

Purton *Magazine*



Man & Nature
Photo: Rick Dixon

October 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

Somewhere up in the ether there is a message sent to your Magazine well over a month ago and in very good time for the September issue. As it still has yet to arrive, the least we can do is to start this month by highlighting that the **Shoebox Fund Raising Day** is on **Saturday 28 September** and hope that you might read this announcement in time. Further details are on [page 23](#).

Last month we mentioned several changes happening in our community and we have news of more changes this month. Most noticeable is that on [page 14](#) we learn that the Purton Helping Hand Club will be winding up at the end of the year after 50 years although a new registered charity called Purton Carnival has already been established for 2014.

Even if change is inevitable, it is sad to report the impending closure of the Helping Hand Club. On [page 15](#) there is a contribution from Pearl Lait reflecting how the club has reached out over the last half century with cards and small gifts to those in need, perhaps when recovering from illness or operations or from a domestic crisis such as a fire, flood or theft. The club still has three remaining events – the details are on [page 14](#) – and will also be honouring the Christmas vouchers this year.

As we live in such a caring community, perhaps it is now up to each and every one of us to try and honour the legacy of the Helping Hand Club by filling the gap ourselves. Perhaps we should take it as our individual responsibility to continue helping friends and neighbours a little bit more when they are in need. One very effective way is to imagine ourselves in their difficult situation and then visualise what little gifts and caring messages of support would be most appreciated.

Anyone doubting the supportive value and beneficial impact of such neighbourly actions should read the letter from previous magazine Editor, Caroline McLean, on [page 23](#) under the heading “*we’ve been so worried for you.*” You may also learn a new word in connection with chocolates!

Another community contribution is as simple as completing the Community Café questionnaire on the 4 pages appended to the back of the Internet magazine. There you will also see some possible opportunities to contribute a little of your time for the potential benefit of all Purtonians.

43 & 44

are the Core Policy numbers for housing in the Wiltshire Council's strategy
– see [pages 16-19](#)

59%

of Bradon Forest pupils achieved 5 or more GCSE passes, up 6% on last year
– see [page 33](#)

£4,550

raised by this year's Purton Carnival
– see [page 14](#)

CONTENTS

[After 8](#)
[Age Concern](#)
[Autumn Course](#)
[Bell Ball Bonanza](#)
[Bradon Forest School News](#)
[Bradon Forest Theatre](#)
[Church Flowers for Harvest](#)
[Coffee & Chat](#)
[Community Café](#)
[Cotswold Water Park](#)
[Crafty Flower-making](#)
[Cricket Club](#)
[Cricklade Children's Centre](#)
[Cricklade Country Market](#)
[David Paul Kay](#)
[Diary Pages](#)
[Evening WI](#)
[Floodlighting](#)
[Flu Clinics](#)
[Friends of Art Group](#)
[Gardeners' Guild](#)
[Great War Project](#)
[Guide Dogs](#)
[Helping Hand](#)
[Historical Society](#)
[Library Hours](#)
[Lydiard Millicent Art Exhibition](#)

[Mavis Hedges](#)
[Merchant's House](#)
[Obituary Contacts](#)
[On the Lighter Side](#)
[P&L Charity Fund](#)
[Parish Council News](#)
[Prayer for Purton](#)
[Purton Carnival](#)
[Purton & the Great War](#)
[Purton Placard](#)
[Purton Postbag - Letters](#)
[Purton Profferings](#)
[Purton's Loss](#)
[Rainbows, Brownies & Guides](#)
[RBL Horticultural Show](#)
[Renaissance Choir](#)
[Scouts Fireworks Spectacular](#)
[Shoebox News](#)
[Solicitors Clinic](#)
[Swindon & Cricklade Railway](#)
[Swindon Choral Society](#)
[Tea Party at the Maharajah](#)
[Tennis Club](#)
[Transforming Purton](#)
[We Record](#)
[Wiltshire Good Neighbours](#)
[Your Magazine Delivered Free!](#)

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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Other enquiries and comments for the committee to:
The Secretary, 45 Ringsbury Close, Purton SN5 4DF

Also on line at www.purtonmagazine.co.uk

Parish Council News



Parish Plan – The Parish Council has now approved the Parish Plan, and the next stage is to put it out to the village for approval. Once that is done it will be presented to Wiltshire Council. A lot of this work will also feed into the Neighbourhood Plan which is currently under construction, visit www.new-v.co.uk for more information.

The document contains several points that have been termed action points, many of which are for the attention of the Parish Council. It must be remembered that a lot of this is a wish list. Some of these items will be achievable but others won't, however you can rest assured that the Parish Council will consider each point and respond accordingly. Thanks must go to the group of people who have put this document together it has taken two years and a lot of hard work.

Wiltshire Core Strategy – Consultation on the Schedule of Proposed Modifications is available to view and comment on until 9 October 2013 on Wiltshire Council's web site at www.wiltshire.gov.uk.

C70 – Results of Speed Limit Review – Wiltshire Council has carried out a speed review on the C70 that runs from Ashton Keynes to Packhorse Lane Junction. The proposals are as follows:

- Ashton Keynes 30mph - remains unchanged
- Ashton Keynes 30mph to Waterhay Bridge Junction - change from 60mph to 40mph
- Waterhay Bridge Junction to B4040 Malmesbury Road Junction - change from 60mph to 40/50 mph (40mph to commence at Manor Farm)
- B4040 Malmesbury Road Junction to Braydon Lane/Chelworth Rd Junction - change from 60 mph to 40mph
- Braydon Lane/Chelworth Rd Junction to B4553 Broadleaze Farm Junction - change from 60mph to 40/50mph (40mph to commence at 'The Gallons')
- B4553 Broadleaze Farm Junction to B4553 Tadpole Lane Junction - Change from 60mph to 50mph.

Temporary Closure of Queen Street (Part), Brinkworth and Charlton – From a point 55 metres east of its junction with C67 Eighty Acres to a point approx 800 metres in an easterly direction to enable Wessex Water to replace water main. From 28 October 2013 for approx 12 weeks.

Temporary Closure of Station Approach Road from its junction with C414 Station Road for its entire length – for carriageway resurfacing on 11 October until 12 October between 8 am and 4 pm.

Temporary Closure of B4696 Lydiard Plain (Part), Purton, Lydiard Millicent and Lydiard Tregoz – for carriageway resurfacing and associated works, from 11 December 2013 for 1 day between 8 am and 4 pm.

The following Planning Applications have been approved by Wiltshire Council:

N13/01427/FUL *Land at Moredon Bridge, move plots 89,90,100,101,102 and 104. Substitution of house type on plots 103 & 105 (Revision of 09/02020/REM)*

-
- N13/01454/FUL *15 Vasterne Close*, replacement rear conservatory.
- N13/01543/FUL *1A Vasterne Close*, single storey rear extension.
- N13/00983/FUL *Land adjacent to 11 Pear Tree Close*, erect 2 detached dwellings, garages & associated works.
- N13/01037/FUL *89 Reids Piece*, rear single storey extension.
- N13/01669/FUL *2 New Road*, single storey rear extension, attic alterations and rear dormers.
- N13/01199/FUL *Dairy Cottage, Cricklade Road, Widham*, side and front extension. Demolition and erection of new garage.
- N13/01445/FUL *30 Witts Lane*, single storey rear extension & conversion of existing rear outbuilding into habitable space (revision of N12/00520/FUL)
- N13/01603/CLP *9 The Fox*, Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed conservatory.
- N13/01668/FUL *Appleby, 31 Purton Stoke*, proposed first floor rear extension.
- N13/01865/TCA *Holly Lodge, 4 Church Street*, fell one eucalyptus tree and crown lift two beech trees to 8 metres.
- N13/00623/FUL *Braydon Fields Farm, Braydon*, Installation of community owned 250kw solar pv array, new access track, cabinet trench associated works. (Although this is not in our parish it may be of interest)
- N13/01565/FUL *3 The Fox*, part single, part two storey rear extension, front porch extension

The Following Planning Applications have been Refused by Wiltshire Council:

- N13/01131/FUL *Land at 103 Pavenhill*, erection of new dwelling.
- N13/01867/S106 *9 The Hyde*, Modification of Legal Agreement – Planning Permission 07/03067/COU.
- N13/02156/FUL *The Glen, 31 Stone Lane, Lydiard Millicent*, demolish existing detached garage & replace with detached garage & art studio.

Irresponsible Parking – Once again we have been contacted by a local resident about people who park irresponsibly, in particular in the vicinity of Pavenhill shops, making it difficult for those using wheelchairs. Also parking on pavements restricting access for pedestrians often forcing people to walk out into the road and blocking access for those in wheelchairs and those pushing pushchairs and prams.

Please think about others before you park.

Wiltshire Care Services Directory 2013/14 – Copies can be obtained on request from Care Choices on 0800 389 2077. The directory is a comprehensive guide to choosing and paying for care in Wiltshire. The publication includes information on homes support, care homes, specialist care and much more. Copies can be obtained from Wiltshire Council's web site and a link has been put onto the Parish Council's web site.

Electric Blankets Tested Free – If you use an electric blanket you can get it tested for free between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm at the following venues by appointment:

- Amesbury Fire Station on 16 October
- Marlborough Fire Station on 17 October
- Malmesbury Fire Station on 23 October
- Westbury Fire Station on 24 October

Contact Wiltshire Council Public Protection on 01225 713557 or email: tradingstandards@wiltshire.gov.uk

How to contact the Parish Council:

Telephone number 01793 771066 / Fax 772646

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

Website www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

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

Purton 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.

Purton & District Age Concern



Our thoughts and prayers are with Sarah Hedges, who is one of our street wardens, and her family on the sad loss of their mother Mavis. Another family in our thoughts is that of the late Sheila Gosling, who used to have the haberdashery shop which is now the home of the office that prints our magazines. Before that, of course, it was Granny Taylor's sweet shop. Sheila was a very sociable person who liked a bit of fun and it was always a pleasure to see her when she came on our outings along with her good friend Audrey Wheeler. Sheila and John's shop was one I didn't go into much not being into sewing or knitting but when John was alive – he was a tailor – I would go in there to see if he could lengthen my trousers. I am not going to write about Sheila as there is someone much more qualified than I am doing that. Sheila was a lovely person and our thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

Do not forget our T'ai Chi at the Millennium Hall on Thursdays at 2 pm. Just turn up – the first class is free. You can find out further details from Alan and Rita Webb on 770453 or Mick Hull on 772453.

If you or anyone you know would like a cooked two-course lunch twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, followed by tea or coffee please ring Pat Suddaby on 771331. Transport can be arranged to the Silver Threads Hall and the bonus is that you meet other people and, of course, all the teams that do the cooking are kind and thoughtful. I am sure you would enjoy it.

We are concerned about the crossing of the roads to the new Post Office and we have forwarded our ideas to the appropriate authorities for their consideration.

We have no news about the Cedars.

Another area we are concerned about is the new Ridgeway development and whether to include it in with Purton Age Concern as it is going to be in the Purton parish at the moment. Our feeling is the people who will live there will go Swindon way for everything. Our funds are raised here in Purton and feel we need to look at the boundaries we have now. This is going to be like a whole separate village and it would be too much for our organisation to cope with this new area.

We have had some very generous donations given us which is very kind of people. Firstly the kind gentleman who says to Sheila 'Give it to him indoors – he knows what to do with it' – a bit silly when I am just going on holiday! Then there was the lady who wanted to round the figure up for the money we had in lieu of flowers in memory of her husband. Another nice surprise was the gentleman who came to our jumble sale and quietly gave me a donation and then there was an envelope through the door with a very generous donation from someone who enjoyed our last outing. We have had two generous donations from people who loaned our tables and chairs – we all thought 'How nice, we can repay them a little for all the help we get with our coffee morning at Bentham' but no, they insisted on giving us these donations, so many thanks to them. It is all very much appreciated and gives us all a boost.

The jumble sale was again a great success when you consider the only expense is the hall and everything is given. We made a profit of £346.07 so thank you to all concerned. We finished the day off with a nice meal and evening in *The Angel* – not with the proceeds I might add. Our trip to Weston was a damp affair – still

people made the most of it and enjoyed the day. That'll teach us not to change the date in the future! Our September mystery tour had much better weather, with glorious views across the countryside and there were plenty of them. The route took in Cricklade, Birdlip, Gloucester, Huntley, Upper Lydbrook, Ross-on-Wye, Much Marcle and Dymock, where we stopped for tea. What a tea it was – a lovely warm welcome, a nice hall, then sandwiches, scones with jam and cream, followed by all types of homemade cakes and as much tea and coffee as we wanted. If this wasn't enough, they came round with bags to see if anyone would like to take some food home. The hosts were the Preston Social Group. We certainly came away well filled up for our homeward trip, which took in Newent, Gloucester, Birdlip, Seven Springs and Cirencester and a good afternoon was had by all. Our next trip is on Wednesday 2 October with a 10 am start. If you haven't booked and would like to go give me a ring on 770696.

We are very concerned about the numbers that go on these trips. Only twenty-seven went on the last one – we subsidise these trips quite heavily but there has to be a limit. Are we doing the right thing? Is there something different you would like? Please tell either your street warden or me on 770696.

What a lovely afternoon tea we had in *The Maharajah* restaurant – scones with jam and cream and delicious homemade cakes in lovely surroundings with plenty of cups of tea and excellent service – you would think you were at the Ritz not in Purton High Street – mind I would sooner be in Purton High Street! Here again people were very kind, especially with the donations we received and when I tell you that £526 was made, you will realise what I mean. The Special Needs Hostel in Udaipur in India and Age Concern Purton have each received £263. So our thanks go to Khalique and all the staff at *The Maharajah* restaurant, Wendy, Ann and Tina and anybody who helped in any way to make it a lovely sociable occasion, and let's not forget all you people who came along to support the afternoon. Hope to see you there next year – oh yes there will be another next year. It was nice to see Roderick Wightman, our auctioneer, there and have a chat. He's all set for our auction next March. It's surprising how the year goes round so quickly – it's time for our Antiques and Collectables Fayre on Sunday 20 October at the Village Hall from 10.30 am to 4 pm. Refreshments will be available and for anything to do with this, contact Jenny Barnes on 770339 - there might be a vacancy for a stall. We always get quite a few people at the event, with many interesting stalls to look at, so come and have a look. Admission is 50p and any raffle prizes or anything for our stall would be greatly appreciated.

Could I wish two people good luck on their move back home so to speak – Ed and Belinda Prowse are moving back to Devon – well, they will be gone by the time this magazine comes out. What an example they are to us all, the way they work together. I know that, as a village, we shall miss their input – both of them would come forward and offer their services if help was needed. St Mary's will miss them, especially us 8-o'clockers although they were always to the fore with anything connected to the two churches and with many other village activities. So many thanks, Belinda and Ed for helping to make our village what it is – a lovely place to live. Our loss is someone else's gain as I know both of them will get involved when

they have settled in, just as I am sure they will be very happy returning home.

As I finish this piece I have had a phone call from Geoff Walters, that talented musician, telling us that his singing group *Encore* are giving their annual concert at Bath Road Methodist Church of Thursday 17 October at 7.30 pm, entry £5, with all proceeds going to Prospect. You can pay on entry (somehow it doesn't sound right saying 'pay on the door' of a Church). Last year we had a feast of music at this concert and I am sure this year will be equally as good. Those who have come to our Christmas parties will know the quality of the music as we have been entertained by *Encore* and Geoff in the past. If you would like to go, give me a ring and perhaps we could have a minibus – hope to see you there.

TONY PRICE

Mrs Mavis Hedges

We have lost a good Purtonian in Mavis Hedges – a lady who always gave me the impression that she was more than happy with her lot in life. Although she suffered ill health in later life you would never believe it with her attitude, a lovely warm smile and a cheerful disposition. All she would say was, if she could rid herself of her sciatica she would be alright, never mind all her other health problems and pain.

Mavis was born in 1937 in the Live & Let Live when it was owned by the old Stroud Brewery and, of course, was a very popular pub, a real local with some very interesting people as frequent users. Her father and mother were Arthur and Kit Manning, the hosts of the Live & Let Live – that was when the landlord had a job to keep the beer right as it used to be in wooden barrels behind the bar and, in the sort of weather we were having this summer, he would have to put wet sacks over the barrels to try and keep them cool. I would think it was hard work in the Live & Let Live as it had a very small bar and most of the clients would use the passage through to the bigger room which meant the hosts had to carry the beer through to them. Mavis, I would imagine, had a nice childhood – think of waking up every morning with those marvellous views all over Braydon and beyond.

It was a bit of a long way for Mavis to go to school and, when she was a little older, she had a bicycle. There was quite a group of children around the Live & Let Live who we would have called the 'top enders', mostly boys but Mavis had one other girl there – Pam Cook – who was like a big sister to Mavis and all the boys and girls played together. Mavis had what I would think was one of the best dolls' houses in the district – it was the room over the bottle store and all the children were welcome at the Live & Let Live.

In those days ladies were not allowed in the bar – they had to go in the best room! In the Live & Let Live, the best room had a piano in it and a man named Sid Ockell used to play it. His real name was Ockwell but he was called Ockell. The ladies used to sing along with Sid and in the summer the windows would be open and all the children would be outside playing. I wonder if it was just a beer house then with no wines or spirits. I know it was in days gone by as it was called the Beer House but Glenis Hills' great grandfather, who owned it, did not like that and thought it should have a proper name so he re-named it the Live & Let Live. Actually Glenis and Mavis became good friends as Glenis spent a lot of time with her grandparents who lived just along the road.

What about the competitions – Arthur would organise these for the children with little prizes. Mind some of these games were a sprat to catch a mackerel – one of the competitions was to see who could dig a piece of garden the cleanest and tidiest (I don't think Arthur liked gardening) but all the children enjoyed it. As I have said, it was quite a long way to school and there was a certain young boy who lived close by who used to scrounge a lift on the handlebars of Mavis's bicycle – didn't you Joe! Mentioning that reminds me that Mavis used to go into Joe's sister Brenda to see if she had any old make up that she could have and would experiment with different colours to see what suited her best.

I wonder who the teachers were then? Miss Wheeler, Miss Tuck, Mr Romaine, Mr Porter and Mr Lloyd. Was Mr Farr the headmaster then or was it the interim period between Mr Greenhill finishing before Mr Farr started – no doubt somebody will tell me. When Mavis left school she became a nanny in Old Town, Swindon. I bet she was lovely with children – her patience and kindness would make sure of that. On leaving that job, she took an apprenticeship in hairdressing at Daphne's in Commercial Road and did very well, passing her City and Guilds with flying colours.

One of Mavis's pleasures was the cinema and, on her half day on Wednesdays she would go to the pictures straight from work then, on a Sunday she would catch the bus along with Glenis at 2.45 pm in the Lower Square, which went round by the Church, and get off at Bradleys' corner, go to Glenis's sister for tea, then on to the Palace at Gorse Hill, then back into Swindon to catch the 8.45 pm from the Town Hall back home. Mavis worked very hard for, in the evenings and at weekends, she would help serve behind the bar of the Live & Let Live, always pleasant and with that lovely smile which always made you want to have another pint of the best Stroud bitter.

In 1961 Mavis married Harry Hedges who lived down under the hill at Lower Pavenhill. I know that Harry would have a pint in the Live & Let Live because I have had one with him. Did Mavis see him about there because he worked for the Wells family at Pavenhill Farm? I don't know but what I do know is they were very happy – their house was always full of laughter. Their honeymoon was spent in Torquay and, on returning, they lived with Mavis's mum and dad at the Live & Let Live. Then along came Jane and Ann and things were getting harder as Mavis had lost her dad and it was too much for her and her mum to run the pub so it all changed. Harry's dad moved to Battlewell and Harry, Mavis, Jane and Ann with Kit, Mavis's mum, all moved to 7 Lower Pavenhill. You know what they say about a young couple moving house, well it was true with Harry and Mavis for along came Sarah.

Having children, Mavis could not go out to work so she put her hairdressing skills to good use and became what I would term a mobile hairdresser. Her skills became well known and three or four people would go to one house to have their hair done and, of course, there were others. The number of people who said that she was their hairdresser, including young boys who are grown up now, is amazing. I would think she had quite a good business and it makes you understand why her hair always looked so nice. It would certainly make people ask if she could do theirs.

I would think that the most important thing in her life was being with her family and helping them all she could and I am sure she would always have a smile on that lovely face of hers. Harry and Mavis were very contented with their lot in life.

They had three lovely daughters – Jane, Ann and Sarah - and they like a trip to the seaside when Mavis could have her favourite sandwich – chicken. Mind most sandwiches are nice when you are sitting on the beach – providing you do not get sand in them! Another of their pleasures was the annual trip to Wembley to see the Christmas Ice Show. They did enjoy the small things in life like a walk across the fields to the Ghost Train – it's name before that was the Railway Hotel but Dr Beeching came along and closed the station so, quite appropriately, it was named the Ghost Train. Harry would have a pint, Mavis a shandy and the girls a lemonade and a packet of crisps and then they would walk back home. That man Beeching has so much to answer for – now they are putting another track down like we had before – sorry I'm getting carried away.

When the children got older it was a fortnightly visit to The Red House when music was on. They would be picked up by Mary Simpkins in her taxi at 7 pm and return home about 10.30 pm and they would meet up with their friends Rene and Fred Stevenson, Marg and Merv Linsell and Sue and Ivor Wright. What joy it was to Mavis when Ann and Nigel got married and had their children – Daniel, Declan, Darrell and Dominic. Mavis would come up and look after them so that Ann could carry on with her work. Sadly Mavis lost her dear Harry and I would think Mavis's greatest love in later life would have been her grandchildren and the pleasure they gave her – then she had a great granddaughter, Poppy, and Mavis had such joy from holding this baby in her arms and nursing her. The family even took Poppy into hospital so that Mavis could have a cuddle which must have been lovely for her.

Mavis was a warm home-loving, kind, caring person and this was all returned to her as the family could not have given Mavis any more love, care and affection than they did. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all – take care.

TONY PRICE

David Paul Kay: 1948 - 2013

Seldom have I attended a more moving funeral than the service held for Dave Kay at St Mary's Church on 19 August 2013. He was born in Romford and attended the local Grammar School, excelling in science and maths. While studying chemistry at Queen Mary College, London University, he met Val, the relationship thrived and they married after graduating. They came to Swindon in 1971 when Dave worked as a research chemist at Roussel, moving to Purton the following year to settle in Church Path. This has remained the family home for more than forty years.

After Roussel closed in 1996 Dave worked away from the area until he joined an American company, Vertex, setting up a new UK base near Abingdon where a number of his old colleagues had also been recruited. Last year, in the spring, he retired. He had great plans; travelling to explore new territories and being able to spend more time with his grandchildren and in his extended garden.

In March he was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer. There was no cure and attempted treatments were not effective. The news was devastating for the family. Dave faced the last months of his life with fortitude and died at home on 7 August. He was sixty-four.

At the funeral the dignified attitude barely concealing the heartfelt grief of the

family was very poignant. Daughter-in-law Jo and son-in-law Richard read from Revelation 21 and a poem "Farewell My Friends" respectively before Dave's son, Rich, gave an evocative eulogy for his father.

The church was full with friends and colleagues who have known and worked with Dave during the past forty-two years, including some immediate neighbours who were thanked for their compassion and concern. He was clearly held in high regard by many people.

I met Dave in 1975. My contact with him was as a close friend when our children were small. Our daughters were born a month apart while Will and Rich are separated in age by a few weeks. When my children were nine and seven their father's health deteriorated rapidly and they joined the Kays on a camping holiday as a special treat. When Howard died the following November Dave and Val were so kind and supportive to us all. It was Dave who wrote his obituary for the January 1984 Magazine.

In 1975 Dave joined the Purton Historical Society committee to become the Bulletin Editor. He produced Number 13 to much acclaim and proceeded to edit the next nine editions, assisted by Val, only stopping in 1983 largely due to difficulties with the duplicating machine. *[We hear Issue No 40 is out now. Ed.]*

The PHS was fortunate to have such an enthusiastic, efficient member as Dave. He undertook some interesting local research, published the results in the Bulletins and helped to organize exhibitions, functions and socials. In the twelve years he belonged to the committee he only missed three meetings which must be a record! He took photographs of all the shops and businesses in Purton as part of a village survey.

As for the man himself, I have permission to quote from the funeral eulogy. Sailing became a great passion of Dave's. "He enjoyed the adventure and camaraderie of sailing with his friends, the jokes, the inevitable mishaps and the sharing of tall stories around the dinner table. He liked to test himself, to acquire new skills – he built an extension to the house – while his love of real ale and home brewing led to the annual Kay beer festival. The beauty and wonder of nature's wild places appealed to him and he delighted in travelling abroad.

Intelligent and wise Dave was also a man of humility, using his strengths for good, not in pursuit of personal gain or selfish ambition. With a wry sense of humour his tendency to exaggerate was unrivalled and he did have a leaning to pessimism but Val is a born optimist, unendingly positive and they made such a well balanced partnership.

Dave's granddaughter, aged eight, remembers him as a patient man who always waited his turn, tried his hardest, was kind, funny and generous."

Occasionally one comes across an exceptional person. It was a privilege to have known Dave and my present family and I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Val, Becky, Richard, Rich and Jo and the four grandchildren. The hurt they feel will ease in time. Dave will not be forgotten.

JEAN BELT

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 Helping Hand Club



Like many other organisations, Purton Helping Hand has been suffering from a lack of helpers over the past few years. The committee's sad decision was taken that we have no alternative but to close. It is particularly sad as we are celebrating our 50th year.

Helping Hand will cease being an organisation from 31 December 2013. However we will be holding a few more fundraising events during the remaining months and will be honouring this year's Christmas vouchers. We will be winding up all affairs and dealing with matters in hand during early 2014 and a full report will be given in the Purton Magazine late spring.

The remaining events taking place this year will be a Table Top Sale on 26 October, our popular Ladies Night on 28 November, a Whist Drive on 4 December and possibly an evening of Bingo. Your support for these events would be very much appreciated.

As Chairman of the Helping Hand I would like to thank everyone who has attended any of our events and supported us over the years.

The annual carnival will continue under an independent committee. They have given their own report below and we wish them luck in this new venture.

PAULINE WARD, Chairman

Purton Carnival

It was officially announced on 21 August 2013 that Purton Helping Hand Club will finish early in 2014. As a subcommittee the Purton Helping Hand Carnival has now finished. All monies raised by this year's Carnival (£4550.58) have been paid over to the Helping Hand Club for their Christmas vouchers for this year.

A new Registered Charity Called: Purton Carnival has been formed.

The New "Purton Carnival" will continue the village's longstanding tradition of the carnival and carnival week as well as a few one-day events throughout the year.

The charity will continue to benefit only the village but it will not be taking over the Christmas vouchers.

Some money will be used to re-invest into the Carnival for it to be able to produce some bigger and better events and the other monies will be used to benefit village life and charitable giving to good causes again within the village but in a very transparent way.

The new Committee is looking for new Members so if anyone would like to join as a Committee Member or as a Carnival Volunteer we would love to hear from them (kevin@PurtonCarnival.co.uk)

It was lovely to see so many in the procession this year and we hope we can count on their support again in 2014 for years to come.

Carnival Week 2014 will be 21 - 28 June and the Theme will be *Christmas*.

Don't forget Santa comes to Purton on Thursday 19 December from Ringsbury to Reids Piece and on Friday 20 December from the Village Hall to the Common. Santa will have your free copy of the 2014 Purton Planners.

KEVIN LAW, Purton Carnival Chairman

Purton's Loss

We've had pretty bright summer weatherwise, but with the start of a new season the outlook for our village is starting to look a bit bleak. With news that we are losing two of our charities that have made living in Purton so special and in some ways unique.

Linda Warren and Jenny Peabody have been running The Purton & Lydiard Charity Fund for several years after the departure of Robert Miles, who helped set it up. They have raised a considerable amount of money, which has been distributed between both Purton and the Lydiards for the good of others. They have decided to call it a day, partly due to continuing costs and lack of help. Thank you for all you have done for our communities.

Something that has been threatened for a while, The Purton Helping Hand Club has announced that it is disbanding early next year, after 50 years of reaching out to help so many, because of lack of help needed for its survival. The Carnival will go on in another capacity, but The Purton Helping Hand has always been about more than the carnival or the money raised by it for the Christmas Voucher, although obviously this side of it for the sub-committee has always been very important.

For 50 years people have been touched by the receipt of cards and small gifts to help with recovery from illness and operations. Fire, flood and theft victims have had help and donations to larger village projects have been given, the only qualifying fact, you have to live in, or be part of Purton, Purton Stoke or outlying area. All from a usually small committee raising money from baking, selling jumble etc.

Falling membership and the aging of members who still remain, has finally pushed them to this decision, despite continued pleas for new members.

If you are sitting reading this and feel GUILTY, you probably should. I know I do, even having served on the committee for 18 years. Family pressures meant I had to resign a couple of years ago. I still help when I can, deliver the Vouchers at Christmas to outlying areas and my oven is quite often on to help with a weekend event.

At the Carnival open meeting, where this sad news was announced by Pauline Ward, broken hearted, I actually saw some one smirk! What can I say! I really don't think that there are many who realise just what The Helping Hand has done for the village over the years. Or realise what it has meant to its members.

Thank you to the members who are left, Pauline, Audrey, Linda, Sheila, Millie and Donna, the members of the past and the people who have supported them and their events over the years. Purton will be a sadder place without you.

I wonder if, in years to come, we might wish that we could have spared just a little time to help others through the Purton Helping Hand. IT'S ALL TOO LATE.

PEARL LAIT

DISCLAIMER

Contributions to Purton Magazine are always welcome for consideration on the understanding that the contributor's name and address are supplied (but may be withheld from publication on request) and that all related copyright issues have been cleared for publication in this Magazine - especially with those recognisable in any photographs. It follows that opinions expressed in the Magazine are solely those of the respective contributors.

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Transforming Purton Parish - Our Housing (Part 1)

Following the initial overview in this magazine of the *Ps and Qs* flagship project, *Transforming Purton Parish* we have been summarising brief extracts. So far we have extracted key messages and options concerning transport, waste, water, food, energy and health. This extract is about housing and is in two parts. This topic is the one that most concerns those who live in the parish. It features as the number one issue in every survey during the past twenty years and is the one that arouses most passion.

For the most part, the debate is very reasonable; most are not “anti-housing” itself. Very few people are outright NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard). It is the apparent relentless pursuit of the parish’s green fields for mundane housing and that is inappropriate for the location or for the specific needs of the parish that most irks parishioners. Also, the gradual coalescing with Swindon, which is taking place with the recent decisions to build at Moredon Bridge and Ridgeway Farm, is of considerable concern.



The settlement boundary (thick black line) within the parish (thin black line)

In general, planning applications should be for development within the settlement boundary (see above). Development outside the settlement boundary should be only for, in general, agricultural or related uses. Developers try to build outside the boundary of course. A classic recent case is that of Widham Farm. Over the years, it has appeared three times in various guises (with diminishing house numbers until an “acceptable” level is reached) and gone to appeal twice. It has been defeated at appeal most recently in October 2012. Yet little more than two months later, the application was re-submitted and it went to appeal again, which was heard in late September. We now await the inspector’s verdict.

Ps and Qs surveys during the years have indicated a regular response to the need for housing: small clusters not large estates, principally infill or re-development of existing sites, and within the settlement boundary. Whilst it has always been recognised that a range of housing is needed, there has been a noticeable lack of houses for first-time buyers, for those requiring specialist support

or for those who wish to downsize.

It does not take much thinking to realise that some housing is desirable, though it has to be in the right place and aimed for the right people. These two criteria do not always produce the most profit for developers and therein lies the challenge. Those who seek to build houses are trying to maximise their return on investment. That is not unnatural; though it is a powerful drug and that is why many tens of thousands of pounds have been spent by developers in fighting local people during recent years to develop mass housing schemes in the parish. Similarly, local people have spent months of their time in fighting inappropriate housing applications. There has to be a more equitable and better way than this continuing confrontational approach.

For years there has been a growing sense that planning officers within North Wiltshire District Council and, later, Wiltshire Council have been reluctant to engage ordinary people in the planning process. Similarly, there is a growing feeling that ordinary people are not able to influence the system. Yet Government during the same period has been exhorting local people to get involved. There is a sense that most if not all “consultations” are simply a box-ticking exercise with a real reluctance to accommodate reasonable views, if they differ from the accepted wisdom. Sometimes, of course, there is a lack of understanding about how planning works and sometimes about what is allowable. Even at appeals it is quite clear that both sides are able to argue very convincingly for housing or not for housing at a particular location, despite the apparent rules. Even planning inspectors seem to argue differently about how various policies should be understood.

The parish needs housing in many forms: for young adults from families in the parish, for the elderly who wish to stay in the parish, for those with specialist requirements, and for those who wish to move to the parish seeking its special qualities. In the *Village Appraisal* (2000) 42% considered the number of houses built in Purton during the last ten years was about right, with 26% considering it was too much. As to future housing, 61% considered that Purton could not accommodate any more new housing. Concerning costs, 24% considered the houses to be too expensive.

Wiltshire Council considers that there is a strong housing need in the community area. The *District-Wide Housing Need Survey for the North of Wiltshire* indicted a shortfall of 780 social homes per annum and more than 10,000 people seeking a social home across Wiltshire. The tenure mix should be 80% social rented and 20% home buy and with a specified mix of one, two, three and four bed houses in line with the identified housing needs.

Perhaps a word on “affordable” or “social” housing is due. Wiltshire Council's emerging Core Strategy has two main policies referring to affordable housing that are relevant to the parish. Core Policy 43 sets out when affordable housing provision will be required and indicates the proportions which will be sought from housing developers. The provision of affordable housing may vary on a site-by-site basis taking into account evidence of local need, mix of affordable housing proposed and, where appropriate, the viability of the development. Affordable

housing is to be dispersed throughout a development and is to be designed to a high quality, so as to be indistinguishable from other development.

The second relevant policy is Core Policy 44 and concerns exceptions to be made in the case of rural locations. The policy allows for the allocation of or granting of planning permission for small sites comprising affordable housing only. This allows a larger number of affordable homes to be built without the need to have a large housing estate (such as Ridgeway Farm). The council may permit small-scale residential development (ten dwellings or less) outside but adjoining the development limits of Large Villages (a classification in the Core Strategy into which Purton falls).

The proposed criteria are that the development should:

- Have clear support from the local community (this could be done through the neighbourhood plan);
- Be delivered to meet an identified and genuine local need (currently affordable housing occupation in Purton is based on a waiting list approach from anywhere in Wiltshire);
- Be within, adjoining or well related to the existing settlement and does not compromise environmental considerations;
- Consist of ten dwellings or fewer;
- Be accessible to employment and services;
- Be of a scale and type that is appropriate to the nature, character and setting of the settlement; and,
- Always be available for defined local needs.

In practice, a recent development in the parish at Moredon Bridge had 50 units of social housing some of which turned out to be rather small and grouped close to the road. The feeling there is that the whole development (of 200 houses) needed some sort of community focus such as a community centre and something for young people. Once again, a case of building homes and not communities.

Interestingly, GreenSquare (formerly Westlea Housing) has indicated that it could re-configure and develop its existing housing stock to provide the 24 affordable housing units needed for the parish, without further land acquisition.

Wiltshire Council has identified in the *Older People's Accommodation Development Strategy – Meeting Future Needs in Partnership* a need to provide more care in the home for the older population and this includes also a requirement to provide suitable accommodation for the older residents in the parish.

The National Housing Federation South West recently published its *South West Home Truths 2012: The housing market in south west England*, which details key facts and figures about the housing situation in the South West. The report highlights the continued and growing need for more social housing in the region, with one in twelve households in the south west now on a waiting list for a social home.

The recently introduced Localism Act 2012 allows for neighbourhood plans. These plans are approved by local people (by a simple majority during a referendum) and must not conflict with any existing local plan. The "local plan" in the case of the parish is (or will be when it is published) the Wiltshire Core Strategy. A purpose of the neighbourhood plan is to specify where housing could be located within the

neighbourhood that would be additional to any specified in the local plan. Currently, there is no provision in the local plan for large numbers of houses within the parish.

So, what is the potential for housing in the parish? This will be discussed in *Our Housing (Part 2)* next month.

The full report, *Transforming Purton Parish*, is freely downloadable from www.CarbonBrake.com. There is a hard copy in Purton Library.

RICHARD PAGETT (secure@richardpagett.com)

Cricklade Children's Centre

Our family support worker will be visiting Purton Toddler group on a monthly basis with the 'Wiltshire Bookshare Scheme'. You can borrow books for free and keep them for as long as you like. If you have an under-one-year-old you can also borrow Bookshare books fortnightly from the 'Bumps to Babes' group (2 - 3 pm) which runs alongside the health visitor clinic at the village hall.



October half term what are you doing in Purton? Come along to our Free Fantastic Journeys Craft event. Bring your under-5s to Purton Youth Centre on Wednesday 30 October 10.30 - 12 noon and see what you can create.

Chatterbox Course starts in Purton on Friday 8 Nov 2 - 3 pm. You and your little one will have great fun, joining this interactive group with stories, rhyme and song that help encourage speech and listening skills. Collect top tips and a free gift each week. Call the centre to book your place.

Money worries? Would you like to talk to someone about finances / benefits/ debt / housing arrears? Call the centre to book a one-to-one appointment in Purton on 13 November between 10 am and 2 pm where the *Moneyfriend* advisor from the Citizen Advice Bureau will listen and help you.

Toddler Taming: If you would like help to manage tantrums, routines, sleep, eating, behaviour and much more, join our relaxed course starting Thursday 14 November 12.45 - 2.45 pm at the centre in Cricklade. Please contact the centre if you would like to attend but need help with transport.

Join The Big Orange Family Treasure Hunt Stomp: Saturday 12 October between 10 - 11.30 am at Cricklade Children's Centre, Bath Road for our annual fundraising event. Siblings welcome.

Expecting a Baby or Breastfeeding? All you need to know about breastfeeding in a one-off session that will give you information to help you make an informed choice about feeding your baby and prepare you prior to baby's arrival. 7 - 9 pm Tuesday 19 November in Cricklade (please book).

You can also drop in to the 'Bumps to Breastfed Babes' group in the centre and runs every Friday 10 - 11.30 am. Peer supporters are also available for support at the Purton 'Bumps to Babes' group.

More information can be found at www.crickladecc.org, telephone 01793 759187 or email cricklade@spurgeons.org.

After 8



Although we meet up once a month as a group of friends, it was felt that we often knew very little about one another, so our September meeting was entitled “Getting to Know You”. The plan was for each of us to speak for about 5 minutes giving an insight into what makes us tick. The problem that arose was that everyone seemed to have such an interesting background, that the questions caused each of us to talk for far longer than intended.

All sorts of fascinating details emerged, ranging from place of birth, through hobbies and careers to overseas stays. Although there were only 9 of our members at this particular meeting, an amazing number of previously unknown coincidences were revealed.

Such was the interest, that we didn’t even break for refreshment, and were still talking as we set out for home.

CATHY MOSLEY

On 22 October our meeting will be to sort out a plan for next year, followed by a discussion of “TV Nostalgia”, at Gwyneth’s. Contact [Avril](#) for details.

Community Café for Purton

Last month we announced that we were exploring the possibility of opening a Community Café for Purton. We have been very encouraged by the response, all positive so far with about half a dozen concrete offers of help. Thank you.

It is important that a Community Café is run by Purton for Purton, so this month we are collecting views on who and when the community would like the café open and what kind of food and drink they would buy and like to see served there.

We are grateful to the editors of the Purton Magazine for agreeing to include a questionnaire in the centre of this month’s edition so you can have your say. It would be very helpful if you could spare a few minutes to complete it and return it to us via the Butcher’s or Best One. Alternatively you could send your answers by email to david.nettleton@hotmail.co.uk. If you do this by the end of October we will be able to give some feedback on what Purton wants in December’s magazine. There will be more copies of the questionnaire in the Butcher’s and Best One as we would like each member of a household to complete it so we gather a complete picture.

The information gathered through the questionnaire will be extremely valuable to us as we design a community café to meet the needs of Purton and to ensure it will sustain. The information it provides will also be crucial in our applications for grants and planning, particularly for the evidence it will give of strong support for the café from the community. So please don’t leave it to others ... complete and return the questionnaire today.

The questionnaire also provides another opportunity for you to express an interest in helping with the project should you wish. We need more volunteers for the project to succeed. As well as identifying like-minded Purtonians who want to help set up and manage a Purton Community Café, we are also keen to identify those not yet ready to commit to anything, but who would like to be kept informed of progress and who might be prepared to help out later. Thank you again.

DAVE & MARY NETTLETON

Food Festival: Our very own Food Festival takes place on Saturday, 2 November between 12 noon and 4 pm at Purton Village Hall. Entrance £1 adults and children 16 and under FREE. We have had an excellent response from local food producers and retailers so you should be able to walk away having got much of your Christmas menu catered for. You may also find that you can tick a few items off your Christmas present list as well.

We will be launching our very own recipe book as well as having a second hand cookery, craft and gardening book stall. There will be cake and biscuit decorating for the kids, and much more. We don't want you to go hungry on the day either so we will have soup, mulled wine, cakes, biscuits, soft drinks and tea/coffee, as well as some of our exhibitors having samples to tempt you with!

We look forward to seeing you all. If you would like to exhibit please contact [Helen](#).

Members responded to the call for the meeting of 21 August and it was indeed a merry throng, many in pirates outfit – some exceedingly smart! – the medicine cabinet had been raided for black eye patches, and the Hall was decorated to suit the occasion. The enthusiasm of our WI could never be in doubt.

Paul Booy's talk on Blackbeard and his Pirate Mates was in his popular style of part-humour, part-serious facts, and had a rapt audience – our limited knowledge of these men (occasionally females were involved, but undoubtedly in a more subtle way!) was due to fun films we have enjoyed, making it all look exciting and lucrative, with handsome highwaymen of the seas. Certainly some of our heroes could be called pirates or privateers – consider Drake, or Captain Morgan (who ended up Governor of Jamaica), even Julius Caesar. But did you know that the pirates were/are as organised as any trade union and there were rules and understandings that had to be adhered to, or the result could be savage – think about keel-hauling and those barnacles! There was, in fact, so much material of interest in Mr Booy's talk that I hope to hear it again, there was so much to take in.

The table of outings and activities was full – did you see that Saga Travel would like to entertain some of us? And on Saturday 7 December we can look forward to a trip to Ironbridge and Telford (£20). Hook WI's Chocolate meeting sounds good, as well as the Food Festival in Purton Village Hall on Saturday 2 November. The weather and the season won't stop us from enjoying ourselves, whilst we ponder seriously on what to suggest for next year's National Resolutions. Never let it be said that we are all Cakes and Ale.

The programme for 16 October looks interesting, entitled "My Kilimanjaro Experience" with Eunice Salmon. These adventure talks can be inspiring and, but make me feel personally such a feeble creature. Am I alone, I wonder? The competition is "a Memento of a Special Holiday" and the social time will be stretching our memory cells – it's entitled "Name that Mountain"! (A quick swat-up is called for – perhaps appropriate holiday brochures will give guidance.)

As always, see you there, if possible beating you to the sales tables - just the time of year for produce!

CONSTANCE REED

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.



■ COMMENT FROM PURTON MEDICAL PRACTICE

We would like to clarify the comment Richard Pagett made in his recent article in last month's magazine with reference to the general doctor-patient ratio in the UK. He states that this ratio is about 2.4 per 1000 of population and as the practice population is 9500 approximately that this should be nearly 23 doctors. This reference is not solely for GPs; it would include hospital doctors as well.

The average list size for solely GPs is approximately 1800 patients per GP therefore we are well within the ratio when our new salaried doctor commences with us next month. We hope this helps in clarifying why we haven't got 23 doctors working in Purton Medical practice.

We would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that we are delighted to be welcoming Dr Lauren Richardson to the practice team at the beginning of September as a salaried GP.

■ PURTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Purton Football Club is, and has been for quite a while, in dire financial trouble. To assist them to raise badly needed funds myself and Phil from the Red House Club are running a scheme where you can donate a "Pound a Point" for the season 2013-14.

Forms are available from me on 770597 or Phil at the Red House on 770262. I have 27 to date and would like to increase this to 40+ with the support of people who wish the future of

the football club to continue for the youngsters and youth of the village!

Terry Crumbie

■ FLOWER BASKETS

Thank you to all involved in planting and maintaining the magnificent hanging flower baskets down at the Village Hall. They are a wonderful display and are appreciated by all. We, in the village, are extremely grateful for all the work that goes into planting them and maintaining them throughout the summer.

Thank you from many Purtonians.

■ THANKS TO POST OFFICE

May I have the opportunity to say, that, due to our Post Office closing it is time to say a huge thank you to Sue Budd, Jane, Helen and Ann for their sterling service over the years. They have been magnificent over the years and I can say that things will not be the same again.

The 'Repatee' once inside with the 'Regulars' etc, was friendly and humorous and part of the 'Village Life'. We will miss them all but I am sure we would like to wish Sue a Very Happy Retirement. Just to help her wind down though, I suggest that we hammer on the door every day at 9 am for the few weeks, gradually reducing day by day so it is not such a dramatic cut off.

I'll do the first week!

Good Luck Sue and all the ladies. We will miss you!

Chris Glead

■ “WE’VE BEEN SO WORRIED FOR YOU”
How kind of you all to care and I’ve been really overwhelmed by the loveliest of flowers that have come my way not to mention the guzzliest of chocolates! The house has looked so pretty and still does at the time of writing and I can’t quite explain how very supporting and uplifting it has all been. Thank you all so much.

There are cards of encouragement on every surface and I’ve had a lot of real pleasure from them. Your good wishes have been rather like a hovercraft lifting me above the rather dodgy waves beneath. After all you don’t really know what is going on inside you, or perhaps the more informed of you do! But I absolutely don’t! But I have been VERY impressed with the surgical skills I have been subjected to and Hector (who was seeing some kind of disintegration) says I am restored to something like ‘normal’. So good news and if I did behave a bit oddly to anyone I apologise and hope it wasn’t TOO peculiar!

Thank you again for your care and concern – and yes, it does make a difference. But can I just suggest if you are talking to Hector perhaps “Is she improving ...” That might just be a step too far even for a highly competent surgeon! And I’m very happy to report that I’ve just had the all-clear from Oxford so life can carry on – how lucky can you be?!

Caroline McLean

■ CHURCH STREET

I would like to share the worry that Tony Price has for the elderly at Age Concern with the crossing to the new Post Office at the junction of Church Street. As a regular user of the Red House Club I have also had some near misses at this junction.

Could the Parish Council look into the idea of illuminating the Stop sign from Church Street and maybe even making it a flashing sign!

Terry Crumbie

Shoebox News

Our 2013 project is well underway, with hats, mittens, bags and purses being knitted, pencil cases, necklaces and bracelets being made. The bargain hunters are out and about and of course the shoeboxes are being covered. So with some confidence, I can say we are on target to hopefully provide around the same amount as last year. It is hoped also that we receive as many filled boxes from individuals as before. If you would like to make a contribution of empty boxes, items for the boxes or a financial donation to buy some items, our team would be grateful.

The **Fund Raising Day** with lunches will be at 35 High Street on **Saturday 28 September** from 10 am to 3 pm. Lunches will be served from 12 noon at a cost of £5 (ham and cheese salad, bread roll, pudding, tea and coffee). As previous years, money raised on the day will be used for the transportation costs of the boxes, which has now increased to £3.

The day for filling the boxes will be Saturday 2 November at the Methodist Church, from 10 am to 2 pm.

SYLVIA FREEMANTLE, Coordinator
35 High Street, Tel: 770686



Purton Diary - October 2013

September

28 Sa 10.00am to 3pm: Shoebox Fundraising Day at 35 High Street

October

1 Tu 2.00pm Silver Threads Club: W.I. Entertainers

2 W 10.00am Age Concern Mystery tour

3 Th 10.30am Communion at St Mary's Church

5 Sa 6.00pm Family Harvest Beetle Drive, Silver Threads Hall

6 Su 8.00am Communion at St Mary's Church
10.30am Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
10.30am Family Service Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church
6.00pm Evensong at St Mary's Church

8 Tu 11.00am Songs of Praise at Ashgrove House
2.30pm Methodist Women's Fellowship at Hooks Hill with the Rev. David Perkins
7.30pm Purton Yacht Club at The Angel

9 W 7.30pm Historical Society Course commences at Silver Threads Hall

10 Th 10.30am Songs of Praise at the Cedars

11 F 9.30am Age Concern Minibus to Swindon
7.00pm to 9pm: Ladies' Pamper Evening at St Mary's School

13 Su 8.00am Communion at St Mary's Church
10.30am Church Anniversary Service at the Methodist Church
10.30am Communion at St Mary's Church
6.00pm Evensong at St Mary's Church

14 M 7.30pm Purton Parish Council meeting at Village Hall - press and public welcome

15 Tu 2.00pm Silver Threads Club
7.45pm Royal British Legion at The Red House

16 W 2.00pm Communion at Ashgrove House
7.30pm Purton Evening Women's Institute at Village Hall: Eunice Salmon - *Kilimanjaro experience*

17 Th 7.30pm Historical Society at St Mary's School Hall: Cathrien van Hak: *Avebury Manor - Past and Present*
for 8pm: PADS presents Pull the Other One, Village Hall

18 F 7.30pm for 8pm: PADS presents Pull the Other One, Village Hall

19 Sa 10.00am to 2pm: Coffee Morning, Lunch & Stalls at Silver Threads Hall
7.30pm for 8pm: PADS presents Pull the Other One, Village Hall

20 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
10.30am to 4.30pm: Age Concern Antiques & Collectables Fayre at Village Hall
6.00pm Evensong at St Mary's Church
7.30pm Swindon Choral Society: Atlantic Odyssey at St Peter's

			Church, Eastlease
22	Tu	2.30pm	Communion at White Lodge
		7.30pm	Gardeners' Guild at Silver Threads Hall: Richard Gatenby - <i>Garden at Barnsley House</i>
		8.00pm	After 8: <i>TV Nostalgia</i> - led by Avril at Gwyneth's
26	Sa	1.30pm	Table Top Sale at Village Hall (by Helping Hand)
		7.30pm	World Challenge disco at Village Hall

27	Su		End of British Summer Time - clocks go back
		8.00am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		10.30am	Morning Worship at the Methodist Church
		10.30am	Communion at St Mary's Church
		6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's Church
29	Tu	2.00pm	Silver Threads Club: Co-op Choir
30	W	7.30pm	Whist Drive at Silver Threads Hall (for Air Ambulance)

November

1	F	3.30pm	Communion at the Cedars
2	Sa	12 noon	<i>to 4pm</i> : Purton Food Festival at Village Hall (organised by W.I.)
		5.30pm	<i>Bonfire 6pm</i> : Scouts Firework Spectacular at Lydiard Park - p64

Every week

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

Moon Phases

● 5 October
 ◐ 11 October
 ○ 18 October
 ◑ 26 October

Lydiard Millicent Art Exhibition

The Art Exhibition is a 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 starts with the preview evening from 6 pm until 9 pm on Friday 18 October, with wine and nibbles and other refreshments. Saturday starts 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".

For more information please call Tracey Rapson on 01793 770996.

PURTON PLACARD

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

**Swindon Choral Society
& Warneford School Choir
Present**

ATLANTIC ODYSSEY *A Journey Through Music*

Words by Michael Polack
Music by Robin Nelson
*A specially commissioned work with
professional soloists and orchestra*

SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER

St Peter's Church, Eastlease, Swindon
7.30pm start (doors open 7pm)

Tickets £15

Tickets available from
www.swindonchoral.org.uk

Swindon Information Centre
in the Central Library
or from members of the choir

SWINDON CHORAL SOCIETY



ATLANTIC ODYSSEY a journey through music

an exhibition of words, photography and
textiles

at

Link Centre Library
(admission free)

from

3rd September - 5th October.

opening times

Monday, Wednesday 9-30am -5pm

Tues, Thurs, Friday 9-30am-7pm

Sat 9-30am-4pm

Telling the story of the new choral work

Family Harvest Beetle Drive

Saturday 5 October, 6 pm

Silver Threads Hall, Purton

Children welcome, accompanied by an adult

Bring and Share supper to eat at 7 pm

Please bring your food to share and drinks

(alcoholic or not!) of your choice

Tea and coffee will be provided

**Please note: This is a free event, no tickets
required**

SHOEBOX

FUNDRAISING DAY

Saturday 28 September

10 am - 3 pm

35 High Street

Lunches from 12 noon - £5

(ham & cheese salad, bread

roll,

pudding, tea/coffee)

Proceeds for transport costs

of the boxes

St Mary's CE Primary School

LADIES' PAMPER EVENING

Friday 11 October

7 - 9 pm

£3 (including drink on arrival)

Licensed bar

Purton Silver Threads

Jumble Sale

16 November at 2 pm

Silver Threads Hall

Lots of bargains

Raffle Refreshments

Purton
Evening W.I.



Purton Food Festival

Saturday 2 November
12 noon - 4 pm
at the Village Hall

Entrance £1 adults
children 16 and under FREE

Featuring Local
Food Producers & Retailers
Purton W.I. Recipe Book launch

Second hand cookery,
craft and gardening book stall.

Cake and Biscuit Decorating for kids

Soup, mulled wine, cakes, biscuits,
soft drinks and tea/coffee.

Exhibitor samples!

And lots more!

More information or to Exhibit:

[contact Helen](#)

Purton & District Age Concern **ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES FAYRE**

on Sunday 20 October
10.30 am to 4.30 pm

at the Village Hall
Refreshments available
Admission 50p.

Enquiries:- Tel. No. 01793 770339

World Challenge Disco **Purton Village Hall**

26 October, 7.30 - 11.30pm

Bar & Nibbles

£6 entry

For tickets contact
Julie or Tracy

Purton Helping Hand **Ladies' Night Out**

28 November

7.30 pm at the Village Hall

Watch for posters
with more details

Purton Amateur Dramatic Society
presents



Pull the Other One

A play by
Norman Robbins

Licence by Samuel French London

Friday 18 & Saturday 19 October 2013

7.30 pm at The Village Hall

Curtain up at 8 pm

Tickets £7.50 Adults, £6.00 OAP's, £4.00 Children

Licensed bar applied for.

Tickets available from Best One, In Touch Services
Lindsey Hall 771890, Sue Richardson 772581 or any
PADS member



Whist Drive

in aid of
Wiltshire Air
Ambulance
on Wednesday
30 October
7.30 pm at

Silver Threads Hall
Raffle & Refreshments
Tickets £2
on the door

**MORE PLACARD
OVERLEAF**

PURTON ARTISTS 32ND EXHIBITION

TO BE HELD
AT

THE VILLAGE HALL
LOWER SQUARE, PURTON

NOVEMBER

FRI 8th 6pm-8.30pm
SAT 9th 10am-4pm
SUN 10th 10am-4pm

Light Refreshments available



SHOEBOX FILLING DAY

Saturday 2 November
10 am - 2 pm
Purton Methodist Church
(The cost of sending
a filled box is now £3)

Purton School, St Mary's Class of 1958-59 Reunion

Saturday 16 November,
7.30 pm onwards.
Wives, husbands, partners
and friends welcome.
Reunion at Purton Club, Station Road
£5.50 per head
to be paid in by 1 November
Details from
Peter Kinnett (01793) 771716
Basil Mills (01793) 772418



Purton Under 5's Community Playgroup

on the St Mary's Primary School site (at the top of College Road)

The Playgroup offers the following groups:

Playgroup Monday - Friday
for 2½ - 5 yr olds* 9am - 1pm (inc Lunch Club)

Run by friendly, qualified staff.
Encouraging learning through fun and
stimulating play.

Busy Fingers Wednesday
for 2 - 3 yr olds** 1.10 - 3.10pm

Parents and toddlers can together
explore arts, crafts, games etc.
1st 'taster' session free.

Accredited by the Bristol Standard Quality Assurance Scheme with an Ofsted rating of Good.

For more information call us on **01793 771723**



* From 3 years old your child is entitled to 15 hours of government-funded childcare per week.**Younger siblings welcome.

WHAT'S ON?

Renaissance Choir

St Sampson's Church Cricklade on Sunday, 6 October at 3.15 pm

A one-hour performance with a varied programme to include selections from the Vespers of both Rachmaninov and Gretchaninov, some Renaissance motets and some folk song arrangements by Rutter.

The choir from Emsworth, Hampshire, is one of the UK's finest semi-professional choirs. It has performed at many prestigious venues in Europe including Notre Dame in Paris, Chartres Cathedral, Versailles, Prague, Budapest and at international festivals. Further details are available at www.renaissancechoir.org.uk

The concert is free, but the choir have kindly suggested that any donations could be donated to the church.

Bradon Forest Theatre The Peak, Purton, Wiltshire - 01793 773981

Friday 15 November, 7.30pm £7 (£6 Students)

Pangottic presents **Logic of Nothing**

Welcome to the world of Oscar Boffin; a slightly obsessive compulsive hoarder, inventor and a man who has filled his home with gadgets and contraptions to make his life easier (or harder, depending on how well they work).

Logic of Nothing is a Heath Robinson/Rube Goldberg inspired piece of non-verbal Circus-Theatre. An exploration into a relationship between man, circus and contraption using a blend of clown, juggling, magic and invention, all set to a unique live soundtrack of sounds and samples taken from the contraptions themselves.

DOMINIC WALDRON

Swindon Choral Society

The Society together with Warneford School Choir will be presenting Atlantic Odyssey - A Journey Through Music at 7.30 pm on Sunday 20 October at St Peter's Church, Eastlease, Swindon (doors open 7 pm). With words by Michael Polack and music by Robin Nelson, this is a specially commissioned work with professional soloists and orchestra.

Tickets priced £15 are available from www.swindonchoral.org.uk, from the Swindon Information Centre in the Central Library or from members of the choir.

There is an exhibition of words, photography and textiles telling the story of the new work. This is on until 5 October at the Link Centre Library, admission free, at the following times:

Mons & Weds:	9.30 am - 5 pm
Tues, Thurs, Fris:	9.30 am - 7 pm
Saturdays:	9.30 am - 4 pm



Great War Project

3. Austro-Hungarian Challenges & Ambitions

From the History lessons of my schooldays*, I seem to remember the Austro-Hungarian Empire being referred to as the “Empire of a Thousand Tongues”. I’ve ‘Googled’ it more recently but can’t find the term being used. But it fits that rather strange empire very well.

We first met Austria in Part 1, when we found that it was a survivor of the Napoleonic wars against the Holy Roman Empire, being Emperor Francis II’s personal lands. With the emergence of Prussia after Waterloo, Austria was marginalised from the “North German” mainstream and went its own way ... south and east.

From the English spelling, Austria is very confusable with “Australia” and the idea of “South” - from Latin *australis*. But it is more understandable from the German: Austria is an English mis-hearing of Oesterreich (Österreich) meaning “Eastern land”.

Much of the politics, confrontation and agreements between the neighbouring empires has been covered in the first two parts, so it may suffice to summarise the Austrian position. In the Napoleonic Wars, coming out of the defeated Holy Roman Empire in 1805-6, the Austrian Empire, with its capital in Vienna, lost its surviving territories in the northern German area of Hanover which became a separate kingdom under the political control of Britain whose king was George III (House of Hanover, of course) and this control survived into Victorian times. By 1866 after various wars with Prussia and Italy, Austria left the stage of northern German affairs and started looking to cementing an empire with Hungary, large amounts of whose lands the Austrian king already owned as personal possessions, but which were in revolt against their Austrian overlord, culminating in the “Year of Revolutions” (1848). 20 years of instability led to a Union agreement in 1867, known by the German word *Ausgleich*, under which the Austrian Empire became the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and Hungary and the Hungarian lands obtained equal status with the rest of Austria as a whole. Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria (grandson of Francis II) was crowned King of Hungary, thus it was also known as The Dual Monarchy.

Austria and Hungary shared a common currency (the krone) but otherwise they operated completely independently from one another. Also as an Empire with hugely different ethnic groups its internal politics were mainly those of dispute. With twin capitals at Vienna and Buda (Pest was the other side of the Danube), the Empire contained Bosnians, Croatians, Czechs, Germans, Hungarians, Italians, Poles, Romanians, Serbs, Slovaks, Slovenes and Ukrainians all speaking different languages or dialects and with different ethnic ambitions. It was often regarded more as a “Prison of Nations” than a nation.

The Dual Monarchy, after the Prussian and Italian wars, turned its attention to the Balkans. Here the lands were in turmoil as local nationalists sought to end the rule of the Ottoman Empire. In this region Austria came into political conflict with Russia. Since before the Crimean War, Russia had taken on the self-appointed



The Austro-Hungarian Empire

A map of the different ethnic groups in Austria-Hungary around 1910

role of “Protector of Orthodox Christianity” and now was looking to add “Protector of the Slavs” to its title. Meanwhile Austria was on the path towards a multi-ethnic empire which would be as religiously varied as its cultures – Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, Jews, Muslims. Gyula Andrásy, a Hungarian, was Foreign Minister of the Empire (1871-79) and he opposed Russian plans in the Balkans. He also blocked Serbia’s ideas of domination in a new southern Slav federation. The third plank of his diplomacy was that he wanted Germany to ally with Austria, not Russia.

Russia defeated Turkey in the Russo-Turkish War (1877-78); Austria felt that the Treaty of San Stefano, which ended it, favoured Russia. As part of a series of international treaty summits, the Congress of Berlin in 1878 allowed Austria to occupy the province of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a predominantly Slav area. It specifically did not allow Austria to annex Bosnia ... but that is another part of the story.

Here we see:

- An empire which is a hotchpotch of nationalities ...
- ... all with their own ambitions
- the empire seemingly seeking even more diversity in Balkan affairs.
- A policy of rapprochement with Germany.
- A recipe for regional instability as we shall later find.

RICK DIXON

* I would like to dedicate this series to Mr P.M. Dodd who taught me History at Calday Grange Grammar School in West Kirby on the Wirral, in Cheshire as it was in those days. His inspirational teaching of my 1967 O’ Level course “The History of the Great Powers, 1870-1914” has remained with me all of my life and has put much of the world’s subsequent history into perspective.

Purton Historical Society



One of my favourite destinations, particularly when we have visitors, is Avebury and the Manor but during the autumn and winter months the weather often means that trips out are not so practical. I am delighted that we will be welcoming Cathrien van Hak who will bring Avebury Manor to us! She will talk about the manor – past and present, the BBC project, people who have lived there and the history of the house. Our meeting is on Thursday, 17 October, 7.30 pm at St Mary's School Hall. Visitors always welcome.

Back in 1991 PHS published a book called *Purton's Past* by (the then Museum Curator) the late Alec Robbins. A fascinating book about the history of our village – an interesting read in itself but it can inspire you delve further into the history, whether it be our Cricket Club founded in 1820 or our beautiful Parish Church which dates back to the 12th century, however if that all seems a bit modern then the earliest Purton inhabitants were probably here around 3,500 B.C.

The book has been out of print for some years but has now been reprinted. Copies are available from the Museum (above the library) and In Touch Services (115, Pavenhill) at £15 each. For further information please contact me.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – Christmas Social Friday 6 December.

[HELEN DIXON](#), Chair

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 Wednesdays 9 October to 27 November (no talk on 30 October)

Time 7.30 pm

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

Further Information: Inez Gale, 770138 or Paul Booy, 770755

Subjects covered:

- Fighting For Independence / Amsterdam and Independence
- Amsterdam and the World / The Church in the Attic
- Tulips and Madness / Art and the Golden Age
- Rembrandt / Housewives and Hussies
- The Golden Age and Science / The Venlo Incident
- War 1940-1945 / The Amsterdam of Anne Frank
- The Hongerwinter / Amsterdam Today

Purton & the Great War

Following on from his two previous books (*Purton: Village Sons & the Great War* and *Purton & The Great War*) Bob Lloyd is researching for a new book to be released in 2014. If anyone has any stories or details they would wish to be included in the book, please contact him as follows:

BOB LLOYD, 3 Oak Tree Close, North Leigh, Oxfordshire OX29 6AB

web: www.purton1418.co.uk email: bob.mech00@tiscali.co.uk



Examination Results

As ever this summer saw nervous hands opening envelopes as students received their GCSE results. However, there were a lot of smiling faces with lots of excellent individual results and many students progressing to Sixth Form, College and apprenticeships.

Special mention should go to some outstanding performers including Hannah Curtis, Elliot Gunton and Emma Hobbs who got 15, 14 and 13 A and A* grades respectively. In addition, Joanna Stewart, Molly Nowell and Ellen Whatley, Niamh Butler, Nathan Hiles, Robert Mills, Paddy Robinson, Emma Bessent, Adam Bradley, Lauren Hoard, Nathan Hoy, Bella Larkin, Mair Lawrence-Matthews, Daniel Phillips, Shannon Smith and Elliot Willoughby all achieved 7-10 A or A* grades.



*Joanne Stewart (left)
with Hannah Curtis (right)*

Along with fantastic individual performances 2013 also saw a 6% rise in the government's 'gold standard' performance measure – those students who gain 5 or more GCSEs including English and Mathematics. At 59% this is the best result in Bradon's recent history. Congratulations to all the staff, parents and particularly students who worked so hard for these results. This increase is the result of some excellent work last year and I must thank Helen Wilkinson for all her work as Acting Headteacher last summer.

In addition to our own GCSE success, staff were particularly delighted to read in the press about our ex-students who achieved such excellent A Level results. While I realise that by the time this is published many students who performed so well this summer at A Level will already be at university, please pass on our congratulations if you are a parent or friend.

A New Headteacher – Dr Andrew Morrison

It is with great delight that I am penning my first lines for the Magazine as Headteacher of Bradon. I have moved to Bradon Forest from King Alfred's, an outstanding school in South Oxfordshire.

Having been appointed in March it has been a long six-month wait to take up the post and I appreciate the goodwill of all of you who have made me feel welcome at events such as the Scout 'Spiderling' talk, our own Alice in Wonderland and Bugsy Malone productions or simply at the school gates. I look forward to meeting many more of you at village events and at school.

2013/14 promises to be an exciting year with a series of fantastic visits and events alongside the core job of ensuring students get the highest academic results possible. Even given the increase in examination results this summer we are all



aware at Bradon Forest that results can be even higher. The staff and I are very much focused on ensuring students and the school are as successful as possible. I know that having the best possible secondary school in Purton is what we all want and thank you for your support us with this.

Upcoming Events: The Bradon Forest School theatre hosts a variety of student and professional shows throughout the year which are open to the local community. For more information, including how to sign up for our mailing list, please see our website www.bradonforesttheatre.co.uk

18 October	Shop of Little Horrors - Pickled Image
22 October	Autumn Music Concert - Bradon Forest students
15 November	Logic of Nothing - Pangottic Theatre
4, 5, 6 December 2013	Romeo and Juliet - Bradon Forest students

ANDREW MORRISON, Headteacher

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

Sunday 6 October: CREAM TEA IN THE MOONRAKER from 12 noon

Sunday 27 October: HALLOWEEN HIGH TEA IN THE MOONRAKER from 12 noon. Please ring Jim Larkin on 01357 820623 for enquiries.



Thursday 31 October & Friday 1 November:

HALLOWEEN GHOST TRAIN 6 pm to 8.45 pm

This spooky ride on the train will be even more enjoyable if you come in fancy dress. This is one of our most popular events of the year. Adults £7, Seniors £6, Children £5 including chocolate bar.

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.

General enquiries on 01793 750335, 771615 or web site (above).

Purton Friends of Art Group

The Purton friends of Art Group meet every second and third Tuesday of the month at the Silver Threads Hall at 7.15 - 9.15 pm.

We are a friendly easy to get on with group who cover different styles and types of art who will offer help and advise if needed.

Why not come along and meet us and join our happy group. If you are interested phone Mick or Shirley Hull on 01793 772453.

Solicitors Legal Clinic in Cricklade

Following two successful legal clinics in Cricklade in the last few months, the North Wiltshire Law Practice of Bevirs has decided to hold a clinic again. If you would otherwise have to travel to Swindon or Cirencester for professional legal advice you can book a twenty-minute consultancy free of charge on 01793 848900 (ext. 426). The clinic will be held at the Committee Room at Ockwells, 113, High Street, Cricklade on Wednesday 19 October from 12 pm until 4 pm.

Are you ready for Winter?

The days are still warm and relatively long so who wants to think about winter - YOU DO!



In a very short time the daily temperature will drop, the clocks go back and the world becomes a different place. Very few people love the winter months and as we get older our bodies find coping with the cold more difficult and health problems can develop. By being prepared we can stay warm and healthy this coming winter.

Is your property ready for winter?

Check the exterior of your property. Are there any loose or missing tiles on the roof, are your gutters clear of leaves, and are there any damp patches on the walls? Use a known and reputable company to do any repair work now. Personal recommendation is best, or try the Age UK Registered Traders list, or Trading Standards website www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk. Don't wait for the rain or the snow falling – that is when a rogue trader comes knocking on your door telling you that they have noticed a problem which you may not have!

Get your central heating boiler serviced; if you use fires get the chimney swept. It is the landlord's responsibility to get these carried out if you live in rented property. Make sure smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working. If you haven't got any get some installed they could save your life if your air vents become blocked.

Draft proofing doors and windows, loft insulation and lagging your hot water tank all help keep your home warm and comfortable as well as lowering your heating bills. Did you know that an electric blanket which is designed to stay on low all night is more beneficial to your body warmth than keeping the temperature high in your bedroom at night, and cheaper? Malmesbury Fire Station is open for checking the safety of electric blankets on 23 October. Book an appointment on 01225 713557.

Have a supply of salt and sand to put on your path and /or steps so that you can walk more safely outside when it is icy.

Are you going to be warm and healthy this winter?

If you are over 65 you are entitled to a free flu jab. The flu virus changes so you need to have a jab every year with the latest vaccine. Flu can develop into Pneumonia which can be very serious, even fatal. Most GP surgeries have a flu clinic. Make sure you are booked in. [See page 9. Ed.]

Ideally your living areas should be 18-21°C in the day. Heat your bedroom before you go to bed and keep it at about 18°C overnight. In the coldest weather have the heat come on a little earlier so the rest of the house is warm when you get up.

Keep moving. Don't stay in your chair all day – get up every so often and wander around as this generates heat. Eat at least one hot meal a day and lots of hot drinks. If you have difficulty walking try some exercises in your chair to keep you moving. Remember wearing a number of thin layers of clothes is more effective than one thick layer.

Have a torch at hand in case of power cuts and also a supply of tinned or dry provisions in case you can't get to the shops. Make arrangements for your regular prescriptions to be delivered by the pharmacy.

Just because it is cold outside don't give up on your friends or your regular social

groups. It is important to socialise – we are happier and healthier when we meet and chat to others. Try to arrange activities so they are in the day rather than in the evening or work out car shares. If you can't get out, keep in touch with your friends and family by phone. Hearing about someone's day can help lift your spirits.

Listen to local radio – it will keep you up to date with what is happening in your area.

Some people are anxious that they will not have enough money to cover their fuel bills in the coldest months. There are grants to support elderly people who spend more than 10% of their income on fuel and are on state benefits ... and don't forget that all those on state pension receive a winter fuel payment to help with costs.

If you have any queries regarding preparing for winter or would like more information on any of the above, talk to your local good neighbour coordinator, Ellen Blacker on 07757 110414.

Cotswold Water Park

Big Cats – the search for the secret panther: 9 October at 7 pm
Gateway Centre, Spine Road, South Cerney GL7 5TL

The Cotswold Water Park Trust are delighted to welcome back to the Gateway Centre, by popular demand, author and big cat expert Rick Minter. Rick will explain ways in which evidence is being sought for big cats living wild in the UK, from camera traps to the various signs that big cats would leave in the landscape, including tree raking, scent marking and prey remains.



Dr Mark Avery – Fighting for Wildlife : 14 November at 7.30 pm
Gateway Centre, Spine Road South Cerney GL7 5TL

Well known campaigner, writer and Dr Mark Avery will be appearing in the Cotswold Water Park for the first time to give a frank and passionate talk about the current big conservation issues, and discussing the question 'Can the ordinary person make a difference?'



Mark Avery

Booking is essential for both events – tickets can be bought in advance by calling the Cotswold Water Trust offices during office hours on 01793 752413, or email events@waterpark.org. Tickets cost £7.50. For any more information about these events or the work of the CWP Trust, please see the website www.waterpark.org

The Cotswold Water Park Trust is your local charity working to improve the Cotswold Water Park for wildlife and people.

JILL BEWLEY

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

Church Flowers for Harvest

Soon it will be Harvest Festival time at St Mary's Church. We would like you all to share the celebration of this wonderful summer of sunshine. The apple trees are groaning with fruit; there is a glut of nuts; elderberries and sloes are in abundance. It has certainly been a marvellous summer for the harvest

So we are inviting all Purtonians to celebrate by putting flowers in the Church for our Harvest services on 6 October. If you would like to remember a special event; or have flowers as a memorial, or wish to remember a birth or an anniversary, then just bring a posy of flowers ... or an arrangement of any size ... to St Mary's on Saturday 5 October, between 10 am and noon in readiness for the services on Sunday. Someone will be there in Church to offer help if needed.

After the Services some of these posies will then be taken out to people in the village who are poorly.

For more details please contact [Libbie](#).

Charity Tea Party at the Maharajah Restaurant

Many thanks to all who supported the Tea Party at *The Maharajah* restaurant on Bank Holiday Monday. Those that cooked, helped, attended, donated food and jam and, even just popped in to make a donation. Many, many thanks. We made a whopping £526.00 which was shared equally by our two charities, Purton Age Concern and the Special Needs Hostel for Children in Udaipur.

There was a wonderful, friendly atmosphere and Professor Garg, a volunteer at the Hostel who was present at the event, was very touched by people's kindness and generosity. He was also given another wheelchair to take back to India, which was kindly donated by a resident of Purton.

The afternoon was made possible by Khaliq and his staff, who made the premises available as well as donating their time to serve tea and cakes. So, many thanks to them as well.

Well done Purton!

TINA GRANT

The Royal British Legion Purton Branch

The Horticultural Show Committee would like to thank most sincerely firstly the Red House Committee for allowing us to hold our annual show at the Red House Club, our two main sponsors Hills Group Ltd. and John Toomer Garden Centre, the cup and plaque sponsors, the advertisers, the judges, helpers, and most of all the exhibitors without whom the show would not take place! Most importantly we are able to give a substantial donation to the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

So a huge thank-you to everyone who made the show such a success and we hope we will see you in 2014!



HEATHER HARRIS, Hon. Sec.

Purton & Lydiard Charity Fund

Our final Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 2 September.



The decision to close was made mostly because of lack of support, two people just aren't enough to run a charity, increases in hall hire and insurance didn't help either!

Jenny and Lynda would like to thank those who attended the meeting; Alan Warren, Pauline Ward, Pearl Lait, Howard Smith and Karen, Ella and Max Compton. A copy of the final accounts and a list of donations to date were handed out and the charity will now be de-commissioned. The

final action was to present Max and Howard with a cheque for £350, the final balance in the account, to support the fund raising for the new scout hall.

We would also like to thank our families and friends who have supported us over the years.

LYNDA WARREN

Floodlighting St Mary's Church

If anyone would like St Mary's Church floodlit, (and also possibly an announcement put in this Magazine), during November to February, please contact Libbie (771018) as soon as possible.

When Libbie is unavailable there will be a new number to contact which will be announced next month. Have you ever thought of having the church floodlit for a special occasion ... a memorial or a celebration? The cost is £16 per night.

Libbie will give you all the details.



Crafty Flower-Making Day: 19 October

Would you like to come and join us making 'Flowers', using all sorts of different crafts? There will be felt flowers, barge-art painting flowers; clay flowers; water colour painted flowers ... all sorts.

The idea is that you come to the Methodist Church, Playclose on Saturday 19 October from 10 am and stay as long as you can (until 4 pm!), making as many different flowers as you want, depending on your time available. You pay for what you make. For example a felt flower will cost about £5: a painted baby garland £3: a clay flower £2.

There will be lunch available and coffees etc throughout the day.

The day is suitable for anyone from 8 years old to 98 years old ... and more! (Young people need to be with an adult.)

Please contact [Libbie](#) or Mary to find out more and to book your place. Why not encourage all your friends to come with you?! It should be a great fun day and all profits go to Christian Aid's Syria fund.



Church Floodlighting

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



- 4 September The Church was floodlit in memory of **Jean Haines**, for her anniversary which was on 5 September.
Sadly Missed; Forever in our Hearts.
Sue, Tracey, Laura, Shaun, Dawn-Marie and families
- 20 September The Church was floodlit in loving memory of Mrs **Vi Downs** on what would have been her 100th birthday.
With much love from all her family.
- 30 September St Mary's was floodlit in loving memory of **John Boast** on the 10th anniversary of his death.
Miss you and love you always.
Wife Carol and all the family,
Also in memory of **Shaun Adam Roberts**, our tiny Great Grandson
Who was stillborn on 11 August 2007.
Now cradled in the arms of Jesus. Always in our thoughts.
God Bless.
- 1 October St Mary's will be floodlit for **Douglas Spackman**, who died 1 October 1995;
and for **Queenie Kelly** who died 19 October 1999.
- 2 October St Mary's will be floodlit; so sadly missed and dearly remembering **Lilian Slade**
9.2.24 - 2.10.12
Loved by Ron, Geoff, Lyn and family
- 12 October The Church will be floodlit for **Lyndsay**.
Happy 9th Wedding Anniversary.
All my love: Jim Summerfield
- 13 October St Mary's will be lit up in loving memory of **Sonia Hunt** on the 10th anniversary of her death.
Sadly missed by Lesley and Neil, Adam, Craig and Ella:
Wayne and Beccy, Toby and Maisie
- 16 October St Mary's will be floodlit in memory of **Diana Davies** and her parents **Bill and Jose Burchell**,
at the request of Brian and Rebecca
- 30 October St Mary's will be floodlit for **Jessica Mutter** on her birthday.
In loving memory from all the family.

Floodlighting contact: [Libbie](#) ... see note on [page 38](#)

Purton & District Gardeners' Guild



For our August meeting Jenny Tidman from Nurden's Garden Centre in Malmesbury paid us a welcome return visit to speak on the subject of '**Roses: Their Care and Selection**'. This is a subject dear to her heart, her knowledge and experience having been gained whilst working at both Hampton Court Palace Gardens and Kew Gardens.

Jenny began her talk by stating that you cannot overfeed a rose. After the first flush of flowers, it should be dead headed and fed. By following this pattern of care a further 5 flushes of flowers can occur in a season. She highlighted the various types of feed available including '*bone meal*', '*fish blood and bone*' and of course the proprietary '*Toprose*' which contains all the nutrients required by roses.

The addition of '*Epsom salts*' will provide good colour and has the added bonus of helping to set fruit on strawberries. As well as its garden-related uses it has long been known for its numerous health benefits. Jenny regularly sells boxes of '*Epsom Salts*' to customers for using in the bath as this is the easy way to enjoy its many benefits. It is the same product as that sold by chemists, albeit it in a far larger pack and at a fraction of the price!

Container grown roses benefit from a slow release fertiliser which should be applied once a week. '*Rose and Grow*' continuous release plant food need only be applied once and its benefits will last for 6 months. Calcified seaweed locks in the food in the soil and provides good colour for roses and clematis alike.

Diseases associated with roses are *Mildew*, *Rust* and *Black Spot* and a systemic insecticide should be applied to control them. Once attacked by any of the three it is imperative to rake and burn the leaves as the spores will overwinter and be back 'with a vengeance' when Spring arrives. For that reason we were advised to never plant a new rose in ground from which a rose has previously been removed. If the same spot is to be used then it's always advisable to remove a 2-foot square area of soil and replace with fresh soil.

Roses are susceptible to aphids - they like their buds as this is where the sap is. It's hard to believe that a single aphid can produce a ten ton weight of aphids in one season. The insecticide '*Pyrethrum*' is beneficial for tackling these although it does have a major drawback in that it kills bees.

When it comes to pruning, Jenny advised us to wear gloves to avoid nasty scratches and infections and recommended the use of 'bypass' secateurs. They have two blades that work like a pair of scissors with the blades passing each other to make the cut. The action is less likely to cause bruising to the stem. Clean the secateurs by dipping them in methylated spirits and oil them monthly. Floribunda roses should be pruned to 8 buds from last year's cut whilst Hybrid T roses should be pruned to 5 buds from the base. Always prune the stems on an angle by an outward growing bud.

Having provided us with all the necessary information for healthy rose growing, the second half of Jenny's talk centred on the magnificent array of rose plants displayed for our appreciation. They included:

- 'Veilchenblau', a thorn less climber, whose flowers grow in clusters, starting off violet and changing to a plummy blue.
- 'Handel' whose flowers are flushed pink on the outside and cream inside.
- 'Malvern Hills', a multi headed rose, chalky yellow in colour.
- 'Compassion', a highly scented rose of pink, peach, yellow and orange tints.
- 'Summer Song', a beautiful specimen from the David Austin collection with burnt orange, strongly perfumed flowers.
- 'Dublin Bay', a pillar rose with intense red flowers. It will grow to 12' on a north facing wall.

Leon Slee offered a vote of thanks for an entertaining and informative evening.

The winners of our competition, 'A single rose', were 1st Marion New, 2nd Mary Read and 3rd Jill Herbert.

Join us at our next meeting in Silver Threads Hall on Tuesday 22 October at 7.30pm when Richard Gatenby will be our speaker. His subject is 'The Garden created by Rosemary Very at Barnsley House'. Our competition will be 'An Autumn Arrangement'. New members and visitors can be assured of a friendly welcome.

MARGARET GOODALL, *Secretary* & LINDA ROBERTS, *Chair*

Merchant's House, Marlborough

The True-Born Englishman? Are the English different?

Reflections on the national character by Michael Hart

7.30 pm on Thursday 10 October at St Peter's Church, Marlborough. Tickets priced £9 (£6 MH Friends) from The Merchant's House, 132 High Street, Marlborough in aid of The Merchant's House Appeal.

Cricklade Country Market

The September Country Market is at *The Club at Cricklade* on **Friday 25 October** 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).

On The Lighter Side

"And this over here" said the old museum tour guide, "is a fossil 4 million and 69 years old, on its left you can see another fossil that's 2 million and 69 years old."

"Wow! That's really fascinating," said a chap in the tour group, "how can you age it so accurately to the year?"

"Well that's simple" answered the guide, "It was two million years old when I started working here 69 years ago."



Purton Cricket Club purton.play-cricket.com



The cricket season which ended on 1 September has been one of the club's most successful with playing standards improving rapidly. This has been the result of the hard work put in by the coaches and those who work on the square and the outfield. The support from parents and senior members means that our young players are set good examples.

The 1st XI and 2nd XI's won their respective leagues, Division 1 and Division 5 of the Wiltshire League, and will play in the West of England Premier League next season. The junior teams also enjoyed success with the U15's finishing fifth, the U13's topping its division and the U11's finishing runners up.

Plans for next season include starting a 3rd XI to play in the Wiltshire League and making improvements to the pavilion. The work on the



ground this season will end on 14 September when the square will be top dressed and reseeded.

From The Archives

From the club minute book for Monday 19 June 1978:- the Derby Draw made a profit of £90, the new arrangement of the teas being provided by the Maltster Cafe was working well, the application of Neil Miles to join the club was approved and in spite of being dismayed to find no tea provided at the away fixture with Gloucester Civil Service it was agreed that the fixture should be played in 1979.

JOE GARDNER



Time to celebrate for many reasons this month:

Junior singles tournament – update from Nicola

The annual Junior Singles' Tournament took place under sunny skies and although there was only a small entry everyone enjoyed some very competitive tennis. This was especially the case in the Junior Boys section where 3 of the boys finished with 1 win each and therefore had to be separated by games won. Alfie Griffin finished 4th with 8 games, Tom Kendall 3rd with 12 games and Ashley Harrison 2nd with 13 games. The runaway winner was Oli Madsen who retained his title with the loss of only 4 games. In the Senior Girls event Ellie Gardner beat Daisy Kendall 6-3 6-1 and in the Senior Boys event Daniel Horsell beat Elliot Gunton 6-1 6-3.

Many thanks go to Matty Hall and Elliot Gunton who have helped me throughout the summer at the Saturday morning sessions.

We also look forward to the conclusion of the summer adults' tournaments and the Miller Cup.

Summer league final position:

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

This means that 10 out of 12 teams have either won their league or been promoted! This truly reflects the advancement of the club and its achievements this year. Fantastic results congratulations to all teams and the captains.

Caroline McLean

We were all very concerned about our team member Caroline who has recently been unwell and are delighted that she is recovering well!

STEPH BROWN, Secretary

Prayer for Purton

This month the churches in Purton are praying for everyone who lives or works in *Witfield Close, Glevum Close, The Common and Locks Lane.*

If there is anyone or anything that you would like us to pray for during our Sunday worship, please contact Revd Ian Tweedie-Smith, Revd Judith Wells or Revd David Perkins. Their contact details can be found on the inside cover of this magazine. You can give as much or little information as you wish. We don't even have to know a name.

We Record ...

Baptisms:

18 August	Evan William Davies at St Mary's Church
25 August	Lyle John New at St Mary's Church
	Eleanor Smith at St Mary's Church

Funerals:

19 August	David Paul Kay at St Mary's Church
4 September	Mavis Pamela Hedges at St Mary's Church
5 September	Marina Sheila Gosling 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

We had a stall at the Cricklade Show on Bank Holiday Monday, where we took £306.42 in Trading goods and Tombola, the weather was good, with the result there were lots of people there and plenty of activities going on. On Saturday 8 September, Doreen Freegard and I helped out at the Swindon Guide Dogs collection day in ASDA West Swindon. In next month's magazine, I will tell you about the Band Concert.

Many thanks for everybody's continued support.

BRIAN DAVIES, for the Purton Support Group



Purton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



A new school year and new beginnings:

All units have welcomed new members who have joined in with getting to know you activities. This is particularly important as the girls don't always go to the same school and in some cases know nobody when they first start.

We also now have a new promise, following the consultation which took place earlier in the year. This means that we all need to learn it, which might be harder for existing members than our new members. As for the Leaders, I suspect we'll be holding cue cards at promise ceremonies for a while yet! The Rainbows have decorated flag-style "bunting" to put the words of the new Promise on; this will be put up at each meeting to help them learn it until they are word perfect! 1st Purton Brownies did a word treasure hunt, finding the words of the promise which they then had to put into the right order. 2nd Purton Brownies have focussed on wildlife – each six made a card game which was then played by the other sixes.

Thank you to those who supported 1st Purton Brownies in their fundraising for the RSPB by buying a quiz sheet. The sheets raised £121 which is a great effort. First place went to Julia Cook who scored 60 out of 65 – congratulations. We understand that Julia was grinning from ear to ear having finally won a Purton quiz sheet competition rather than coming second yet again! In second place was Jane Halstead with 53½ and Eileen Dodson came third with 50. If anyone didn't submit their sheet for judging, but would like the answers, please email northwilts@wncounty.org.uk

For enquiries about joining one of our units (girls or adult volunteers), 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

Bell Ball Bonanza

Jackie, Sarah and Lindsey would like to thank everyone who supported our Charity Ball and made it such a great success – Great Venue, Great Food, Great Music, Great Company and lots of money raised!

Our gratitude goes to all who contributed in any way, by donating, sponsoring, helping in every way – too many to mention individually in case we miss anyone out.

Special thanks do go however, to John and *Hospitality Services* for whom nothing was too much trouble.

At the latest count we have raised £4,862 for Wiltshire Air Ambulance – a fantastic amount – and we even had time to enjoy the ball ourselves!!



2013 Firework & Bonfire Spectacular!



1st Purton & Lydiard Scout Group are proud to once again organise this year's annual **Firework and Bonfire Spectacular** at Lydiard Park on Saturday 2 November 2013.

- Entry Fee: £8 Adult £3 Child (3-14 years)
- Easy pedestrian access via Lydiard Park, free car parking on site with vehicle access via Hook Street only.
- Gates open at 5.30 pm
- Bonfire lit at 6 pm
- Fireworks scheduled for 7 pm. Please allow enough time to enter the event before the display begins!
- Entertainment during the evening, including live music from local band Interlight!

Various refreshment stalls and supporting local Scouting, plus this year's community charity, the Rainbow Trust.

Please leave all pets, sparklers and your own fireworks at home! This is to ensure your own and other's safety whilst in the park.

About the Event

We put on the only large Firework and Bonfire event in Swindon. The display is run entirely by volunteers from Swindon & North Wiltshire Scouts. 1st Purton & Lydiard Scout Group oversee the organisation of the event. More information from the Purton Scout web-site: www.plscouts.org.uk

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

OFFERED: .Black & Decker hover mower (12"). Tel: 772350.

OFFERED: Quantity of Marvel Comics 1988 to 1998, X Men, Excalibur and many more, some in original wrappers. Tel 770706

OFFERED: 3-seater garden swing complete with cushions and canopy. Tel. 770928

OFFERED: Set of about 20 exercise weights, dumbbell and long poles, made by York, dusty and some rust on poles. Collect from Ivy Lodge, High St (opposite war memorial), tel 770552.

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