

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



Spring 2011

Funded by the Parish Council

www.pucklechurch.org

New and Improved Classrooms Delight Staff and Pupils

As many of you will be aware, Pucklechurch Primary School is undergoing a very significant rebuild. The process began in July 2010, and we are now at the halfway stage. The project was split into four phases, and we have now had Phase 1a and Phase 1 handed back. This means we are able to use the two new classrooms that provide better accommodation for the older (junior) children. Yet to come are the new kitchen building, which will be attached to the main school for the first time, and the new library and admin offices that will provide an alternative route through school, as well as transforming the front of the building.

The parts of the building that we have been given back look fantastic and, even though much is still temporary, have really changed the feel of the building. Lucy told us, "Everything is new and amazing. Take our blinds, for example, at the touch of a button they go up or down by themselves!" There is so much more light and space. As learning environments, they are much more positive for the children. "Our new classroom is amazing and it's futuristic", said Lewis.

Even more exciting is that the second part of the rebuild project, which wasn't expected to materialise for some years, has now been passed by the council and should go ahead directly after the end of Part 1 in November. The hope is that the whole project will be completed in the summer of 2012.

The focus of Part 2 will be to remove the HORSIA block, which was built in 1952 as "temporary accommodation" and has well and truly served its time. Replacing this with new classrooms means for the first time in many years we will be able to give all of the children a suitable environment to encourage learning.

Of course, with such work comes disruption and inconvenience, but our eyes are on the end of the project when we will have a superb building, much of it new and very much fit for the coming years.

David Forrester, Head Teacher



The new building houses two new classrooms and provides all the mod cons



Pupils love their new classroom, which provides a good environment for learning

St Aldam's Play Garden

Parish Councillors have listened carefully to all of the concerns about the St Aldam's Play Garden raised by residents, whether in writing or at the public meeting on Friday, 4th March. We remain committed to the play garden, and we believe that it will be a positive addition for the children and families of the village.

Plans had already been amended in response to the feedback received at a previous consultation meeting. For example, elements such as seating and a covered area were removed and the plans were scaled down.

The consultation has been going on since 2009, so we do not believe that it has been rushed. We take on board the criticism of the consultation and have learned a valuable lesson. However, we did not anticipate opposition to the amended proposal.

We welcomed the generous funding that we were allocated following the initial approach to South Gloucestershire Council by children from Pucklechurch Primary School and thought that others would too. It is a fact that we do not have enough equipped play areas in the village. Even when the new play garden is completed, there will still be a shortfall from the recommended amount for a village of this size.

There is no reason to believe that the garden will attract anti-social behaviour. We have four other play areas within the Parish, and we do not see why this particular area should be the focus of anti-social behaviour.

We value our young people, and we believe they have a right to the same standard of play equipment that we see in adjoining parishes.

Cllr. Marilyn Palmer



Easter and Holy Week Services

Sunday, 17th Apr Palm Sunday
10am, Family Communion

Thursday, 21st Apr Maundy Thursday
7.30pm, Holy Communion

Friday, 22nd Apr Good Friday
10am, All-Age Worship
2-3pm Last Hour on Cross

Sunday, 24th Apr Easter Sunday
10am, Family Communion

St James the Great, Abson

Sunday, 24th Apr Easter Sunday
11.30am, Holy Communion

Open Church

Come into St Thomas à Becket for a chat between 2 and 4pm. Refreshments, sales table. Play area for children.

Wednesday, 20th April
Wednesday, 18th April
Wednesday, 16th April



Scarecrow Competition and Trail

This year we will again run the annual Scarecrow Competition and Trail on the weekend of the first May Bank Holiday. Collect a map and a list of clues from the church, where you will find a warm welcome, craft stalls, and cream teas. Then explore the village and guess the names of the scarecrows while getting to know your neighbours and making new friends. Cash prize available for the most correct guesses. We are expecting over 50 scarecrows on the theme of Princes and Princesses, Kings and Queens Too! Everyone is welcome.

Sunday, 1st May, 11.30 am-4.30 pm
Monday, 2nd of May, 10.30-4.00pm

For more information,
email info@pucklechurchscarecrow.co.uk
or ring 0117 370 6514



Happy Circle

Happy Circle trips are beginning again in May with a visit to the London Eye and a boat trip. All the seats are taken for this trip. However, if you would like to join us for the following trips (at a cost of £12 per person), you would be very welcome:

- June 7th, Lynton and Lynmouth
- July 5th, Stratford-upon-Avon
- August 2nd, Weymouth
- September 6th, Plymouth
- October 4th, Mystery tour
- December 3rd (Saturday), Christmas shopping at Swindon outlet centre

You can get further details from Liz Archibald on 937 4054.

We are sad to report that Pat Woods, who has been our long-standing chairperson, is moving to Cornwall with her husband Don. We would like to wish them well and thank Pat for all she has done for Happy Circle and also as our rep for the PCA and Executive.

Liz Archibald

Pucklechurch Majorettes

Last year was a great one for the Majorettes. The group went from strength to strength throughout the year and took part in their last competition of 2010 in November. There were extra rehearsals, lots of hard work from the girls, and of course, the early morning start on competition day. This was the first competition where some of the girls entered "duet twirl", for which Teigan Adams and Louise Packer were awarded third place – a fantastic achievement! The troupe also got their first ever first place, coming first in the Pee Wee Twirl. Everyone was so proud of the girls – the cheers and whoops were ear splitting!

The year ended with a family disco and presentation in the Community Centre. The party was a huge success and enjoyed by all. The girls all received trophies and certificates for their hard work. There were also some special awards:

Majorette of the Year	Martine Messenger
Trainer's Star, Juvenile	Amelia Carter
Trainer's Star, Pee Wee	Louise Packer
Majorette's Majorette	India Turner
Little Miss Star	Grace Rogers
Best Attendance, Juvenile	Beth Smith
Best Attendance, Pee Wee	Ava Powell

At the presentation evening, there was a special competition for those parents brave enough to enter. It was the Parents Basic Strut, which basically means marching majorette-style (i.e., perfectly) around the hall in time to the music. It was a popular competition with lots of entries, helped along by the fact that most of us had consumed a few glasses by then. The winners were Cindy Aze and Darren Packer, who both wore their medals with pride for the rest of the evening. Darren Packer was still wearing his the following day at Christmas on the Hill, where the girls took part in the parade and entertained the public with a variety of their routines afterwards in the Salvation Army Hall.

The girls are now busy learning their new routines for this season. The next competition is at the end of March. We hope that this season is as successful as the last one.

Beth Rawlins
on behalf of Pucklechurch Majorettes

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 May for Summer issue (June)

10th August for Autumn issue (September)

10th October for Christmas issue (November)

10th March for Spring issue (April)

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

Old Canteen Deserves a Party

Recognising the emotional ties that many people have to our old kitchen and dining hall, the staff at Pucklechurch Primary School felt it was only right to celebrate all the memories that are caught up in its bricks and mortar. We would like to hold a celebration for the old canteen, which will be almost 60 years old when it is pulled down.

If any members of the community, either ex-pupils or ex-staff have pictures or stories (written or oral) relating to the old canteen, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Lynn Ford or Mrs Cathy Orchard at the school on 937 2579.

We are currently trawling our photographic records and planning a relaxed coffee afternoon for people to meet and reminisce sometime in June or July. Please contact Mrs Brown on the above number if you think you would be interested in attending, so we can gauge the numbers we will have to cater for and compile a list for invitations.



**On average, there are 22 life-threatening 999 calls a month in the Pucklechurch area.*
In these circumstances, every second counts.**

Pucklechurch is, by its very location, some way away from emergency services. There is no doubt that this increases the risk of death or disability following a serious incident. But there is something the community can do about it. A small group led by Angela Hallett is looking at ways to reduce the risk to people in the community. After discussing options with the ambulance service, they are focusing on two different initiatives to provide support.

- **Community First Responders**, who are volunteers trained to attend life threatening emergency calls received by the ambulance service and provide care until the ambulance arrives. Because volunteers would be located in Pucklechurch, they could arrive within minutes. Community First Responders do not replace the ambulance service, but by being on the scene much faster, they can make a big difference to the outcome.
- **Deployment of Defibrillators**, which are life-saving machines that give the heart an electric shock in some cases of cardiac arrest. This is called defibrillation and can save lives. In the event of cardiac arrest, the only effective intervention is the use of a defibrillator.

For every minute that passes, the chance of surviving a heart attack decreases by 14%

Open Access Defibrillators are fully automated and can be used by untrained people. The group believe that several of these should be located at strategic points in our community. On average*, there will be three emergencies each year in Pucklechurch that could use a defibrillator.

How You Can Help

- Could you be a Community First Responder? Want to know more about what this entails?
- Are you good at fundraising? Help will be needed to raise funds for open access defibrillators.
- Can you help run events?

Please contact Angela Hallett on 937 4252 or emailangelajhallett@gmail.com

*Statistics provided by Great Western Ambulance Service.

The Village of Pucklechurch In 100 Objects

With a nod to the BBC Radio 4 programme, Pucklechurch Primary School is planning a new project together with Bath Spa University. The focus is on creating a website on the theme of "One Hundred Objects" about the village of Pucklechurch. The aim will be for the children to work along with the community in identifying, studying and recording information about specific objects, sites, and aspects of the village to create a digital archive that includes historical, geographical, scientific, and artistic information for villagers and visitors alike.

Key to this work is for members of the community to share with us significant artefacts or information that they think is important to their view of the village and how should it be represented. It might be the graffiti art sign on the front of the Community Centre, a tree on the Rec, a house (or a feature in it), the YOI, or the underpass.

The project is centred around working with the children: talking to them, sharing knowledge and ideas. They will act as researchers in small groups, recording information about each item or working alongside people to discover as much as they can in relation to the items.

The outcome, we hope, will be a website that is a great resource for all and enables people over the coming years to revisit and update it.

Why do we want to do this? We think that the more knowledge and appreciation of their environment the children have, the better informed they will be to make choices about looking after it.

Please look out in the coming weeks for the information posters around the village or contact 937 2579 to register your interest (no obligation!) with the office. Many thanks. We look forward to working with you all.

David Forrester, Head Teacher

Citizens Advice Bureau

- How much paid holiday do I get?
- What do I do if I can't pay the rent?
- What benefits can I get if I'm sick?
- What rights do I have in my home?
- How can I get to see my grandkids?



Now it's easy to get straightforward and practical advice from your local CAB. Just give us a ring and we'll point you in the right direction for the information you need to take the next steps in solving your problems.

Where we can, we'll try to give you the right resources to manage the situation yourself, by providing factsheets and referring you to reliable websites, but if that doesn't suit you or you need further help, we can arrange to see you by appointment in your local bureau.

Calls from a BT landline cost 5p per minute. If calling from a mobile, ring 0300 33 00 650 for calls at your normal mobile phone rate. You'll need to have a local landline number handy, though, so that your call can be put through to your local bureau.

**Citizens Advice Line
08444 111 444
Monday – Friday
10am – 2pm**

Notice of the Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday, 1st June, 7pm Village Hall Meeting Room

Purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting

All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an annual parish meeting at this time each year. The purpose of calling the meeting is so that the Council can explain what it has been doing over the last year and provide an opportunity for community groups and electors to share information on activities and items which they consider are important to the people of Pucklechurch Parish.

Who can attend the meeting?

Anyone may attend but only registered electors of Pucklechurch may speak.

Will I be able to ask questions and make suggestions?

Yes, any registered elector may ask questions of the Council. These will usually be answered by the chairperson, by the parish clerk, or a designated councillor. An elector may also make suggestions and comment on anything pertinent to the people of the Parish of Pucklechurch. This will be welcomed and is the whole purpose of the meeting.

Who will chair the meeting?

The Chairman of the Parish Council will chair the meeting. If he is not able to attend, the meeting will elect a chairperson from amongst those electors present.

Will parish councillors be there?

Usually the parish councillors do attend and will speak if need be. But the purpose of the meeting is to enable the electors of Pucklechurch parish to have their say. Councillors will listen with interest and, as electors themselves, also have the opportunity to raise questions and make comments if they wish.

Will notes be taken of the meeting?

Yes, a written record of the meeting will be taken and will be presented at a future meeting of the Parish Council for their consideration. The minutes will be published on the Pucklechurch Community Website under www.pucklechurch.org/html/parish_council.html

How long will the meeting last?

As long as necessary (within reason). It depends on those present, the number of questions, and the length of the discussions. Generally, the meeting lasts no longer than two hours.

*Diane Bailey
Clerk to Pucklechurch Parish Council*

VOTO (Villagers on Their Own)

VOTO is a group for single people over 50. We have 15 members at present but would love some more. We have enjoyed an American supper and a meal at the Rose and Crown. A number of us are going to the Silver 60s show at the Hippodrome, and another meal is planned at the Rose and Crown.

If you would like to join us, please contact Elaine on 937 3105 or email elainerudge@aol.com.

Parish Council Chairman's Notes

Parish Precept

This is the time of year when we receive the annual demands for water and council taxes. The parish precept is a very small but important part of the council tax that we all pay to South Gloucestershire Council. For the coming financial year beginning in April, the Parish Council has increased the precept to a total of £40,000. This is to take account of fewer grants (if any) available from SGC and other bodies in the coming year and to ensure that we can meet the costs of upkeep of the Rec and other play areas, bus shelter maintenance, and other recurring items.

The average amount that each of the 1125 households in the parish will pay towards the precept is £35.56 per year. On a monthly bill this is approximately £2.96, or 68 pence a week. This is all to keep our parish in good order and to improve things where we can. The final figures were reached after several months of discussion and councillors agreed that the small increase was necessary.

Oaktree Avenue Developments

At the time of writing, the Oaktree Avenue development is on hold due a group of parishioners presenting SGC with a request that the land be made into a village green rather than used for housing. Though the Council spent many hours working with SGC to arrive at a viable scheme for the area, the request for village green status has to be discussed first and a decision made before the housing scheme can proceed.

Whatever one's view of the situation, everyone has a right to their opinion, and my hope is that the matter can be resolved soon so that everyone knows what the future will hold.

Elections

Elections to SGC and the Parish Council will take place on 5th May. I hope everyone will use their vote. I do not know which of my colleagues are standing for re-election, but I shall not. Having been on the Parish Council for 24 years and having been chair for 14, it is time to withdraw and allow younger people to come forward and take responsibility.

Finally, I will write my last Notes in the next edition of Pucklechurch News and the new chair will take over this column in the summer edition.

Omar Beg, Chairman

Cider Making Slows When It Snows

Those of you who attended the Cider Festival in February will have noticed that Pucklechurch Cider was not available. Although cider ferments at a lower temperature than wine or beer, it still needs temperatures above 10°C to ferment. When it drops below 10°C, it stops. The cold weather over this winter has not helped our local brew. However, Puck says it should be ready for the Revel Beer and Cider Festival to be held on the 10th and 11th June and hopes to have two or three ciders for your enjoyment.



Pucklechurch Apple Day

One of the ideas that came out of the cider project is that we should do something to celebrate the apple harvest. Some communities around the area hold a family "Apple Day" in October. This would involve a number of apple-related games, food, and music. And now, thanks to Graham and Reineke Winbolt, who have donated a lovely apple press and crusher, we can also press apples on the day. These things don't happen on their own, however; and the Revel Committee would like some volunteers to make this happen. If you would like to help organise a Pucklechurch Apple Day, please contact Elaine Stone 937 3105 or email elainerudge@aol.com.

Martin Smith

January saw Pucklechurch W.I. members celebrate our 74th Birthday at the Rose and Crown, where we all enjoyed a delicious meal.

In February one of our members, Ros Abbott, gave an interesting talk on 100 years of the history of guiding, reviving a lot of bygone memories for many of us.

Our trip to Cardiff included a visit to an exciting and modern production of Holiday on Ice.

Three separate groups of members and friends visited the BBC Studios in Bristol, where we had an informative guided tour. Some of our members acted out an episode of the radio show 'The Archers', some were presenters and sports presenters, and others became weather girls. So move over Alex, Geoff, Gemma, and Richard, we have talent in Pucklechurch to step into your shoes!!!

Saturday, 12th March, saw the group heading up the M4 to the Swindon Stadium for a very enjoyable evening of greyhound racing and having a flutter. Some winning, some losing!

At our March meeting, Mrs Gina Merrett-Smith introduced us to the beautiful botanical paintings of Victorian artist Marianne North. These can now be seen at the wonderfully restored Art Gallery designed by her at Kew Gardens.

A social will be held in the Community Centre in April, when our WI will host other Wis in our area, with musical entertainment provided by Folk Group Mo, Mac n' Me.

Norma Pratt, President

CARERS WANTED

Volunteers wanted for the "Breaks for Carers" Sitting Service in South Gloucestershire. The Princess Royal Trust Carers' Centre is looking for reliable, trustworthy volunteers who are available to provide unpaid family carers with regular breaks. Volunteers are matched with a family and keep an unwell/disabled person (adult) company while the carers have some time to themselves. This is typically for two or three hours per week. Volunteers are trained and supported by the Carers' Centre and all expenses are reimbursed. If you would like more information, please call Laura Murgatroyd on 0117 937 5622.

Parish Council Elections May 5th

We wanted to publish a voters' guide to the May 5th Parish Council elections in this edition of *Pucklechurch News*, but because South Gloucestershire's deadline for nominations is after our publishing date, SGC advised us against this. We did receive information from at least some of the candidates, however, so we will use it to create an online voters' guide on the Pucklechurch Community Website from mid-April. Look for more information on the site (www.pucklechurch.org) in the next couple of weeks.

SGC's deadline for nominations is noon on April 4th. If you are a candidate for the Parish Council and have not yet sent in your information for the voters' guide, please send the following to editor@pucklechurch.org or drop it off at Hodden Cottage, Hodden Lane, Pucklechurch BS16 9SG:

- Your full name as it will appear on the ballot
- Your party affiliation, if any. If you are not affiliated with a party, state that you are independent.
- A paragraph (no lists, please) of up to 150 words describing your qualifications and/or reasons for wanting to be a Parish Councillor
- A photograph of yourself, preferably a portrait or a picture that could be cropped into a portrait. If you do not have a photograph, contact us and we can arrange to take one.

Jacki Berry

Pucklechurch Twinning Association

Twining members are preparing for the visit of our French friends in April. Thirty will arrive on Saturday, April 9th, for four days of wining, dining, and sightseeing in our lovely corner of the world. If you see them around that weekend, be sure to say "bonjour".

For some of our local members, Twining is about socialising. Some love learning about French language and culture. For others, it's also about food. And there *is* something special about French cuisine.

I like food. A lot. I like eating it and I like cooking it. I love eating in France, whether it's a fancy restaurant or a buffet laid out for 100 Twining members. I also love shopping for food in French markets. They offer such astonishing variety. Cases full of unfamiliar meats, poultry, fish, and seafood. Piles of gorgeous mushrooms of the sorts I have never seen in England. Crates of weird and wonderful vegetables. And the cheeses! Hou la la! Of course, French desserts have a reputation too. The thing is many of them are so simple. One of my favourites, crème brûlée, uses only four ingredients. In fact, I'll give you the recipe so you can enjoy one of France's great contributions to gastronomic pleasure.

If you are interested in making new friends, both here and in Pringy (and perhaps trying a dessert or two), please contact Lesley Broom on 937 2025 or Ann Smith on 937 2030.

Jacki Berry

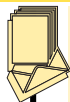
Crème Brûlée

Ingredients:

- 100g (4oz) caster sugar (plus extra for the top)
- 2 whole eggs, plus 3 egg yolks
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 500ml (18oz) double cream

Method:

1. Pre-heat the oven to 140C°/275°F.
2. Beat the sugar, vanilla, and all the eggs together in a large heat-proof bowl until pale and creamy.
3. Pour the cream into a saucepan and bring just to the boiling point.
4. Pour the hot cream slowly over the egg mixture, beating constantly until thickened. It should be a smooth custard the consistency of double cream.
5. Pour the mixture into 8 ramekins and place them in a large roasting tray. Pour hot water into the tray half-way up their sides. Place on the centre shelf of the oven and bake for 40 to 60 minutes, or until the custard is just set (still wobbly in the middle).
6. Remove from the oven and cool to room temperature. (At this point you could also put them in the fridge for several hours until serving time.)
7. When you're ready to serve, sprinkle one level teaspoon of caster sugar evenly over the surface of each crème. If you have a kitchen blowtorch, use it to caramelize the tops. If not, place ramekins under the grill and watch very closely until sugar caramelises and bubbles. Be careful! The difference between caramel and carbon is just seconds.
8. Cool for a couple of minutes before serving.



Dear Editor,

On March 10th planning officers at South Gloucestershire Council gave the green light to develop 56 units on land at Oaktree Avenue. The decision was not made by the elected District Councillors because none of them was prepared to ask that it go before the development committee. It is my understanding that both our local District Councillors (one Lib Dem, one Conservative) were afraid to ask for this in case the other political parties accused them of stopping a new surgery for Pucklechurch.

Confusion reigned prior to the decision, as everyone except the SGC planners and the developer thought that this was an outline planning application and that another full planning application would still be required for both the housing and the surgery.

According to SGC, they have conformed to the letter of the law, and it is up to the developer to decide how the application is drawn up. Officers were well aware, however, that what they were doing was not normal, as they sought legal advice PRIOR to putting the application out for consultation. Apparently the planning process allows a planning application to be designated "outline" if part of it is in outline. In the case of Oaktree Avenue, the housing was a full application (you had to read the fine print) but the surgery was outline only. It fooled the District Councillors, the Parish Council, and the public.

The SGC officers also had to include a layman's explanation of the application when the information was circulated to District Councillors just before the decision. By doing this, the planning officers demonstrated that they knew the application would need clarification. It is a pity that the SGC planning department don't think that the public deserve things explained in lay terms. Roll on open and transparent government.

The views expressed in this letter are my own and do not necessarily represent those of Pucklechurch Parish Council or other councillors.

Martin Smith

Pucklechurch Residents Do Have an Appetite for PIG!

The inaugural meeting of the Pucklechurch Interest Group (PIG) took place on 8th March. The suggestion for a local and wide-ranging interest group came from responses to questions in the Community Plan. About 70 people turned out to listen to a free illustrated talk on King Edmund, his life, his wives and his legacy to the village.

Edmund's exploits led to an interesting and stimulating question and answer session, then the floor was thrown open for a discussion on what people would like from the group. David Forrester, head teacher at Pucklechurch Primary School, introduced a project his pupils are working on with Bath Spa University to tell the history of Pucklechurch in 100 objects. He made a plea for local people to become involved and offer suggestions for objects as well as reminiscences. It was clear that many people had recollections that could easily form the basis of a local oral history recording project.

One suggestion that proved to be of interest to several people was presented by Martin Smith, who proposed the development of a Countryside and Historic Site Access Plan that might lead to large-scale maps, way-marked trails, and information panels.

The date and subject the next meeting will be advertised as soon as arrangements have been finalised. Anyone who left details will be contacted directly, but if you could not attend and would like further information, please call Gail on 937 2838 or keep an eye out for notices around the village and on the website at www.pucklechurch.org.

Gail Boyle

Dear Editor,

As a resident of St Aldam's Drive, I am concerned that the letter we received from South Glos Council dated 2nd March advising us that a decision by the Parish Council has already been taken on the St Aldam's play area, the area has been designed, and the funds have been secured. The letter also informed us of a further consultation meeting on 4th March!

The consultation process for this proposal has been seriously flawed throughout. There have been three meetings held, we are told, but no proper notification was given to village residents for any of those meetings. Such information is an entitlement, not a gift. In proper democratic consultation, everyone affected by a proposal must be informed and given the details of consultation meetings.

We were also advised by the village website that only those who had attended the previous consultation meetings need attend the meeting on 4th March. Why shouldn't anybody else attend? You didn't listen last time! In fact, it is my recollection that when the conversation became heated at the last meeting, the councillors all walked out.

There is an election coming up in May, and perhaps the inhabitants of this village ought to think about whether they wish to continue with the incumbent Council representatives who, it seems, listen to nobody unless it is election day when, by law, they have to!

Rant over and back to the issues in hand. Below are some questions and comments on the proposed scheme, which nobody has answered to date, to my satisfaction anyway:

- Are the existing mature trees on the site being cut down?
- Who is going to maintain the play area and who is going to pay for that?
- Who is going to police the area and who is going to pay for that?
- Who is going to cover the costs of any damage to surrounding residents' property?
- May we anticipate that CCTV equipment will be installed and maintained in working order?
- What about parking problems? There is no space for any additional parking in this area.

We already experience litter in the proposed play area, e.g., empty beer cans and drugs paraphernalia. The youngsters for whom this play area is designed will not realise its full potential as, without doubt, it will be taken over by the older and sometimes anti-social element from within and outside of the village. Certainly any resident in the village will have to think very hard before allowing their child to play unsupervised in the proposed play area. In addition, there is seating planned, which would be necessary for the parents to supervise their children.

The best place in the village for such a play area is in the Rec, which is a much under-used facility. If you are male and play in an organised football or cricket team, you're fine. If you are female or a youngster, there is nothing. The existing play equipment in the Rec is inadequate, old and outdated and there's precious little of it anyway and the children vote with their feet and don't use it. How much nicer it would be if the play area could have been built in the heart of the village, in the Rec. The area is overlooked by residential properties, thereby making it more difficult for those who might wish to behave inappropriately. Wouldn't it have been nice for all concerned if the children coming home from the local primary school, just across the road from the Rec had such a facility as that proposed in the totally unsuitable site at St Aldam's?

Royston Burchill

Pucklechurch



The Revel Committee continue to plan for Revel 2011. During Revel Week, there will be the usual events, plus a few new ones. Walking to Health in South Glos will be organising a walk during Revel Week, and there will be a poetry afternoon for people to share their favourite poems and enjoy strawberries and cream. But, please, we do want new ideas and it is not too late to contact us for this year.

We are a small committee and would welcome new members. We meet monthly at my house (49 Homefield Road). We rely on volunteers, and people are needed to put up bunting and posters, deliver letters, circulate Revel leaflets beyond the village, help with the pram race, set up the field on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, help with marshalling the parade, and clear up after Revel Day.

There will be a meeting for volunteers at the PCA Social Club (in the Community Centre) on Thursday, May 5th, at 7.30pm.

Letters have been sent out to possible sponsors, but if your firm would like to sponsor an event or a barrel of beer or cider at the Beer and Cider Festival, please contact us.

If you can help in any way, please email me on elainerudge@aol.com or phone 937 3105.

Elaine Stone, Chair



Soft Toys For Revel

I am planning to run the "Cuddly Tombola" again at Revel this year. I am requesting that you all seek out those much loved but no longer needed "cuddly friends" in lofts and cupboards and donate

them to a good cause and a new home. The proceeds will be divided between St Thomas à Becket Church and Revel.

They can be delivered to 51 Homefield Road or phone 937 3093 for collection.

Joyce Harris

The Law of Unintended Consequences: Will Pucklechurch Lose Its Surgery?

An application has been submitted to SGC for the open space at Oaktree Avenue to become a village green. It is unclear what impact this might have on the now fully approved housing development.

The next meeting of the Public Rights of Way and Commons Registration Committee will consider a preliminary report of the procedure to be followed. The meeting will take place on 24 March 2011 at 2pm in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices in Thornbury.

One of the possible outcomes of the village green application is that Pucklechurch finds itself without a doctor's surgery. The Three Shires Medical Practice has been looking for a suitable location for a new surgery for some years. The existing surgery is not owned by the practice and is inadequate for the village.

The application for village green status covers the land designated for housing and not the area proposed for the new surgery, but there is no guarantee that SGC will sell the land for the surgery alone. Also, the land along the frontage to Oaktree Avenue is owned privately, and again there's no guarantee that the owners are willing to sell. Without access, the land cannot be developed for a surgery.

Let us hope that this can all be resolved and the surgery go ahead without delay.

Martin Smith

The Big Spring Clean 2011

Volunteer groups across the Parish of Pucklechurch are urged to spring into action and clean up their neighbourhoods and open spaces, helping to transform Pucklechurch as part of the South Gloucestershire Big Spring Clean 2011.

The Parish Council is running the Big Spring Clean 2011 in Shortwood on Saturday, 16th April, and in Pucklechurch on Sunday, 17th April. Everyone is encouraged to join in.

Friends, families, neighbours, community and voluntary groups, church groups, the schools and students, youth clubs, Scouts, Guides, and businesses are all invited to take action against litter. Fresh air and exercise are two benefits of the Big Spring Clean, but the best part is that residents and visitors alike will be able to enjoy the Parish looking at its best.

Gloves and refuse sacks will be provided and a skip will be available for the rubbish

Shortwood

10am, Saturday 16th April
Meet outside the Chapel

Pucklechurch

10am, Sunday 17th April
Meet outside the Scout Hut



Pucklechurch Community Association

The Community Centre is 30 years old. It has been in use nearly every day of its life and has rarely let the hall users down. We in the PCA spend our time keeping it up to scratch and making it more efficient and a pleasant place to be. The team is slowly making progress towards these ends. You may not notice, but the Centre devours hours of volunteers' time and that of hall users who manage the many groups. A big thanks to them.

In addition to time, there is a great need for the lubricant of money. So it is with heartfelt gratitude that we say thank you to all the cider drinkers and their friends who attended the last Cider Festival, which contributed £1000 to our funds, and to Mike Rawlins and his helpers from the Revel Committee who organised the event.

On 17th May at 8pm, the PCA will hold its AGM, with the usual business of reports and election of officers. If you would like to get involved, either with committee work or in a more practical way such as painting, gardening or cleaning, please come along and meet some of the members of the PCA. You will be most welcome. If this course of action is too daunting, contact either Alan Holder on 937 2818 (alan.holder@talktalk.net) or Anna Sharpe on 937 4449 (anna.sharpe@lineone.net).

Alan Holder, PCA Chair



The Perplexing Pucklechurch Players

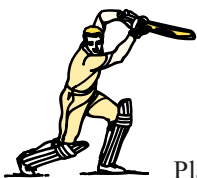


Present Three One-Act Plays

Easy Stages by Nick Warburton
Distracted Globe by Nick Warburton
What's for Pudding? By David Tristram

13th & 14th May 2011
Pucklechurch Community Centre
Doors Open 7.30 p.m.
Performance Starts 8.00 p.m.

For this production only, all tickets at concession price of £6
Available from Elaine on 937 3105
Bring your own drinks, nibbles and cushions



Pucklechurch Cricket Club

A team for U9s will be running this year. Players must be at least 6 years of age. Practice sessions are starting soon. Call Vicky on 937 3227 for more information.

Pucklechurch Cricket Club Quiz & Curry Night

7.30pm, Saturday, April 2011
Please join us for fun and food at the Social Club, Pucklechurch Community Centre

To book, call Gail on 937 2383 or e-mail via the contact link at www.pucklechurchcc.co.uk

Choose from curry, chilli or chicken, with a choice of rice or jacket potato and accompaniments.

A vegetarian option can be supplied on request

Scouting



For Beavers, 2011 is a special year. We will celebrate our 25-year anniversary and are looking forward to some great partying! Over the past couple of months, we have been looking at the Chinese New Year and worked on our fitness challenge. This was brilliant, as it included making smoothies. Mmm. If your child (and we are open to boys and girls) is between the ages of 6 and 8 and would like to join us, please call Sarah Fox-Robinson on 0117 957 1266.



In January, Cubs had to gather as many household objects as we could find for our scrapheap challenge. This was fun, especially having to eat our way through boxes of chocolates and sweets to ensure we had enough household objects for the night! To use up some of the calories we put on, Akela made us go on a night hike around the village the following week. And on the get-fit theme, the following week we had to take our bikes to the hut to do cycle maintenance. Methinks a cycle ride is looming. If your son or daughter is between 8 and 10½ and is interested in joining Cubs, call Steve on 0787 213 7609.



This term Scouts have concentrated our meetings around the theme of camping. We looked at the simple portable stoves we use on camps and compared them to others we haven't got. We put them to the test by cooking some simple food, which was a theme on another troop night when we made some simple sweets. Yummy! We also learnt how to use a compass and went on a night walk in readiness for our winter camp over half term. This was based at Mafeking, where we hiked from Pucklechurch and camped for one night. This is the best thing about Scouting. To join Scouts, call Tony on 0117 957 4119.



And finally, if you did not know, the Scout Hut is available to hire. To find out more, call Sharon on 303 9139. What a great venue for that children's party or small gathering. We offer cheap rates, with all revenue going to support Scouting in this community.

Dale Dennehy



Girlguiding UK
girls in the lead

In the Pink!

3rd Pucklechurch Rainbows

Joanna says, "We have been working on the badge 'A Helping Hand for CLIC Sargent', created by an older Guide as part of her Queen's Guide award. This aims to raise awareness of the wonderful work CLIC Sargent does for young cancer sufferers and to raise funds for the charity. We held a Pink Party and paid £1 to wear pink instead of uniforms, and we made pink bracelets and pink hair slides. We ate pink cakes and biscuits, had pink drinks, and played one of our favourite games, pink knickers."

1st Pucklechurch Guides

Rachel reports, "The Guides have been working hard planning and making decorations for a Pink Party held at the end of term, which raised money for CLIC Sargent. Several of the older guides are working towards their Baden Powell award and ran a pancake making and racing evening on Shrove Tuesday. At the other end of the age range, our new Guides will soon make their promise at a Hollywood-style enrolment. We also played Monopoly and made newspaper bridges as part of the Bristol Monopoly Challenge."

Royal Wedding Fever

1st Pucklechurch Brownies

Lynn says, "The Brownies are at just the right age to be enthralled with the forthcoming royal wedding and are busy making tiaras and learning all about the royal family, princes, and princesses. All this knowledge and preparation will earn them the specially designed Royal Wedding badge."



1st Pucklechurch Rainbows

Our group enjoys a game where one girl is prince – wearing a flowing cape and holding a glittery ring – who proposes on one knee to another Rainbow, who accepts on one ridiculous condition: the prince must not laugh if 'he' is to win her hand. This game links into the Royal Wedding badge for which the Rainbows are also working.

General

Girlguiding UK has scrapped the mandatory retirement age, so I have decided to take on the role of District Commissioner with effect from April. We are now looking for a new District Secretary who will send out meeting notices, take minutes, and distribute them. We meet approximately six times a year. This is a voluntary role, and you do not need to be a member of Girlguiding or wear a uniform. Perhaps you have, or had, a daughter in Guiding and you could support us in this way, or you'd like to brush up or gain secretarial skills. You don't need a reason! Just contact me, please.

*Ros Abbott
Dyrham District Secretary*