

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



June 2010

Funded by the Parish Council

www.pucklechurch.org



Memories of Parkfield Colliery: A Celebration of Age

On 17th April, over 50 local residents and enthusiasts attended a presentation on Parkfield Colliery by Steve Grudgings of the South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group. SGMRG was set up to record and preserve what remains of the once extensive mining industry in the area. Steve explained that the evening had been supported by the Council's "Spring into Life Festival – A Celebration of Age".

As many of you will already know, Pucklechurch has a long association with coal mining, but you may not realise that this stretches back several hundreds of years before Sir Handel Cossham ordered the construction of Parkfield Colliery in 1851.

Parkfield Colliery, 1932



We learned from Steve that the remains of Brandy Bottom Colliery are probably the most complete and important set of 19th-century colliery buildings in the whole of the southwest of England and have scheduled monument status. However, in spite of this, the site is in poor condition and on the Heritage At Risk register. Fortunately, the Avon Industrial Buildings Trust (AIBT) now has a licence from the owner to work on the site and a condition survey and conservation plan is underway.

Steve's aspiration is to publish a comprehensive history of local mining, whilst AIBT's is to start up a "Friends of Brandy Bottom" group to help with its upkeep. Steve shared images of the site with us, as well as a recently rediscovered magazine article. Written in 1932, it revealed, amongst other things, how the mine's first underground generator was requisitioned by the War Office in 1918 whilst also providing a detailed account of its pit ponies! Attendees were then asked to contribute any memories, photographs and objects they had relating to the mine and mining families.

If you think you might be interested in helping out at Brandy Bottom, please contact me on the number below so I can forward your details to those concerned. Similarly, if you have anything you would like to contribute to the colliery history project, give me a ring. Steve would be particularly interested in knowing if anyone has the long-lost album of photographs that were taken underground but which he has never been able to locate.

Gail Boyle, 937 2838

Pucklechurch Majorettes

Pucklechurch Majorettes have continued to be an extremely popular and successful group. The girls have all been working hard, training every week, and willingly giving up extra time to practise for competitions.

Our last competition was a great success. The girls had a very long day at Patchway Sports Centre; no lie-ins were allowed on Sunday, 25th April, as the group had to be there by 8.15am. I was certainly still bleary eyed at that time on a Sunday! But it was all worthwhile because once again they did us, and themselves, proud!

It was an especially big day for our younger group, who are all six and under, because it was their first competition. They did a fantastic job of shaking their pom-poms, encouraged by the older girls (ear-splitting shouting, cheering, screaming, etc.) and parents too. They came third in the Pee Wee Pom-Pom!

Our older girls had three group entries: a twirling entry, a military entry and a pom-pom entry. They were excellent and placed third in the Pee Wee Twirling, third in the Juvenile Military, and third in the Juvenile Pom-Pom.

Some of the girls chose to also enter the Solo Strut, which is marching on their own. All of the girls who had a go looked really confident – it's a nerve-wracking experience, I imagine! We had four girls who placed: Belle Bessell came fourth in the age 4-6 group, while in the age 7-9 group Macey Marshall came second, Chloe Rawlins came 11th and Missy Bessell came 12th.

Well done, girls!

Kelly, our Majorettes leader, has asked that special thanks should be given to her mum, Chris Sargent, George Wynter, Mandy Smith, Claire Bristow, Harry Bristow, Jolene Bayliss, and all the other mums who helped to get the girls ready to perform. We would all like to thank Kelly too for all her hard work in getting the girls to perform so well!

We are now looking forward to our next competition on 23rd May. We will also be performing at the Pucklechurch School Fete and on Revel Day! A busy time ahead!

Beth Rawlins





Services

- Sunday, 13th June 6.30pm, Revel service of thanksgiving and praise suitable for young and old alike. A warm welcome is extended to everyone.
- Sunday, 11th July 10am, Patronal Festival Service, family communion
- Sunday, 18th July 10am, Music Sunday, family communion

Flower Festival

- Friday, 11th June 10.30am to 4.30pm, church open, light refreshments available
- Saturday, 12th June 10.30am to 4.30pm, church open, tea & coffee, plus cream teas after lunch
- Sunday, 13th June 1.30pm to 4.30pm, church open, tea & coffee, cream teas
- Programmes available, and there will also be a raffle over the weekend.

Garden Party at the Vicarage

Saturday, 10th July, 2pm. Cream teas, games, tombola, and raffle. Books, crafts, bric-a-brac, and cakes for sale. We look forward to seeing you on this occasion.

Scarecrow Competition

The winners of the scarecrow competition were the Mole family, who got 61 of 62 answers right. The best scarecrow award went to the Hanks family, who created the Three Little Pigs' house in their front garden. We would like to



Pucklechurch NSPCC

Many thanks to everyone who supported the NSPCC auction on May 8 in the Village Hall. It raised £1,838 for the work of the NSPCC and ChildLine. We are grateful for the generosity of the many people who have backed our efforts over the past 20 years. The local NSPCC group is now planning its activities for the autumn and beyond. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join our committee or help at collections or events. For further information, ring 937 3041.

Linda Tanner



Two very pleasing themes surfaced in the Pucklechurch Community Association this past year. The first is the amazing amount of time and effort put in by volunteers, in particular for the painting and decorating of all the external and internal doors, the replacement of roof tiles, and the installation of new radiators and the brightening of the entry lobby. The second theme is the rise in the number of bookings, so that it is becoming more difficult to accommodate all the requests for space.

Our third theme has been the financial rollercoaster we've been on. The PCA received generous grants from the Parish Council, Revel, and the Bowls Club and revenue is up, but due to the incomprehensible system operated by British Gas, which stops sending invoices if they cannot access the gas meter, we owe them about £7000. We are now negotiating our position. Despite British Gas, we can see a way ahead, as all user groups have been most co-operative, but it will be hard work requiring close attention to detail.

We shall sorely miss Roger Payne, who after many years on the Executive Committee has decided it is one meeting too many. He has promised to continue to wield his paint brushes and tools for the good of the Pucklechurch Community Association. Many thanks, Roger.

Alan Holder, PCA Chair

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Please email articles to editor@pucklechurch.org or drop them off to any one of us at the addresses above. Please include your name and telephone number in case we have questions about your article. We reserve the right to edit all articles.

Copy deadlines

- 10th August for September issue
- 10th November for December issue
- 10th February for March issue
- 10th May for June

For the latest news, visit the online version at www.pucklechurch.org



Revel Week 2010 runs from 11th to 19th June. The Revel theme this year is 'Celebrations'. Like last year, the Beer & Cider Festival will kick off Revel Week on Friday and Saturday, 11th and 12th June. Revel Week will see a string of events:

- Friday, 11th – Beer & Cider Festival
- Saturday, 12th – Treasure Hunt, Beer & Cider Festival
- Sunday, 13th – Ramble; open mic and comedy at the Star; thanksgiving service in church
- Monday, 14th – School sports afternoon, Revel Quiz Night
- Tuesday, 15th – Junior Folk Dance, Revel Skittles Evening
- Wednesday, 16th – Revel Bingo Night
- Thursday, 17th – School sports afternoon. Bob Todd Memorial Pram Race
- Saturday, 19th – Revel Day

On July 4th we are planning a treasure hunt by car, which you can sign up for on Revel Day. Look out for posters with more details nearer the time.

As last year, the Revel Parade will assemble in Hill View Road and the judging will take place at 11.45am. The procession will follow last year's route via Castle Rd, Westerleigh Road, Parkfield Road, and Homefield Road before returning to Castle Road via Shortwood, Abson and Feltham Roads. The parade will be led by the African Sambistas, who will also be performing in the arena. Also in the procession and performing on the Rec will be our newly formed Pucklechurch Majorette troupe.

On the Rec we will have Punch and Judy and 'Big Games' for the children as well as the Scout Village and a Guiding Exhibition celebrating 100 years of Girlguiding. We will also have a variety of game stalls, food stalls and fun fair rides.

Details of all Revel events may be found in the Revel leaflet which is being distributed free with this edition of *Pucklechurch News*.

Elaine Stone, Revel Chair



Revel Beer & Cider Festival

Friday, 11th June, 7pm till midnight
"All You Need Is The Beatles" Tribute Band

Saturday, 12th June, 7pm till midnight

Big Screen England vs USA World Cup

followed by "Half Light" Party Band

Strictly over 18s only

Quality hot food available

Friday night £5, Saturday night £8,

Both Friday & Saturday £11

Tickets available from

Post Office, Star Inn, Village Hall Social Club, Mike

Walker's Newsagent

Sunday, 13th June, The Star Inn

12pm till 6pm open mic

6pm-8pm Comedy from Nathan Sheppard



Good Neighbour Scheme

We've had a number of calls to the Good Neighbour Scheme, and we have been able to help out by visiting some of the elderly members of our community to make sure they are all right, putting bins out, and calling in the help of our scheme's newest volunteer, a gardener. If you or anyone you know would like gardening help from Pro~Tidy, please call the GNS mobile phone, and we'll make the necessary arrangements.

We also have the opportunity to pass on local information from Avon and Somerset Constabulary. This will happen every month, and we send this information to the scheme volunteers. If you would be interested in being on our contact list for this information, please get in touch. If you know someone who would benefit from the scheme or are interested in being a volunteer, please do get in touch. You can email us at goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org or telephone 07961 939574.

Larisa, Sarah and Ross
Good Neighbour Scheme Coordinators

Revel Photography Competition



Once again Revel will be sponsoring the Bob Stone Memorial Photography Competition. There will be two categories for adults, Pucklechurch Village Life and Open, and an open category for children. Look for more details on Revel Day and on posters around the village. Entries must be in by September 25th. The exhibition and prize giving will be held on Sunday, 10th October, in the Village Hall. We will also be giving prizes for the "best of the rest" and visitors to the exhibition will choose these winners.

Elaine Stone, Revel Chair

Pucklechurch Mums & Minors

Our Mums & Minors group that runs in the Village Hall may soon close due to lack of a full committee. I believe this would be a loss to the community after running for at least 25 years. (My son, who is now 27, attended.)

The group, which runs during term time on Mondays from 1.30 to 3pm, offers infants the chance to mix and form relationships with other children while still having the support of their mum or carer. The group also allows mums and carers to form friendships and gives support to others with young children. The group is not just for mums with infants – I am a 63 year old male committee member with three grandchildren who attend the group. If you can offer the group support, please contact me on 937 2980.

Doug Walker

Your local Safer Stronger Community Group needs you!



South Gloucestershire's 20 Safer Stronger Community Groups are all about working together to improve your local community. The groups also enable you to have your say about the services that your community needs and receives.

These groups have been set up as part of the South Gloucestershire Council's Community Engagement initiative and the Neighbourhood Policing Model. Their members include people who live and work in the area and representatives from SGC, local police, Avon Fire & Rescue, Primary Care Trust, the Parish Council and other local organisations. The aim is to:

- ◆ Work together to ensure that local communities are safe and pleasant places to live, work and play
- ◆ Give local people a greater voice and influence over local decisions and the priorities of the service providers
- ◆ Support actions and initiatives that meet local needs

The next meeting of Boyd Valley Safer Stronger Community Group is Thursday, 26th August, 7pm, at Doynton Village Hall.

Planning for Future Development

Want to have your say on the South Gloucestershire Core Strategy? We hope you met the Core Strategy Team at their exhibition in Pucklechurch on 1st June. The Core Strategy is the main planning document for guiding and managing new development and change in South Gloucestershire up to 2026. Its purpose is to identify where new housing and jobs will go, as well as protecting what is valued about the area. The Strategy will also identify what services, facilities and infrastructure (such as green spaces, roads, public transport, schools, shops and health centres) are needed and when and how this will be achieved.

To find out more about your local Safer Stronger Community Group visit <http://groups.southglos.gov.uk>. Here, you will be able to become a member of your local group, view agendas and minutes from meetings, and gain access to more information about the issues and projects in your area. Alternatively, you can contact your Safer Stronger Communities Officer on 01454

Bus Problems ?

Are you having problems with the bus service in Pucklechurch? At the public meeting in March on the future of the bus service, a number of issues were raised with poor service on the current routes. The Parish Council have written to South Gloucestershire Council outlining the issues raised, which included buses leaving stops before the scheduled time, not arriving at all, and dangerous driving.

Ideally you should report issues directly to the bus company. However, it would really help to resolve this if we could also get information on specific incidents that we can pass to SGC. Please use the website to report an issue at www.pucklechurch.org and follow the link on the front page. Alternatively write to Pucklechurch Parish Council, The Vale, Cattybrook Road, Shortwood, BS16 9NJ giving details of the incident, bus route, time and bus stop.

Parish Council

Chairman's Notes

Oaktree Avenue Development

Council's last discussions with SGC and Sovereign Housing were two years ago. We recently met with both parties and were presented with an update of an outline scheme which varied slightly from the previous one. We then presented five requirements that SGC and Sovereign must consider before we next meet. Council was not negotiating but laying down some important issues that represented views of many in the parish backed up by data from the Community Plan. A new, revised scheme should be ready some time late this year or early next. We will keep you posted.

Play Park and Activity Area

Following a meeting last November where you were invited to express your views to officials from SGC, a draft proposal was displayed in the December edition of Pucklechurch News. SGC have been unable to begin work due to other similar developments elsewhere in the county. However, the funding for our scheme has been ring-fenced so work can begin as soon as the issues addressed at the November meeting have been resolved. At present we have no timescale for this, but we will continue to press for the earliest completion so our children can use the new facility.

Youth Club

Council approved funding for an initiative with SGC to run a youth group in the meeting room once a week. We had hoped that this would start at the beginning of the year, but the youth workers had to be CRB checked and equipment purchased, so this delayed the start until April. The first session was very well attended, and we hope this new activity will continue to be well supported by young people, their parents and the wider community.

Streetlight Part-Time Switch-Off

In a move to reduce our consumption of electricity, Council is considering switching off certain streetlights in the parish between midnight and 5.a.m. We met with SGC to learn about the experiences of other councils in switching off their streetlights. One major concern we had was whether turning the lights off resulted in an increase in crime. We were told that police have reported no increases in crime where streetlights were turned off. The switch-off would affect certain lights only, and we have set up a sub-committee to identify which lights could be switched off. I must emphasise that no final decisions will be made until you have been consulted.

Council Elections

Next May there are elections for both SGC and Parish Council. If you have ever thought of being on the Council, you might find it instructive to come along to a meeting and see for yourself what we do. Unfortunately, you will not be able to join in the discussions, but you might begin to think "I could do this better than they do", which could be an incentive for you to stand for election!

Omar Beg, Chairman

Twinning Association

A Saturday afternoon in April saw us welcome 45 friends from Pringy, who were accommodated by families in the village. Our visitors spent the rest of Saturday and Sunday with their hosts and the beautiful weather enabled us to show them the area at its best.

As there were a number of young people in the group, we met at the Social Club on Sunday evening for games of skittles, pool, Wii, etc.

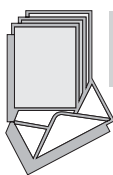
On Monday evening we held our usual reception in the village hall with everyone enjoying the entertainment provided by Teresa Alexander.

Our annual visit to Pringy takes place from 22nd October to 27th October, and we would welcome families who wish to join us. It is an excellent way to get the youngsters practising French... and the adults as well!

Twinning has a full programme of social events, and we shall again be running the "Café du Pringy" and the boules competition on Revel Day.

If you are interested in joining Twinning or would like more information, please contact either Lesley Broom (937 2025) or Ann Smith (937 2030).

Valerie Broom, Secretary



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We are pleased to see people using the new bench by the Millennium Stone that we placed there in memory of our husbands Bob Stone and Des Broom. We purchased this seat with money given by our Twinning friends in Pringy in memory of Bob and Des, and we thought this would be an appropriate memorial as it is next to Le Jardin de Pringy. We hope people will respect it.

Elaine Stone and Valerie Broom

Dear Editor,

Many people in Pucklechurch normally enter their houses through the back garden. If that includes you, please open your front door and walk along your path occasionally. Your garden may look fine from the window, but how many bushes, trees, or nasty brambles are growing over the path or blocking your letter box? In March I was amazed how many people have telephone books and catalogues rotting outside their front doors. I am only called on to deliver *Pucklechurch News* four times a year. I feel sorry for the postman who has to do this every day.

A Pucklechurch News Delivery Volunteer

Everyone connected with *Pucklechurch News* is a volunteer, including all those who deliver our newsletter and its inserts. The work obviously has its perils, and we truly appreciate your efforts.

Eds.

Let us take the headache out of choosing a reliable trader!

It's not always easy to know where to go to find a trader or business you can rely on. South Gloucestershire Trading Standards has the answer – Buy with Confidence!



Buy with Confidence is the largest local authority approved trader scheme in the country with more than 3,500 business members, including car traders, builders, plumbers, electrical goods retailers, and more.

The main focus of the scheme is customer care and all members have to demonstrate that, as well as operating in a legal and fair way, they offer customer-friendly service. Prospective members receive a trading standards audit to check compliance with trading standards legislation and to ensure that appropriate customer service procedures are in place. If they meet the criteria, they're invited to become members of the scheme and must abide by the scheme's code of practice. In return, members are allowed to display the distinctive Buy with Confidence logo and receive a certificate of membership – allowing them to promote their reputation as a business that cares about its customers.

So the message is simple – if you're looking for a good local business that cares about its customers or you would like more information about joining the scheme, then visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk.

Problems with your computer ?

South Gloucestershire Trading Standards would like to remind residents to be wary of unsolicited calls, whether by telephone or at your door.



Trading Standards have been made aware of a telephone scam currently in practice whereby the caller rings unsolicited claiming to be from Microsoft. The caller then goes on to explain that there have been reports of slow computer connections in the area and that they can guide you through the steps necessary to combat this problem via your computer. The caller does not advise of there being any charge until the process has been completed and then they ask for a one-off fee of £100.

It is not clear whether the steps taken on the computer actually have any effect on the connection speed or are designed for any other purpose, i.e., hacking to obtain personal information.

Instances such as this highlight the need for people to be vigilant when they receive unsolicited telephone calls. If you receive such a call, be suspicious. If they claim to be from Microsoft or another well known company, ring them directly to verify using a number found in the telephone directory or their website. Never give out your personal or financial details over the telephone unless you are certain with whom you are dealing. If you are at all in doubt, hang up!

If you feel you have fallen victim to such practices, or would like further advice, contact

Remembering Siston Court

By Elana Rourke

I must have been in my early teens when I first became acquainted with the name Siston Court whilst visiting Auntie Alice with my mother.

It was in 1920 that my mother Winifred, then an extremely shy 13-year-old, travelled from the Chipping Sodbury Workhouse in a pony and cart, hugging her scant belongings, and came to work as a scullery maid at Siston Court.

Alice, a local girl from Pucklechurch, was a parlour maid. From those earliest times, a deep and lasting friendship developed, as Winifred, the orphan, and Alice, 11 years her senior, worked out their daily lives as servants to the Rawlins family.

Winifred would often visit Alice's mother when she was given a half-day off, and it wasn't long before she was considered one of the family; enjoying the friendship of Alice's talented musical brothers, who delighted in playing and singing around the family piano.

Mrs Rawlins seems to have been a caring employer towards my mother, for early on she opened a post office savings bank book in Winifred's name and deposited most of her wages there. Some years later, when Winifred left to take up a position elsewhere as a cook, she had accumulated a considerable sum of money – all thanks to Mrs Rawlins.

Winifred remembered her first Christmas at Siston Court vividly. All the servants – some 30 or so – stood in line to receive their Boxing Day gifts. My mother was positioned at the end of the line. Her gift? A length of material with which to make her uniform!

"On Sundays we servant girls were frog marched in pairs to the pretty St Anne's Church, and woe betide us if we were not clean and smartly turned out. We always sat in the specially allocated servants' pews," said Winifred. It was in reminiscing about St Anne's Church that Winifred and Alice discussed how artistic Mrs Rawlins was and how they remembered her painting the gorgeous murals at the front of the church.

Many years later, I was privileged to visit St Anne's with my mother. (Auntie Alice was then in her 90s and did not venture out much.) Winifred reverently showed me the pew where she used to sit. As I glanced up towards a window, I noticed a ray of sunshine that pierced the glass and settled on the rich patina of the pew. "It's as if all your memories are entrenched here after all these years," I whispered. "Yes indeed," she murmured, "So many memories."

As time went on, Winifred, together with a small retinue of servants, were taken to the Rawlinses' house in London's West End to work during "the season" when the debutantes "came out". The round of social engagements proved both exciting and busy – for servants and their masters and mistresses alike. Winifred would describe how thrilling it was to

peep through banisters at the elegantly dressed guests as they returned from an evening show for a light supper and a brandy nightcap.

Despite her tender years and tragic family misfortunes, my mother was an avid reader. She remembered how the butler always praised her for rising early to clean the grates each morning, the first chore of the day for a scullery maid. Winifred confessed that she had good reason for rising early: she relished reading the newspapers before tearing them up and setting to work to clean the grates!

Whilst passing an estate agent's window in Bath one day, some time in the 1980s, I noticed an apartment for sale. "Siston Court" it read. The words just jumped out at me. I could not resist arranging to view this property through the agent.

And so it was on a sunny Sunday in late October that we – my mother, sister, architect husband, and myself – approached the entrance.

"She glistens like a phoenix rising from the ashes," I thought to myself.

My husband breathed, "She's magnificent! Pure Elizabethan."

My mother, I recall, only murmured, "Oh my! Siston Court, after all this time."

The estate agent was concerned about not knowing the layout of the flat, and as I recall, she was apologetic. Whilst poring over the agent's details fastened to her clipboard, she opened a door saying, "Oh, I think this must be..."

"Master's study!" announced Winifred.

The agent turned, puzzled, and asked, "What did she say?"

"Oh, she's feeling a little wobbly," said my sister.

We toured the flat, with my mother all the while remembering the layout of Siston as it was in her day. The agent didn't know quite what to make of it!

Once outside in the late afternoon sunshine, our agent bid us farewell and encouraged us to walk around the property. As our shoes made a scrunching sound on the gravel, it was as if we were stepping on all those memories.

Suddenly, Winifred stopped and, glancing up, she pointed to a row of small windows. "You see that far attic window," she whispered, "that was my bedroom. I could see for miles from that window. I used to read, very late at night, by the light of the moon... and dream."

Siston Court will always remain special to me. There's its outstanding architectural merit, of course – it's a magnificent place. But for me, it is the cherished



Winifred May Bath

There's more! This article has been abridged, but the full story can be found in the "local interest" section of the Pucklechurch website. If you would like to contact the author of this story or have stories of your own that would be of interest to others, please email Martin Smith at webmaster@pucklechurch.org or ring 937 4437.

Pucklechurch Sports Youth Football Club



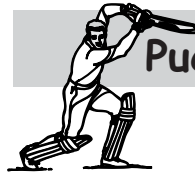
At the end of the football season, I am pleased to report that this year's Avon Youth League U16 Division 4 Champions are Pucklechurch Sports Youth F.C. (PSYFC). At the time of writing, the U16s have lost just one match all season (with one game left to play) and cannot be caught. This team has been managed by Chris Belcher for seven years, and this is by far their best season's performance. Many congratulations to the players and their supporters (who have followed them through thick and thin) and thanks also to Chris "the special one" Belcher, whose tenacity and dedication to coaching the team has paid dividends.

Following closely on the heels of the success of the U16s were the U15s, who also had their best season to date. This team finished third in the Avon Youth League U15s Division 3 and missed out on second place by just one point. In a cruel twist of fate, second place was denied to them by the late season league withdrawal of Avon Athletic, which rendered any points gained from matches played against them null and void. This meant that PSYFC having beaten them twice lost six points whilst the team below them, Frampton Rangers B, lost only three points, having beaten them just once. With just two points separating the teams overall, the net effect of the matches against Avon being declared void meant their league positions were reversed. Having won all but three matches this season, the U15s and their manager Tim Newport should quite rightly be very proud of their achievements.

PSYFC had two other teams this season, the U14s managed by Tim Moss and U11s managed by Teresa Woods. I would also like to thank the managers, their players and supporters for all their continued efforts.

Success on the football pitch is not always easy. PSYFC is run entirely by volunteers, from the coaches to the committee, who constantly strive to provide the opportunity to play for many young players. These players develop a deep sense of commitment to the club, playing week in, week out, whatever the weather. Training on dark winter evenings keeps them out of mischief and gives many of them a sense of purpose. Unfortunately at the moment we are unable to provide this opportunity to all age groups for lack of volunteers coming forward to run teams or to help with coaching and administration of the club. In a year's time, the majority of the present committee will be standing down, and unless new volunteers come forward, the club's future will be in doubt. If you feel that you may be able to help out, or would simply like to investigate what might be involved before making a commitment, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Chris Boyle, Chair



Pucklechurch Cricket Club

By the time you read this, our season will be well and truly underway, and we hope the weather will have been kind enough to have allowed us to play more often than not. Officially "signing on" day was 25th April, which included a warm-up match between the 1st and 2nd XI, as well as one of our now legendary cricket teas -- declared the "best in the league" by opposition players! Club membership continues to thrive at all levels, although this year we are short of U13s. If you are interested, or know of anyone who might be, please feel free to come along to training on the Rec on Sunday mornings from about 10.30am.

The Club actively welcomes match day supporters (the more the merrier) and now if you want to find out which team is playing at home and when, we have a brand new website that lists all fixtures: www.pucklechurchcc.co.uk. This is the place to read club news, match reports, player stats, youth welfare policies, and perhaps a little bit of club history... once we've managed to fill all the sections in of course.*

As many of you will know, apart from cricket we also organise a number of fundraising events that help us to provide new equipment for playing as well as the upkeep of the wicket. Last year, for instance, our roller had to be replaced at considerable expense. These events are open to all and take place at the Social Club. Our next is taking place on 17th July, when we'll be holding a disco and barbecue after a match (weather permitting). So if you feel like spending a nice afternoon out on the Rec -- in good company -- you know where to find us!

*If anyone has items of interest, old photos, articles, or information about the history of the club we'd like to hear from you -- please contact Gail Boyle on 937 2838.

theWI Pucklechurch W.I. INSPIRING WOMEN

March saw members from Pucklechurch WI join with other local institute members in Marshfield Community Centre to enjoy live demonstrations by local craftspeople, followed by a hot supper.

Two teams from Pucklechurch came 2nd and 4th in a recent county kurling tournament held in the Community Centre.

Members and friends had a day out to Cardiff Bay, where we all enjoyed a matinee performance of the musical *Hairspray*, starring Michael Ball, in the imposing Cardiff Millennium Theatre.

A 56-strong group of members and friends went on a five-day trip to Lincolnshire, staying in a hotel situated in an idyllic spot on the edge of Rutland Waters. We made visits to RAF Coningsby, Spalding Flower Festival and Parade, Burghley House, Stamford, Belvoir Castle, Lincoln, and Barnsdale Gardens, home of the late Geoff Hamilton, who created the gardens for the original *Gardeners' World* programme.

At our next meeting we will be discussing the WI's 2010 resolution for mandatory clear labelling of food with true country of origin.

Norma Pratt, President



100 Girlguiding UK

girls in the lead

Adventure 100! Girlguiding UK's challenge for our centenary year. One hundred exciting ideas – indoors, outdoors, up high, in the cold, looking back, looking forward – what a choice! Each activity carries points and 100 are needed to gain the badge. Pucklechurch decided to go for it and do two at once and in style.

Early on a chilly March morning, approximately one hundred girls and leaders, with many parents watching, met in Dyrham Park to form a human '100' shape on the lawn in front of the house. Do you know how difficult this is? You just get everyone in a straight line for the number 1 and the circles nice and round for the zeroes, then the photographers, positioned high above near Neptune's statue, wave and shout that they want the 100 moved over to the right, a bit more please, then back a bit, and... In the end they were satisfied, and you can see the result. Did you see us in the *Evening Post* too?

Next we all trudged up the steep slope and on the high ground near the statue we planted an oak tree, protected by a stout fence, which will be cared for by the National Trust. Unfortunately no plaques are permitted, but instead we have an entry in their commemorative book.



Well, this earned us 20 points – just another 80 to go. And I can tell you that we're well on our way. Many of us attended our Thinking Day Service at Chipping Sodbury Church, where we sang the rousing new foot-tapping centenary song, *One World, One Beat*.

Rainbows have tried maypole dancing; Brownies are working on their Gardener's badge, Guides held a Ready, Steady, Cook evening, and the Senior Section took part in a Duke of Edinburgh event at Symonds Yat during the Easter holidays. There's no stopping us.

Friday Brownies are currently low in numbers and would like more girls aged 7-10 to join them. In September their meetings will move to Wednesday nights, which may make attendance easier for some.

If you are aged 14-18 years, why not become one of our Young Leaders? Adult help is also welcome; as little or as much time as you can give is absolutely fine. Contact me at 937 2157 or rosabbott@hotmail.com or speak to any of our leaders.

Ros Abbott

Scouting



If you are looking to enrol your son or daughter in Beavers, we have a very short waiting list at the moment. We try to get new Beavers on board very soon after their 6th birthday, so move fast if you want a place! And if you can lend a hand, do speak to one of the leaders. If your child would like to join us, please contact Sarah on 957 1266.



A couple of weeks ago some of us Cubs went on our first camp. It was our St George's Day celebration, and we camped at Woodhouse, which is the district HQ near Almondsbury. Akela came with us and made sure we were kept safe – from the Scouts if nothing else! It was great fun and we can't wait for the next night under canvas. If your son or daughter is between 8 and 10½ and is interested in joining cubs, call Steve on 0787 213 7609.



Scouting is busy! Just recently we celebrated St George's Day with our annual gathering at Woodhouse. We camped overnight with some of our Cub friends. Disgusting food, campfire songs, and lumpy beds – Scouting at its best! Next week we go rowing in Bristol harbour for the first time. As always, more information and pictures are on our website www.pucklechurch.escouts.net. We still have a few places left in the troop if you are aged between 10 and 13. If you would like to join us, we meet on a Wednesday, from 7.15-9.00pm. To join Scouts, call Tony on 957 4119.

The Group Executive -- For the first time in ages, the group is almost completely full and a discussion took place recently regarding the possibility of opening a second troop in some of the sections. For now though, it was decided that we would consolidate the present numbers until we get further adult support. Although we have some great parental support with running the Beaver, Cub, and Scout programmes, we have little support in planning and especially on the Group Executive Committee. We do need more help with fundraising, maintaining the building and more so with assisting with the activity nights. You might presume that to be involved one has to have a child attending one of the uniformed groups, but this is not so. If you have spare time on your hands and could help, we would appreciate the support. This could be hut repairs or painting, fund-raising activities (we desperately need new tents) or as a group helper. We also need a Group Scout Leader. This is a role of support to the section leaders and is the link between Group and District. Come on – give Dale a call on 937 4178.

And finally, the Scout Hut is available to hire for private small parties, with all income supporting our cause. To find out more about hiring the hut, call Gail on 937 2838.

Dale Dennehy