been chosen so that the Professor can attend. With last year's proceeds he organised the purchase of a special wheelchair at the Hostel. Tina Grant, her daughter Ann and Wendy Johnson are supplying the cakes and refreshments and, if they are anything like last year, we shall all be in for a treat. I was quite reluctant to go last year as I don't even like the smell of curry, although Sheila loves it and enjoys going to *The Maharajah*, but I needn't have worried. It was just like having tea at a Mayfair restaurant, beautiful surroundings and bone china cups and saucers, and so many lovely cakes that I didn't need to eat for the rest of the day. If you get the Magazine in time to read this, do come and join in the fun and many thanks to all concerned, especially Khalique, for putting this on. There is no charge but a donation towards the charities would be appreciated.

We will be getting into autumn shortly and that is when we will be holding our Antiques and Collectables Fayre at the Village Hall on Sunday 20 October, 10.30 am to 4 pm. This is, as always, being organised by Jenny Barnes. We have our own stall and would be very grateful for any contributions – have a look, I am sure you might find something old you no longer require – no, you are not putting me in, I wouldn't sell! For any further information or if you would like to have a stall yourself, give Jenny a ring on 770339.

TONY PRICE

Something to Think About

That government is best which governs the least, because its people discipline themselves.

Thomas Jefferson

Keith Mobey

We have lost a true friend in Keith Mobey. Some of you would not have known him, some of you may have known of him but others would know him through his nature, helpful and kind – the type of person if he could not do you a good turn, he certainly would not do you a bad one. Keith had close connection with Purton all through his life with people who came to live in Purton or people who left Purton although he didn't come here to live until his retirement.

He was born in Pinehurst – was that around the Circle area I wonder because Keith used to do deliveries for Haskins the grocer in that area. As children did – and still do I hope – all played together and guess what – one of those children was Josie Young née Haskins, the grocer's daughter. Also the Revd Brian Fessey's and Ann Gladwyn's (née Fessey) father used to take Keith fishing. Would that have been at Plummers' Pit I ask myself? Keith went to school in Pinehurst then passed the eleven plus to go to Headlands where he achieved good results and from there he joined the RAF. We used to call people who joined the Army 'Boy Soldiers' when they were young but I don't know the term for young RAF personnel. They used to serve a time of training the same as an apprenticeship, you had to pass exams to get in and at the end you would have a passing out parade. Previously, as I said, Keith did well at school – he must have done as he trained as a radar technician and later became an instructor at Yatesbury. He left after eight years and went to work at Vickers Armstrong at South Marston as a technician. Vickers then split into several different divisions and Keith went with the medical department that later became Radiation Dynamics then known as Viritech. After some time he left there to set up his own business in Wootton Bassett – (it wasn't Royal then). This business was called In Touch Services Desk Top Publishing and, when Keith retired, his assistant Lois took over and later sold it to Rick Dixon. Yes, that is where our own In Touch Services originated from. We are lucky to have such a valuable service as this in the village.

In between all this he married June Webb, a Rodbourne girl, whose father was Cllr. Mervyn Webb and a former Mayor of Swindon. This wedding took place in St Mark's Church, which was known as the Railway Church by the Park. This was quite a natural thing because Mervyn Webb worked in the 'A' Shop and I know my uncle Jim used to furnish them with work, shunting it in and out of the 'A' shop with his engine. The big turntable is still there by the Pattern Store that used to be our canteen and he also used to give me a ride on his engine to the canteen when I was doing my apprenticeship. Sorry, I'm getting carried away remembering the happy days I had in the Railway Works.

Keith and June met on a train, which is quite appropriate in view of June's railway connections. Was she on a free pass or a privilege ticket I wonder? Keith was on a train from London Paddington which stopped at Reading where June got on. She helped him with the crossword and 5 across – four letters – was 'love' and this was certainly love at first sight alright. They got chatting – was their first date the theatre in the old Mechanics building (railway connections again)? They found they had a lot in common and I know they both loved the theatre and it was the Mechanics where they went, especially dancing in the ballroom. What a marvellous

institution that building was! After a fortnight Keith wanted to get married and they did get married in 1954. The Majestic was another favourite place of theirs but the only snag was that Keith played football for Pinehurst and June didn't know what time he was going to turn up, but he was certainly worth waiting for. He had a BSA Bantam motorcycle of which he was very proud.

Something else Keith was more proud of than anything, apart from June, were his two daughters, Sara and Rachel and their children. When Keith and June first got married they had rented rooms. Then they sold everything they could lay their hands on and bought a house in Broadway, Rodbourne Cheney, where I believe both children were born. They lived there for twenty-one years, finding plenty to do with a quarter acre of garden. They were in good company there as that is where John Scott lived when he left The Pry. For those who do not know, John was the main person who did the negotiations for buying the Purton War Memorial and Village Centre for the village. Keith and June then moved to a Bradley house in Haydon Wick and Sara, their daughter, got married and lived in Purton. After visiting here for four years they liked it and decided to move here, something they never regretted.

Keith was a much-travelled man – in fact you could say that he had travelled the world. He loved aeroplanes so it was right up his street when he worked at Vickers where he became friends with Geoffrey Quill who was the chief test pilot on Spitfires. I know that if Keith had some people he wanted to impress he would always make a point of taking them to Geoffrey for a chat. Keith was a creative person – I know that because, before he was poorly, he helped at the Cenotaph and he would always be looking at ways to make the job easier. One such thing was being able to water automatically, something he started just before he became too poorly to help us. He nearly had it right – at least now we can turn the tap on through the pipework. We can water the middle and are hoping to extend it further with the equipment he gave us.

Keith loved watching sport on the TV, also Spring Watch and Countryfile. He also enjoyed taking part in 'Swap Shop'. He swapped all sorts of things like some radio equipment for some wigs. I expect he had something up his sleeve for them. What about the time he swapped some blankets for a small boat at Lechlade. It had a hole in it but that didn't worry Keith. He got out his favourite DIY asset – duck tape. In fact there was some talk that he had a degree in duck tape. Whether he did or not he certainly knew how to get the best out of it. He fitted some car seats in the boat plus a little motor and off they went up the Thames.

With Keith nothing was impossible – when he joined the committee of our open gardens weekend 'Let's get on television' he said. We all had our doubts but he said 'I will sort it out' and true to his word he did and the TV people came and gave us a lot of publicity. Keith made many interesting features for his garden with metal and wood. You never knew what you were going to see when you walked round his and June's beautiful garden. As I have said, Keith was a great DIY man but never very safety conscious, like the time he was fitting a new trap door and cut through the joist the ladder was against. He landed up on the floor but fortunately unhurt.

There is another little story I would like to tell you. When they lived at Broadway, the man next door was Nelson Harvey. He would bring his tin bath into the yard which Keith and June's house overlooked and he would shout out 'Don't look,

Mrs Mobey, I be going to have a bath' so June used to draw the curtains. Another of Mr Harvey's habits was emptying his chamber pot onto his rhubarb every morning. Then he would ask June if she would like some rhubarb. (I can understand why June doesn't like rhubarb.)

When June and Keith got married they didn't have a very good start to married life. On arriving at the hotel in Newquay, all covered in confetti, the hotel were quite embarrassed because they had allocated June and Keith a room with single beds. This was soon put right but, when they were having their evening meal it was their turn to feel embarrassed as all the guests knew what all the commotion had been about and kept giving them meaningful glances.

Keith was creative, a perfectionist, kind and helpful and we thank him for what he contributed to Purton to make it a lovely place to live. He moved here fourteen years ago and became part of us. Our thoughts and prayers are with June, Sara, Rachel and their families and friends. We thank them for money in lieu of flowers coming to Purton Age Concern.

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.

Purton Medical Practice Seasonal Flu Clinics

Purton Surgery will be commencing their seasonal flu clinics at the end of September and would initially like to invite the following people to call the surgery on 770207 (752633 for Green Gable branch surgery) to make an appointment

- Anyone over 65 years of age
- In receipt of a Carers Allowance
- Pregnant Ladies
- Healthy 2- and 3-year-olds (subject to confirmation by the Department of Health)
- Anyone aged from 6 months to 64 years who have one or more of the following:
 - Diabetes
 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
 - Chronic Heart Disease
 - Chronic Renal failure
 - Have undergone a splenectomy
 - Severe Asthma resulting in recent hospitalisation or taking inhaled steroids on an ongoing basis (i.e. not seasonal)

****NEW THIS YEAR**** To minimise disruption to our other services, flu vaccination clinics will be limited to the following dates only:

- Purton Medical Practice: Tuesday 8 October, Tuesday 22 October, Saturday 19 October and Saturday 2 November.
- Green Gable (Branch surgery): Thursday 17 October, Thursday 31 October.

We intend to virtually complete our vaccination programme by the end of October. Please ring to make an appointment in one of these clinics from 4 September onwards. Please note that patients who are given an appointment who do not fulfil NHS criteria will be turned away as we are unable to give this vaccine privately.

Community Café for Purton?

One of the things that attracted us to set up home in Purton 8 years ago was the very active social life of the village. However, one thing the village lacks is a café and we have decided to explore the possibility of establishing a community café in the village. Not necessarily a new idea but one that excites us. For this to be a success we need a number of things: customers who want to use it regularly, dedicated volunteers who want to run it, a suitable building in the right position and the start-up funds and skills to equip and run it.

We have started talking to a few people about this idea but before we go any further we need to assess the level of support for such an endeavour in the village. Over the next couple of months we will circulate a questionnaire to collect your views and ideas but in the meantime if you want to make an input, please email us at david.nettleton@hotmail.co.uk.

Our next step will be to form a small team of volunteers from the village who are interested enough to commit a significant amount of time to such a project. People, for example, who would be prepared to manage the café for a particular day each week supported by a band of volunteers they would recruit, and people with the key skills to run a successful café, for example catering management, accounts, etc. If this interests you then please email us at the above address with your phone number and we will be in touch.

We know that some in the village think that the empty shop, formerly Hyde & Seek, next to Best One would make a good café. Clearly this is an option and we have discussed it with Siva at Best One. However, we need to see how the move of the Post Office to the shop works out first. In the meantime we will continue to keep our eyes and ears open for other possible sites in the village.

We have discussed our ideas with our local councillor Jacqui Lay and she encouraged us to speak to Penny Bell at Wiltshire Council. Penny was very helpful and is optimistic that we would be successful in grant applications to support the start-up costs with matching funding that could be worth tens of thousands of pounds. We have also approached Purton Parish Council about the project.

As part of our research for the project we visited someone who started up and continues to be involved with the successful Community Craft and Tearooms in Pewsey; a venture that has just celebrated its 20th anniversary. We were given some valuable advice and an offer of more advice should we need it. In Pewsey the tearooms are also used to display and sell local crafts and artwork. This is something we would also like to consider for a Purton community café if there are volunteers to oversee it.

DAVE & MARY NETTLETON

Please Come for Coffee

Where: LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH HALL

When: Friday 27 September 10 am - 12 noon

Why: So everyone facing cancer can have a Macmillan team supporting them.

Do come and join us. We look forward to seeing you.

VILMA MUNRO 771259



Transforming Purton Parish - Our Health

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 key messages and options have been published concerning transport, waste, water, food and energy. This extract is about health. Interest in health has been growing steadily in recent years (several *Ps and Qs* magazine articles during the last ten years).

The parish is well-served by its own surgery and referrals are made as required to Swindon's Great Western Hospital, Wroughton's Ridgeway Hospital or elsewhere (the out-of-hours service, for instance, refers to Chippenham or Marlborough, rather than to more local hospitals). Attending these hospitals is problematic if one does not have a car or is too unwell to drive. None has access via direct public transport route, and requires at least one bus change if travelling from the parish. Some transport services are available: *Swindon Dial a Ride*¹, *Connect 2* and the *Purton and District Age Concern* mini bus.

As well as the doctors' surgery, there are two dental surgeries and a pharmacy in the parish. In addition there are various private practices for chiropractic, homeopathy, allergy testing and physiotherapy. There is a good provision for elderly residents at the privately-run Norbury Court (flats and cottages) and various bungalows and houses with 'granny' annexes throughout the parish. There are also various nursing homes: White Lodge, Ashgrove House, Quarrydene and The Cedars (future under discussion).

The general doctor-patient ratio in the UK² is about 2.4 per 1000 of population (well below that of France and Germany). In Purton, definitive figures are difficult to come by as doctors come and go. In general, the population of the parish is registered with the Purton surgery. The total on the surgery list is of the order 9500³ which covers a catchment much greater than the parish itself. On the basis of the UK requirement it would suggest that the catchment should have nearly 23 doctors. At the end of last year, we had five full-time doctors and one locum doctor, with possibly another to be appointed. In addition, there were two training GPs allocated (though this changes every six months). Of the catchment list of 9500+, the parish accounts for 3999⁴ (Purton: 3788 and Purton Stoke: 211).

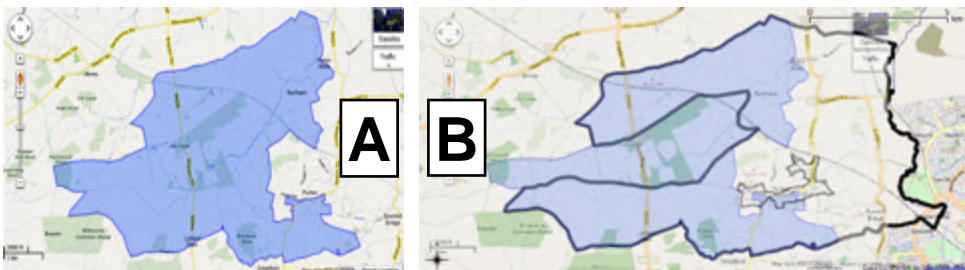
During the years, the surgery has expanded its capacity to meet the growing population, though 20% of patients answering a Surgery Questionnaire still find **obtaining an appointment for the time they wanted "not very easy"**.

A couple of years ago, a study was undertaken by the South West Public Health Observatory⁵. This study concerned the incidence of cancer around the landfill site at Mopes Lane. Despite 82 cases being diagnosed between 2003 and 2007, the study concluded that the incidence of cancer in the area around the landfill site was not significantly different from elsewhere in the south west, or in England.

There have been incidents in the past with the landfill which have caused health concerns to local people. In particular in September 2004 a TCP-like odour was released from the existing site. The waste had been taken by the contractor to two other landfills (and been refused) before coming to Purton. The loads met the

relevant waste acceptance criteria though when tipped the odour became apparent. A second odour release occurred a few days after the first one. This incident caused physical problems to a small group of nearby residents. The incident was dealt with quickly and later investigated by the Environment Agency and measures put in place to ensure a quicker response should another incident occur.

There has been some health and lifestyle profiling done in North Wiltshire in 2008⁶ but again this did not dis-aggregate the findings to any useable extent. Some limited trend information is available for the “neighbourhood” which for health is *North Wiltshire 003 C* (see map below). This is not particularly helpful since much of the “neighbourhood” lies outside the parish and even only part of the “built-up” area of Purton is included.



Map A: The “Neighbourhood” for health statistics

Map B: The “health” Neighbourhood within a superimposed parish and settlement framework boundary

The “health” neighbourhood covers half of the parish (approximately a third lies outside the parish) and covers less than half of the settlement framework boundary (where most patients reside).

The statistics that are available⁷ include:

- Life expectancy at birth (2007-2009)
- Infant mortality (2007-2009)
- Children’s health (2007-2009)
- General health (from the 2001 Census)
- Long term illness (from the 2001 Census)
- Providing unpaid care to family, friends
- or neighbours with long-term physical or mental health problems (from the 2001 Census)
- People claiming health-related benefits (2010)
- Adults accessing NHS specialist mental health services (2009–2010)

Unfortunately, with little real trend information on those living within the parish it is difficult to see which health issues will need addressing in the future.

In 2011 Wiltshire Council and its partners compiled a Joint Strategic Assessment⁸ covering the community area of Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade. One aspect covered by the Strategy was the health of the community area. Various community area statistics are available such as:

- Average age (men and women)
- Main causes of death (cardiovascular disease and cancer)
- Alcohol-related admissions to hospital
- Obesity in children
- Falls in older people
- Premature mortality
- Unintentional or deliberate injuries

Again, these data sets are not readily disaggregated by parish and, in terms of considering how to make the parish more resilient in terms of its health, are fairly limiting. Having said that, we are inundated with general information on how to live a healthier lifestyle. It is pretty basic stuff: lots of exercising, sensible eating and drinking, no smoking – seems fairly obvious.

The data for the “health” neighbourhood and the Joint Strategic Assessment need to be disaggregated and then normalised for the parish so true trends and indications could be identified. With the latest census figures⁹ indicating a national trend that we are all living longer, provision needs to be made for this in the parish. Already there are charities that assist the older generation; *Purton and District Age Concern*, *Helping Hand*, *Luncheon Club*, and the more recently-established *Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund* (though the latter is not restricted to the older generation). *Purton and District Age Concern* has a street warden living on or near most roads in the parish. It also operates a minibus service to take elderly and disabled residents to local towns, and events within the village.

Looking to the future, it is clear that the need for day care provision within the parish is not likely to diminish. Whether or not this is continued to be provided within the parish or based on one of the two market towns (Royal Wootton Bassett or Cricklade) has to be decided. This requires serious thought and should not just be based on short term budgetary considerations, since this could lock-in costs for the future. Currently, *The Cedars* is known to be at risk of closing since it does not comply with latest legislation (need for *en suite* bathrooms or sufficiently-sized bedrooms).

If this does happen and current and future residents accommodated outside the parish then there is an obvious risk of feeling isolated, not only from friends and families (more difficult to visit) but also from the parish.

The *Quality and Outcomes Framework*¹⁰ is a national voluntary annual reward and incentive programme for all GP surgeries in England and is part of the GP contract. The Framework’s *Clinical Disease Registers* can be used to calculate disease prevalence estimates (either based on the total population or specific age groups). For instance, using the statistics for April 2009 - March 2010, Purton surgery had 9551 on its patient register of whom:

Coronary Heart Disease	319	Dementia	38
Stroke	183	Depression	506
Diabetes	405	Kidney Disease	190
Asthma	502	Obesity	583

For some of the above, the surgery offers a number of additional health facilities, such as clinics for chronic diseases such as asthma and diabetes and a wide variety of other medical services including antenatal and postnatal care, minor surgery, childhood vaccinations and well-person check-ups.

About 750,000 people in the UK have dementia¹¹ – and this number is expected to double during the next thirty years¹². Early recognition of dementia can prolong the quality of life. The Framework indicates that currently in the Community Area there are around 146 known cases with 38 in the catchment of the Purton Surgery (so, not necessarily in the parish). It is reckoned in certain age groups (70-79 and

80+) that there is under-reporting and that the locally-diagnosed cases are likely to be more. Wiltshire Council is in the process of creating a DVD on memory loss which has potential to be used as a training aid for the general public and service providers in understanding the issues. Similar projects on stroke survivors and living with learning difficulties and autism have already been done in the county.

Although it is known that there is a number of young people, now maturing to adulthood, within the parish who have special educational needs (SEN) the precise figures appear to be unknown. Since it is not the case that there are automatic reciprocal SEN arrangements between the two local authorities (Swindon and Wiltshire) this needs to be addressed for the longer term.

Living in the parish would seem to offer a healthy lifestyle with opportunities for rural walks and participation in a variety of different sports. Even so, regular preventative care is important. However, if one does not fall into some obvious categories e.g. asthma sufferers, pregnancy, or of a certain age (men in particular) it may be more difficult to obtain basic check-ups.

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

- Statistics that mean something on a parish population basis in order to plan more openly for the normalised health profile of the parish
- Integrated Study for Day Care Provision

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)

¹ www.wiltshirecommunitytransport.org.uk/districts/north-wilts/north-wilts-minibus.html

² www.bmj.com/content/336/7640/353.2

³ Using statistics from April 2009 - March 2010 of the Quality and Outcomes Framework

⁴ As of 17 December 2012

⁵ www.swpho.nhs.uk

⁶ www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CC4Qfjaa&url=http%3A%2F%2F

www.apho.org.uk%2Fresource%2Fview.aspx%3FRID%3D52508&ei=Xhy-UP3zGpO0QW4toHwCw&usq=AFQjCNGkHhd893m2n9Q2cyy3kThAK7MZww

⁷ Source: Office for National Statistics; Dept. for Work and Pensions; NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre

⁸ www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk/joint-strategic-assessment/

⁹ www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html

¹⁰ www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework

¹¹ Dementia is not a single illness but a group of symptoms caused by damage to the brain. The symptoms include loss of memory, mood changes and confusion. The most common form is Alzheimer's disease.

¹² www.dh.gov.uk/health/category/policy-areas/social-care/dementia/

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, the Hannick Homes plans for developing the land behind Jewel's Ash and the Persimmons interests in land off Restrop 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.

RICHARD PAGETT (secure@richardpagett.com)

Parish Plan Update

Following a significant amount of effort from members of the Parish Plan Steering Group, a draft copy of the completed Parish Plan will soon be available to view in the Parish Council offices and in the Library, also it will be published on the Purton Parish website at www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Parish-Plan.aspx

Some maps, in the printed version, will be better viewed on line, where you will be able to enlarge them to see greater detail.

We Record ...

Baptism

14 July 14 Holly Grace Bryant at St Mary's Church

Wedding

20 July Charles Alfred Hambidge & Nicola Jane Mason
 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 ...



Guide Dogs for the Blind

The Cricklade Band will be giving a Concert in aid of Guide Dogs, in Purton Village Hall on Thursday 26 September, starting at 7.30 pm. It promises to be an evening not to be missed, as there will be a section performed by their Academy, so come along and be entertained with a wide variety of music performed with quality. There will be light refreshments in the interval, tea, coffee, squash, biscuits etc. We will have our usual stall and raffle – tickets will be £6 and can be booked by ringing me on 770961 or you can pay on the door.

Many thanks for everybody's continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2013

26 October to 9 November

Can you help with this year's Poppy Appeal? Extra help is always needed both with the house-to-house collections in the village, and also with the collections held at the West Swindon shopping centre on the Thursday and Friday of each week.

Please contact Mrs Joyce Berry or Mrs Shirley Lawrence on 01793 771084. We will be very pleased to hear from you.



Crafty Flower-making Day

If you enjoy learning new craft skills please do book Saturday 19 October into your diary. Come to the Methodist Church Hall from 10 am onwards.

There will be opportunities to learn all sorts of crafts, working on the theme of 'flowers'. Skills on offer hopefully will include: barge-art painting; clay work; felt flowers; water colour painting; paper folding and many more. Why not make a baby announcement card, surrounded with flowers. There will be people to guide and help you develop your skills.

Suggested ages are from 8 years to 98 years and more!

The idea is that you pay for the craft you want to learn ... maybe £2 - £5 per craft, depending on the materials you use. All profits will go to Christian Aid.

The event is from 10 am - 3 pm and you can stay as long as you want to try out as many skills as you can fit into the time you have. A ploughman's style lunch will be available to buy.

For more details and to book a place please contact [Libbie](#).

Riff's Bar

Riff's Bar, near Hook, has been the local go-to live music venue for over a decade. As the judges for *The Publican Awards* say; "passion and dedication mixed with creativity has seen Riff's thrive." Always about the community, local bands have graced the stage in all ages and all genre.

Yet now comes a new dawn where the range of events is no longer limited to music. Riff's are re-opening their doors as a Centre for the Arts and they need you to get involved.

How? Well now you can hire this rural venue for any occasion you fancy. Capable of holding 160 standing people, the family-friendly room is perfect for anything from children's parties; arts classes; coffee mornings or performances to wedding receptions and conferences. There is a fully furnished kitchen, an outside decking area and an additional second function room.

If you would like to hire Riff's please call Holly on 07828 413172 or Riff's Centre for the Arts on 01793 778304.

HOLLY FEENEY

Wise Words

Life is what happens while you are making other plans.

John Lennon

After 8

The After 8 social was held on a perfect evening in July – calm, warm and cloudless – and thank you to Helen for the venue – her lovely garden.

A great variety of delicious food was provided by members and, with conversation ranging from Purton Carnival to the justice system, and from holidays to specs. It was all very enjoyable.



BARBARA GOSDEN

The next meeting will be “Getting to know you” - Led by Diana at Cathy's at 8 pm on Tuesday 10 September. [Contact Avril](#) for further details.

Mothers' Union

Last month we printed a piece reporting the festival service to mark the closure of the Purton Mothers' Union. We misattributed the article which was given to us by Vivien Lawrence, the Acting Enrolling Member.

For those that might be puzzled, Vivien told us that the Enrolling Member is the equivalent of the President in other societies.

Every Girl Deserves a Pretty Dress!

Readers may remember that a couple of months ago I promised to make 24 “pillowcase” dresses for a charity that sends them to girls in need in Uganda, Rwanda, Haiti and India.

Several people saw the article and kindly donated pillowcases and trimmings and my commitment to the project is now complete. Thanks so much to the magazine and those who donated materials. The photograph shows just 3 of the finished dresses.

If you would like to help the project please contact Louise Horler. louisehorler@blueyonder.co.uk

Many thanks,

LYNDA WARREN



Review of Bus Services in North West Wiltshire

Service 50 (Cricklade – Cirencester via Ashton Keynes and Minety)

Service 52 (Ashton Keynes / Minety - Swindon)

Summary of proposed change

To combine the two services into a single route 50 (Swindon – Cirencester via Wootton Bassett, Hook, Purton, Cricklade, Leigh, Minety and Ashton Keynes) offering four journeys in each direction between Cirencester and Cricklade, two of which run to / from Swindon.

A consultation on the proposal is under way and will close on 7 October 2013. Details of other services and of the consultation can be found on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/consultations.htm) or are available from the Passenger Transport Unit, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN.

A photocopy free can be obtained in person, courtesy of In Touch Services.

On such a very hot summer evening as it was on 17 July, I wondered if we would have any audience at all! But no need to fear – huffing and puffing we might have been, but nobody wanted to miss this talk, and an additional half-a-dozen visitors from Lydiard Millicent added to the friendly atmosphere of the evening. Perhaps this is the right moment to say how good it was of those members who looked after the refreshments and the washing-up and the many other activities that are needed to make for a successful, comfortable evening – they must have been exhausted in the unrelenting heat.

The speaker was Di Greenaway, a former resident of Lydiard Millicent, whose talk (An Olympic Games Maker at Wimbledon) was a fine example of how it should be done, and without a microphone! The months of preparation in which all the Olympic volunteers were involved was quite amazing and the security arrangements were first class. The uniform was probably the right temperature for that series of Olympic events, but Di was a great girl to wear it for us on this extremely hot evening. The slides were so clear – even of Di catching the ball at one dramatic moment on court! We had the pleasure of handling some of her souvenirs, and admired the design of the issue “handbags”.

After many questions the speaker was allowed to go home to Bath – with a cheque that, like many others, goes to a charity (with this talk, Di has raised some £600 so far this year) and we tackled a Sports Quiz. This was accompanied by strawberries and cream, to keep up the Wimbledon atmosphere! We must admire and thank the Committee for thinking of these lovely ideas, and acting upon them, yes?

We chuckled over the items handed in for the competition (Old Sports Gear) and oh! the size – or lack of – tennis shorts worn by members many years ago, such tiny waists – personally, I fell for the frilly knickers but their owner wouldn't part and they honestly were not my size, probably never were ...

That was a jolly occasion, and followed on Saturday 20 August by a cream tea together at *The Pear Tree*. Fortunately the weather was kind and we were able to sit outside in the garden, with a great tea followed by a stroll round the new vineyard. If this develops the way it is intended, we shall have a new interest locally – no, not the hard work of producing the wine but a winter of enjoying the product. I have been to so many wine-tastings that I ought to know by now what it is all about but sadly, no, so I should be delighted to join fellow-members in the delicate art, trying to look knowledgeable but in truth just enjoying every drop!

The subject of our meeting of 18 September will be of an entirely different tempo from the last one on Pirates – it is Batsford Arboretum throughout the year, with Sue Burn. The competition is “A photograph of trees” and the social time is entitled “Bring leaves to life”. I visualize this as a calm evening, full of autumn beauty, with a happy President and Committee being able to relax and enjoy it too. Please don't forget to look for a suitable photograph for the competition and then the Hall will look absolutely lovely.

CONSTANCE REED (771 571)

PS: See the article on page 35 for information regarding the WI Food Festival in November.

North Wilts Trefoil Guild

Were you ever a Brownie, Guide or Ranger, or maybe a parent or friend who supported your local group?

This year the Trefoil Guild celebrates its 70th year, yet so many know little about this branch of Girl Guiding.

We have a local group covering the Cricklade and Royal Wootton Bassett area, with members also in Purton and Lydiard Millicent.

During the winter months we meet at the Civic Centre, Royal Wootton Bassett (free parking) on the 1st Monday of the month at 1.45 pm, and we usually have a speaker. From April to October we endeavour to meet outside, visiting numerous places of interest. In the past year or two we have been to the Houses of Parliament and the Garter Ceremony at Windsor. This year there will be a trip to Buckingham Palace to see the Queen's Coronation exhibition. We've cooked sausages at the Elcombe camp site, played croquet, visited Avebury Manor with posh tea. For our service to others we made nine dozen cup cakes with a seaside theme for Brownie Fun Day. We support the Maud Heath Guiding Centre, a beautiful old school at East Tytherton; this place is superb for all the girls activities. Later in the year we meet our friends from Berwick St James, south Wiltshire, for a day of fun, food and relaxation.

If this sounds interesting to you please contact Pauline Hall, telephone 770520.

We would love to meet you, there is no age limit, do bring a friend.

BRENDA HANKS, N.W. Trefoil Guild

St Mary's CE Primary School News

It is with great pride that I write to you as the Acting Headteacher of St Mary's CE Primary School whilst Mr Tucker is on secondment. I feel extremely privileged to be part of such a vibrant school and supportive community and I look forward to working with you all this coming year.

Another year has come to a close for St Mary's and this has been a truly fantastic year for our school. The children and staff have united in their desire to achieve some stunning results and have shared a wealth of experiences too; from the Science Dome, to sports coaching, to music concerts and art and drama weeks. We have had great fun and learned along the way!

We are delighted with our most recent Ofsted report which has given us a glowing 'Good', which along with some super results is testament to the dedication of all our staff and children. Well done and thank you everyone.

We will be welcoming new children to our school in September and we are looking forward to sharing all the excitement of starting school with them. We would like to wish those in Year 6 who have left us this year, all the very best as they go on to new schools for the next stage of their education. You have been a credit to our school and your families and I wish you every success for what I am certain will be an exciting future for you all.

We also say goodbye to members of staff who have worked tirelessly for the children of our school over a number of years. Firstly, Miss Dancer, who has been

teaching at St Mary's for the last three years, will be moving to teach in a school in Swindon. Mrs Kinsella who has taught for the last seven years across the whole school leaves to dedicate time to her young family and Mrs Woods, who has given 15 years of teaching to St Mary's moves to take on a promotion in another local school. We wish you all the very best and thank you for the time and energy you have given to the children of Purton. You will be very much missed.

We also say a fond farewell to Mrs Grundy who has taught many of the children from our school over the last 13 years. Mrs Grundy has taken retirement and we wish her every happiness, as she finds new ways to fill her time! We thank you Mrs Grundy on behalf of all those children who you have worked with over the years. You made sure that they had a happy and settled start to their school lives. You will be sorely missed by us all. We wish you well as you enjoy your retirement with your family.

NAOMI CLARKE, Acting Headteacher

New Youth Worker for Purton

A warm welcome to Ross Cartwright who has just moved into the village in order to start as Purton Churches' new youth worker. There is a service to welcome him at Purton Methodist Church on Sunday 1 September at 6 pm.

Ross says the following about himself:

'I was born in Reading, where I lived until we moved to Essex when I was 12. I have been a regular member of Braintree Baptist Church. I got baptised there in 2010 and was married there in January this year. I volunteer with a Youth Drop-in Centre every Friday night, help out at our Quest Club (5 - 10yrs old) and was in charge of our 11-17s group (11 - 17yr olds).

'I like rugby, football, reading and collecting Games Workshop miniatures. I have also been a drummer for 14 years plus, after initially learning drums as part of my interests badge in the Boys Brigade.'

Ross will be continuing the established youth work in both Purton and Wootton Bassett. He can be contacted on 07969 373653 (mobile).



An Invitation from Ridgeway Breast Care Support

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).

Registered Charity No: 1148694



Purton Diary - September 2013

August

31 Sa 2.30pm to 7.30pm: RBL Horticultural Show at Red House (see [p 36](#))

September

1	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	Joint Service at Methodist Church welcoming new Youth Worker
2	M	7.00pm	Purton & Lydiards Charity Fund final AGM, Silver Threads Hall
4	W	10.00am	Bookstart Bear Club at Purton Library (see page 38)
		2.00pm	Age Concern Mystery Tour, tea provided
5	Th	10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
7	Sa	2.00pm	Age Concern Jumble sale at the Village Hall
8	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
9	M	7.30pm	Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome
10	Tu	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
		7.30pm	Purton Yacht Club at The Angel
		8.00pm	After 8: Getting to know you - Led by Diana at Cathy's
11	W	2.30pm	Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill with Lois Nichols - <i>The Filling Station</i>
12	Th	10.30am	Songs of Praise at the Cedars
13	F	9.30am	Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
14	Sa	10.00am	<i>onwards</i> : Helping Hand Open Day at Silver Threads Hall
		10.00am	to 6pm: Purton House Farm Open Day
		6.00pm	to 11pm: Purton House Farm Festival
15	Su	8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.00am	to 6pm: Purton House Farm Festival and Farm Open Day
		10.30am	Harvest Festival Service at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
17	Tu	7.45pm	Royal British Legion at The Red House
18	W	3.30pm	Communion at the Cedars
		7.30pm	Purton Evening WI at Village Hall: Sue Burn - <i>Batsford Arboretum throughout the year</i>
19	Th	7.30pm	Historical Society at St Mary's School Hall: Martin Buckland: A History of World Canals
22	Su		Autumn Equinox
		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
24	Tu 7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Mini-Show
25	W 7.30pm	G4P Alzheimer's evening in Cricklade Town Hall Annex
26	Th 7.30pm	Cricklade Band concert at Village Hall (Guide Dogs Appeal)
27	F 10.00am	to 12noon: Macmillan Coffee Morning at Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall
	3.30pm	Communion at the Cedars
28	Sa 7.30pm	Dodecantus concert at St Barts, Wootton Bassett (see p 28)
29	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

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

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

Moon Phases

● 5 September ● 12 September ○ 19 September ● 27 September

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Just a reminder that I am here to help with information to (hopefully) solve problems and make your life a little easier.

Please call me, Ellen Blacker on 07557 110414 or email me at rwbrickladeqnc@communityfirst.org.uk



Purton Evening WI Food Festival: **Saturday 2 November**

Calling all local businesses who are involved in the production, selling or preparation of food and drink – if you are a farmer, hotel or restaurant owner, caterer, vineyard or linked in any way to the food industry in the local area and would like the opportunity to show off your skills and wares please contact [Helen Dixon](#).



We are holding a Food Festival on Saturday 2 November at the Village Hall from noon until 4 pm. 6ft tables will be available at £10. We shall have something for all the family. More information next month.

PURTON PLACARD

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

The Greenhill Country Garage Sales & Craft/Nic Nac Afternoon

Saturday 14 September 2013
between 12 noon and 4 pm
(SN4 8EH)

Teas & Coffees Available
Face painting for the kids & more
10% on monies taken
will be donated to Prospect Hospice

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

Purton Age Concern
JUMBLE SALE
at the Village Hall
on Saturday 7 September
at 2 pm.

Items for sale
can be left at the hall from
12 noon to 1 pm.
Lots of bargains,
nearly new, bric a brac,
books and much more

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 • vintage cars and machinery
produce auction • fun dog show • Bert the clown
Punch & Judy • animal area • donkey rides
Chippenham Morris dancers • refreshments
hog roast • licenced bar • + much, much more!

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION PURTON BRANCH ANNUAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2013

sponsored by John Toomer Garden and
Pet Centre, Stone Lane, Lydiard Millicent
and Hills Group Ltd.

**AT THE RED HOUSE, PURTON
ON SATURDAY 31 AUGUST**

Open to the public from 2 pm.
Sale of exhibits 7.30 pm.
Further information – 770002 or 770850

Purton and Green Gable Surgery

Group for Patients - G4P



Talk on Dementia: Wednesday 25 September, 7.30 - 9 pm
at Cricklade Town Hall Annex

Speakers:

- Dr Simon Manchip:** Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry & Memory Problems
Heather Wannell: Legal Executive specialising in Wills, Probate and Elderly Client Affairs
Trish Chatterton: from the Alzheimer's Society

Although this is a free event, tickets are required due to limited seating. Please contact Purton Surgery for tickets, tel 01793 770207

Purton Children in Need



Judging by the favourable comments we received, I think it's fair to say our Children in Need Summer Ball was a success. We were a bit concerned about the weather as 40mph gusts had been predicted for the day so we made sure we lashed everything down and, as is usual in cases like this, the wind eased giving way to a very pleasant evening.

On arrival, guests were greeted by the sounds of a live trio, appropriately named Breeze, considering the weather we'd had. Three ladies performing some great laid-back jazz numbers. Cocktails were available at the bar and there was an opportunity to win a prestige prize at the blackjack tables, kindly donated by The Pear Tree,



Then it was into the main marquee – very impressive; supplied by Regency Marquees. There we were served a superb meal by Hospitality Services. This was followed by a comedian, a raffle, an auction, fireworks by Geoff Greenaway and we finished the evening by dancing to the music of Soundbites.

Total profit from the evening came to £1358. As always, we had a lot of help to put on this event so thanks to all those involved. As well as those already mentioned, thank you to Planet Pursuits for the blackjack tables, Speedy Hire Swindon for the lighting in the bar, all those who donated raffle prizes and auction items and to Matt and Lou for the bar and cocktail donation. A special thank-you goes to Ray Chatfield, for donating a superb rocking horse for the auction. Also to Bradon Forest School for the use of their playing field. Of course, we certainly couldn't put on these events without those people who turn up to help in setting everything up and taking it all down afterwards. Thank you all for your help in making it a fantastic night.

TONY RICHARDSON

WHAT'S ON?

Dodecantus

Dodecantus have started rehearsing for their autumn concerts. They will be performing John Rutter's evocative *Requiem*, together with motets by Palestrina and Bruckner. Rutter's *Requiem* was completed in 1985 and includes the much loved soprano solo *Pie Jesu*. The motets include Bruckner's rousing *Christus Factus Est*, his contemplative *Locus Iste* and Palestrina's intricately crafted *Tu Es Petrus*. There are two concerts:



- Friday 27 September in St Mary's church, Kempford
- Saturday 28 September in St Bartholomew's church, Royal Wootton Bassett

Both concerts start at 7.30 pm and tickets will be available on the door (£10 or £8 for concessions)

Bradon Forest Theatre

Pickled Image present: Shop of Little Horrors, 7.30 pm, Friday 18 October. Not Suitable for children under 12. Tickets £7 (£6 Students)

Grimlake's Emporium of Novelties: a dilapidated shop on the outskirts of Nowhere, where corny magic tricks and strange puppets collect dust and cobwebs. No one has entered the shop for years, but that's just fine by proprietor Albert Grimlake.

Albert is a man obsessed with puppets, particularly ventriloquist dummies – each face lovingly crafted by his own hand, and bearing an uncanny resemblance to customers, friends and family long gone.

But Grimlake is growing old and knows he won't last forever. He has no son, no successor. Time is running out to find someone to keep the Emporium open, someone to breathe life into his creations, someone who shares his peculiar passion for puppets ...

Enter Eric. He's young, he's eager, and he's seen all the Muppet movies, twice. He's the perfect applicant: keener than mustard and easily moulded. But Eric discovers there's so much to learn.

How do you scream without moving your lips?

The Shop of Little Horrors is a dark and twisted show with a wicked sense of humour, featuring a macabre collection of characters. Using extraordinary puppets, masks and props, Pickled Image has created a show to rival their sell out international successes, Houdini's Suitcase, Hunger and Late Night Wolf Tales.

Recommended for ages 12 – adult

P.S. This show contains no carnivorous plants.

Tales from Amsterdam & the Lowlands

A series of seven weekly talks organized by the Purton Historical Society

Venue: The Silver Threads Hall, Purton.

Speaker: Mr. P. Booy B.ed Hist. Hons.

Dates and Times: See below

Course Fees: £22 on the night, £20 if booked previously.

Further Information: Inez Gale, 770138

Or Paul Booy 77075

Week (1) Wed. 9 Oct. 7.30 pm

Fighting For Independence / Amsterdam and Independence

Week (2) Wed. 16 Oct. 7.30 pm

Amsterdam and the World / The Church in the Attic

Week (3) Wed. 23 Oct. 7.30 pm

Tulips and Madness / Art and the Golden Age

Week (4) Wed. 6 Nov. 7.30 pm

Rembrandt / Housewives and Hussies

Week (5) Wed. 13 Nov. 7.30 pm

The Golden Age and Science / The Venlo Incident

Week (6) Wed. 20 Nov. 7.30 pm

War 1940-1945 / The Amsterdam of Anne Frank

Week (7) Wed. 27 Nov. 7.30 pm

The Hongerwinter / Amsterdam Today

*Below: Did
tulips really
drive men mad?*



Lydiard Millicent Art Exhibition

Our very popular Lydiard Millicent Art Exhibition has come round again, and we are holding this 3 day event on 18, 19 and 20 October in Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall, opposite the village church, where there will be ample free parking for all. It all kicks off on Friday 18 October, with our preview evening from 6 pm until 9 pm with wine and nibbles and other refreshments, then Saturday will start from 10 am through until 6 pm and Sunday from 10 pm finishing at 5 pm. As well as some amazing original artwork for sale by our local artists, we have art materials and handmade cards for sale and some great displays of art from Lydiard Millicent Primary School as well as the Pre-School. So again all in all an unmissable weekend of great art, and a chance to meet up with friends over a glass of wine or “tea and bickies”.

Hope to see you all there over the 3 days sometime and if you would like any more information please call Tracey Rapson on 01793 770996.

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Your Magazine can be delivered free to your door every month for a £6 annual subscription within our area. Postal deliveries cost £15 per year. You can join our scheme at any time during the year with the price adjusted pro rata.

For further information call [John Creasey](#).

Great War Project

While Germany was unifying and becoming a strong empire, the Ottoman Empire (also at the time called Turkey) was in serious decline after centuries of growth. It had once been one of, if not the leading power before that decline.

Part 2. The Rise & Decline of the Ottoman Empire

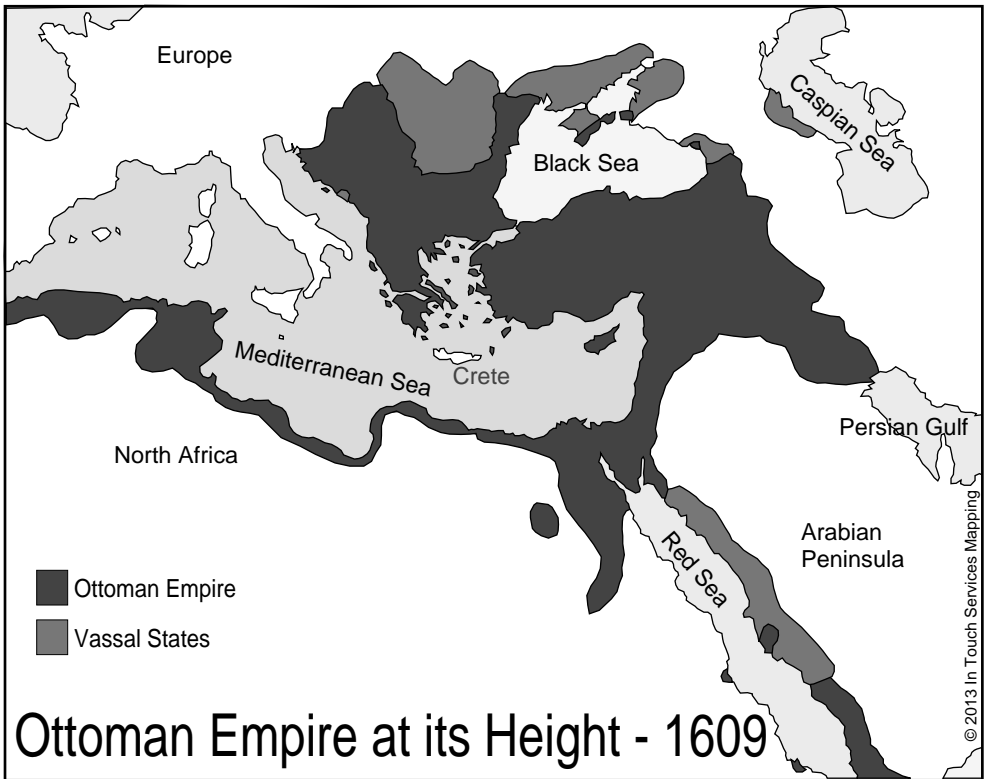
By 1430, the Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire) had lost all its cities in Asia Minor and was reduced to a small area around its capital Constantinople (Istanbul) plus the Despotate of Morea (Peloponnese, in Greece). In 1453, the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople which led to a fast expansion of their empire under a succession of strong Sultans including Suleiman the Magnificent (1520-1566).

1460 Morea	1529 1 st siege of Vienna (failed)
1461 Trebizond (northern Turkey)	1533 Iraq
1463 Bosnia	1547 Hungary (divided with Austria)
1478 Albania	1551 Libya
1516 Syria and Palestine	1570 Cyprus
1517 Egypt	1574 Tunisia
1521 Serbia	1590 The Caucasus and western Iran

These successes led to an empire that dominated the eastern and southern Mediterranean and stretched to the Persian Gulf (*see map*). However that era was followed by a period of weak Sultans. Also, as a response to the might of the Ottoman army, European technology had advanced ... Leonardo da Vinci for example was at the height of his career between 1476 and 1513. The Ottomans began to fall behind militarily. The Turks' monopoly of the Mediterranean led Europe to seek new trade routes to Asia, with the Portuguese discovering the Cape of Good Hope route (southern Africa) to India and China. The new Spanish and Portuguese empires in South America were also bringing in large amounts of gold and silver to Europe with a knock-on effect of massive inflation of the Ottoman currency.

Two Ottoman defeats led to a western realisation that they were not invincible. In 1571, a Spanish-led fleet destroyed the main Ottoman fleet at the Battle of Lepanto (western Greece). This was mostly of symbolic importance as ships could quickly be rebuilt. Then in the Great Turkish War (1683-87) a large Ottoman army laid siege yet again to Vienna, but at the Battle of Vienna (1683) the Ottomans were overwhelmed by combined armies of the Holy Roman Empire and Poland under the Polish King Jan III Sobieski. The Ottomans surrendered several significant border territories.

Russian expansion was the next big threat to the Ottomans. Sultan Ahmed III declared war on Russia (1710), but Russia under Peter the Great invaded Moldavia (now Moldova) and Wallachia (now part of Romania). The Ottomans defeated the Russians in the Pruth River Campaign of 1710-11, but later lost the Austro-Turkish War (1716-18) and ceded Serbia and Oltenia (now south-west Romania) to Austria. In the Austro-Russian-Turkish War (1735-39), the Turks regained Serbia and Oltenia, but lost Azov, a strategic Black Sea port north of the Crimea, to Russia.



The rise of Prussia took the Russians' and Austrians' minds off Turkey for several decades, but eventually several defeats by Russia showed that Peter the Great's reforms had put Turkey at a disadvantage and that modernisation was needed. But reforms of the army were not made possible until the elite but politically powerful Janissary army corps was abolished in 1826.

Meanwhile in the early 1800s nationalism arose in the Balkans. First the Serbian rebellion against Janissary cruelty (1804-15) resulted in its virtual independence in 1830. The Greeks rebelled in 1821 (Greek War of Independence 1821-32). The poet Lord Byron had actively funded and campaigned in this war and died of wounds in 1824. Eventually through the Treaty of London (1827), Britain, Russia and France forced Turkey to grant the Greeks autonomy within the Empire and the allied powers sent a combined fleet to the area to ensure that the treaty's terms were complied with.

Later that year, the commander of the Ottoman Mediterranean fleet stationed at Navarino Bay, on the western coast of the Peloponnese, demanded that the allied fleet withdraw. When they did not, the Turks opened fire on the allies but the Turkish fleet was destroyed by superior weaponry. Navarino was the last major naval battle fought entirely between sailing ships and it saved the new autonomous Greek Republic, though the war carried on until 1832 before Greek independence was secure and Ottoman forces were repelled from the Peloponnese. By this time the Ottoman Empire had acquired the nickname of the "sick man" of Europe.

Modernisation and secularisation were gathering pace in the mid to late 1800s with constitutional, legal, banking and army reforms. The Ottoman Ministry of Post was set up in October 1840 only a few months after the Penny Black postage stamp was issued in Britain (May 1840).

The decline of the Ottoman Empire caused Austria and Russia in particular to set their sights on influence over territories in the Empire adjoining their own borders. The Crimean War (1853-56) was part of this, where Russia demanded the right to safeguard the orthodox Christian population of the Ottoman Empire. Britain and France sought to support Turkey in order to preserve the status quo. During the Crimean War at the Siege of Sevastopol (1854-55) British engineers laid a railway line to transport field guns and ammunition from the port. Troops dug earthworks to enable them to get closer to the Russian defences and, in response, the Russians dug rifle pits to protect their snipers firing back. This was a foretaste of the more developed trench warfare that was to become a key ingredient in many sectors of the Great War.

Although the Turks and their allies were ultimately the victors, the cost of the war was crippling to the Empire and led to major foreign debt and population turmoil including emigration, ethnic cleansing and exile. Numbers from different sources vary but perhaps a million or more were deported, exiled or killed.

By 1870, Wallachia and Moldavia were independent and Montenegro virtually so.

A few years later Russia won the Russo-Turkish War (1877-78) and the Ottoman Empire lost control of Bulgaria. Serbia achieved full independence as did Montenegro and Romania – although Transylvania (the north-western part of modern Romania) was still part of the Austrian Empire. Austria annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Sanjak of Novi Pazar, a strategic strip of land between Serbia and Montenegro, and defeated an Ottoman army sent to recover them within three weeks.

Always trying to restore the status quo, Benjamin Disraeli, the British Prime Minister, argued at the Congress of Berlin (1878) that the Ottoman territories in the Balkans should be restored to the Empire. Though Britain's view failed, the Sultan in gratitude allowed Britain to take over the administration of Cyprus. Then in 1882, Britain was invited to send troops to Egypt and Sudan to put down a revolt but ended up controlling those countries – strategically very important in securing the independence of the Suez Canal (opened in 1869) and the sea route to British India.

A major power before the late 1600s, the Ottoman Empire had become weak and was disintegrating both from revolt within and from the rise of technologically superior powers surrounding it. The scene was being set for major conflicts of interest in the Balkans as Britain and France tried to create trade routes through the Mediterranean while Russia and Austria sought increased influence in the fledgling states.

In this period we have seen:

- Revolt in the Balkans and positioning by the Great Powers;
- The last naval battle under sail power;
- Advances in military transport and weaponry plus new tactics to fight wars under those conditions including early forms of trench warfare;
- Attempts at modernisation of the Ottoman state in response to changing conditions outside.

RICK DIXON



Duke Of Edinburgh Bronze Award: The first ever Bradon Forest School Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award assessed expeditions went superbly well on the weekend of 6/7 July. The assessor commented on how well prepared the teams were and how well they worked together to complete their objectives.



All three teams pitted themselves against the heat and Wiltshire's hills passed their final challenge with style.

The teams hiked together with no external assistance, navigating and carrying all they needed for the two days. The expedition took place in the woods and hills around Box and Chippenham with students

covering distances of up to 25km as well as climbing from the valley floors to the very tops of the hills ... then in some cases doing it all again!



The weather, although glorious, added a level of challenge that the students rose to. Massive congratulations to all those students who completed the expeditions and we look forward to their presentations in September!

Progression News: Mr Hutchings reports: After the success of the Year 9 Honda Trip in February, twenty-two Year 10 students were also given the opportunity to visit the Honda plant. The afternoon was organised to include several activities. After a short introductory presentation about Honda and the specific role of the plant, we were given a guided tour which included part of the spraying processes, addition of windscreens and wheels. Students were given the opportunity to interview some of the employees. Another activity was to build small pneumatic circuits which play a major role in the robotic automation of many of the plant processes. The afternoon ended with a light-hearted quiz to find out how much the students had learnt from the visit. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and informative afternoon aimed at students with an interest in engineering and/or an apprenticeship pathway.

Bradon Forest School Prom: Mr Bray reports: This year's Prom was held at the Hilton Hotel, Swindon on Friday 28 June. It was a fantastic night which saw 176 students enjoy a two-course meal and entertainment afterwards. Speeches from Rob Mills (Head Boy) and Bethany Richards (Head Girl) summed up their memories from Bradon Forest over the past five years. Mr Winward and Mr Matthews also gave short speeches congratulating the students on being an



excellent year group and wishing them all success in the future.

Over twenty members of staff supported the event and even braved the dance floor on occasions to the delight of the students. Before leaving, the students collected their Year Books to keep as a long lasting reminder of their time at Bradon Forest School.

Music News: Mrs Hutchings reports: *Bugsy Malone* was enjoyed by an audience of approximately 240 people over four performances and what a show it was! Splurge at the ready and laughter at every corner! The cast worked extremely hard putting the piece together over the last few months and it was superb to watch them grow in character and performance leading to an all singing and dancing show. The comments from all who came to see it have been very complimentary.

Welcome To New Headteacher: We are delighted that Dr Andrew Morrison has joined Bradon Forest School as its new Headteacher. Previously Dr Morrison was a Deputy Headteacher responsible for curriculum and staffing at King Alfred's Academy – an outstanding school in Wantage. Dr Morrison has already enjoyed attending a Scouts meeting in Purton and is very much looking forward to being involved in the local community.

BRADON FOREST SCHOOL

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



SEP 7, 8: BLUNSDON AT WAR 10 am to 5 pm

Outstanding collection of military vehicles plus re-enactment groups recalling aspects of life on the front and at home. Everyone who attends in 1940s dress will get a £2 reduction in the price. Adults £10 or £8, Seniors £8 or £6, Children £7 or £5. Museums, including a wartime one, café, shop and picnic area. Price includes unlimited steam train rides throughout the day.

Sep 14, 15: KIDS GO FREE WEEKEND 11am to 4 pm

Any adult or senior buying a ticket may take a child with them free of charge. Adults £7, seniors £6. Unlimited train rides.

SEP 22: HIGH TEA IN THE MOONRAKER DINING CAR From 12 noon

A delicious high enjoyed on the move while on a steam train ride. Price in addition to ticket to ride. Enquiries from 01367 820623

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.

Purton Historical Society



It seems amazing that summer is over. We had 2 enjoyable outings, one to Clifton Suspension Bridge and Tyntesfield. The other was to Bromham for which we thank Churchwarden John Drew for his very informative guided tour of the church and village.

We now start our regular monthly meetings on 19 September at 7.30 pm at St Mary's School Hall. Martin Buckland will give us a History of World Canals.

[HELEN DIXON, Chair](#)

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.



■ PAVENHILL PARADE

I am a resident of Purton and love the village. The only downfall is that our local shops at the top end of the village are letting the appearance of the village down. The area around the shops belong to them, or at least their landlords, and they are not taking pride in the appearance within the surrounding area of their shops. The weeds are growing through the paving slabs and there are masses of them. As villagers, we are so fed up with the mess that we have taken it upon ourselves to clear the area of weeds as it was an absolute embarrassment to see. Four of us spent nearly 2 hours of our own time weeding and sweeping one Sunday morning. Also there was a local resident earlier through the week helping to clear the mess. Purton has a strong community spirit but we need the shops to understand that this mess is not acceptable.

Maybe we can get a little club going to keep them neat. I don't mind organising it. It was fun. If anyone would like to get involved with making

the village lovely, contact me with any have suggestions. Maybe we can be the best village in Wiltshire!

Amanda Baker
indianheadmassageing@gmail.com

■ BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

I would like to say 'many thanks' to everyone who attended the Coffee Morning on 21 July and/or gave donations. We raised £345 for the British Heart Foundation.

Thank you also to family friends who came along to help us.

Yours gratefully,

Audrey, Penny, Delia & family

■ KEITH MOBEY

I would like to thank all the dear friends and neighbours for the beautiful cards and messages that have comforted me and my family throughout the loss of my dear husband, Keith, after 59 years of happiness together.

The help and compassion shown in this village is amazing, and we have never regretted moving into this lovely community.

Bless you all.

June Mobey

■ GARDEN PARTY AT QUARRY FARM - 14 JULY

Thanks to the generosity of friends and neighbours who supported this event: donations of £2,000 have been given to the Prospect Hospice and £300 to the Help The Hospices Charity.

Sue Cook



Royal British Legion Purton Branch Horticultural Show Annual Horticultural Show



Please note a correction from last month's piece in the magazine and in the August dates for the diary. The date of the Show is **Saturday 31 August** and not Friday 30 August as stated. We hope you will read this in time or see one of our posters or the advertising boards around the village.

The committee will welcome your entries at the Red House, Purton, on the evening of Thursday 29 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. Do come along and join in the fun and perhaps win yourself a prize for your produce!

Schedules have been available from Best One and Toomers in Stone Lane also committee members. Any queries? Contact. Dave Herbert (Chairman) or Heather Harris (Show Sec.).

Helping Hand 50th Anniversary

Could I please remind everyone that Purton Helping Hand are having an Open Day at the Silver Threads Hall on Saturday 14 September.

I am not a member of the Helping Hand, however the reason I have mentioned it is that I believe that most families in Purton and district will have been helped at some time or other by the Helping Hand. Perhaps it was some flowers or fruit after illness or hospital treatment, some help after a fire or a flood, a voucher at Christmas for the elderly, or perhaps just a card to show that someone is thinking about you. I know I appreciated their kindness when I was very ill last year.

Could you please show your thanks by supporting the Helping Hand in their open day, there will be coffee and cakes in the morning, lunch, afternoon tea and an early evening social. Please lets all try and make it a big success.

Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary Helping Hands – and thanks for all you have done for others!

LYNDA WARREN

The Merchant's House, Marlborough

Come and visit this Glorious Restoration of a 17th century Silk Merchant's House – on Sunday 15 September 2013. We are open FREE to the public as part of the Heritage Open Days and guided tours will take place at 10 am, 11.30 am, 1.30 pm and 3 pm. More information from www.themerchantshouse.co.uk or 01672 511491.

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.



Visit Purton Library

If you haven't been into Purton Library for a while or you are new to the area why not come in and see what we have to offer? The Library has a range of fiction and non-fiction books for all ages including large print and talking book formats; information about your local area; free computer access to the Internet and other online resources; free Wi-Fi; local interest books and reference stock and a range of DVDs for both adults and children. Through Purton Library you can also access stock and services from across the county.

Joining the library is free of charge and straightforward. We can guarantee a warm welcome from our volunteers who will be happy to help you get started if you are visiting for the first time. We are family-friendly and keen to encourage children and young people to enjoy books and reading from an early age. Items for under-16s from other libraries in Wiltshire can be reserved for free. There is a story time at Purton Library for under-fives on the first Wednesday of every month from 10 am to 10.30 am.

Purton Library is a community resource for everyone in the local area. We aim to ensure that you can access the services and information you need, as well as encouraging people of all ages to enjoy the pleasure of reading a good book and discovering new writers and titles.

Purton Library opening hours:

Monday	2 pm - 5 pm	Wednesday	10 am - 5 pm
Tuesday	2 pm - 7 pm	Friday	2 pm - 5 pm

The library opening hours are operated by local volunteers.

Good reads available from Wiltshire Library Service. Find your favourite authors or try something new!

New titles:

Never go Back by Child, Lee

Another thrilling Jack Reacher novel, which sees Child's loner ex-military hero embroiled in adventure and danger as he travels back to north eastern Virginia to meet the new Commanding Officer of his old unit. On arrival he finds himself accused of a 16 year homicide and receives another equally shocking piece of news.

The White Princess by Gregory, Phillipa

This latest novel from Phillipa Gregory tells the haunting story of Elizabeth of York, wife of Henry VII and daughter of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville – the White Queen. As she grows to love the husband she was forced to marry, she increasingly finds herself torn between her loyalty to her husband and her attachment to her rebellious mother. Her conflict is compounded when she meets the Pretender who claims to be her lost brother and denies completely the claims of the House of York.

Strange Shores by Indridason, Arnaldur

In the latest in the Reykjavik Murder Mysteries series, Detective Erlendur investigates the disappearance of a young woman who, decades earlier, walked

into the frozen Norwegian fjords. He is also on a personal quest to find his lost brother who disappeared in a snowstorm when they were both children. It is a perilous journey into the past, where long buried secrets are uncovered with terrible consequences.

Solo by Boyd, William

James Bond, 007 returns with this new novel by William Boyd, one of our best contemporary writers. A must read for Bond fans and those who enjoy fast-paced adventure and espionage!

The Treasure Hunt by Camilleri, Andrea

The further adventures Inspector Montalbano, one of Italy's best love crime fiction detectives. Whilst investigating a violent crime, Montalbano finds himself drawn into a mysterious and perplexing treasure hunt set by an anonymous challenger. During this pursuit a horrific crime occurs, which changes the nature of the investigation and before long Montalbano, himself, faces terrible danger.

Lion Heart by Cartwright, Justin

Richie Cathar, the hero of this novel, follows in his father's footsteps to the Holy Land, where he is searching for Christianity's most sacred relic and the truth about his recently deceased father, Alaric, a sixties intellectual and explorer. Richie remembers him as a fantasist and delusional drug-taker who made wild claims about his research and discoveries. Whilst on this quest, he falls passionately in love with Noor, a Canadian-Arab journalist with secrets of her own.

Bookstart Bear Club at Purton Library

From September pre-school children, toddlers and babies visiting Purton Library will be able to join the Bookstart Bear Club and collect paw print stamps in their own Bookstart Passport every time they return books to the library, share books with their parent/carer whilst in the library or attend a Bookstart rhyme time or story time session. Children collect a beautiful certificate for every 6 paw prints and there are 10 certificates to collect. Membership to the club and the library is free.

We will be launching the Bookstart Bear Club on Wednesday 4 September at the library Story Time and on Wednesday 2 October Bookstart Bear himself will be making a special visit to Purton Library Story Time to meet young readers and parents. Come along at 10 am and join in the fun at these events.

For more information about Bookstart and lots of ideas about sharing books with your child visit www.bookstart.org.uk.

CAROLYN KENNEDY, Community Librarian



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

OFFERED: 2 rattan conservatory armchairs. Tel 772589.

To advertise in this section please contact Purton Magazine (address on [page 4](#)).

Free advertisements for Free goods. 2 lines maximum.

Church Floodlighting

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



- 17 August The Church was floodlit in memory of **Ernest Goodchild** who sadly passed away on this date, a year ago. Heaven has gained an Angel. Love always. Family, friends and gnomes of Purton
- 3 September St Mary's Church will be floodlit in memory of **John Cook** on his birthday. Always in our thoughts. Sue, Emma, Lucy, Jonathan and their families
- 6 September The church will be floodlit in loving memory of **Doris Wadsworth** whose birthday it would have been. Lovingly remembered and so sadly missed. Reg, Jean, Mark and all her dear family
- 7 September St Mary's Church will be floodlit on in memory of **Barrie Bunce**. Always in our thoughts: for ever in our hearts, especially today, our Golden Wedding Anniversary. With love from Joyce and all the family.

Floodlighting contact: [Libbie](#)

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

Prayer for Purton

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

Cricklade Country Market

The September Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on **Friday 27 September** 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).

The date for the **August** Country Market was erroneously shown in last month's magazine as 23 August. It should have read **Friday 30 August**.

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



Our July meeting began with the election of Linda Roberts to the recently vacated post of committee Chairman. Although a relatively recent member of our club, Linda has former experience of committee work and we welcome her input.

With the formalities over, David Herbert introduced our speaker Mike Burgess, whose topic was 'Potted Fruit and Vegetables.' Mike began his talk by explaining the reasons for the increasing popularity for growing fruit and vegetables in pots, something that he has been doing for years as proven by the numerous successes displayed on his slide show.

1. There is a wide range of pots and containers now available, in all shapes, sizes and composition – stone, concrete, timber, clay and terracotta amongst others. Even a glazed stone sink disguised with a covering of peat and cement provides a suitable container for small plants.
2. Plants can be grown where normally it may not have been possible. A regular supply of salad crops can be generated from planting them in pots outside a kitchen door. Plants can also be provided with the correct soil conditions when they are grown in pots, 'Blueberries' for example that require an acid soil.
3. Plants can be controlled in pots. Mint which is so invasive is a prime candidate.
4. Pots are mobile - beneficial for plants such as peaches and figs - susceptible to frost and wet benefitting from being moved to a conservatory over winter.

Mike explained that correct watering is the key' to successful growing in containers. This means maintaining regular watering by keeping drain holes clear and raising pots on terracotta feet to allow water to drain away to prevent waterlogging. Water absorbing granules placed around the plant are useful as the varying colour of the granules determines when watering is required. An adjustable dripper, consisting of a tube in the soil and a reservoir above, is another watering device. The hotter the reservoir becomes, the more water it releases.

When it comes to the question of how big the pot should be, Mike advised a minimum of 18" for trees, apples for example. 'Minaret' or column trees in a container can produce up to 15lbs of fruit. For that reason, the heavier the pot, the more stable it will be. Container-grown trees can be kept under control by pruning laterals to 3 buds and sub laterals to 1 bud in July.

Almost all soft fruits can be successfully grown in pots – blackberries, blueberries, white and red currants and gooseberries. Strawberries are the most versatile of the fruits. They can be grown in a tower, pot or trough. This prevents attack from slugs and rain splashes.

When it comes to vegetables Mike uses recycled compost for planting with the addition of 5 grams of fertiliser to each 1 litre of compost to provide equal parts of Nitrogen, Potassium and Potage. Potatoes, onions, courgettes, cabbages and cauliflowers all perform well in containers as do runner beans with the necessary cane supports. Mike has also achieved success from growing several different vegetables in the same pot, dwarf beans, lettuce and curly kale for example.

He ended his informative talk expressing the hope that he had left us with some ideas that might encourage us to 'have a go'.

Congratulations to Mary Read, the worthy winner of our competition with a beautifully presented dish of blackcurrants.

Our 'Strawberry Cream Tea' held on the last Saturday in July was a great success. A period of prolonged heavy rain had been forecast for the afternoon and so after much deliberation we decided to hold the event in Silver Threads Hall. Any uncertainty regarding the numbers that would attend, given the forecast, were quickly dispelled at 2 pm when people flocked in. Thank you to all those who came to support us and enjoyed strawberries and cream, scone, jam and cream and finally a selection of cakes with tea. A special thanks to all the ladies and the one gentleman (you know who you are) who kindly made the delicious assortment of cakes we received and of course to Jill who spent the morning baking her delicious scones.

Our annual 'Mini Show' will be the focus of our September meeting, a chance for members to exhibit in the various categories and/or to vote for their favourites. As usual sampling the cakes before voting will prove to be ever popular! So join us at 7.30 pm on 24 September in the Silver Threads Hall for a treat!

MARGARET GOODALL, *Secretary*

Purton & District Darts League

By the time this has been published we shall have commenced the new season of the league.

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM on Thursday 22 August and thanks go to Mark and Shani for holding it at *The Angel*.

Hope you all has a great break and are ready for some exciting games and competitions this season.

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 club's eight teams are performing extremely well to date with the U9's competing in several cricket festivals while the U11's and U13's are currently top of their divisions. The U15's, with only one 15 year old, have played some good cricket with several U13's playing up an age group and are currently 5th in their division.

The two senior teams with four weekends to go are first in Division 1 and first in Division 6 of the Wiltshire League and the two evening teams, although not in the first three, are enjoying the matches with, in the B team, several fathers and sons playing together. Cricket in Purton seems to be in good hands.

From the archives

In the 'Purton Miniature Rifle Club' minutes book for 1907, Purton cricketers



featured prominently in the list of officials. Dr Coombes was President, J.F.Staley was secretary assisted by A.J.Woolford and T.C.Hastings was treasurer. Perhaps this dominance by cricketers reflected their desire to make sure that the cricket field and facilities were used properly. The committee of 17 extra members also had 13 cricketers. In addition to the above there were 41 other members.

JOE GARDNER



I am delighted to provide such a positive update this month in terms of achievement.

Firstly, Club member Bob Pimble, after 25 consecutive years umpiring, at Wimbledon championships has decided to retire.

During the 25 years Bob has umpired main draw matches in the Ladies Singles & Doubles, Men's doubles and he umpired Roger Federer as a junior player. Bob's impressive career includes officiating in 15 singles finals at Wimbledon, the 2001 Australian Open, several Davis Cup competitions and the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Bob is pictured standing on the famous Centre court with a certificate awarded by the All England Club in recognition of his services to the championships.

Although the league matches are not quite complete the latest position is:

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

To have so many imminent promotions and top places is really a great achievement, I will report the final position next month.

Summer Holiday Camps are still running and we have a few places left. 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

STEPH BROWN, Secretary

Pause for Thought

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

Thomas Alva Edison

Scout News!



It's quite a while since we updated you on the progress of the Scout Group in the village – primarily as we have all been busy 'scouting' and fundraising for our new centre. As soon as the nights get lighter, we are outdoors for as many nights as possible, enjoying local woods, walks and of course camping!

The Scouts and Cubs attended a county event at Longleat in June where we joined 2,000 other scouting members from around the county, for a 2 night camp. We had a great time exploring the grounds and activities on the Saturday and enjoyed the Safari park on the Sunday. It was a really good camp, and even better as we didn't lose anyone amongst the wild animals! James Medcraft, was awarded a special plaque for designing the camp badge and had the honour of raising the Scout flag high above Longleat House on Saturday morning – a very memorable and proud moment for him!

Two weeks later we joined in the village Carnival fun, and have to say a HUGE thank you to Bevan Transport for loaning us a vehicle and a very helpful driver so that we could take part in the carnival. '50 years' as a theme – 1963 was the year of The Great Train Robbery so was a fitting theme for all the section members to dress up as 'cops and 'robbers' without a 'water pistol' in sight! Taking part in the carnival as a child gives us priceless child memories so thanks again to the Cub leaders for organizing the props, the parents for the great costumes and again to Bevan's – can we do it all again next year?

The Scout hut fund is growing slowly and we have increased the funds considerably over the past few months with no end of fundraisers including running the BBQ's for Swindon caravans, talks, markets, open gardens, quiz night, stalls at the fete, donations and by local folk 'buying a brick'.

To help us on our way, anyone can donate on line on our web site: www.plscouts.org.uk/scout_centre_appeal/donate. Alternatively if you would like to join our fundraising team or have any ideas to help us please contact the Group Chairman, Nick Cresswell via email at nick.cresswell@tesco.net.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us over the past few months and we look forward to updating you again later in the year.

JAN FISHER, Assistant Group Scout Leader.

Beavers

Sadly this term has seen us saying farewell to Wendy Griffin our Beaver Scout Leader. After 4 years of setting up the colony and hard work, she is leaving the Group to support her daughter Darcie, in a new business 'venture'. Darcie has also given the Colony a huge amount of support with this young section and we wish them both well. This does however, leave the section without an 'Appointed Scout Leader' and we are thus looking to find someone to fill this role. Full training is given and there is lots of 'scouting support' available. The section currently meets on Mondays from 6.30 - 7.30 pm (this is flexible) but there is some paperwork and preparation needed before most meetings; ideally a 'job share is helpful to share the workload. For further information, please contact me, Jan, on 771216. We can only keep the Colony open if we fill the position by the end of October, after which it will otherwise have to be suspended – please help!

Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



The units ended the summer term's activities in a variety of ways. The Rainbows held a "Pot of Gold" meeting when they said goodbye to Ciara and Zerena who had been Rainbows for two years. They had a golden coin treasure hunt and enjoyed cakes and ice lollies outside on a very hot afternoon. They will be missed at Rainbows but the Brownie units are looking forward to welcoming them in September. The Rainbows also said goodbye to Emily who had been helping with the unit as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

As an example of great minds thinking alike, the two Brownie units each had a pyjama party and another evening of water games, despite having planned their programmes independently. In both cases the eldest girls who had come to the end of their time in Brownies planned and ran the pyjama parties. These included games, dancing, a best-dressed teddy competition and of course food. Most of these girls will be joining the Guide unit in September. 1st Purton fared rather better with the weather for their water games evening; 2nd Purton's evening had an unfortunate start – a spectacular thunderstorm with lots of lightning! This kept them indoors for the first part of the evening doing craft with Hama beads, but they managed to get out for water games once the storm had cleared. 2nd Purton Brownies were very pleased that Amber decided to work on her Cook badge as they enjoyed chocolate sponge with strawberries and cream – she passed!

The Guides went bowling at Ten Pin for their last meeting of term. They also went on an indoor residential in August on an American theme: Route 66 with Guides from Wiltshire South. The event was similar to camp, the Guides even slept in tents inside! They made washing up stands, ate outside and even had a campfire around a BBQ.

The beginning of a new school year often prompts parents to think about activities for their children. For enquiries about joining one of our units, contact Braydon District Commissioner Jo Begg by phone on 874066 or by email at braydondc@wncounty.org.uk. You can also register interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

We're also still looking for another adult to help out at Guides. The same contact details apply for adults too.

Wootton Bassett & District Cats Protection

We are once again holding a fundraising event on 26 October 2013, at the Ellendune Community Centre in Wroughton, from 10.30 to 3.30. The event is a craft fair, with jewellery sellers, cakes, tombola, face painting and much more with the aim, of course, to raise funds for our branch of the Cats Protection.

Like most charities the last few years have been difficult with regard to raising funds but we, although a small group, continue to do what we can. Please contact me (john.garrad1@ntlworld.com) if you require further details.

ANDREA GARRAD, Fund Raising Officer