

# PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



Summer 2011

Funded by the Parish Council

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

## Why Was There No Election for Parish Council?

Going to vote on May 5th may have held a surprise for you. Where was the ballot for the Parish Council election? Who were the candidates? Unfortunately, there were fewer candidates than seats, so the positions were uncontested and an election unnecessary. It's a sad day for our community when not enough people want to take a leadership role, especially at a time when more power is being devolved to the local government level.

While I am sure that the people who will serve on the Council will do their best to represent us, an election would have made everyone feel more comfortable with the result. Our parish is not alone, however. Of the 96 South Gloucestershire wards, 46 had uncontested seats at the parish level.

Seven people stood for the nine Parish Council seats for the Parish of Pucklechurch and have been duly sworn in to represent us. Two positions were unfilled and a notice inviting interested people to apply can be found on page 5.

## Pucklechurch Parish Council 2011-2015



**Gail Boyle**  
Independent  
New to Council



**Lynn English**  
Independent  
New to Council



**Alan Holder**  
Liberal Democrat  
8 years



**Peter Green**  
Independent  
8 years



**Martin Smith**  
Independent  
6 years



**Bob Symonds**  
Independent  
8 years



**Malcom Watson**  
Liberal Democrat  
4 years



## Third Annual Scarecrow Competition Brings Out the Crowds

On May 1st and 2nd, the St Thomas à Becket Scarecrow Trail and Competition took place in the Pucklechurch. There were hundreds of people hot footing it on the trail of Princes and Princesses, Kings and Queens Too! It was really good to see so many people chatting to each other as they went round and to see young and old working together to solve the clues.



We hope you enjoyed yourselves!

We would like to thank all those who made scarecrows, took part in activities in church, and came along to do the scarecrow trail. There were scarecrows from individual residents, church members, the uniformed organisations, the school, all three pubs and the social club at St Aldam's Drive, and from people at Parkfield Rank, whose scarecrows were sited in other people's gardens. It was wonderful to have so much support and the church is very grateful. With your help, we raised £2019, a really good result. The church is considering the necessary work, both on our buildings and on our service to the community and how best to use the funds raised.

We are delighted to announce the winners of the 2011 Scarecrow Trail and Competition. They have both received their prizes of £25 and £50 respectively. Rosie Parsons won best scarecrow, as voted by visitors to the trail: number 14, King Alfred and the cakes. Noah Ball and family won the scarecrow trail with 62 correct out of 64. Congratulations to both of you.

For any of you stumped on some of the answers to the scarecrow trail, you will be able to see them in the next *Two Towers* church magazine (please ring 937 2516 if you do not usually receive a copy) or on the Pucklechurch Community Website at [www.pucklechurch.org/html/scarecrow.html](http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/scarecrow.html) in the next few weeks.

For stalls or other scarecrow-related enquiries for next year's scarecrow competition, please contact [info@pucklechurchscarecrow.co.uk](mailto:info@pucklechurchscarecrow.co.uk) or ring 370 6514.

*Julie Gardner*  
on behalf of the Scarecrow Committee  
and St Thomas à Becket



# St. Thomas-à-Becket

## Special Church Services

Sunday, 12th June Pentecost  
10am, Family Communion  
6.30pm, Revel Service

## St James the Great, Abson

Sunday, 12th June Pentecost  
11.30am, Holy Communion

## Open Church

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

- Wednesday, 15th June
- Wednesday, 20th July

## Church Garden Party at the Vicarage

Saturday, 2nd July From 2pm. Cream Teas, Cakes, Bric-a-Brac, Plants, Books, Sideshows, Tombola, and much more! This will be in the church if it is wet.

## Contacts

For help and advice about your spiritual needs, weddings, baptisms and funerals, please contact Stuart Young on 937 2350 or Rosaline Trueman on 937 3134. To enquire about Christian teaching for 4- to 16-year-olds, please ring 370 6514 or email [julie@juliegardner.co.uk](mailto:julie@juliegardner.co.uk). Help your children understand how a Christian faith can provide a "guide for living life" through understanding the Bible, taught through games, art activities, prayer and song. For other church-related enquiries, please contact Elizabeth Webb on 937 2516.



## Happy Circle

Due to the success of the trip we have just done to the London Eye, we have been asked to organise a trip for August so the whole family can go when the children are on their summer holidays.

### London Eye, River Cruise, and Trip around London

Saturday, 27th August 2011  
£40 per adult, £25 for children  
Price is all-inclusive

If you would like to join us, please let me know ASAP on 937 4054 so we can book the coach. Everyone is welcome.

Please don't forget our other trips this year. Cost is £12 per person per trip.

- June 7th, Lynton & Lynmouth, 9am-7pm
- July 5th, Stratford-upon-Avon, 9am-7pm
- August 2nd, Weymouth, 9am-7pm
- September 6th, Plymouth, 9am-7pm
- October 4th, mystery trip, 9am-7pm
- December 3rd, Christmas shopping at Swindon outlet centre, 10am-6pm

Please contact Liz Archibald on 937 4054 for more information and bookings.

# I AM AN ECO-WARRIOR!

## My Task:

This Easter holiday, year four were asked to be eco-warriors and carry out an enquiry on the environment. I chose to do one on litter and decided to ask "How many grams of rubbish can I collect on three different walks around Pucklechurch?"

## The Walks:

**On the first walk**, I went up Parkfield Road and along Kings Lane, through the fields and back down Parkfield road. The most rubbish was found along Kings Lane, which looks like a rubbish tip, with tyres, old bikes, prams, beds, etc. I only picked up bottles and other small bits of litter and it added up to 1290g.

**For walk two**, I went up Westerleigh Road, round the fields towards Parkfield Rank and back down Parkfield Road. There were large pieces of litter but all were quite light and only weighed 180g.

**I went up by the old school on walk three**, through the fields and back down behind The Star and around the side of the Rec. The field behind The Star and the Rec were the worst places that had a few big bits of plastic but mostly small bits of wrapper, and I got 650g in all.

## The Results:

The total amount of rubbish was 2120g from just three walks, so just imagine what all the rubbish in the whole of the village would be like put together! If everyone cleaned up a bit of their road, it really would make a difference.

## The Big Spring Clean!

There was a big spring clean on the 17th of April run by the Parish Council. I'm glad I'm not the only one clearing up rubbish. Thank you to everyone who turned up and made a difference!

*Hannah Gardner (age 9)*

## Pucklechurch News

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council

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Please email articles to [editor@pucklechurch.org](mailto: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 August for Autumn issue (September)**
- 10th October for Christmas issue (November)**
- 10th January for Winter issue (February)**
- 10th March for Spring issue (April)**
- 10th May for Summer issue (June)**

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

# Revel 2011

This year's Revel Week runs from 10th to 18th June, with the big day happening on Saturday, 18th June.

As with last year, Revel Week will kick off with the Beer & Cider Festival on Friday and Saturday, the 10th and 11th of June.

This year's Revel theme is "Forest Friends". On Revel Day, the parade will assemble in Hill View Road adjacent to the Rec for judging at 11.45. The parade will follow last year's route via Castle Rd, Westerleigh Road, Parkfield Road, and Homefield Road before returning to Castle Road via Shortwood, Abson and Feltham Roads. The parade will be led by our very own Pucklechurch Majorettes.

On Revel Day, we will have pony rides for the children and a surf simulator where you can ride the waves just like a surfer. There will also be a variety of games, food stalls, and fun fair rides, plus the Scout Village. Young people of secondary school age will be invited to join in art on the Rec between 2.00 and 4.00. This will involve the lots of different materials, including spray paint.

## Revel Week Events:

- Fri, 10th:** Beer & Cider Festival
- Sat, 11th:** Miniature garden making, craft table and scavenger hunt for children (the Rec)  
Beer & Cider Festival
- Sun, 12th:** Revel Ramble  
Thanksgiving Service in church
- Mon, 13th:** South Glos Walking for Health walk taking in the countryside around the village.  
School sports day for Foundation and Key Stage 1 children  
Revel Quiz Night
- Tues, 14th:** School sports day for Key Stage 2 children  
Junior Folk Dance  
Revel Skittles
- Weds, 15th:** Revel Bingo
- Thurs, 16th:** Poetry in the garden  
Bob Todd Memorial Pram Race
- Sat, 18th:** Revel Parade  
Revel Day on the Rec

Details of all these Revel events can be found in the Revel leaflet distributed free with this edition of *Pucklechurch News*.

*Elaine Stone,  
Revel Chair*



## Revel Photography Competition 2011

Once again Revel are sponsoring the Bob Stone Memorial Photography Competition. There will be two categories:

- Pucklechurch Village Life – buildings, people, scenery and events that take place in the village
- Open – any other subject such as travel, portraits, nature, Pets, abstracts or architecture

Look for more details on Revel Day and on posters around the village. Entries have to be in by September 23rd. The exhibition and prize giving will be held on Sunday, 9th October, in the Community Centre. We will also be giving prizes for the "best of the rest" in the two categories and visitors to the exhibition will choose these winners.

*Elaine Stone,  
Revel Chair*

# Pucklechurch



# Pucklechurch HeartStart Project



**What is the aim?** To save lives in Pucklechurch

## How?

By raising £10,000 to buy four defibrillators for Pucklechurch village

## Why do this?

These defibrillators are life-saving machines. Early intervention after a heart attack is vital! For every minute a person waits to be defibrillated, their chances of survival decreases by 10%. That is why we need defibrillators located in the village. Villages and communities all round the country are installing this life-saving equipment.

## How do they work?

Open-access defibrillators give the heart an electric shock when the heart suddenly stops. These machines are fully automated and can be used by untrained people.



## How can I help?

Please visit our stall on Revel Day, where a defibrillator will be demonstrated, but above all...

1. Donate! There will be collection boxes in shops, pubs and clubs around the village.
2. Join in fundraising events when you see "Pucklechurch HeartStart".
3. Run a fundraising event yourself.

Contact Angela Hallett (see below for contact details) for more information.

## Pucklechurch First Responder Group

First Responders are volunteers who are trained to attend life-threatening emergency calls received by the ambulance service and provide care until the ambulance arrives. Because First Responders live in the community, they can get to an emergency much faster than the ambulance. However, they do not replace the ambulance service.

We have already started a First Responders group in Pucklechurch. Six volunteers have either already qualified as First Responders or are waiting to undertake their training. Each of these First Responders will give 6 to 12 hours of their time per week.

The First Responder group and the HeartStart project are separate initiatives but they complement each other.

## Could you be a First Responder?

There will be a training programme on 25th/26th June run by the Great Western Ambulance Service. If anyone is interested, sign up now. Please contact me for an application form.

*Angela Hallett  
937 4252*

*angelaiahallett@gmail.com*

## Pucklechurch Twinning Association

Pucklechurch Twinning hosted thirty French guests from our twin village of Pringy in April. They had a fabulous visit, enhanced by some of the best spring weather we can remember.

They arrived on a Saturday afternoon, spent Sunday with their hosts, visited Weymouth on Monday and Blenheim Palace on Tuesday, then left early on Wednesday morning so they could spend some time in London before catching the ferry back to France. Whew! We did manage to squeeze in a soirée on Monday night, where the whole group got together to eat, chat, and dance in a wonderful celebration of our continuing friendship.

We are now planning our return trip to Pringy in October. We'll travel by coach from Pucklechurch early on Saturday morning, arriving in Pringy in the afternoon, and return to England on Wednesday. We have yet to decide where we will go on Monday and Tuesday, but Paris is likely to be on the menu.

We would love to welcome new members on this trip, especially families with children. It's a wonderful opportunity to introduce your children to another culture in a safe and friendly environment. The ability to speak French is not needed to enjoy these trips.

Twinning holds social events throughout the year, so come along and meet us. To find out more, call Lesley on 937 2025 or Ann on 937 2030. À bientôt!

Tower Playgroup would like to thank the community of Pucklechurch for its Continued support.

**Tower  
Playgroup**



We are currently taking registrations for September 2011. If you would like to register your child at the playgroup, please pick up a form outside the door of the church room.

## Pucklechurch Folk Dance Club

The Folk Dance Club has just had its AGM and now have a new programme of callers and dances. We meet on alternate Tuesday evenings, from 7.45 until 10.15pm, commencing 24th May.

We welcome new members of any age, and they are encouraged to learn as they go, as we have callers who will walk through every dance.

We are holding our annual summer dance on Saturday, 2nd July, with Ray Goodswen and the Weston Country Dance Band. Tickets are £6 in advance or £6.50 on the night. There will be a bring-and-share supper.

Do not forget the free Revel Junior Folk dance on Tuesday, 14th June, in the Community Centre 6.15 to 7.30pm.

For details and tickets, contact Von Holder 937 2818.



## 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*

## PCA Pucklechurch Community Association

Because of the efforts of the people of Pucklechurch 30 years ago, today we have a wonderful amenity at our disposal: the Community Centre. Their foresight gave us a building that has been home to a wide variety of groups and hosted a range of different events over the years.

This is still the case today. If you look at the calendar on the Pucklechurch Community Website or in the front entrance of the Centre, you will notice that the activities span the whole age range. There is Pucklechurch Playgroup and Star Jumpers for pre-school children, a Youth Club and Majorettes for young people, and Happy Circle for older folk, in addition to several activities for all ages such as yoga, karate, badminton, Folk Club and drama. As can be seen from this list, there is also the opportunity to engage in some strenuous activity.

Most of the groups that use the hall regularly are run and supported by people who actually live in the village. If you are a new resident (i.e., been here less than 10 years!), joining a group is a good way to get to know the people of Pucklechurch. If you are unaware of all that goes on in the Community Centre, check out what is on offer in your local area. You may be surprised. I have only mentioned a few possibilities, and most of the groups welcome new members.

The Community Centre requires considerable effort to oversee. The Pucklechurch Community Association (or PCA for short) is responsible for all aspects of the Community Centre: maintenance, bookings, finance, car park, grounds, and any matter that affects the building or surrounding area.

The PCA is made up of volunteers from the village and includes representatives from most of the regular user groups. These people work hard to provide an amenity that operates smoothly. As the building ages and the demands on the facilities increase, the task becomes more complex. More volunteers are needed so that each member of the committee has fewer duties.

On 17th May, the PCA held its AGM, where the usual business of reports and election of officers took place. This has been a successful year. Having worked on the appearance of the outside, work has been completed on the main hall's floor, restoring it to its "as new" appearance of light pine. That was thanks to a donation from Cory Environmental Trust. Always aware of safety, the PCA has also spent a large amount of money on checking and renewing the electrics.

We have plans to continue improving the building BUT we need more volunteers. If you would like to get involved, either with committee work or in a more practical way such as painting, gardening or cleaning, please don't hesitate to contact Alan Holder on 937 2818 ([alan.holder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alan.holder@hotmail.co.uk)) or Anna Sharpe on 937 4449 ([anna.sharpe@lineone.net](mailto:anna.sharpe@lineone.net)).

## Syston Summer Fete

St Anne, Syston, will be holding their summer fete on 25th June 2011 from 1.00 pm until 4.00 pm. Come along and enjoy a quintessentially British afternoon at this colourful summer event. Take part in fund-raising games and browse bunting-bedecked stalls selling crafts, second-hand books, and bric-a-brac, followed by some well earned refreshments. This year there will be a varied programme of music all afternoon in the cool of the church. Free entry and free parking. See you there!

The last meeting of the Council before the election was not lacking in important issues, some of which I will relate here.

## **Skate Park in the Woodland**

Councillors regularly monitor the use of the parish woodland and the skate park. Both are important amenities and both are widely used – more so in the spring and summer when there is more light. The young people who use the skate park tend to do so in groups, and they keep in touch with their homes by way of their mobile phones.

## **Motorised Mini-Bikes**

Council has received reports of children, many of primary school age, riding petrol-driven mini-bikes on and near the Rec. These vehicles, whose drivers are below the age to hold a driving licence and uninsured, are illegal on public roads. They may be used only on private land with the owner's permission and nowhere else. If the police identify the owners of such vehicles being used illegally, they are entitled to confiscate the vehicles and destroy them. If you see or know of anyone using one of these machines illegally, you should contact the police. If you are afraid to call the police directly, give the details to a Parish Councillor who will pass it on.

## **Dogs in the Burial Ground**

Several people have contacted Council to complain about people taking their dogs into the new burial ground. If you go to place flowers on a grave and must take your dog with you, please ensure that it is on a lead and not allowed to run free. It can be distressing for those visiting a grave, perhaps for the first time, to have a dog running around in a place which should be respected by everyone.

## **And Finally...**

Several of my Parish Council colleagues did not stand for re-election.

Sarah Turley served for four years both on South Glos Council and our own Parish Council. As a mother with school-age children, she was able to meet with similar mothers on a daily basis at the school gate. Her contribution to both Councils was valuable and much appreciated.

Marilyn Palmer, after serving on Northavon, SGC, and here in Pucklechurch for more years than it would be prudent to say, decided that it was time to spend more time with her grand-daughter. Her major contributions on planning matters will be sorely missed by the new Council, as well as her expertise on matters relating to the Green Belt.

Les Whittock served on the Parish Council for more than thirty years and is a fund of knowledge about Pucklechurch's history. He has been a major figure in the village for so many years, and I extend sincere thanks to him, on your behalf, for all his work on the Council and in many other spheres of activity with which he was associated.

For myself, I wish to thank my Councillor colleagues and you, my friends and neighbours, for the privilege of chairing the Council. If the village is a little better than it was when I first became a Councillor in 1987 and Chairman in 1998, the long hours of Council meetings, the endless readings of minutes, and the long phone conversations will have been worth it. Serving one's community is something that should never be a chore, and for me it never has been.

I wish the new Parish Council and my successor as Chairman every success. I trust it will be a Council whose members will be as robust and dedicated as those with whom I have worked since 1997.

*Omar Beg, Chairman (1998-2011)*

# **Community Plan Published... But This Is Just the Start**

By the time you read this, you should have received your printed copy of the Community Plan Summary and Action Plan. (If you haven't, see below.) This document is important for our area because it represents the wishes and aspirations of our community. Although it took quite some time for the printed version to be completed, the plan has been active for some time and the data used in a number of decisions by the Parish Council and South Gloucestershire Council. I do want to point out that funding for the printing came from Community Action and the Countryside Agency and not from Pucklechurch funds. In addition to the printed version, you may also download a PDF version and access all the other documents from the Community Plan project at the following web address:

[www.pucklechurch.org/html/community\\_plan\\_results.html](http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/community_plan_results.html)

To date the plan has helped to shape decisions and plans on many issues that affect our parish. It has been used on big items such as the SITA proposal for an in-vessel composting plant and smaller issues like the identification of fly-tipping hot spots. Most recently the plan has been used to draw attention to our need for a cycle path from Pucklechurch to the Bristol to Bath cycle track. (Watch this space for more information.)

With the publication of the Community Plan document and the Plan's adoption by the Parish Council in July 2010, the work of the existing Community Plan Steering Committee and Working Groups is complete. Although it was a long and sometimes tough process, it has also been an immense accomplishment and I have to thank all the volunteers who took part for their dedication and professionalism.

The work is not complete, however. For the next phase we will need to form a project team to decide on priorities and how to get the actions implemented. It will involve some of the original committee together with parish councillors. But we also need new people, so if you feel you have skills or know-how that will be useful, please contact me (details below).

Beyond the implementation, we need to look at new and emerging needs of our community. We also need to consider the significant and radical reforms to the planning system contained in the Localism Bill, particularly new powers for local councils in the development of neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders.

If you would like to be part of the next phase of the Community Plan, or if you didn't get a copy of the plan, please contact me on 937 4437 or [community.plan@pucklechurch.org](mailto:community.plan@pucklechurch.org)

*Martin Smith, Chair  
Community Plan Steering Committee*

## **Parish Council Vacancies**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that there are two vacancies for Councillors for Pucklechurch Parish. The Parish Council can fill the vacancies by co-option. If you would like to apply, please write to the Clerk at:

The Vale, Cattybrook Road  
Shortwood, Bristol BS16 9NJ  
or [parish.council@pucklechurch.org](mailto:parish.council@pucklechurch.org)

Please include a few lines explaining your reasons for applying.  
The closing date for applications is 20th June 2011.

*Diane Bailey,  
Clerk to Pucklechurch Parish Council*

# Pucklechurch Majorettes

Pucklechurch Majorettes have been busy once again. The girls took part in a competition on Sunday, 27th March, and came back with quite a few awards. The girls spent weeks perfecting new routines for this year's competitions. We (the mums, dads, brothers, sisters, etc.) were amazed by the length and complexity of the routines; they are much more challenging than last year. The girls did really well and pulled off some fantastic, incredibly smiley performances.

The awards were as follows:

- 1st place in the Juvenile Military category
- 1st place for Best Dressed in the same category (Thank you very much, Revel Committee. This was the first time the troupe used their new batons purchased with the donation from Revel funds.)
- 2nd place in the Juvenile Twirling category
- 2nd place in the Pee Wee Pom category

There were also lots of individual achievers:

- Basic Strut, aged 0-6: Ava Powell, 11th place; Ruby Beese, 10th place; Bryony Prewitt, 7th place; Grace Rogers, 6th place; Kacey Banks, 5th place; Starla Cox, 3rd place
- Basic Strut, aged 7-9: Chloe Rawlins, 8th place; Amelia Carter, 7th place; Dion Doran McDermott, 5th place
- Duets: Teigan Adams and Louise Packer, 3rd place

The Majorettes are currently perfecting their routines, duets, and solos for the next two competitions. They will also be involved in Revel Day this year. It's proving to be another enjoyable and successful year for Pucklechurch Majorettes.

*Beth Rawlins*

*on behalf of Pucklechurch Majorettes*



## Do you care about your community? Do you want to be heard and get things done?

Why not come along to the next Safer Stronger Community Group (SSCG) meeting for your area? SSCGs influence how services are delivered locally, establish longer-term plans to improve areas, help prevent future problems, and deal with current local issues.

Meetings are also attended by partner agencies, including South Gloucestershire Council, Avon and Somerset Police, Avon Fire and Rescue Service, NHS South Gloucestershire, Town and Parish Councils, and other local organisations. These groups work together on the issues raised and involve the community in implementing solutions.

Some of the issues raised and tackled have included creating positive activities for young people, school crossing concerns, anti-social behaviour, speeding and parking.

**Next meeting for the Boyd Valley Group:  
Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> August, 7pm  
Doynton Village Hall  
Tog Hill Lane, Doynton BS30 5SY**

If you are unable to attend a meeting or would like to read more about the work of your local group, each group has its own e-page at <http://groups.southglos.gov.uk>. You can also become a member of the e-group, which will ensure you receive the minutes and agendas directly via email. Alternatively, you can speak to a member of the Safer Stronger Communities Team on 01454 864625 or email directly to [sscg@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:sscg@southglos.gov.uk).



## Girlguiding UK



The Senior Section are trying all sorts of things to complete the Chief Commissioner's 40th Birthday Challenge. A "night at the museum" (Dyrham House) included stargazing and making a planetarium inside a black umbrella ("Scientific but great fun", commented Charlotte) and cheese and apple juice tasting (not yet old enough for cider!). I recently met them at the Guides' allotment, where we successfully made ice cream outside (a bit more fun science), then danced around a cleverly constructed maypole, complete with lots of colourful ribbons, to celebrate spring. We read the instructions carefully and didn't get tangled up either!

### Guides

"The Guides have been working on a special Royal Wedding badge", says Rachel, "Planning honeymoons, designing dresses and finding out about the Royal Family. We did 'something funny for money' and held a pyjama party for Comic Relief. The Guiders in particular enjoyed the game of Sleeping Lions! We also entered Princess Fiona for the Scarecrow Trail and hope everyone managed to guess who she was."

Six of our older girls, working towards their Baden Powell Challenge, raised money towards a trip to "ICANDO" (Girlguiding HQ, London) by selling cakes. They have also received a generous donation from YOI Ashfield, for which they are grateful. They did a splendid job at the WI Group meeting by washing up after 70 guests had eaten and were rewarded with generous tips.

### Brownies

In March Brownies painted mugs and made floral arrangements and tiaras for their Royal Wedding badge. This culminated in a street party that unfortunately had to be held inside due to bad weather, but this didn't deter the Brownies from thoroughly enjoying themselves in their princess dresses. This term we are taking our CLIC Sargent badge and are busy organising a fundraising "pink party" to be held in the Scout Hut.

### Rainbows

1st Pucklechurch: Ruth told me, "I have a full Unit of lovely girls who are great fun to work with." Well done, Rainbows! Give yourselves a pat on the back! They entered a colouring competition relating to the scarecrow trail and have enjoyed maypole dancing and singing. You're never too young to learn how to cook, and the Rainbows proved this by making honey sandwiches and butterfly cakes. The cakes linked to butterfly paintings and their Nature Watch theme.

3rd Pucklechurch: "We have just completed the special Royal Wedding badge by finding out about the Royal Family and making and sending a special card to Prince William and Kate", writes Joanna. "We prepared homemade bunting and wore our best frocks for our Royal Wedding party. Our party tea included red, white, and blue popcorn, which was very popular!"

### General

I am now officially District Commissioner but am still looking for a Minutes Secretary to record our meetings, about six a year, then to type up and circulate the minutes. You don't need to be a member of Girlguiding, just willing to support us in this way. Maybe brush up or improve your secretarial skills. Could you do this please? Contact me on 937 2157 or [rosabbott@hotmail.com](mailto:rosabbott@hotmail.com)

*Ros Abbott*