



Ps and Qs Celebrates Local Diversity

On 17th March 2012 in the Silver Threads Hall, Purton, *Ps and Qs* gave an opportunity for local businesses and organisations to promote themselves and to identify Purton's businesses, producers and local organisations. At the same time, during the afternoon an informal discussion took place on what constitutes a neighbourhood. Invitations were sent out to many known businesses and organisations and the event was promoted through the *Purton Magazine*, *Ps and Qs*' email network and other email networks, *The Swindon Evening Advertiser* and BBC *Wiltshire Sound*. **Cotswold Cooks** from Purton House came along and provided refreshment - hot soup and rolls and coffee with raisin buns during the morning.

A number of companies and producers attended:

Wendy of Wiltshire – Beautiful unique handmade bags and 'saved' bags

Avril's Handmade Cards – Sold for charity

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust – Anna from Cricklade Climate Action Network bought along Green Cones and Johanna's for recycling waste and composting and ideas on how to deal with recycling and reducing waste

Purton House – Organic vegetables and free range eggs and home delivery veggie boxes

Purton Store Cupboard – Local jams and preserves, oils, organic pasta, rice, flour and cereals and much, much more

John Papworth – *Purton Today* Newsletter, herbs and gave a demonstration of bread-making, the loaves were then available to take away

Jubilee Gardens – A horticultural training centre for adults with learning disabilities

Purton Artists – Small display showing the front covers painted by members for *Purton Magazine*

Purton Twinning – Displayed their activities and promoted their membership

Action on Hearing Loss – RNID – display and leaflets manned by local RNID person, Libbie

Delicious Delights – Catering for weddings, parties and corporate groups with a chance to taste some of the desserts

RainWindSun - Providing complete, local renewable solutions in solar, heat pumps and rainwater harvesting (get ready for the drought!)

New College Swindon – Stephanie Dowson from Purton runs courses to help people to get back into employment – CV writing, computer courses (free for jobseekers) preparing for interviews

Diamond Jubilee Village Party – info on this exciting village event Sunday 3rd July 2012

Ps and Qs – info on its flagship programme *Transform Purton Parish*, info on how to join the Ps and Qs Alert! that keeps villagers up to date on key village issues

Plus leaflets were available for people to take away from:

The Handyman – DIY jobs, gardening, and much much more

Cyclecare Purton – Bicycle sales, spares, repairs, wheel building and keys cut

In Touch Services - Printing, typesetting and design

Haines Fencing & Landscaping – Fencing, decking, ponds, water features, walling etc.

Maharajah - Tandoori Restaurant – Providing authentic Indian food

Function Cars – Quality wedding car hire

Annie's Dressmaking – High quality garment making and alterations

Purton and Cricklade Young Farmers – Agenda of events for next three months

Purton Amateur Dramatics Society – WANTED - Actors, Producers, Directors, Back Stage Crew, Scenery Painters

CarbonBrake – an ethical way to offset your carbon footprint

Fire Brigade – useful booklet – A short guide to making your premises safe from fire

Cllr Jacqui Lay – Wiltshire Councillor for Purton and Braydon Division

A list of companies had been compiled and added to on the day which lists businesses, organisations, facilities and things to do in Purton – so far 250 entries!

The consensus was that the event was really worthwhile and a good way to get local companies promoted. It was suggested that the event should be held each year, perhaps at the village hall with even more local companies being able to attend. It was also suggestion that there is a need to have somewhere central in the village where Craft and Bohemian products could be offered for sale alongside somewhere to meet – cafe etc.

This event was funded entirely by Ps and Qs.

In the afternoon, Ps and Qs held an informal discussion on *What Constitutes Our Neighbourhood?* (see overleaf)

Ps and Qs may be contacted: advice@purtoninfo.org.uk



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WHAT CONSTITUTES OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Thirteen people including a Parish Councillor, the Chair of the Parish Plan, a Wiltshire Councillor, members of *Ps & Qs* and residents gathered together to discuss some of the implications of the Localism Act. Particularly the Neighbourhood Plan ~ what it is, where it fits and why...

Ps and Qs presented an A4 briefing paper showing the framework of the village and the boundary of the Parish.

A short discussion developed on where we were with the Parish Plan, Neighbourhood Plans in general, and the Core Strategy and how these will affect planning applications currently in the pipeline and others that will come forward in the future.

The Parish Plan is underway and this will feed into a Neighbourhood Plan at some stage which will affect any additional housing and employment needs in the future for the village.

The Parish Plan is being organised by a steering group of residents supported by funding given to the Parish Council by the Area Board and also by the resources of the Parish Council. Topic groups have been set up to cover a number of subjects: Transport, Planning, Environment, Education, Health and Welfare, and Business. During the course of the next few months a survey will be sent out to all households in Purton Parish and it will be important for all residents to respond so that it is clear what parishioners want for Purton for the future.

The Localism Act brings forward the opportunity for Neighbourhood Plans and part of the process for a plan to be adopted is a referendum. If 50% of those who vote agree with the plan then it will be adopted so again it is important that residents respond otherwise plans may be adopted if only a small group respond.

The Area Board and the whole community area (Royal Wootton Bassett, Cricklade and the surrounding parishes) are taking part in a pilot – *Front Runners* – to look at different ways of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. This is a County-wide initiative. For the Community Area Board the concept of a plan covering the whole Community Area is being looked at. This may be successful if all the town and parishes agree. However, if they do not agree and there is some concern already being expressed by towns and parishes, then the work carried out could be used to form part of individual Neighbourhood Plans into which the Town and Parish Plans that are currently being done across the Community Area, could fit.

The discussion quickly resolved that the sensible concept for a Neighbourhood is the parish itself: *'If a parish looks like a neighbourhood then it is a neighbourhood'*

Why change something which is so obviously already in existence?