

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



Autumn 2013

Funded by the Parish Council

www.pucklechurch.org

REVEL NEWS

Another successful year again for Pucklechurch Revel. The week started off well with a very successful Beer Festival which was enjoyed by all. The raspberry t-shirts were a hit with the people wearing them and we got many comments about them from those attending. Well done to the Beer Festival team led by Steve Thomas for their excellent organisation of the event.

Revel Ramble was also held during the same weekend. Over 30 people set out for a four mile walk on a pleasant Sunday morning. We walked towards Siston and then Abson and many people discovered footpaths they did not know about. We ended up near the Star and a number of us enjoyed a drink sitting outside in the sun. Thank you to Twinning for organising.

Unfortunately, due to the weather, Poetry in the Garden ended up as Poetry in the Garage but 16 people had a very enjoyable evening. A wide range of poems were read and the cheese and wine went down very well.

The Revel Quiz was a sell-out with many teams crowded in to the Fleur De Lis. Thank you to the Fleur for hosting this event and for the great service and food. An excellent fund raiser for Pucklechurch.

Pram Race was another success, and this year it didn't rain! It worked very well to run the Tug-of-War on the same evening as the Pram Race and I think it will be a regular event now. It kept people on the Rec for longer and provided extra entertainment. Thank you to organisers of these events, Mandy Smith, Marie Walkley and Derek Watts for Pram Race and Mike Rawlins for Tug-of-War. A special thanks to Shaun Bidwell for being the 'man in the middle' deciding on winners of each tug. After talking to some of the men during the following week there were a few sore muscles for days after the event; they certainly put all their effort in to it!

Majorettes once again entertained the Senior Citizens in the Community Centre on the Friday evening. Well done girls and the trainers, led by Kelly Powell. You put on a very entertaining show that was enjoyed and appreciated. Revel Bingo was also enjoyed by the usual Bingo goers. They would love to see some new faces next time if possible to make it more special as a Revel event.

Finally Revel Day arrived. With the week starting off so hot and sunny we were very optimistic that Revel Day would follow suit, but that would be too much to ask. Unfortunately I was unable to be there in the morning as I had to attend an event in Bath. The weather there was windy but dry so I was under the impression that we had a dry Revel Day here in Pucklechurch. However when I was driving back I noticed that the sky I was driving towards was rather black! Arriving in Pucklechurch I caught the tail end of the Revel Parade looking extremely wet - it was pouring down!

But in true Pucklechurch spirit everyone carried on. I dropped the car home and braved the walk to the Rec, arriving with my children with sopping wet jeans and soggy feet. Luckily, the rain passed later in the day and the afternoon was a success right into the evening, with music and beer and cider on the Rec which finished the day off really well. Thank you to Beer Festival Committee for manning the bar all day.

Thanks to all of the Revel Committee and everyone that helped during Revel Week. Without your help the events wouldn't be possible. Special thanks to Mike Rawlins as Revel Chair and Steve Thomas as Beer Festival Chair, your efforts are really appreciated.

Beth Rawlins

DON'T FORGET REVEL COMMITTEE A.G.M. ON 25 SEPTEMBER AT 7.30PM

Please come along to our A.G.M on Wednesday 25 September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall - the meeting starts at 8.00pm.

Several Committee positions are up for grabs this year, including Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. It's important these positions are filled for Revel to continue in Pucklechurch.

It's the ideal opportunity to get together with others to raise money for our village through fund raisers during the year and Revel Week itself.

We hope to see you there.

Parish Council

Chairman's Report - August

Youth Club

You will recall that South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) stopped all funding for Pucklechurch Youth Club. The Parish Council decided to fund the club for a period of three months to allow time for Councillors to apply for grants from SGC. Our first bid was unsuccessful, but following the formation of a temporary management committee, made up of Parish Councillors and Youth Club members, a second application was submitted. I am pleased to report that SGC has made an award of £6,000 towards the running of the club. Members of the Youth Club who presented the application deserve a special mention and our thanks go to local district councillors who supported it. We are however in need of volunteers to become members of the Youth Club Management Committee, to help administer the grant and generally oversee the running of the club. If you feel you could help, please email - parish.council@pucklechurch.org.

Grant applications Allotments & Community Car Scheme

We are working hard to try to ensure that two other projects grant-aided by SGC come to fruition. Parish Councillors have been producing a business case for our project to provide more allotments and this will be presented to SGC very soon. The Community Car Scheme is however struggling to get off the ground as we need volunteers to be part of the start-up process! If you would be interested and could spare some time to help with this could you please email - parish.council@pucklechurch.org.

HMP Ashfield Liaison Group

The Liaison Group has now been formed and consists of the following individuals who variously represent the Prison, Parish Council, Residents and SGC: Simon Harding, Ray Duckworth Alex Game, Mandi Smith, Claire Bristow, BoB Symons, Eddie Aze, and Ben Stokes.

Discussion at the first meeting covered the following: *Categorisation and security* - Category C classification covers prisoners who cannot be trusted in open conditions but are unlikely to try to escape. Intricate security systems and processes exist to deal with those who are likely predatory offenders. The current Police Liaison Officer role will be evaluated to support the needs of the both the police and prison and to ensure a greater focus on public protection issues.

Visiting A precise vetting system exists for all visitors which uses a host of intelligence gathering processes.

The expectation is that visits will be reduced from current levels. Children of inmates will be permitted to visit as the family is integral to rehabilitation. Visits will only take place between Friday (pm) - Sunday (pm). *Release on Temporary License (ROTL)*- This is highly unlikely to happen but cannot be absolutely guaranteed due to the prisoner's human rights. Very strictly controlled risk assessments are completed for every application. The Liaison Group will be made aware in the unlikely event there is a ROTL and the circumstances behind it.

Parking - the requirement will be reduced due to the unfortunate reduction in staff numbers. Visitor parking will also be reduced. Staff are currently working day shifts as there are no prisoners in house, so parking is stretched. When prisoners arrive, shift patterns will change and parking problems will reduce. The next meeting will be in September. Should you wish to contact the group to raise issues at the next meeting, please email - parish.council@pucklechurch.org.

Speed Limits

A survey by Traffic Management at SGC has now been completed. These are the key points and recommendations of the report:

- *The survey data shows that over 8,000 vehicles per day use Shortwood Road.*
- *Compliance with the existing 30mph speed limit in the area investigated was found to be acceptable 85th percentile speeds were found to be 32mph (eastbound), and 35mph (westbound)*
- *Significantly, 450 pedestrian crossings of Shortwood Road took place in a 12 hour period. 75% of these took place between Abson Road and The Poplars. Children made up around 14% of recorded pedestrians crossing the road.*
- *The recommendation was that a proposal for some form of pedestrian crossing would be considered within SGC's 2014/15 capital expenditure*

Parish Council Drop-ins & Meetings

Councillors continue to make themselves available on the first Saturday morning of the month at Pucklechurch Community Centre between 10 am and 12 noon. These are informal open sessions to enable residents to raise issues or to ask for advice. Our full Council meetings take place on the first and third Wednesdays of each month and generally start at 7.30pm. These are formal public meetings and although residents are more than welcome to attend the whole meeting, specific issues can only be raised during public participation or via letter in advance of the meeting.

Fly Tipping

It has been brought to our attention that cumulative amounts of household and green garden waste is being tipped, particularly in the Back Lane area of the village. Residents are reminded that all green garden waste should be deposited in their green bins for collection and that individuals responsible for fly tipping such waste may be liable for clear-up charges levied by SGC or prosecution. Keep Britain Tidy website states: 'Fly-tipping is the 'illegal deposit of any waste onto land or a highway that has no licence to accept it.' Illegal dumps of waste can vary in scale and the type of waste involved. Tipping a mattress, electrical items or a bin bag full of rubbish in the street causes a local nuisance, and tipping household items and small-scale building or garden waste in open spaces reduces their amenity value to the community.'

If you spot fly-tipped waste you can telephone SGC's Fly Tipping Hotline: 01454 868000 OR use the Parish Council SMS text service 0795 008 1307 using the keyword 'fly tipping' followed by a location and brief description of what has been tipped.

Wessex Bus Service Public Meeting

We are in the process of organising a public meeting with Wessex Bus Company, South Gloucestershire Council, and Steve Webb MP. This will take place towards the end of September. The date, time and venue are still to be confirmed but please look out for further information in due course.

Camping

Residents are reminded that all of the grassed amenity areas within our parish belong to either the Parish Council or South Gloucestershire Council. People may use town or village greens for 'lawful sports and pastimes', e.g. playing football or walking your dog **but camping is not allowed without permission.**
<https://www.gov.uk/common-land-village-greens>

Parish Clerk

Late last year Diane Bailey decided to retire from the role of Parish Clerk. Diane has been invaluable to the Council for over 20 years. Her knowledge of the Parish and the people in it never ceased to surprise us all. I am sure all previous Councillors will share in my gratitude for her support, guidance and hard work she has selflessly provided over her years as clerk. Our very best wishes are sent to her for the future. We have now been able to secure the services of Debra Duke as Parish Clerk. Debra brings with her a wealth of procedural knowledge and experience having worked previously for several town councils. We welcome her and look forward to working closely together for the good of the Parish. You can email her on parish.council@pucklechurch.org.
Bob Symons, Chairman

PCA Pucklechurch Community Association Committee Report

Community Centre Open Day Saturday 28th
September 2013

Pucklechurch Community Centre has been part of the village for over 30 years.

It is a very popular venue both for groups from the local community as well as from further afield. It is also available for hire by individuals for parties and meetings. Despite the fact that it is so well patronised it appears that many villagers (Pucklechurchians) only see it as a brick building. The PCA (Pucklechurch Community Association) would like to change this perception and encourage much greater and wider participation in its use and support.

To kick this off, the PCA would like to invite villagers to its Open Day to see the building and meet the groups who use it today. You will be able to talk to the groups and see what they offer, meet members of the PCA, and hopefully have an interesting time. More information will be posted in the Community Centre and around Pucklechurch. We would LOVE to meet you.

Since the PCA AGM in May, wide-ranging discussions have taken place at the committee meetings as to how to increase participation in and use of the Community Centre. Some suggestions have been ambitious and far reaching and will only be achievable in the longer term. Other suggestions have taken into account the current situation and have put forward short term solutions. Any changes will require finance. This is another area that needs careful and thorough deliberation.

Whatever the committee decide to do they would like the support of the whole village. To this end the committee are hoping that more villagers will become involved with the Community Centre. The committee welcome any suggestions about the Community Centre for their serious consideration. More importantly they would also welcome any help whatsoever but especially from anyone who has experience in any practical field related to buildings (heating, lighting, construction etc). Any comments please contact either Chris Davis 07944032423 (cma.davis@btopenworld.com) or Anna Sharpe 01179374449 (anna.sharpe@lineone.net)

In the past few years improvement work has started and already the building is more welcoming. The committee would like to continue to improve the building. If you are not aware of the changes and all that goes on in the building or if you want to support the community please come to the Open Day on Saturday 28th September 2013 between 1pm and 4pm.



Bob Stone Memorial Photography Competition

Once again Revel are sponsoring the Bob Stone Memorial Photography Competition. As usual there will be 2 categories ;

Open (all ages) Any subject including travel, portraits, nature, pets, abstracts and architecture.

Pucklechurch Village Life (18 and over only) Photos of buildings, people, scenery and events that show where and how we live

The age groups are: .

- 11 and under entry is free
- 12 17 entry is free
- 18 and over - £1 per entry

This year there will also be an art competition. The children at school will have the opportunity to do their entries in school or at home and give their entries to Lyn Ford.

If you are of secondary school age and would like to enter, please give your entries to Elaine at 49 Homefield Rd. Please write your name, address, telephone number and age on the back. You can use any materials you wish and it can be on any subject but paper should be no larger than A3

We would also welcome any adults who would like to display their art work at the Photography Exhibition and Prize-Giving on Sunday 13th October in the Community Centre. Please contact Elaine if you are interested.

See posters or pick up rules in village shops.

For further details visit
<http://www.pucklechurch.org> or contact Elaine on elainerudge@aol.com or tel. 0117 9373105

CAFE CHURCH

Cafe Church at St Thomas a Becket will run on the first Sunday of every month from September 2013. Cafe church is a relaxed service for all ages.

We start with tea, coffee and homemade cakes at 10 am and move on to worshipping God with a couple of well known hymns and worship songs. In true Pucklechurch tradition, these are a mixture of more modern and well known older tunes to suit the wide variety of tastes in our village. Kevin Watkins leads us on guitar during this service.

The teaching at Cafe Church is provided via a short video which looks at our lifestyles today. There is a chance to discuss what we have seen and heard afterwards. We finish with a final hymn and then stay to chat or leave as we like.

Children of all ages are welcome. There are activities arranged for them and they can wander and move at any time. The church is set out in cafe style to allow people to talk easily.

Julie Gardner

On behalf of the St Thomas à Becket team



St. Thomas-à-Becket

Church Services

1st Sunday in month
8.30am Holy Communion
10am Café Church

2nd / 3rd/ 4th & 5th Sunday
10am Family Communion Service

During this time our young go out for a time, either in Junior Church 3-10 years or Youth Church 10-16 years.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Sunday 13th October - Harvest Festival 10am

Sunday 3rd November 3pm - All Soul's Service when we remember our loved ones who have died either recently or in the past.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - as a result of the House to House collection that took place in May we sent £1,658. We would like to thank all those who supported this worthy cause.

HARVEST SUPPER - Saturday 5th October at 7.30pm in Church. Food, drink, raffle available. Tickets on sale at £6 each.

Pucklechurch Gardeners' Club

Our A.G.M. in May was well attended by over 30 members. At this meeting it was decided that a trophy would be purchased in memory of Frank Bradley, our founder member, President and Treasurer, who sadly died in February. At each of our monthly meetings during the Autumn, Winter and Spring, there will be a competition for all members. The person gaining the most points throughout the year will be awarded the 'Frank Bradley Trophy' at the A.G.M. in May 2014.

On July 15th 50 members and friends visited David Austin Rose Gardens near Wolverhampton. It was a wonderful day with the weather hot and sunny. Everyone enjoyed the very informative guided tour of the beautiful gardens and the excellent lunch provided. Many took advantage of the discounts on offer to purchase some of the very many varieties available. On July 26th 60 members and partners enjoyed a great evening at our Annual Summer Supper hosted by Joy Wolfe and Erica Lambert at Crump House. Many thanks go to them both for their hospitality for the second year running. Again the weather was very kind to us.

Future meetings:

Wednesday 2nd October Mr Clarke - 'Bougainvillea'. 'Frank Bradley Trophy' competition 1 Dahlia

Wednesday 6th November Rodney Stone 'Tools for self-reliance.' Competition Photograph of a Gardeners' Club event

Wednesday 4th December 'Christmas Quiz and Supper'.

Competition 4 Homemade Mince Pies

Visitors are always welcome 50p per person (max 2 visits)

For further information about the club and its activities please contact George Alway 9373141 or Ann Smith - 9372030

Could this be a good time to join a community oil buying scheme?

Householders and community buildings all over the West of England are paying less for their heating oil by joining a community oil buying scheme run by a local charity, the West of England Rural Network (WERN).

The scheme works by placing a single collective order at the beginning of every month, and having greater negotiating power with heating oil suppliers.

Scheme co-ordinator Jill Baker says "Summer is a really good time to fill up your heating oil tank, as demand drops and prices tend to be lower. Suppliers are keen to work with us and give our members a really good price". Members of the scheme can order as little as 500 litres, and as infrequently as they choose, and still pay the negotiated price. The member oil price in May was 55.35p per litre (plus VAT at 5%). One of the scheme members recently saved £124 on a single 500L delivery, as they'd been paying 79p per litre on their top-up scheme.

The annual membership fee is £20 for households, £30 for community buildings and £100 for businesses.

If you are interested in joining the scheme, visit

www.wern.org.uk/oil or call Jill Baker on 01275 333701.

South Gloucestershire Community Health Services Contract Awarded

South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has announced the awarding of its community health services contract to Sirona Care and Health, a not for profit organisation.

The contract, which will start on 1 April 2014, will provide home and community based care for South Gloucestershire's adult population including community, specialist and out of hours nursing, discharge liaison teams and emergency care practitioners. Community physiotherapists, clinical assessment and treatment teams, podiatry are also included in the new contract..

Sirona is publically funded by the NHS and, in some areas, local authorities. As a community interest company which does not have shareholders, any surplus is reinvested into services for local people. It currently employs 1,700 staff, most of whom transferred to them from either the NHS or the Council in Bath & North East Somerset. A further 450 NHS staff will transfer to Sirona as part of the five year contract that has been awarded.

Dr Jonathan Hayes, clinical chair of South Gloucestershire CCG, said: "We want to reassure patients that there will be a continuous service as we move over to the new provider. Staff from the current community health and service team will be moving across to work for Sirona Care and Health and it will, of course, continue to be a free NHS funded service."



Pucklechurch Players

Present

'Trivial Pursuit'

Friday 22 and Saturday 23 November in the Community Centre

Tickets available approx 4 weeks prior to production.

Call Elaine on 0117 9373105



Girlguiding UK

As usual our members have enjoyed a wide variety of activities this summer.

1st Pucklechurch Rainbows picked strawberries at St Aldams Farm. I asked Ruth if the girls made jam but she said 'They ate most of them on the way back to the Scout Hut!' However they learned to make sandwiches for their Teddy Bears' Picnic held on the Rec. When floating mini rafts on a paddling pool they learned which items they could put on without the raft sinking. These included a rubber duck, all part of the Duck Challenge Badge. Several girls have moved to Brownies, so there are places just waiting for five/six year old girls to join in the fun. Contact Ruth on 9373405, or email Theresa theresamas@hotmail.com

3rd Pucklechurch Rainbows spent one evening happily climbing all over the play equipment in Victoria Park, Bath. Another time they walked the Old Railway Path from Coxgrove Hill to Westerleigh Road.

The **Brownies** had a wonderful final meeting in Lyn Ford's garden on a hot sunny evening. First they completed a number of nature clauses to earn their 'Fifty Things to do for Free' badge, and then it was time to change into swimming costumes and, if they dared, run and throw themselves along the water slide, or play and splash in the very large paddling pool. Drinks and toasted marshmallows completed the party atmosphere.

The **Guides** also enjoyed the hot sunshine on their final evening. First they lit and cooked on barbecues and then it was time for a water fight with bowls and water-filled balloons. On previous meetings they have been to their allotment and made bird feeders. They have also learned about and discussed serious issues relating specifically to women and young girls through working for their Change the Story badge.

A small group spent a lovely sunny day at Marsh Farm learning how to light a wood fire and cook on it. A weekend away at Macaroni Woods in Gloucestershire is planned for November.

The Unit would love more girls aged 10-15 years to join them. There is no need to have been a Rainbow or Brownie. Contact Lori-Anne on 9373842.



Our **Senior Section** girls have tried tractor driving and spent another evening rowing in Bristol Docks. This group are also looking for new members to take part in their adventurous activities. If you are aged 14+ contact Judith on 9374302. We are always happy to welcome new members, girls and women, into our fabulous GirlGuiding Movement. If you want to know more, please contact Ros Abbott 9372157 or email rosabbott@hotmail.com We look forward to hearing from you.

GRACE CHURCH WESTERLEIGH, ON THE MOVE

In need of more space, and seeking a more accessible site for the Church, last autumn Grace Church Westerleigh (meeting at the old Rodford Tabernacle chapel) acquired the site of the old Chipping Sodbury Cottage Hospital, 250 Station Road, Yate, which had been vacant for some years. (Anyone born there?)

Church members and professional contractors have been working together on site to alter the old outpatient building beside the "white house", for our new chapel. We hope in time, God willing, to build a bigger hall adjacent to the current hall.

Grace Church has served the local community in various ways since 1971. The site will change, Rodford Tabernacle has been sold, but as a body, we will continue to serve & praise our God as "Grace Church Yate" as of 18th August 2013. We welcome all who would like to join with us at the new church site on Station Road, whether Christian or not to hear the bible and Christian Gospel (good news) explained. Visit the website :- gracechurch.org.uk or email web@gracechurch.org.uk for further information.

Immanuel Christian School

In September 2013 the doors will be opening on a new primary school in Westerleigh, South Gloucestershire.

We want to give children from all families the opportunity to be educated in an environment where God is central and the teaching is based on a biblical understanding of the world; to help them develop their relationship with God and to equip them for life in society.

We will do this by means of a caring environment which fosters high expectations of educational achievement and personal conduct and helps pupils to develop both understanding and personal qualities of integrity, patience, kindness, obedience, honesty and self control.

Our aim is to foster and nurture a love of learning in the minds of all children and to encourage them to approach all subjects meaningfully and intelligently.

Initially the school will be for pupils of primary school age (reception to year 6), although once there is sufficient demand the school will extend into the secondary age range.

For information including a full prospectus visit our website at: www.immanuelschool.org.uk or call Jonathan Gulliford on 01454 880432.

FISHING CLUB NEWS

Our May match was held at Acorn Lakes Kingston Sedgemoor. It was a difficult day with bites at a premium, and everyone struggled, Barrie Elson won with 26lbs of Carp.

The June match was held at Durleigh Reservoir Bridgwater. Durleigh is a favourite venue for the club, providing an even contest, where anyone can win from any peg. This time, it was won by Mike Snudden with 35lbs of Bream.

It was also a sad day, for we learnt of the death of former long-time fishing club secretary, Roy Wiltshire. Whilst Roy hadn't been fishing with the club for many years, due to his age and failing eye sight, we still frequently spoke about him in the pub after a competition, with the humour and affection reserved for a true legend of the club. We held a minute's silence before the match, in Roy's memory and afterwards a spontaneous round of applause broke out. We will all miss him terribly and will remember him with great fondness.

Our July match took place on Sabre Lake, Calne. This was a new venue for the club and no one knew quite what to expect. First impressions were good. It was a horseshoe shaped lake, with overhanging trees and rushes in the margins. In short it looked stuffed full of fish. Unfortunately, on a scorching hot day, everyone struggled. Bob Inker won with 22lbs.

Anyone interested in joining the Fishing Club should contact Mike Snudden on 07742925276.

VOTO - VILLAGERS ON THEIR OWN

The group continues to enjoy a range of social activities. In the last few months members have visited the theatre, enjoyed two walks, meals out and an American lunch in the garden. In September a group of us will visit Krakow.

This group is for single people over the age of 50. If you would like to join us or would like more information contact Elaine on 0117 9373105 or email elainerudge@aol.com



Registered charity Number: 1032634

There are spaces available from September 2013.

NOW OPEN FULL DAY TUESDAY

Playgroup Hours:

Monday, Thursday, Friday 9.15am - 12.15pm

Tuesday 9.15am - 3.15pm

Wednesday 9.15am - 3.15pm Pre school session

Some spaces available for 2 year olds

Please contact either:

George : 07736 713730 or Fiona 07545 351364

www.pucklechurchplaygroup.co.uk

Watch this space for Pucklechurch Playgroup Stay & Play



Pucklechurch Twinning Association

This has been a quiet time for twinning although we have still had a Race afternoon and a BBQ.

Our next event is a Quiz at Pucklechurch Village Social Club(PVSCC) on September 28th at 8.00pm, with teams of 6. Look out for posters around the village for more details.

We are now preparing for our visit in October to Pringy where we shall be joining in with their celebrations for the 25th anniversary.

If you are interested in finding out more about Twinning please contact Lesley Broom (9372025) or Ann Smith (9372030).

Do you want better public transport for Pucklechurch?

Do you want to get to:

Emerson's Green?

Bristol Parkway?

Hospitals?

Bristol or Bath in the evening?

Longwell Green?

A grant has been given to the village to operate a mini-bus

This service would be available for everyone in the village

Are you willing to help?

Would you be prepared to help set up a service?

Email transport@pucklechurch.org

Letters to the Editor.....



Dear Editor,

My mother, Marie Crouch, lived very happily at The Poplars on Shortwood Road for 20 years. She is now living with me in Australia as she will be 90 next March and is no longer able to manage on her own.

Recently, a farewell party was held for her, and in true Pucklechurch fashion, it was both touching and, according to my mother, a wonderful party.

I have visited Pucklechurch often and would like to thank everyone for always being so welcoming and kind. It is a truly amazing community, friendly, kind and warm. The love and compassion shown to my mother over the years has touched the hearts of my mother, sister and of course myself. I would be so proud to live in a village like yours.

So whilst I will be so happy to be able to care for my much loved Mum, I will miss the people of Pucklechurch terribly. So, to all concerned I send much love and thanks for all the good times.

Karin Viles

NSPCC REPORT

Pucklechurch NSPCC group has said farewell - for now - to its founder, Juliet Hills, who has moved to America for three years. But the group, which has raised £150,000 for the charity over 24 years, will continue its fund-raising on a smaller scale.

We had a second-hand bookstall at Revel and will have a coffee morning in October. We are also planning a skittles night at the community centre social club on November 14. Our meetings are held in one of the local pubs. We'd welcome anyone of any age who would like to join us.

Pucklechurch News

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council

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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

Big win is actually a big loss

South Gloucestershire Council Trading Standards would like to remind residents to be wary of scam letters they receive advising them they have won a prize or lottery.

Trading Standards officers have received reports of a local resident who believes they have won a foreign lottery and has continued to make payments over a number of years to 'release' their winnings.

They have yet to receive their payout.

This is not an unusual tactic used by the scammers they advise that the recipient has won a lottery in another country and request payments or personal details. This could be under the guise of an admin fee, taxes or legal fees to get the money transferred.

Once the recipient of a letter makes a payment, they will be inundated with further requests for money as the scammers realise the con has been successful. The resident will also receive many more scam letters from other prize draws or lotteries since it is likely their details will have been sold on to other scammers.

The advice being offered by Trading Standards is **do not respond!**

Simply remove your name and address and dispose of the mail in your recycling bin.

We would also encourage family and friends to look out for signs that a relative may have fallen for the con. This could include an increase in the amount of mail that person receives, particularly prize draw notifications, foreign lottery letters and even clairvoyant or psychic letters.

If you think you may have fallen for such a scam or believe someone you know may have, you can seek advice from the Citizens Advice consumer service on 08454 04 05 06 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm).

Pucklechurch and Shortwood Good Neighbour Scheme

The lovely warm weather this summer has seen a number of requests for Good Neighbours help. We've had a lot of calls which has been great! We've helped with light gardening tasks, requests for company and putting people in touch with other groups and organisations. We are looking into expanding the scheme and we are in close contact with Doynton Parish Council. We're in very early days and will keep you up-to-date with developments.

Pucklechurch Parish Council has provided funding to pay the public liability insurance and to top up our mobile phone. We have also applied for a grant to enable us to print more leaflets and to support our expansion activities.

There was a Good Neighbours Scheme Volunteers' meeting on Tuesday 6th August 2013, which was a good opportunity for volunteers to meet and discuss recent volunteering activities and our new projects.

If you would like help from the Good Neighbours or you would be interested in becoming a volunteer, please call the Good Neighbour Scheme co-ordinators on 07961 939574 or email us at goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org