

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



Summer/Autumn 2012

Funded by the Parish Council

www.pucklechurch.org



Girlguiding UK

Ros Abbott: A Guiding Life

Our own Ros Abbott celebrated a major milestone recently. Yes, yes, she did have one of those big-0 birthdays in June, but this milestone was much rarer. Ros received an award from Girlguiding UK for 50 years of volunteer service. In truth, though, she's been involved with guiding one way or another since 1950.

When some other girls at school told Ros about a fantastic "club" they belonged to, she was so excited that she ran home, forgetting to collect her little brother first. Though her mum was not amused about her lapse, Ros was allowed to join Brownies.

At 11, Ros moved up into Guides where the attraction was Guide Camp. Since her parents ran a leisure boating business serving the Shakespeare tourists who came to Stratford, the family never took summer holidays. The prospect of going away to the seaside for a week was thrilling to young Ros. She learned how to make a bed roll from blankets fastened together with safety pins and never looked back.

Today's Guides would be surprised at some of the skills girls learned in the 1950s. They were taught how to chop wood with an axe and whittle with a knife. And in the days when most homes did not have a telephone, the girls learned how to make a call from a public phone box. Every meeting included a uniform inspection. Badges had to be sewn on in their proper places, ties correctly knotted, shoes clean and shiny, pins and buckles polished, berets perched just so. There was even a pocket inspection to make sure every girl had her notebook and pencil, a piece of string, a clean hankie (in the days before tissues), and two pennies for the phone.

Ros tells me that guiding was quite different in the 1950s and '60s. It was run along military lines, with rules and discipline at its core. The emphasis today is very much on having fun, rather than the focus on practical skills and public service of yesteryear. Today's Guides are encouraged to learn about the world outside their own country and gain an appreciation of what girls' lives are like in different places. The Guides of the '50s couldn't imagine getting on a coach to London to go to a pop concert at the O2 Arena. Guides still do fundraising for good causes, of course, and making and keeping the Guide Promise, together with becoming a good citizen, is still at the heart of guiding.

One of the presents Ros received for her recent birthday was a blue plaque similar to those used in London to mark houses where famous people have lived or worked. Her daughter had one made for her. It reads, "Ros Abbott, the world's longest serving Girl Guider lives here". What a fitting tribute to someone who has touched the lives of hundreds of girls over five decades of volunteer service. Thank you, Ros, from all of us.

Jacki Berry, District Secretary



There's more! The full version of this article can be read on the Guides page of the Community Website at www.pucklechurch.org

REVEL REPORT

Revel 2012 started with a children's event in the Scout Hut. Although only a few children attended they enjoyed the craft table, miniature garden making and the scavenger hunt. On Sunday the Twinning ramble took place and the weather stayed dry as we went over the fields towards Siston and Abson. The Fleur was packed for the quiz organised by Lorianne on the Monday evening, won by the 'In it to win it' team. On Tuesday the Revel skittles evening was hosted at Pucklechurch CA Social club. It was close but the top club just managed to win the shield again.

The Bob Todd Memorial Pram Race unfortunately had to be cancelled because of the weather.

On Friday a walk took place with the 'South Glos Walking to Health' group and in the afternoon the senior citizens enjoyed a demonstration by the Majorettes.

On Revel Day everyone was on the field early ready to set up, but the weather was against us and gazebos were blowing all over the place. The rain started just as the procession set off led by the Wiltshire Youth Marching Band followed by the Majorettes and floats and walkers.

Katherine from the Coach House café and Sarah from The Old Dairy had the difficult job of judging the parade. The standard was excellent. Twinning won the best adult entry award and Tower Playgroup the best children's float. The Guides were the winners of the best walking entry. Our own majorettes performed in the arena, followed by the Wiltshire Youth Marching Band. This was followed by the Tug of War and the children's sports organised by the PCA. The Draw took place in the hall and first prize was won by Trudi Adams. The Skinny Dippers started playing at 5.00 and people started to come back to the rec to listen to the music and enjoy the pig roast and our very own Pucklechurch cider.

On Sunday evening the Olympic themed short service was planned to be in the vicarage garden but the heavens opened so it was held in the church. On Monday there was a joint event with the School PSA. The children enjoyed a film night watching 'Horrid Henry' and eating popcorn. On Tuesday the sun shone and people enjoyed a glass of sparkling and strawberries and cream and reading a variety of poems sitting in the garden. On Wednesday it was eyes down for bingo at the Top club.

On the 22 and 23 June the Beer and Cider festival took place with the marquee jammed packed with people enjoying the music and sampling the large variety of beers and ciders.

Revel is now over and the committee would like to say a big thank you to everyone who turned out on Revel Day, particularly those who manned stalls. It was great that many organisations made a real effort to do more games stalls and stalls suitable for children at pocket money prices.

Revel AGM will be held on Wednesday 26 September. We desperately need new people and new ideas particularly as a number of us will be stepping down. Even if you can only contribute in a small way it will help. Do come along - I still believe that Revel is special because it brings the whole village together and raises money for village organisations.

Elaine Stone Co-Chair

Revel AGM

Wednesday 26th September

7.30 for 8.00

in the Community Centre meeting room

Please do come along as a member of a village organisation or individual and enjoy a glass of wine and some cheese.

We want to find out from you what you want and where Revel should go next.



8th Annual Bob Stone Memorial Photography Competition

Enter by 24th September.

Pick up entry details at village shops or online from www.pucklechurch.org

Revel Photography and Art Exhibition and Prize-Giving

14th October. 10.30 - 1.00
in the 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, 49 Homefield Rd

Jackie Sexton Passes the Baton

Jackie Sexton, who has been the designer behind the *Pucklechurch News* since September 2003, has decided to retire from the *Pucklechurch News* team. Jackie brought you the colourful layouts our local newsletter has sported for the last nine years.

Several new volunteers came forward after the *Pucklechurch News* team called for help in the February issue. The new volunteers had the right skills to take over both editing and layout. Claire Dolman will be taking over the responsibilities for the layout and printing of *Pucklechurch News*.

"We were pleased that some young people were interested," said Jackie. "It seemed like the right time to hand over the reins."

Having lived in the village for 45 years, Jackie brought good local connections to the *Pucklechurch News* team as well as her graphic arts skills. Jackie ran her own sign-making business for 12 years and had worked in design for 20 years before that. Jackie has been involved with so many local organisations over the years, including WI, Twinning, Revel and skittles.

The new team will miss her talents, of course. We wish her the best and hope that she will continue to enjoy the *Pucklechurch News* as a reader.

Pucklechurch News

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council

Produced by

Sarah Nunez, Beth Rawlins (editing & proofreading)

07540243627 9373049

editor@pucklechurch.org

5 Farlands

Claire Dolman (layout & printing)

07855 061735, 34 Hawthorn Close

Valerie Broom (collection, collating and distribution)

16 Partridge Road

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



Heartstart Project Update: August 2012

Congratulations everyone - we have reached our target of £10,000.

The Heartstart Project is very grateful to everyone in the village clubs, organisations, individuals, social clubs, and businesses for making this possible. We were in the village hall on Revel day and able to display the latest defibrillator.

We should be very proud that this has been achieved in just a little over a year. The village has really embraced the project and taken it forward.

We now have three defibrillators, and the money set aside for the fourth when the new surgery is built. This will have a plaque alongside it indicating the names of those who have donated to the challenge. We still have two places left.

The Rose & Crown defibrillator cabinet mounting has been delayed but we expect it to be in place very soon.

We are still very keen to organise and deliver **Basic Life Support Awareness Sessions** to organisations and village groups. These sessions have the added advantage of increasing confidence if you need to use any of the defibrillators. The Pucklechurch Website has more information on accessing and using the defibrillators.

We have three active **Community First Responders** who give several hours a week to be on call in Pucklechurch for the ambulance service. Great Western Ambulance Service is always looking for new recruits, so if you are interested please contact me on angelajhallett@gmail.com or 9374252.

The Project Committee will stay in place. We may need to raise a little more money if the cost of the fourth defibrillator increases at the time of purchase. My final thanks go to the committee as without their support this project would not have been as successful. They have been a tremendous support to me and I will always be very grateful to them all.

Angela Hallett



COXGROVE HILL CYCLE PATH - Pucklechurch

Volunteers Lead the Way

In what was most probably the biggest community project ever undertaken in South Gloucestershire, volunteers from Pucklechurch and surrounding areas, together with South Gloucestershire Council's Street Care, built half a mile of new cycle track from Coxgrove Hill to the M4 motorway. Work commenced on 23 July and finished six days later. On Saturday, 28 July, the path was officially opened.

Once we got the heavy equipment on site we could start building the path. This part of the planned route from Coxgrove Hill to Yate is along a disused railway. First the digger was used to loosen the granite ballast that formed the base of the track and remove tree stumps. Volunteers then removed all the other roots by pick axe and hand. The gravel was then formed into a level surface with rakes and shovels before being compacted with a vibrating roller.

With the next phase of the work, things really took shape. A six tonne dumper brought limestone dust to the volunteers who spread this on the ballast before being finally compacted. As we worked from the M4 towards Coxgrove Hill it seemed it was an impossible task to complete the job in time for the grand opening on Saturday lunchtime.

The team spirit was fabulous. This had a lot to do with Roger Payne who managed our base camp and prepared a lunchtime BBQ each day. Roger deserved the three cheers given by all the team on his last day. I'm going to mention all the Pucklechurch volunteers by name because they all did a fantastic job. Some worked every day and others when they could get time off work or other commitments, a massive thank you to...Carolyn Baker, Jay Beese, Roy Benney, Jacki Berry, Ashish Bhatia (first aid and doctor on call), Margaret Dix, Pete Dix, Mark Edwards, Fuggles (camp mascot), Malcolm Greenaway, Dave Harris, John Kay, Phil Look, Bill Skidmore, Laura Skidmore (Baking Cakes), Matt Skidmore, Martin Smith, Alan Yates and Jackie Yates. If you were left out please let me know!

We were very fortunate to be able to get the chair of South Gloucestershire Council, Janet Biggin, to open the path. When Janet arrived we had just ten metres to complete. Janet jumped at the opportunity to get aboard the dumper and drop the last few tonnes of crushed limestone, help spread it and then drive the roller to compact the last bit of the path. Janet said, "This is an inspirational project and shows localism at its best."

Some of you may be wondering why this project was so important when our real need is to get a direct path from Pucklechurch to Shortwood and Emerson's Green. By completing this path, we have shown in no uncertain terms that Pucklechurch means business. We have gained a lot of support from politicians and officers at SGC. John Grimshaw has been commissioned by SGC to produce the feasibility study of what we will call the "Pucklechurch Greenway" connecting our village to the existing cycle path. The Countryside Access Group has shown that we have the volunteers to get the job done. Our objective is to start the Pucklechurch Greenway within two years.

Cllr. Martin Smith

for Pucklechurch Countryside Access Group

This article has been edited for the printed Pucklechurch News. The full article can be found on the community website at

http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/countryside_access.html



St. Thomas-à-Becket

Special Services

Sunday 30th September
10 a.m. Harvest Festival Service

Remembrance Sunday 11th November
10.45a.m. Service of Remembrance

Harvest Supper
29th September 7.30 p.m. in Church
Meal, Wine & Raffle available

Saturday 6th October
7.30p.m. Concert in Church with wine, raffle and refreshments.

Christian Aid week. Following the house to house collection for this, we have sent £1733.00 to help those people in poverty out of poverty. We warmly thank all who contributed to make this a success.

Parish Council

Chairman's Report - August

As I write this we are in the middle of a three day heat wave! I am hoping that we are all still enjoying this weather when you read this report!

- The Council is still running with one member short. We have had notices posted for quite a while, but have not yet had a response. If you feel that you have a little spare time to give to the Community please contact Diane Bailey on 01179372398
- In the last report I mentioned the Country Wide review of Parish boundaries following the planned development of Emerson Green. There has been a survey circulated by South Gloucestershire Council which the 150 Council have issues with and have asked for it to be withdrawn. We have offered to work with SGC on how best to consult with the parishioners, ensuring that all relevant information is available. There is more information available in this edition, on posters and the Pucklechurch Parish Council website.
- The Parish Council continues its walk-in 'surgery' on the first Saturday of the month please drop by with any issues you have or just to say hello.
- The Council have discussed the responses from the Pucklechurch Village Community Centre questionnaire. The Council has decided to take a leadership role in any future developments and is currently discussing a way forward. Discussions only take place at Council meetings so if you are interested, watch out for the item in future agendas and do come along to hear the discussions, or to make a public submission.
- The Open Spaces Working Group has looked at what needs doing at the St Aldams play area. Planting will be reviewed ready for the autumn planting season, and play equipment for the very young will be considered for the future.
- Actions based on the Community Plan are still very much in the minds of the Council but we continue to struggle due to lack of people. Again I ask that if there are any thoughts from you on involvement, large or small, please do contact any of the Councillors.
- The decision on the Village Green application on Oak Tree Avenue, has still not been made by South Gloucestershire Council, so unfortunately I have nothing more to report.

- A planning application for a house on the old chapel grounds has been refused due to inappropriate design, but hopefully it shows that the area will soon be developed, improving the centre of the village.
- Following a RoSPA report we have decided to replace the slide on the recreation ground and freshen up all other play equipment with a lick of paint. Jo the Parish orderly is completing the painting along with her other tasks, and the village is certainly benefitting from the work she is doing.
- Some of you may know that PC Simon Topps has moved to pastures new and he goes with our best wishes. We met our new Beat Manager, PC Jo Kille, at the last meeting and look forward to developing the relationship with her for the benefit of the Parish.
- Martin Smith has been involved in a Country Side Access Project, the extension of the cycle path from Coxgrove Hill towards Yate. By the time you read this the sections will be complete, so why not take the bike down for a ride. Further developments of cycle paths are planned including around Policeman's Hill.
- We held the Annual Parish Meeting in May which was well attended. There were a number of interesting reports from local groups and a presentation on Participatory Budgeting. This is about using the Parishioners to actively participate in how the Council spend your money. More information including two short videos will be available on the Community Website. If you have any questions please contact any of the Councillors.
- We are looking to develop sports facilities within the Parish and will be contacting groups and individuals for their views on what the requirement might be. Please respond and if you feel you can be part of a group working with the Council to deliver this please contact the Clerk or any Councillor.
- Unfortunately our Village Orderly, Jo, is leaving the area. We thank her for her work and wish her the best for the future. That does leave a vacancy to fill. The role is for 15 flexible hours a week. If you are interested in applying please contact the Clerk on 0117 9372398.

Bob Symons
Chairman

Pucklechurch Majorettes

Pucklechurch Stars had a very successful June competition with lots of team, duet and individual awards. We also had a very successful revel show for the WI, Happy Circle and grandparents where the girls really enjoyed showing off their new costumes.

Basic Strut

0-6 Years

7th Tiana Miller

2nd Emilie Bayliss

1st Ava Powell

7 - 9 Years

11th Amelia Carter

9th Grace Rodgers

4th Jorja Powell

10- 13 Years

10th Sophie Tucker

9th Maisie Beese

2nd Chloe Rawlins

Duets

0 -6 Years

Ava Powell and Emilie Bayliss

7 - 9 Years

2nd Maisie and Ruby Beese

1st Teigen Adams and Louise Packer

Solo

0 - 6 Years

2nd Emilie Bayliss

7-9 Years

2nd Thalia Wynter

Best Dressed

2nd Juvenile Military

3rd Pee wee Twirl

2nd Juvenile Twirl

1st Juvenile Pom pom

1st and 3rd Peewee Pom

South Glos Housing Options West of England Care and Repair

Have you ever wondered about moving but don't know where to start? West of England Care and Repair offer a Housing Options service which gives information, advice and support to older people.

Whether you would like some straightforward advice so you can manage things better yourself, or would like more practical support, we may be able to help you if you live in South Gloucestershire and are over 60.

We have been running this highly popular Housing Options service in the Bristol area for over 12 years, and now have funding to offer this across South Gloucestershire.

We can provide:

Advice on options, including:

- Staying out
- Buying or renting
- Retirement housing
- Residential and nursing home care

Support to identify the right housing for you:

- Help with form-filling and paperwork
- Help to view properties
- Help and support through the whole process until you are settled into your new home

And we can give advice about getting help from other services.

We Care and Repair can be contacted at:
5 Hide Market, Waterloo Road, Bristol. BS2 0BH.

Tel no. 01179542222. www.Wecareandrepair.org



Pucklechurch Community Association

Pucklechurch has a vibrant Community Centre, that meets the needs of hundreds of villagers. .But it will close In April 2013 if no one steps forward to take over the running of the centre. Please don't let it stop dead in its tracks for the lack of volunteers. Now is just the time to join the committee to get the hang of things.

If you are interested give me a ring on
0117 937 2818

Alan Holder

Chair of Pucklechurch Community Association.



Please be Aware and Alert

South Gloucestershire Trading Standards would like to reiterate the warning given recently to residents to be **extra vigilant** when dealing with unexpected callers at the front door.

Officers have been alerted to a **new tactic** being used by criminals to try and gain entry to your home.

Residents have reported cold calls to their homes from a man and a woman enquiring about their loft insulation. No company name has been given by the visitors. They claim the woman is training and have been known to walk around the property, possibly to gain entry at the rear. The police have been informed.

It appears these callers seem to know whether residents have had work done recently, giving their story some credibility. However, we would like to stress the warning that residents must be wary of uninvited callers and the stories they tell you **if you're unsure, don't open the door!**

The **advice** being offered by **Trading Standards and the Police** to stay safe includes:

- Always treat unexpected callers with suspicion.
- Install and use door chains;
- Ask for identification and check it's authenticity with the company. You can register a password with all your utility companies any genuine employee will know what your password is.
- Do not keep large amounts of money in your home.
- Never allow anyone into your home that you do not know.
- Remember, it is your front door so close it if you are not happy!

If you, or anyone you know, has fallen victim to such crimes, call the Police. For advice on this or any other consumer issue, contact the Citizens Advice consumer service on 08454 04 05 06.

Mobile Library dates;

14 and 28 September

12 and 26 October

9 and 23 November

7 and 21 December

University of the 3rd Age

The University of the 3rd Age (U3A) is for people who are no longer in full time employment but who want to keep active in mind and body. You can learn whatever you want and groups come together to study a subject they all find interesting. Learning is interpreted in the broadest possible sense. Subjects covered range from Art to Zoology and pretty well everything else you can name in between.

The nearest U3A to Pucklechurch is the Yate and Sodbury District U3A which currently has over 600 members, with new groups popping up on a regular basis. At present only a few people from Pucklechurch are members. If more people join it may be possible to share lifts and start some groups in the village. If you would like to know more about the U3A you can visit their web site www.u3asites.org.uk/yate-sodbury, contact Elaine Rudge on 9373105 or elainerudge@aol.com

Need somewhere for visitors to stay? Look locally!

If you've got guests coming for weddings, family gatherings, or simply to stay and enjoy our village and its surroundings and you've run out of spare rooms, then there is quality accommodation available here in Pucklechurch.

Fern Cottage, on Shortwood Hill, has been featured on UKTV - one of 5 companies from the whole of the South West to have reached Finalists in the UKTV Food Local Food Hero.

And situated right in heart of the village on Homefield Road is Orchard Cottage, which offers self-contained accommodation and which can offer for both bed and breakfast, or longer stays for guests holidaying in the area.

Fern Cottage can be contacted on 0117 937 4966 and Orchard Cottage on 0117 937 3284

More information about Fern Cottage and Orchard Cottage can be found in the directory at www.pucklechurch.org. This contains details of many businesses in and around Pucklechurch why not have a look and see what's available locally?



Pucklechurch Players

30 Years Anniversary

Present

Cinderella

A pantomime by Paul Reakes
Look out for posters giving further
details at the end of October

Calling all residents of Pucklechurch who enjoy being creative!

We are looking for people who would like to contribute to an exciting new arts project creating sculptures, art, and willow work to display along the new cycle path from Coxgrove Hill to Westerleigh. We will be meeting on Saturday 22 September at 10.00am at the Coxgrove Site and the project will run for one week. All members of the community are invited to attend and contribute. Anyone can have a go as there will be teachers on site.

The project will be ongoing, so if you can't come on 22 September there will be other opportunities to get involved. If you would like to help or contribute, please contact Rachel Goodchild on 0117 3039190.

Tower Playgroup



Tower Playgroup would just like to thank the community of Pucklechurch for their continued support.

We are currently taking registration for September 2012.

If you would like to register your child at the playgroup, please pick up a form from the church room, call us 0772202 9077, or email towerplaygroup@gmail.com

Pucklechurch and Shortwood Good Neighbour Scheme

The Good Neighbour Scheme is continuing to respond to calls from people in our community, helping them with everyday tasks.

We are pleased to say that our application for a grant from South Gloucestershire Council for £556 was successful. We also received a grant from Pucklechurch Parish Council for £200. We will use this money to pay our public liability insurance and to renew our volunteers' CRB checks. We will also be able to print leaflets to distribute throughout Pucklechurch and Shortwood which will provide residents with more information about what we do and our contact details.

We held a meeting for our volunteers on 19 July to provide an update on our progress and development, and to enable people to have a social gathering.

If you or someone you know wants help with small household or gardening tasks that you can't do, please call the Good Neighbour Scheme on 07961 939574 or email goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org. We can help with such things as changing light bulbs or fuses, re-tuning digi-boxes, putting bins out, light gardening, filling in forms and spending time with someone for a chat. We're all volunteers and this won't cost you anything.

If you would like to be a volunteer, please contact us.

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the church for the two items recently put on, being the scarecrow competition and the re-enactment of the Coronation which Mary and I enjoyed very much.

Seeing the scarecrow of Dick Whittington and his cat reminded me of some local history of the 1800's;

A reverend John Whittington of Cold Ashton near Marshfield was married for a second time in our church to a Pucklechurch lady.

He at one time was 'Curate in Charge' of Pucklechurch and lived in the old Vicarage house. He also officiated here after he ceased to be a curate and was also a member of the same family as Dick Whittington of historical fame.

Les Whittock