

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



Spring 2012

Funded by the Parish Council

www.pucklechurch.org

Fond Farewell to Jacki Berry

After eight years of dedicated service we have to say farewell to our editor Jacki Berry who is leaving Pucklechurch News. Jacki moved here with her British husband Martin sixteen years ago having been a writer and editor in America for over twenty five years. She was then looking for some way to help the village she now lived in, so when the chance came in 2003 to volunteer for a new team for Pucklechurch News it was a perfect opportunity for her to use her professional skills which have benefited us all. She now feels that she wants to move on to other interests, already being a long time member of Pucklechurch Twinning for which she is busy having French lessons and has now joined Pucklechurch Guides as district secretary. So it is with some sadness and many thanks that Pucklechurch News says goodbye to Jacki whose commitment and hard work over the past eight years has been appreciated by all our readers and by her fellow co-volunteers.

Meet the New P'News Team

We have been exceptionally lucky to have had three ladies apply for the job of editor, and it was decided to give them all a chance to work together on the writing, editing and proofreading. It is also very pleasing that they are local and young and we say welcome to:-



Claire Dolman - Beth Rawlins - Sarah Nunez

Claire Dolman

Claire moved to Pucklechurch with her family in 1977 and has lived here ever since. As a child she liked getting involved in village activities and was a member of 1st Pucklechurch Guides. She vaguely remembers attending a ballet class in the old village hall, but says 'I only went once as my friends were watching me through the window and laughing - I've never worn a tutu since!'. She now works part time as a parish council clerk and has a four year old son who started school last September. Claire says 'Pucklechurch News is a useful source of local information and is always relevant and up to date, which is testimony to the hard work that Jackie Sexton, Jacki Berry and Valerie Broom, have put in. However, they have set the bar rather high for us newbies, but I am looking forward to being part of the team on the Pucklechurch News.'

Sarah Nunez

Sarah spent the first six years of her childhood in the village before her parents moved to Hinton. She attended Pucklechurch Primary School and was a very keen member of the Brownies and Guides as well as remembering having Ballet lessons in the village hall. She has been back in the village since 1998 and loves living here. Sarah works in communications for one of the UK's major banks and says it's doing this job that spurred her on to volunteer for Pucklechurch News and feels she will be able to give something back to a community which has a lot to be proud of.

Beth Rawlins

Beth, originally from the West Midlands, has lived in Pucklechurch for almost 13 years, and thinks it's a lovely place to live and bring up her two children. She says it was almost inevitable that she would end up living here as her husband's family have been here forever. She enjoys family holidays in their motor home, reading, walking and socialising with friends over a glass or two of wine. Beth was Chair Person at Pucklechurch Playgroup for two years and has written a few items for the Pucklechurch News on behalf of the Majorettes. After teaching for a few years in a Primary school and a bit of Supply Teaching after having children she now works for her husband's business and attends college one day a week to further her skills.



EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday

Friday, April 6th 10a.m. All Age Worship
2-3p.m. Last Hour at Cross

Easter Day

Sunday, April 8th 10a.m. Family Communion

Ascension Day

Thursday, 17th May 7.30p.m. Holy Communion

Friday, 25th May 10.45am. Pucklechurch
Coronation

Sunday, May 27th Pentecost
10a.m. Family Communion

Scarecrow Competition

The Scarecrow Competition takes place on Sunday 6th May and Monday 7th May. This year's theme is 'Great British Characters'. Entry is free. To enter a scarecrow, please ring 937 2073 or email info@pucklechurchscarecrow.co.uk with the following information;

Details of the character you have chosen

A clue either simple or cryptic to help people guess the scarecrow identity.

Your name, address, and telephone number

The closing date for entries is Friday 20th April.

There is a prize for best Scarecrow, voted for by those who take part in the trail. Please label your scarecrow to show if it's been made by a child

Please keep your scarecrow out until 7pm, weather permitting, and please take your scarecrows in at night so they don't catch cold or run away!

The Trail takes place on Sunday 6th and Monday 7th May

Everyone is invited to take part in the scarecrow trail to identify the scarecrows. There is a cash prize for whoever correctly identifies the most scarecrows. The winner will be notified during the week of 7th May.

Trail entry prices: Children under 16 £1.00 Family ticket £5 Adults £2.

On Sunday 6th May the church will be open from **11.30am**. Refreshments will be available and there will be stalls and crafts. Collect your trail form and map from 11.30am. Cream Teas will be available from 2pm until 4pm with a chance to listen to the Hand Bells group.

On Monday 7th May the church will open from **10 am**. Refreshments and stalls will again be available and you can collect your trail form from 10.30am. Cream teas will also be available from 2pm 4pm with the chance to listen to some music.

Please return your trail form by **4.30pm on Monday 7th May**. There will be a short visual presentation of all scarecrows and the answers, followed by a short blessing.



Pucklechurch Twinning Association

Preparations have now been made for the 24th annual visit and this year we welcome 34 French guests of all ages. Many places are likely to be visited by

hosts and their French guests on Sunday. On Monday evening we will entertain them with local musicians in the Community Centre.

Twinning organises a range of activities throughout the year culminating with our visit to Pringy in October when our hospitality is reciprocated.

For more information contact Lesley Broom (9372025) or Ann Smith (9372030)

Valerie Broom

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 outside the door of the church room.

Pucklechurch News

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council
Produced by

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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 January for Winter issue (February)

10th March for Spring issue (April)

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

Not the real one of course but a replica produced by Avon Federation of WI's. We were part of a relay, with the Olympic Torch being carried throughout the county by members of every WI, to end up at a special Games Event in July.

Pucklechurch were unlucky to have the snowy Sunday morning for our part in the relay but with true Olympian spirit we carried on.



Shortwood WI with their dogs trekked up the hill for the handover at the Millennium Stone. Then our intrepid ladies slithered on through the village, visiting members en route and reached the motorway bridge

with torch and banner held aloft. Then it was down to Westerleigh for the next handover as the sun shone and melted our trail of snowy footprints.

It was certainly a different yet enjoyable way to spend a Sunday morning. Thank you to everyone who took part. Some future highlights include a holiday to Holland and the Floriade and a visit to Arundel Castle both organised by Norma Pratt. Then we celebrate the Queens Jubilee with a garden party at Crump House.



Pauline Alway
President

theWI **Shortwood WI** INSPIRING WOMEN

It's going to be a busy year for the ladies of Shortwood Village WI, as we are acting as hosts for the other WI branches in the Doynton Group. We are staging three separate events. The first, "An Afternoon of Health and Beauty" will be held at Cleve Rugby Club in April, and will feature a chiropractor, a weight loss expert and a beautician. With their combined good advice, we shall be able to sail into summer as sylph-like sirens! Afternoon tea will be provided.

Our second event will be in July, a Victorian evening at the chapel here in Shortwood. This promises to be great fun, with music, comic recitations, community singing etc. We are being a little mysterious about what we hope will be the "piece de resistance" ... but in the coming weeks, local residents may well see strange goings-on around Shortwood, with ladies in costume and pronounced make-up.

We are a small and relatively new group, but we are very friendly, and welcome new members. If you would like to give us a try, do come along to one of our monthly meetings, which are held in the chapel vestry on the second Thursday of the month, starting at 7.30 pm. If you would like to know more, ring our President (Catherine Stapleton) 0117 937 3312.

Mrs Caroline Slinn 0117 937 3401

Pucklechurch and Shortwood **Good Neighbour Scheme**

The Scheme is continuing to receive calls and our volunteers are helping people in our community.

We say a fond farewell to Sarah Turley who has been one of our co-coordinators since we started the Scheme in 2008. Rodney Stone has volunteered to step into Sarah's shoes and we welcome him.

We had a meeting recently where a number of volunteers got together. Amongst other things, we discussed our new posters and marketing materials. Look out for our new posters around the Parish, including the Post Office, church, newsagent, shop and doctor's surgery.

We have applied for a grant from South Gloucestershire council and will attend the grant meeting on 12 March. We're hoping to hear positive news shortly afterwards.

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.

Larisa, Rodney and Ross

Good neighbour scheme co-coordinators.

Cheaper Domestic Heating Oil

"Would you like to obtain a cheaper price for your Domestic Heating Oil? If so, then respond to the contact below with your contact details (name, address, email address) and an estimate of your annual consumption in litres. Michael will then negotiate with all the major local Domestic Oil suppliers in an attempt to obtain the optimum price for all of us in Pucklechurch, Shortwood and Parkfield. This, in principle, is similar to the Which "Big Switch" project that is currently underway to negotiate a better deal for electricity on a National basis and has had a response from over 100,000 households.

This Oil project is obviously on a much smaller scale but with an audience of potentially 100+ households should have the potential of realising useful savings for all of us in the local community.

Please reply to Michael at puckoil@pucklechurch.org

Having gained and negotiated quotations Michael will report back to all participants and then the choice will be yours. No obligation."

HeartStart Pucklechurch

GENERAL UPDATE OF THE PROJECT:

We continue to raise money and we have now reached the grand total of £8500. Many thanks to those who are still thinking of inventive ways in which we can reach our target of £10,000.

In January our second defibrillator was installed at the PVSSC (Top Club) in St. Aldam's Drive (see photo). The next defibrillator is on order and should be installed on the outside wall of the Rose and Crown towards the end of March.

Defibrillator number four is planned for the new Doctors Surgery on Oaktree Avenue, so it gives us a little time to raise the total amount.

We continue to be very grateful to the villagers and local businesses of Pucklechurch for their support in this project. We are very hopeful that the target will be reached and we welcome your efforts in this final push.

We still have the 50:50 campaign open and another 20 contributors would give us £1000 towards the final total.

We are still very keen to give Basic Life Support Awareness Sessions to organisations and village groups. These sessions have the added advantage of increasing confidence if you should need to use any of the defibrillators.

'Thank you again for your continued support we are nearly there.'

Angela Hallett
Pucklechurch Heartstart Project.
Angelajhallett@gmail.com

Walkers - Cyclists - Horse Riders

Walkers - Cyclists - Horse Riders

Would you like to help identify routes and promote footpaths, cycle ways and bridle paths in our area? The Community Plan identified a need to improve access and usage of the local countryside. In order for this to happen we need volunteers willing to help with the project. So if you are interested in making this happen please come to a meeting on Monday 30th April at 8.00pm in the Community Centre meeting Room. For further information please contact Martin Smith 0117 937 4437 or martin@yoyomet.co.uk.

Defibrillator Locations in Pucklechurch
(Maps are available on www.pucklechurch.org)

Do you know where the nearest is?

Community Centre, Abson Road.

On the outside wall near the entrance to the building.

PVSSC (Top Club) in St. Aldam's Drive

On the wall in front of the club

Note the main car park is only accessed via St. Aldam's Drive however it may be more convenient to park in Birch Drive and use the steps up to the club.

At night there is a GREEN light above the defibrillator

THE DEFIBRILLATOR IS ACCESSED BY A CODE

In case of an emergency call 999. The ambulance service will advise you if the emergency requires the defibrillator and give you the access code. This is what the defibrillator box looks like.



The second defibrillator is installed at the PVSSC, St. Aldam's Drive.

From the left

**Angela Hallett (Heartstart) Bob Jones (Serco)
Art Packer (PVSSC) Paul Richardson (Serco)
Chris Murphy (Revel).**



Letter to the Editor

There are many sensible dog owners in the village and I am very grateful to them, but I have still noticed dog mess on the recreation field and areas near houses.

Toxocara worm which is found in dog mess can cause blindness and death and children are particularly vulnerable. Even if the mess is removed traces can be left. I would therefore beg the dog owners to take their dogs well away from play areas and houses to do their necessary business.

The safety of our children is paramount.

Name Withheld

Our Parish under Threat!

The development at Emerson's Green is moving on to the next phase. There will be around 2000 homes built within our parish boundary which could have a number of impacts, including:

The main centre of the population being at Emerson's Green.

An increase in precept income and expenditure.

An increase in the size of the Parish Council.

Two population masses being separated by the Green Belt!

The Parish will be included in a South Gloucestershire wide review with regard to parish boundaries so we would like your views via Email, letter, Pucklechurch Community Website or attendance at the Parish meeting on the 23rd May, details of which will be circulated

The Council will also be considering Participatory Budgeting. This is a process whereby the community can be involved in how the Council raise and allocates its budget. If the Council chooses to adopt this approach it will be another agenda item for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 23rd May.

Other items to note:

The plastic recycling bin recently removed due to a change in South Gloucestershire Council recycling provider is to be replaced by the Parish Council.

A reminder that the Council holds a walk in surgery on the first Saturday of each month, in the Village Hall, from 10:00 to 12:00, All are welcome to come along to discuss relevant topics. You will have seen that the Council has circulated a questionnaire to all via Pucklechurch News, Pucklechurch Community Website and other mediums to receive feedback on how it should approach a strategic plan on providing a Community Centre that satisfies the needs of the parish. Please take a few moments to complete as this is very important for your future amenities.

We have introduced a very simple way for you to contact the Council regarding local concerns, for example, litter, bus services, graffiti, vandalism, play equipment issues. You can now text 07950081307. (See list of keywords in this edition of Pucklechurch News.) This is not an emergency service but will enable you to let us know of any local problems. There will not be a direct answer, but all issues will be collated, discussed and actioned appropriately.

The Public Rights of Way and Registration Committee held a meeting on the 24th February to consider the application to register land at Oaktree Avenue as a Village Green. The Committee was supportive of the application but a decision was deferred until a future meeting pending receipt of further information

BoB Symons
Chairman

New Pucklechurch TEXT Service

Report a Problem

The Parish Council have introduced a new way to contact them in an effort to make it easier and more convenient. This is in addition to the existing ways you can contact the Parish Council (Clerk: 937 2398, parish.council@pucklechurch.org. There is a list of councillors on the community website www.pucklechurch.org).

Add **0795 008 1307** to your contacts

What is the cost? Texts to the service will be charged at your normal plan rate. There is no additional cost for using the service. If you are on a plan that includes free texts then as long as you are within your plan limit the text will be free.

How do I use it? Simply TEXT your information to **0795 008 1307** - however it would help the Parish Council if you could also send a keyword - see list below

Will I get a reply? Not usually, although if more information is needed you may be asked via a TEXT message. In some circumstances it may be required that you report the issue directly to another body and you will be informed of whom to contact.

How will my issue be dealt with? The Parish Council with either take action itself (for example litter or graffiti), direct your issue to the relevant body (e.g. problem with the pavement) or gather evidence in order to address a more complex problem (e.g. bus services).

What if the problem is urgent? Do not use the TEXT service for urgent problems or for emergencies. Please contact the relevant authority direct.

Can I contact the police using the service? Sorry, this is not possible. You must do this directly with the police.

KEYWORDS - It would greatly help if, when texting, you use the following keywords followed by the information required. Most items require a location, please be as precise as you can.

Bus: Followed by the service (689 or 620), the direction of travel (Bristol, Bath, Yate), the bus stop where you boarded or are waiting followed by the scheduled time of the service at that stop. This will allow us to identify the specific bus. Then please state the problem.

Drains: Followed by location and nature of the problem. If possible state whether it is a surface or foul water drain

Flood: Followed by location and extent of the flooding. Where you can identify the cause (e.g. blocked drain) please do so.

Fly tipping: Followed by location and brief description of what has been tipped

Graffiti: Location of the problem

Lighting: Followed by location and nature of the problem

Litter: Location of the problem and extent of the litter

Pothole: Followed by location

Repair: Location of problem and the item that needs repair (e.g. street sign, play equipment) followed by a description of repair needed.

Trees and hedges: Followed by location and nature of the problem

Vandalism: Location and description of the problem

Revel 2012



Revel Craft Fayre

COMMUNITY CENTRE
SATURDAY 16TH JUNE 2012

The committee continue to be busy planning for Revel 2012. Events planned so far are.

- Fri 25th May - Family Disco
- Sat. 10th June - Children's event in the Scout hut
- Sun 11th June - Twinning ramble
- Mon. 12th June - Quiz at the Fleur
- Thurs. 14th June - Pram Race
- Fri. 15th June - Walking for Health walk around the Pucklechurch area
- Senior Citizens entertainment
- Sat. 16th June - Revel Day- hog roast and music
- Sun 17th - Church Service
- Tue 19th - Poetry in the garden (evening event this year)
- Wed 20th - Bingo
- Fri 22nd - Beer & Cider Festival
- Sat. 23rd - Beer & Cider Festival
- Sun 22nd July - Car Treasure Hunt
- Sept 24th Final date for entries in Photo Competition
- Sun 14th Oct.- Photo Exhibition

Put these dates in your diary and look out for further details nearer the time and details of events not yet finalised.

As was mentioned in the last edition of Pucklechurch News Revel day will this year go on into the evening. Stalls etc and events in the arena will finish at the usual time then there will be music and a pig roast.

We are looking for sponsors -so if your firm or the one you work for would like to sponsor an event or beer/cider at the Beer and Cider Festival please contact us <http://www.beer-festival.org>

Elaine Stone Co-Chair

Mobile Library



The **Mobile Library** is a free service that runs across South Gloucestershire.

It runs to a fortnightly timetable and you can get on at any stop. A range of popular **Fiction** and **Non Fiction** titles are always in stock plus **Large Print & Children's books**. If we don't have the author or subject you require on board it can be **reserved for free** to be collected next visit. We also stock **Talking Books** (in both CD & Cassette format), **Jigsaws** and a selection of films & TV shows on **DVD**.

You can use the Mobile Library service even if you also use another library so **South Gloucestershire library cards or Active Cards are valid on board**. You can also return books from other libraries to us as well.

The Mobile Library is equipped with a lift for people with mobility problems and we can sometimes deliver books to people if they live close to a stop.

Details of all the routes and dates are available from any South Gloucestershire Library or at www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries or by phoning 01454 868006.

It would be great to have some new, local stalls at this years Craft Fayre on Revel Day.

If you would like to sell your wares and earn some money as well as being in some great company I would love to hear from you.

All crafts are welcome , also a cake and/or home produce stall would be great or even if you run a home service such as photography, manicure/pedicure, waxing or hairdressing that you would like to advertise and maybe give demonstrations?

You could team up with a friend and share the costs and time.

The Fayre runs from 12.00pm to 5.00pm and a pitch costs £13.00 and is approx 6 feet.

Please contact Christine Murphy on 0117 9373233 or email: chrischrisur@aol.com

Pucklechurch Folk Dance Club

In January 2012 we celebrated 35 years of the Folk Dance club and the photo below shows some of the original members of the club. We are always looking for new members so why don't you come and join us?

The club meets 7.45pm to 10.15pm on alternate Tuesdays at the Community Centre and visitors and new members are always welcome. Our programme for the next 3 months is:

- 10th April - Caller Pete Howarth with musician Dave Byett
- 24th April - Caller Val Webster
- 8th May - Caller Ian Ludbrook with musician Dave Byett
- 22nd May - Caller Barry Gant
- 5th June - All comers M.C. Malcolm Smith
- 19th June - Caller Geoff Elwell with musician Dave Byett
- Saturday 7.30-11pm 30th June is our Midsummer Folk Dance with caller Jane Thomas and musicians 'Patchwork' tickets £7

Full details of our dance programme is available on the Folk Dance page of www.pucklechurch.org and also on the Community Centre Notice board or drop in on a Folk Dance night and pick up a printed programme.

It a great way of meeting people, having fun and keeping fit. You don't need to come with a partner or be an experienced dancer, as we make sure no one is left out and you get all the help you need, because of the variety of dances there is always something new to lea

Rosie Parsons
(Chairman until AGM on 27th March)

Some of the original members of the Folk Dance Club cutting the 35th Anniversary cake.



Pucklechurch Players

30 Year Anniversary

Yes, it's hard to believe but Pucklechurch Players is 30 years old this year!

Over the past three decades members have come and gone, moved away, and of course just a few hard-core members have stayed. The Group currently has just eleven 'acting' members and only six of those live in Pucklechurch, so you see we could really do with some new (local) members.

We are always on the lookout for new talent, so if you fancy 'treading the boards' or indeed helping in any way then you would be most welcome. Please give Susie a call on 9372974 or Clare on 9372137 if you would like further information.

The Group produces two shows a year (usually May and November) and every other year the autumn production is a Pantomime. Our Play this spring is 'Kindly Leave the Stage' by John Chapman and will be staged on May 18/19 in the Community Centre as usual. We haven't yet chosen the Pantomime but it's sure to be lots of fun for all the family ...oh yes it is! Watch this space and look out for posters later in the year for more information.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who help to make our productions worthwhile, which is of course our audience and loyal followers who continue to support us. Thanks must also go to all Groups and individual Hall Users who give up their time in the Community Centre for the week of our pantomime, without which it would not be possible. As you may imagine it takes most of the week to prepare and organise the staging, lighting, seating etc. Your cooperation is invaluable.

We hope to see you at the next production.

Susie Hawkins



Pucklechurch Players
present
Kindly Leave the Stage
by John Chapman



Friday 18th & Saturday 19th May
Pucklechurch Community Centre
For further information/tickets
call Elaine on 937 3105

Pucklechurch Coronation

A Coronation at St Thomas a Becket and a state Banquet at Pucklechurch School

A Pucklechurch Coronation and State Banquet are being arranged by the church and the school so that the whole community can mark the very special occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The re-enactment of the coronation service will take place in church on Friday 25 May at 11 am, followed by a state banquet and street picnic at school.

The event is a joint project between the church and school, aiming to promote community spirit and enhancing the profile of Pucklechurch organisations within our wider community. We also hope everyone who takes part will have a lot of fun.

There will be a parade around Pucklechurch on 25 May before the service starts. Bring your Union Jacks, throng the pavements, and wave the Queen and Prince Philip on their way to the church. Look out for posters nearer the date with more details.

We're delighted that Bishop Lee from Swindon will be attending the Coronation. Regrettably, numbers at the church are limited so admittance will be by invitation only and we will allocate these as fairly as possible. We're looking at the possibility of providing a live link to the school so the children can watch the ceremony.

After the service, the guests will return to school for the State Banquet, followed by a street party on the school field

We'd like to hear from parents at the school, church, and community members. There will be a two week project at school leading up to 25 May and we hope villagers and church members will be able to offer support. More details will be shared later.

If you're interested in helping or participating in any way, please get in touch before 31 March with;

Rev. Stuart Young 937 2260

David Forrester 937 2579

Rosaline Truman

Elizabeth Webb

Julie Gardner 0117 370 6514 or

Julie@juliegardner.co.uk

At the moment, we're looking for a horse and cart/trap to convey the Queen and Prince Philip around the village. We're hoping for good crowds with plenty of flag waving so please bear in mind that it will be noisy.



Girlguiding UK

girls in the lead



This year marks Rainbows' 25th birthday. The 1st Pucklechurch Rainbows wished the whole world a happy new year by writing their wishes to make the world a better place on hearts that were posted on a display board. They discussed what's special about this year, like the Olympics and the Diamond Jubilee. The 3rd Pucklechurch Rainbows have been working toward their Aim High badge by discussing healthy lifestyles and promoting self esteem through being kind and complimentary. The girls attended "All the World's a Stage" at the Wise campus in Filton, where they practiced circus skills, African drums, magic tricks, and painting. Both units celebrated Thinking Day by thinking about Guiding around the world.



The Brownies haven't been hibernating this winter either. They are working on the Europe Challenge badge and started by making stained glass windows and Hungarian dolls. They celebrated Thinking Day by making food from four European countries. They worked on the Diamond Jubilee badge by designing crowns and stamps, and they learnt some Cockney rhyming slang. For Valentine's Day the girls made Welsh loving spoons.



Guides had an enjoyable camp at the Guide HQ at Bitton in October. Just before Christmas, they ran a "penny bazaar", raising over £80 on games, jumble and cakes. Half of this money went to Marie Curie and half to the unit. They also had a trip to Hippodrome for the pantomime. Various patrols gained Confectioner, Animal Active and Music Lover badges, and the whole unit achieved the Traditions of Guiding badge in one evening. For Valentine's Day they made cards, love potions and love spoons.



Senior Section members have been working towards the Night at the Theatre badge this term. They have had an evening of Shakespeare, been to see one of our members in *Oliver*, had a tour behind the scenes at the Theatre Royal Bath, and enjoyed an evening of ballet. The girls made pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and some of us attended the Thinking Day event "All the World's a Stage".

We must mention the Guiders who recently gained long-service awards. After all, if it weren't for all the adults, we wouldn't have any Rainbows, Brownies, or Guides.

3rd P Rainbows -- Joanna Wallis and Maria Card -- 5 years each

1st P Brownies -- Marie Walkley -- 5 years, and a special mention for Lyn Ford -- 20 years Dyrham District Senior Section and formerly 1st Guides -- Judith Harrison -- 10 years District Guider and formerly 1st P Guides -- Sue Thomas -- 10 years

District Guider and formerly 2nd P Brownie George Wynter -- 5 years

Anne Hopes -- District Treasurer and former District Commissioner -- 5 years

And thanks to everyone else who supports Girlguiding in Pucklechurch. If you want more information about Girlguiding or would like to help, please contact our District Commissioner Ros Abbott on 937 2157 or rosabbott@hotmail.com.

Jacki Berry

District Secretary



To coincide with this year's National Share The Care Week, South Gloucestershire Council launched its new short break scheme, of the same name, under the umbrella of the Short Breaks Network organisation. The Scheme, formerly known as 'Family Link' (the other main change being an improved financial package), provides short breaks for disabled children & young people and we are currently in need of more carers to provide these services, whereby a family or individual provides the disabled child or young person with regular, short-term breaks (usually in the carer's home). Commitment can be as little as one weekend per month.

At the moment we are particularly in need of carers who can look after children on the autistic spectrum

Evidence shows that disabled children and young people enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers, as it contributes to their personal and social development and reduces social isolation. Evidence also shows that parents and families benefit from this as it gives them necessary and valuable breaks from caring responsibilities.

If you think you might be interested in becoming a Share the Care short break carer then please contact me on 01454 866423 and I will answer any questions you might have, or if you prefer to find out more information before making contact you can visit www.southglos.gov.uk/sharethecare. To find out more about the umbrella organisation you can visit www.shortbreaksnetwork.org.uk.