

# PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



Autumn 2011

[www.pucklechurch.org](http://www.pucklechurch.org)

Funded by the Parish Council

## Something Is Rotten in the State of South Gloucestershire

An odd thing popped up on the South Gloucestershire website on 29th July. A statutory notice appeared informing the public of South Gloucestershire Council's intention to "appropriate" and "dispose of" an area of land at Oaktree Avenue in Pucklechurch. You probably guessed it: the land is the very same area subject to an approved planning application to build housing and a doctor's surgery and also subject to a recent application to become a village green.

What does "appropriation and disposal" mean? It means that SGC will sell the land to Sovereign Housing Association for the development of housing units and Three Shires Medical Practice for a new surgery. The price paid to SGC will cover only a third of the units built by Sovereign – the third that they can sell at market prices (as opposed to the one-third social housing and one-third affordable housing that makes up the rest of the development).

The timing of this consultation – from 29th July to 26th August – seems rather suspicious. It not only coincided with the summer holidays when many people who might object were away but, more to the point, the time when Andrew Griffiths, the person named on the website as the one to whom questions should be directed, was away. This led to a delay of two weeks in answering the questions put to him by Pucklechurch Parish Council.

The appropriation and disposal consultation closed on August 26th, ten days before the date of the public inquiry on the village green application on 6th September. When asked by the Parish Council what would happen if the land was disposed of before a decision was made about village green status, Mr Griffiths indicated that recent case law *may* permit development to go ahead even if the land is subsequently registered as a village green, though he says they will wait for the inspector's report following the public inquiry.

At their August 17th meeting, Pucklechurch Parish Council decided to support the village green application. The Parish Council believes that SGC authorities have consistently sidelined them on the Oaktree development plans. Instead of treating our Parish Council as a partner in this village's development, they have given them the minimum information and input required by law.



**Housing or open space? That is the question.**

The planning application that was approved in March was another example of SGC's tactics. What appeared to be an outline planning application was, in fact, a full planning application for 56 houses and an outline application for the surgery – a so-called hybrid application. (See Martin Smith's letter in the spring issue of *Pucklechurch News*.) The title fooled everyone into thinking that there would be a subsequent full application to which more detailed objections could be made.

What does all this mean for the new surgery? SGC has always resisted separating the application for the new surgery from the housing development application, presumably because most villagers want a new surgery but do not want 56 houses on the Oaktree land. The surgery sweetens the deal. There is no reason that Pucklechurch couldn't have both a registered village green and a doctor's surgery on the Oaktree land. SGC could easily make this happen.

I spoke to Dr John Seddon at the Pucklechurch Surgery, who believes that Three Shires Medical Practice has also been left out of the loop in SGC's plans. "It has been four years since the Council agreed to sell the land on Oaktree Avenue to us," says Dr Seddon, "but we get very little information on what is happening with our application. It's very frustrating." The practice has agreed a price for the land with SGC, as well as for the privately owned strip needed for access, but still the process drags on.

By the time you read this, SGC may or may not have "disposed of" the land, and the village green application may or may not have been successful. The point is: do we, the residents of Pucklechurch and our Parish Council, have the right to fair and transparent planning process from South Gloucestershire Council? Is this what we have received?

**Jacki Berry, Editor**



# St. Thomas-à-Becket

## Church Services

First Sunday every month

8.30am Holy Communion  
10am All-Age Worship, suitable for all the family (with guitar music)

All other Sundays

10am Family Communion – during this service the young people go out for a time of Christian teaching (Junior: 3-10 years old, Youth Church: over 10s)

## Special Church Services

Sunday, 25th Sept  
10am Harvest Thanksgiving Service

## Harvest Supper

Join us on Saturday, 24th September, at 7 for 7.30pm for a hot meal, sweets, wine, raffle, and entertainment. Tickets £6.50pp

## Organ Recital

On Sunday, 16th October, 3pm in Church, enjoy an organ recital with John Cottle on organ and choir. Admission free – refreshments available – there will be a retiring collection.

## Christian Aid Week

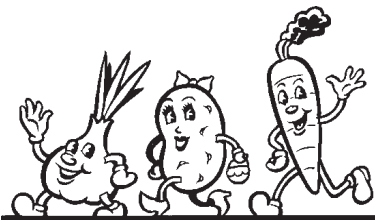
As a result of our house-to-house collection in May, we were able to send £1,674.39 to Christian Aid. All this money goes towards helping the starving abroad. We would like to thank all those who contributed to this.

## Organist Needed

Our organist has left us after nine years' service, and we are looking for a replacement for Sunday morning worship at church. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Webb on 937 2516.

## Enquiries

Direct all baptism and wedding enquiries to Revd S. Young on 937 2260.



# Annual Produce Show

The Pucklechurch WI and Gardeners' Club annual Produce Show will take place on Saturday, 10th September, in the Scout Hut. Doors will open at 2pm for you to have a look at the entries. A raffle and refreshments will be available.

Schedules are now available from Tony Pratt on 937 2507 and Elizabeth Webb on 937 2516.

**Elizabeth Webb, Secretary**

# theWI Pucklechurch W.I.

INSPIRING WOMEN

Congratulations and a big thank you to Ros Abbott and all the WI members who worked so hard on our float for the Revel parade, which won the prize for the best adult entry. Thanks also go to everyone who helped with the cream teas, making it a very successful event yet again.

In May members, families, and friends flew to Northern Ireland for five days, staying in Port Rush and visiting the spectacular Giant's Causeway, Londonderry and Belfast.

Fine weather was enjoyed on a day's visit to Greenwich, including a trip down the river to see the Thames Barrier.

Winchester was the destination of another interesting outing, which also included a visit to Highclere Castle. Watching Downton Abbey on Sunday evenings will now be viewed in a different light!

An August social evening was held, including a treasure hunt around the village and a light supper.

Members, family, and friends also visited Southport Flower Show and the North West during late August. This included a visit to see the Anthony Gormley sculptures in Crosby and a trip to the Lake District with a boat ride on Coniston Water.

We hope members will support the Gardeners' Club/WI Produce Show on Saturday, 10th September, in the Scout Hut.

Tickets are available if anyone would like to join us to see *Oliver* at the Cardiff Millennium Theatre in January 2012. For information, contact Norma on 937 2507.

*Norma Pratt, President*



**Wi's Robin Hood float took the prize**

## Pucklechurch News

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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. We cannot be responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication.

### Copy Deadlines:

**10th October for Christmas issue (November)**

**10th January for Winter issue (February)**

**10th March for Spring issue (April)**

**10th May for Summer issue (June)**

**10th August for Autumn issue (September)**

For the latest news, visit the online version at  
[www.pucklechurch.org](http://www.pucklechurch.org)



# HeartStart Pucklechurch

As many of you will have noticed, our first defibrillator is in place on the front outside wall of the Community Centre. We would like to thank both Pucklechurch Parish Council for their generosity in sponsoring the cost of the defibrillator and the PCA Committee and Social Club for funding the installation.

We are delighted to report that the HeartStart campaign is progressing well, and we should soon have enough money for our next defibrillator. We hope to place this on the outside wall of Pucklechurch Village Sports and Social Club on St Aldam's Drive. This defibrillator will serve the Homefield Centre, nearby houses and the industrial estate.

Our 50:50 Challenge – getting 50 groups or people to donate £50 each – has been progressing steadily. We have already received 25 donations or pledges from organisations and individuals. These will take time to filter through, as many are undertaking various ways of raising the money. If you have made a pledge and do not need time to raise the money, we would be very grateful for the donations as soon as possible, as money in the bank means another defibrillator. **And we still need another 25 donors!**

The Revel Beer Festival Committee gave us the opportunity to run the raffle, and over the two evenings, we raised the fantastic amount of £700.

Despite the weather, Revel Day was also successful. We displayed a defibrillator, and with donations and the Find-the-Heart game, we raised another £100. Thanks to all who supported us.

We have placed a fundraising thermometer on the gates of the old chapel site in the centre of the village. We have now raised £4,000 in total, so we are well on our way to the second defibrillator. The Pucklechurch website will have regular updates on our progress.

Tina and Maggie, committee members trained in resuscitation, are offering basic life support awareness sessions to people from organisations and groups who would like to improve their knowledge in this area. If you have questions or would like to book a session, please contact me on [angelajhallett@gmail.com](mailto:angelajhallett@gmail.com) or 937 4252.

I personally would like to thank members of the HeartStart committee for all their support over the past few months for their work in getting the project up and running and you, the public, for making this possible.

*Angela Hallett, organiser*

## Come to the Heartbeat Ball

in aid of Pucklechurch HeartStart

Come dance to popular covers from  
the '60s to the present  
by the Riffroads

**Friday, 11th November, 7.30pm**  
**Community Centre**

**Tickets £5**

**Available from Angela Hallett**  
**[angelahallett@gmail.com](mailto:angelahallett@gmail.com) or 937 4252**



The HeartStart team, Parish Councillors, and PCA representatives celebrate the installation of the first defibrillator at the Community Centre.

## PCA Pucklechurch Community Association

I was going to report that the Community Centre was very quiet during the month of August, but then I popped in on Thursday and there SureStart and the Pucklechurch Majorettes were making noise and enjoying themselves. The building seemed to be so much more than bricks and mortar.

One of the questions the Community Plan tried to answer was "What makes a community?" Really, it's not one big thing, it's more to do with small things like meeting together before and after playgroup, Star Jumpers, or short mat bowls. The Community Centre is rarely empty. It does its job of being a regular meeting place, both formally and informally.

Despite some objections, the Pucklechurch Community Association has received retrospective planning permission for the Community Art to remain where it is. In other words, the Youth Club art work is legally entitled to remain in place.

To make such meetings more pleasant, the PCA and the Executive are improving the looks and safety of the building. We have installed emergency lighting and are getting quotes for a fire alarm system. We have been successful in obtaining grants for the building to be insulated and for the guttering on the field side to be replaced. Together with the Social Club, we have paid for the installation of the defibrillator by the front door (the Parish Council having paid for the equipment).

The only thing that we are short of is people who will come along once a month and help us to plan the future. If you have any ideas for the Community Centre, please come and join us.

*Alan Holder, Chair*

## Happy Circle

**Happy Circle**  
**Has a New Home at Homefield**

As of the 13th September, the Happy Circle will meet in the Homefield Centre (behind Nos. 32-36 Shortwood Road)

**Tuesday afternoons from 2.00 to 3.30pm**

## Be On Your Guard

South Gloucestershire Trading Standards would like to remind the residents of South Gloucestershire to be on their guard for three new scams that have been brought to our attention.

Reports have been received of an increase in rogue traders travelling around the district touting for scrap metal. The details of the transactions remain unclear, but we would like to warn residents to be wary of unexpected callers and the deals they offer you. If you are in any doubt, refuse to deal with the caller.

Another recent con is a telephone-based scam. Residents have received calls asking if they own a particularly well known brand of vacuum cleaner and giving the impression they are from that company. If the resident confirms they do, the caller goes on to offer a vacuum cleaner service for £24.99. When they arrive to carry out this service, however, they inflate this price considerably, sometimes claiming spare parts or further work are needed. If you receive such a call, be cautious. You may find you do not have automatic cancellation rights in this situation and you may feel pressured to pay the extra amounts.

A third scam involves residents being telephoned by sales staff, who then go on to worry pensioners into setting up an appointment with a rep about their concerns over the "ravages of the Community Care Act", offering to set up a family prosperity trust to avoid your house being sold to cover your care needs in later life. The sales staff exploit a scenario that is of great concern to pensioners and then arrange an agreement for a trust document to be drawn up to protect the resident – costing anything between £1000 and £3500. It is believed the document may not be as watertight as marketed, thus potentially leaving the householders' property still at risk to the very problem the trust is supposed to guard against. Cancellation rights are being given, but when residents cancel, victims are strung along and never get their money back. Trading Standards in this and other areas of the country are investigating.

If you think you have fallen victim to any of these or other scams, please contact Trading Standards via Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

## Don't Be Scared When the Lights Go Out

Starting in September, some street lights in Pucklechurch will be switched off during the night between approximately midnight and 4.15am in the winter and between 1.00am and 5.15am (if still dark) during the summer (BST). The work will take place during the normal maintenance cycle.

Lights will remain on along Shortwood Road, Shortwood Hill, Main Road, Westerleigh Road, and Abson Road, as well as enclosed walkways and the underpass at Oaktree Avenue. A small number of other lights will remain on that meet specific SGC criteria.

Pucklechurch joins a list of villages that have already started the part-night switch-off. With over 4,000 lights now in the scheme, SGC report that no problems have been created by the switch-off.

**Cllr Martin Smith**

# SCAM WISE

# 33,000

## The number of voters who registered online

More and more South Gloucestershire residents are registering to vote online, by phone, or by text. So far, 33,000 of you have registered in this way. And with the annual canvas starting next month, you could save time too by registering online.

Councillor John Goddard, Executive Member for Corporate Affairs, thanked residents who have already embraced this technology. "In 2010, only our second year of using online, telephone and text registration services, a massive 33,000 households – that's 30% – confirmed their household registration this way. Wednesdays are far and away the most popular day to use these services, with a third of electors making their return on this day of the week," he said. "South Glos residents are always at the forefront when it comes to using technology, and it's great to see that being put to use in electoral registration. The new methods of confirming registration are quicker and easier for electors to use, and they also save the council money, which is especially important in the current climate."

"About 109,000 households will be receiving their electoral registration forms over the next few weeks," added Goddard, "and I would encourage electors to try out the new registration methods wherever possible. Remember, the services are available 24/7, not just on Wednesdays!"



## Pucklechurch Stay & Play

Stay & Play is different from other parent and toddler groups. Stay & Play aims to support parents with their child's physical, social, and emotional development through providing a range of fun and exciting play activities. We are available to parents and families to offer support and information on a wide variety of areas, such as childcare provision and work opportunities. Stay & Play is part of the South Gloucestershire's Sure Start programme. This group can provide a variety of advice and support for parents and carers.

Stay & Play is a safe play session for children from birth to four years and their parents or carers. It's an opportunity for you to support your child's learning and development by playing alongside your children in activities that contribute to and enhance their learning and their lives. You will be able to track your child's development and ask for information, advice and support about learning, development and parenting. Planned in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage, Stay & Play works with the national curriculum for children's learning and development in early years.

The Pucklechurch Stay & Play group meets on Thursday afternoons from 1pm to 3pm in the Community Centre. For further details, please contact Janet or Simone on 01454 864144.





At the May meeting of the Bitton and Boyd Valley Safer Stronger Community Group, which was held in Pucklechurch, several issues relevant to the village were raised, and the outcomes of those matters are now available.

- A Speedwatch initiative is getting underway in Wick and Abson parish, and it may be mutually beneficial for it and our own Speedwatch group to collaborate, particularly regarding speeding on the road to and from Abson.
- Work continues on reinstating missing "Danger – Horseriders" road signs in the area. Some are already in place, and others are to follow.
- Parking on St Aldam's Drive and adjacent roads, particularly of HGVs, has been monitored on several occasions and at different times by the police. They report that, although they have seen inconsiderate parking, at no time have they seen parking that constitutes a danger, and thus they cannot take action.
- Following reports that a needle, presumably from drug taking, had been found at the Shortwood playground, the police have been monitoring the area, and have found no further evidence of drug use at that site.
- A request to increase the parking restrictions outside the Pucklechurch post office and local store, and generally around the T junction in the centre of the village, was passed to SGC Highways for their comment. Having inspected the site, Highways have reported back that they feel any further restriction would be likely to make the junction more dangerous, since the parked cars help to slow the traffic flow.
- The use of HGVs within Pucklechurch, primarily on the Westerleigh Road, but also on Abson Road and Feltham Road, is recognised as a problem by SGC. Consequently, they have initiated a reporting procedure in the hopes that, over time, the problem can be reduced through court action. Residents should report offenders directly on 0845 404 0506, and provide as much detail as possible, preferably including the date, time, and location of the HGV; the direction of travel, the vehicle registration, the make and model of vehicle, its colour, any identifying markings (e.g., company name, phone number), and any other useful information. In addition, there are moves afoot nationally to make the use of commercial satnav systems compulsory for HGVs. Currently many use the systems intended for use by private motorists, presumably because they are considerably cheaper, rather than the commercial ones, which include access restrictions for commercial traffic that are not shown on the cheaper ones.

The next meeting of SSCG will be on Thursday, 24th November, at 7.00pm in Marshfield Community Centre.

## VOTO

### (Villagers On Their Own)

VOTO is a group for villagers over 50 who are on their own. We generally meet monthly for a meal out, ten-pin bowling, skittles, or a visit to the theatre. If you would like to join us, contact Elaine on 937 3105 or elainerudge@aol.com.

# Parish Council

## Chairman's Report

This is my first report as Chairman of the new Parish Council, and I am pleased to say that we are bringing to fruition the work of the previous Council as well as undertaking exciting new initiatives.

The St Aldam's Play Garden is now open. Local children are delighted and having lots of fun on the new equipment. The Council has listened to some concerns raised by residents. By the time you read this, we hope to have developed a way forward that will please the village as a whole.

Parish councillors have been able to influence the cycleway infrastructure in South Gloucestershire by having the proposed link from Pucklechurch to the Avon cycleway included as part of their longer term project list. This may involve the compulsory purchase of land, hence we cannot be sure of the timescale. Work to create a cycle path to join Coxgrove Hill to Westerleigh and eventually to Yate is currently underway. It is worthy to note that the cycle path link from Pucklechurch was identified as a need in the Community Plan.

Plans for the new doctor's surgery have taken a step forward, and detailed discussions with South Gloucestershire Council are underway. The Parish Council has been fully supportive of the surgery going ahead, separate from any other development application, and has made representations to South Gloucestershire Council emphasising this point.

We have recently taken advantage of the offer of two substantial notice boards and are looking for suitable sites. This is in line with our intention of making communication between the Council and parish residents a key element of the way we will be conducting our business over the next four years. Better notice boards were also identified as a need in the Community Plan.

Earlier this year it came to the attention of one of our councillors that the North Bristol Trust had withdrawn – without any consultation – the local community ante-natal care, with all mums now having to go to Yate. This was followed up by the Parish Council with the full support of the local doctors. The matter has now been taken up by South Gloucestershire Local Involvement Network (LINK), the local health scrutiny organisation, demanding that explanations be given and that the service be reinstated. We will keep you informed as this matter progresses.

We are currently undergoing a co-option process as we were, at the time of writing, three councillors short. We look forward to the completion of the process and to welcoming the new councillors.

*Bob Symons, Chairman*

### Parish Orderly Needed

Pucklechurch Parish Council is looking to employ a parish orderly to enhance the physical environment of the parish by carrying out minor work and litter clearance

15 flexible hours per week

£7.00 per hour

Small tools and protective clothing provided

A copy of the full job description  
available from the clerk

To apply, please contact the clerk  
tel: 937 2398

email: parish.council@pucklechurch.org

# Revel 2011

Revel Week started with the Beer Festival in the Star Inn car park with real ales and ciders, including our own Pixie Press Cider. Everyone enjoyed dancing to the music supplied by Myself and the Blues Brothers on the Friday and the White Tripes and the Skinny Dippers on the Saturday. There was a great atmosphere on both nights, despite the rain on the Friday.

Over 30 children attended the Saturday morning events to join in the scavenger hunt and miniature garden making. Sunday was wet, but three people and a dog went on the Twinning Ramble. The thanksgiving service was held at St Thomas à Becket with the singing of well-known hymns, and prizes were presented to the winners of the art competition held in school the week before.

The Fleur de Lis was packed for the Revel Quiz on Monday evening, and the children enjoyed the dance organised by the Folk Club on the Tuesday. Also on Tuesday was the Revel Skittles Challenge, this time hosted at the Pucklechurch Village Sports and Social Club, whose team took the shield once again. The person with the highest score came from the PCA Social Club, however, so both sides earned some glory. Wednesday night was Revel Bingo Night at the Pucklechurch Village Sports and Social Club.

The Bob Todd Memorial Pram Race was held on the recreation field, and the crowds came out to watch and enjoy the barbecue. Judging the fancy dress was a difficult task for Jamie Todd and Jackie and Eamon Mooney because of the high standard of entries.

Pucklechurch Primary School held sports days during Revel Week and invited the village along. There was lots of excitement and good sportsmanship, with the Revel Committee providing refreshments.

The morning of Revel Day brought the rain. We were soaked by 9am but still managed to lay out the field and set up their stalls, determined that the show must go on. The rain stopped, thank goodness, but the wind continued. Some gazebos collapsed but most things went ahead.



The parade set off at 12.00, and *what* a parade! The landlords of the Star and the Rose and Crown and the landlady from the Fleur de Lis had the tough job of judging the parade entries. Once again the standard was excellent on the theme of "Forest Friends". The WI won the best adult entry award, and Tower Playgroup the best children's float. First Pucklechurch Brownies and 3rd Pucklechurch Rainbows were joint winners of the best walkers. Our own Pucklechurch Majorettes led the procession and later performed in the arena.

Attendance numbers were down on the day, but considering the weather, it was nice to see people enjoying the stalls and food and watching the events in the arena. There were lots of positive comments about the falconry, with one little boy saying the birds were amazing and he had never seen anything like them. Once again there was plenty of competition in the children's sports organised by the PCA.

Revel is special because it brings the whole village together and raises money for village organisations. But where do we go next? The committee has worked very hard but numbers of attendees have fallen over the last few years for events during the week (although it was great to see so many people at the quiz in the Fleur). An increasing number of people go away during Revel or attend other events, although everyone should know that Revel Day is always the third Saturday in June. There were fewer village stalls at Revel this year because the groups could not find enough people to man the stalls. The number of game stalls has decreased, although there have been more food stalls.

Some people have said Revel is not like it used to be. Do YOU want Revel to continue? Would it be better to have just Revel Day and the Beer Festival? Do you want Revel Day to carry on as it is with the parade and followed by an afternoon of events on the Rec? The Revel Committee desperately needs new people and new ideas or it will be in danger of folding. Please attend the AGM or contact me on elainerudge@aol.com with your ideas and comments.

*Elaine Stone, Chair*

## 7th Annual Bob Stone Memorial Photography Competition



Enter by 23rd September

Pick up entry details at village shops or online from [www.pucklechurch.org](http://www.pucklechurch.org)

### Revel Photography Exhibition and Prize-Giving

Sunday, 9th October  
10.30am to 1.00pm  
Community Centre

Look out for posters nearer the time. If you have photographs you would like to display but not enter into the competition, please give to Mike Hanks at school or Elaine Stone at 49 Homefield Road

Our  
Own  
Revel  
Royalty

Our  
own  
Revel  
Royalty



## Revel AGM

Wednesday, 28th September  
7.30 for 8.00  
Community Centre Meeting Room

Come along as a member of a village organisation or individual and enjoy a glass of wine and some cheese. Tell us what you want to see happen and where Revel should go next



# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As the new Parish Council are aware, the Playbuilder scheme on St Aldam's Drive has now been built, much to the dismay and anger of those opposed to such a venture. Incredibly, we now find the three councillors who were the main proponents of the project, which was ill conceived from the start, have left the Parish Council. Their inability to see this through is very disappointing and has now left us, the residents, to sort out the mess and problems it has already caused. We can only assume they have realised what an absolute mess they have left behind for others to deal with.

The police have already been involved due to the misuse of the equipment by youths late at night. Noise and foul and abusive language affecting adjacent houses have been officially reported to the police.

We would like also to point out that two of the new councillors opposed the project and signed the petition against the Playbuilder scheme. We can only hope that they remain sympathetic to our grievances and work with residents to sort them out.

*On Behalf of Residents Opposed to the Playbuilder Scheme (Name Withheld)*

Dear Editor,

Earlier this year many Pucklechurch residents were kind enough to complete a survey on traffic in the village. This was part of my degree at the University of the West of England, and I am very grateful to all those who responded. The response rate of 51% was very high for this sort of survey, which I think shows that the residents care a lot about our village and are motivated to help in studying the problems posed by traffic. Roughly a half of all replies showed concerns about the volume or speed of traffic, parked vehicles, difficulties in safely crossing roads, and the presence of HGVs. I intend to give a copy of the detailed results to the Parish Council. I'm pleased to say that the study was recently accepted for my master's degree, which I have now completed. Many thanks once again to everyone who returned the questionnaire.

*Kieran Reeves*

## Good Neighbour Scheme

The Pucklechurch and Shortwood Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers and coordinators met on the 12th May. The scheme is continuing to receive calls from members of the community. We have responded to around a dozen calls ranging from requests to help with re-tuning digital TV boxes, putting out bins to performing small gardening tasks. A number of volunteers have helped with these calls. We have also formed links with adult social care services in our area and are receiving referrals from them.

We will shortly be advertising our scheme through Well Aware, the Care Forum's information and signposting database of health, wellbeing, and community services in South Gloucestershire.

We have spoken with the Princess Royal Trust for Carers and are looking to see whether a link can be formed with this organisation. The aim of Breaks for Carers is to offer support to carers to enable them to have a regular short break. This seems to tie in with aims of the Good Neighbour Scheme.

If you are interested in this, becoming a volunteer, or using the scheme, please contact us on 07961939574 or by emailing us at [goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org](mailto:goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org)

*Larisa, Sarah and Ross*

*Good Neighbour Scheme Coordinators*

Dear Editor,

I will be doing the Chipping Sodbury Slog on November 13th. It's a nine-and-a-half-mile run through wet marshes, through thick mud, up steep hills. Basically it lives up to its name – a slog! I am raising money for two purposes. The first is art projects within Pucklechurch – in the school and in the community, working with children and youths. (The money raised would pay for materials for the year.) The second is a charity based in Bristol called 16-25 Independent People, which is dedicated to getting the youth off the streets and into housing and back into life. I have worked with this organisation on a voluntary basis and would like to do some more art projects with them. Art is an incredible tool for communication and for raising self-esteem. I hope to raise £2,000 in total. If you are interested in sponsoring me for these great causes, please phone me on 303 9190. I would really appreciate your support!

*Rachel Goodchild*

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank all the people who donated so generously to the "cuddly tombola" stall for Revel. On Revel Day we were able to sell about 260 toys, which was very good considering the weather! We decided to run the tombola again on 31st July in support of Help For Heroes. We sold another 150 on that day. You can be assured that your donations have been of benefit to good causes. Thank you again.

*Joyce Harris & Family*

Dear Editor,

Pucklechurch Mums & Minors closed last year due to lack of support. A cheque for £211.14 has been given to the Parish Council to be used for playground equipment in Pucklechurch. The committee decided this was the best way to spend the money left in the Mums & Minors account to benefit to the children it was originally intended for.

*Doug Walker, Mums & Minors Treasurer*

## Get a Taste of South Glos



The South Gloucestershire "Taste" local food and drink festival kicks off this autumn on Friday, 23rd September, with a schools visit to Manor Farm in Upton Cheyney and ends with the Winterbourne Barn's Orchard Harvest Day on Sunday, 9th October.

This year there are several new entrants, including wild food foraging, local menus at the Lord Nelson Pub in Marshfield and the Portcullis Hotel in Chipping Sodbury. For the first time there will be a Pucklechurch entry: The Old Dairy Farm Shop and Coffee Barn in Feltham Road, Pucklechurch, will be creating a selection of dishes to mark the Taste festival. Another new entrant this year is Melanie's Kitchen in Downend, who are putting on a West Country Cheeseboard and doing cupcake decorating for children. Lots of farm, brewery and bakery visits too!

The popular Chipping Sodbury Festival of Food takes place all day on Saturday, 8th October, with loads to see and do, including an extended farmers' market. Do get hold of the full programme on the South Gloucestershire Council website, or find a copy in your local library, One-Stop Shop... or pop down to the Old Dairy Farm Shop and pick one up!

For more information, contact Val Harding on 01454-863883 or [val.harding@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:val.harding@southglos.gov.uk) or visit our website at [www.southgloslocalfood.org](http://www.southgloslocalfood.org).



Girlguiding UK

*girls in the lead*

Sunday, the third of July, saw an invasion of the SS Great Britain by Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section girls, and leaders from Pucklechurch and Wick. This was our District's summer outing and a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Everyone enjoyed learning all sorts of things about this wonderful ship as they wound their way through the exhibition centre. Some girls dressed up in 19th-century costumes, whilst others tried their hand at steering the ship, which proved very difficult. I'm sure we'd have run aground if it had been left to our motley crew! Sounding the very loud horn was fun too. Next, we went down below, under the glass and water ceiling, to see the hull and keel of the ship. Phew! It was boiling hot down there, so we didn't stay long.

After a picnic lunch, it was onto the decks of the ship, examining incredibly small steerage class cabins and gasping at the opulent surroundings of the first class passengers' lounge. All managed to find the toilet with the door, which, when pushed open a smidgen, set off a recording of a man's refined voice indignantly telling us "Go away!" and "Do you mind?" Most small girls stuck their noses into the room where a lifelike woman manikin was being sick and groaned at the very real smell in there.

The sun shone and the Brownies entered into the spirit of sailing by pretending to be ship's captain, first mate, cook, passenger, and even the ship's cat, on deck, whilst Brown Owl soaked up the sun!

Since becoming District Commissioner, I have discovered we have an army of additional volunteers helping as treasurers, database recorders and unit helpers. We have also recruited Jacki Berry as our District Secretary. She was a Girl Scout in America, so I guess that makes us international now! To all of you, and to our dedicated leaders, thank you for continuing to give the girls a wonderful experience of Guiding. I'm always happy to hear from anyone else who'd like to lend a hand, so do contact me.

*Ros Abbott*

937 2157, [rosabbott@hotmail.com](mailto:rosabbott@hotmail.com)



**Pucklechurch**

**Players  
present**

**Funny Money**

By Ray Cooney

**Friday 18th & Saturday 19th November  
Pucklechurch Community Centre**

For further information,  
call Clare on 937 2137

## Don't Waste your Apples! The Community Cider Project

I hope that many of you had a chance to sample the Pucklechurch Press Cider at the beer festival or at Revel. It was quite successful, and the team are now planning to collect apples again this autumn.

Like all things, there is a learning curve, and so we will be doing things a little differently this year. The most important change, as far as collecting is concerned, is that we can't use badly damaged or rotting fruit. In days gone by, everything was put into the press, but modern health and safety requirements mean we can't do this. We spent hours on pressing day last year sorting out the bad apples. It was a back-breaking task.

We also discovered that crab apples are not ideal, so we shan't be collecting these this year. We are looking for your unwanted cider, eating, or cooking apples. The best thing you can do with them is eat them, but if you have more than you can use, please don't let them go to waste.

Our Pucklechurch Press Cider will be available at the Revel beer and cider festivals and other community events. All profits go to Revel funds in aid of village organisations and groups.

Nobody came forward to help organise a fun "Apple Day" in October, but we do have volunteers to organise a wassailing event in January or February to wake up the apple trees. Details will be published in the Christmas edition of *Pucklechurch News*.

*Martin Smith (organiser)*

*On behalf of the Revel Beer Festival Committee*

## Don't Let Your Apples Go to Waste! Donate them to the Community Cider Project

We need sound apples, please  
(No badly bruised or rotting fruit)

All varieties of cider apples,  
cooking apples & eating apples

No orchard too large or small –

Our band of volunteers is ready to pick

**We can collect from you  
or pick your fruit  
between 1st and 14th October  
OR**

**Drop them off at the  
Community Centre car park  
on Saturday, 1st, 8th & 15th October  
from 10am to noon**

To arrange for apples to be picked or  
collected, contact Martin Smith on 937 4437  
or [apples@pucklechurch.org](mailto:apples@pucklechurch.org)