

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



Summer 2013

www.pucklechurch.org

Funded by the Parish Council

Pucklechurch Revel 2013

Pucklechurch



As I write this I'm looking out of my window at a very wet and windy day. Let's hope that June brings sunshine and blue skies. Surely we are due a sunny Revel day after last year's strong wind and heavy showers!

There are lots of fun events to look forward to during Revel week which starts on **Friday 7th June with the Beer and Cider Festival**. This event will be on for two consecutive nights, Friday 7th and Saturday 8th June, 7pm until midnight. Great bands are booked, BBQ on both nights. Tickets £7 Friday, £9 Saturday or a two night ticket £13, available from Walkers Newsagent, The Star and Village Hall Social Club.

For the children on Saturday 8th June at 2pm, make a miniature garden and join in the scavenger hunt on the Rec. Children must be accompanied. Tickets from Lyn Ford at school or Walkers newsagents.

Sunday 9th June 10.30am meet in the Community centre car park for the Revel Ramble, an easy 3 to 4 mile walk around the area. The Revel Service takes place later in the day at 6.30pm in the Vicarage garden, or church if the weather is really wet, followed by fellowship and a glass of punch.

Monday 10th June Revel Quiz Night
7.30pm at The Fleur de Lis.

Thursday 13th June Bob Todd Memorial Pram Race and Tug o'War on the Rec, 7pm. Weather permitting. Contact Marie Walkley 9373986 for more details. Tug O' War teams please call Mike Rawlins 9373049.

Wednesday 12th June Poetry in the Garden. For more details and £5 tickets please contact Elaine Stone 9373105. Wednesday 12th June also sees Revel Bingo 7pm at PVSSC. Over 18's only.

Friday 14th June 4.30-6.30pm, Senior Citizens Entertainment in the Community Centre. Demonstration by Pucklechurch Majorettes.

Saturday 15th June Revel Day starts with parade

Judging at 11.45am. Lots of stalls and arena events throughout the afternoon after the traditional Revel Day Parade at noon as well as live music. Revel Day will end at 7.30pm.

Date for your diary:

Sunday 13th October 10am-12 midday. Photo and art competition at Community Centre. Closing date for entries Saturday 21st September. Entries to be submitted to Elaine 9373105 or email elainerudge@aol.com

Graham Edward Winbolt

Dr Graham Winbolt, who served as GP for Pucklechurch for over 30 years, died on 7th March 2013, aged 79.

Originally from Liverpool, Dr Winbolt attended Cambridge and then St George's Hospital Medical School in London. Called up for national service in 1959, he spent three years as a medical officer with Her Majesty's Foot Guards. After his service ended, Dr Winbolt spent a few years training in Devon before joining a medical practice based in Marshfield which also covered Pucklechurch. In 1966, Dr Winbolt and his family moved to Pucklechurch and had a surgery built adjacent to his house on Castle Road, where it is still in use today. The practice expanded over the years to meet the needs of a growing village. Dr Winbolt retired in 1998.

In his spare time, Dr Winbolt devoted himself to collecting British military electronic instruments to save them for posterity. His collection, amassed over 30 years, was displayed at Bletchley Park in the 1990s and now resides at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. Dr Winbolt is survived by his wife Reineke, children Erik, Elise and James, and six grandchildren.

To read more about Dr Winbolt's career as a village doctor, read the 2004 article from Pucklechurch News at http://pucklechurch.org/html/features_sept_2004.html#Tales

SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICES

- Sunday 3rd June at 10a.m. Café Church
- Sunday 9th June 6.30p.m. Revel Service
In Vicarage Garden if dry (or Church if wet)
- Sunday 14th July 10a.m. Patronal Festival
Family Communion
- Sunday 21st July 10a.m. Family Communion
Music Sunday

Garden Party

Saturday 29th June 2p.m. at Vicarage (Church if wet)
Stalls: Cakes/ Tombola/, Books/, Bric-a-Brac
Plants Raffle Sideshows Strawberry Cream Teas
and refreshments.

**Scarecrow Competition**

Thanks to everyone who made the scarecrow competition a great success again this year. The Church received £2,058, just over what was raised last year. (the money is put into our church restoration fund to go towards the upkeep of our very old village Church). So thank you to all the scarecrow makers, visitors and organisers. The winning scarecrows were 'The Twits'. Congratulations to the prison chaplaincy who made this fantastic pair of scarecrows! The closest runners up were The Black Knight and Snow White. As always the standard of entries was great. Congratulations everyone. All the scarecrows with their names, will soon be available to see at <http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/scarecrow.html>. The winner of the most correctly guessed scarecrows was Noah Ball. Noah was delighted with his prize. The Prison Chaplaincy have kindly handed their prize back to the Church with a request that it be used for children's and youth work. Discussions are under way as to where it could be best spent in the village. The scarecrow committee hopes you had a great couple of days. Here's to next year! The Team at St Thomas a Becket
With very best wishes.

Julie Gardner

Dear Pucklechurch News

What a fantastic thing the Scarecrow trail is for our community and so nice that the sun shone for the organisers. It is such a simple construct yet clearly brings so many benefits with it - friends, families and visitors had fun in the sun whilst money was raised for good causes. Everyone who is involved with this should be congratulated - from those whose idea it was several years ago, to the volunteers who organise it today and of course the the many scarecrow makers without whom there would be no trail at all. Long may it continue to bring joy! Gail Boyle

**Pucklechurch Playgroup**

There are Spaces available from
September 2013
Playgroup Hours:
Monday-Friday 9.15am-12.15pm
Pre-School Session
Wednesday 9.15am-3.15pm
Some spaces available for two year olds.
Please contact either:
George: 07736 713730
Or
Fiona: 07545 351364

Dyrham and Hinton Revel Fete

The 2013 Dyrham and Hinton Revel Fete will be held in Wynter House in Dyrham at 2.00pm on Saturday 29th June. This is a traditional village fete with stalls of interesting and useful things, including food and drink, plus lots of fun things to do for all the family. There will be a band providing live music. Do follow the signs and join us for a great family afternoon Out! Thank you

John Miller
D&H Revel Committee

ABSON VILLAGE MARKET

To be held in Abson church
Sat June 22nd and Sat Aug 24th
10.30am -12.30pm.

All the usual stalls

plants...veg...bric/brac...cakes...meat....cards...etc.

JULY 27th will see the "ABSON VILLAGE FETE held on the green, again lots of stalls and extras. If you would like to run your own stall at any of these events please get in touch with Julie Young tel.. 9372156.

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 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

PROJECT UPDATE : JUNE 2013.

As most of you will know we have been very busy over the last year and have managed to achieve our goal to raise £10,000 for four defibrillators and cabinets to be placed around Pucklechurch. Our thanks once again go to the Parish Council and local businesses, those that obtained workplace awards and applied for grants, those who attended our fundraising dance, donated via our collection boxes, or contributed to our 50: 50 challenge and to the local village organisations who worked very hard to raise money for the project.

Where are the defibrillators?

Defibrillator No. 1 is situated outside the Pucklechurch Community Centre on Abson Road
Defibrillator No.2. is situated outside the Pucklechurch Sports and Social Club, St Aldams Drive.

Defibrillator No 3. Is situated outside the Coach House Café on Westerleigh Road, which is the nearest public building to the Rose & Crown.

Money has been set aside for the 4th defibrillator to be sited at the new Doctor's surgery. However, if the surgery is not commenced in the immediate future, we may have to consider placing the 4th

defibrillator elsewhere in the vicinity of Oak Tree Avenue.

Community First Responders

We have three trained and active Community First Responders. But we are still looking for people within the village who are willing to be trained by South Western Ambulance Service to be a First Responder for Pucklechurch. The time commitment once trained would be approximately 12 hours a week.

Basic Life Support Awareness sessions

These sessions can be organised for any group, or organisation within the village. As more people are aware of the cabinets and defibrillators we are being asked how they are used.

If you are interesting in arranging Basic Life Support Awareness sessions or willing to train as a Community First Responder please contact Angela Hallett on 9374252 or by e-mail angelajhallett@gmail.com

Thank you once again to all the Heartstart Committee who have given their time and for believing in the project.

Angela Hallett



AGM Report 2013

The Chairman Alan Holder emphasised the importance of the immense support he has received from all the other committee volunteers, particularly John James who has carefully he Pucklechurch Community Association AGM was well attended. It was especially significant this year as several committee members had decided to retire. John Griffiths, Les Whittock and Vice Chairman Pete Lugg were standing down. On behalf of the committee, the Chairman thanked them for all their hard work.

Chairman Alan Holder and Treasurer George Hill have also decided to step down. Their hard work and dedication over four years has seen the hall revitalized and solvent. The building been more efficiently maintained and there have been many improvements, some behind the scenes and some more evident like the new doors.

On behalf of the committee and all the people who use the hall I would like to thank them for their efforts. Their leadership and hard work is greatly appreciated and has been an inspiration to the committee. During his report outgoingmonitored and nurtured the heating and lighting.

The following new committee has been elected;-

Chairman Chris Davis, Vice Chairman Alan Holder, Secretary Helen Sharpe, Treasurer Martin Doyle, Booking Secretary Anna Sharpe, Membership Secretary Jill Hayden, Elected ordinary members Jill Conway, John James, Ashish Bhatia, Jayne Hawkins, Peter Nunez, with non-elected member Tina Symonds

The new committee hope to continue the good work that has been done under Alan Holder's leadership.

Pucklechurch Parish Council

Chairmans Report - May

Parish Boundary Review

The second phase of public consultation on the Parish boundary review has now closed. Prior to this, officers from SGC were invited to attend a full Council meeting since Councillors believed the approach SGC had employed was inappropriate and did not properly enable the views of all residents to be taken into account. In short Pucklechurch Parish Council supports the proposed changes to the boundary but it remains extremely dissatisfied with the way in which the process has been handled and has made this clear to SGC in writing.

Youth Club

Funding for the Youth Club by SGC has now stopped. As an emergency measure the Parish Council agreed to meet its cost for a maximum period of three months whilst grant applications and other sources of finance to support it are explored. Until recently we have been supporting the club by paying for its room hire at the Community Centre.

Grant application success

The Council successfully applied for a grant from the New Homes Bonus Scheme for projects totalling £6000 in the parish. Up to £2000 has been made available to explore the provision of a Community Car Scheme and £4000 to increase our number of allotments. Both of these grants are subject to robust business plans being provided.

Ashfield YOI

We have continued to play a pro-active role in discussions regarding the management of the re-role of Ashfield YOI as a Category C male prison. I attended a meeting on the 16th April with the CEO of SGC, District Councillors, SGC officers and representatives of the National Offender Management Service as well as of Ashfield YOI. It was confirmed that the re-role is planned for 1st July subject to the completion of current negotiations with Serco about changes in regime and staffing. All juvenile prisoners will leave Ashfield by the end of June, possibly earlier. None of the prisoners will be allowed out of the prison into the local community and when they are released they will either be collected by car from the main entrance or taken by Ashfield staff to the main rail stations in Bristol. Pucklechurch Parish Council will be invited to visit Ashfield and to establish regular meetings with the prison Director and Ministry of Justice Controller to discuss the future operation of the prison. A similar meeting structure will be established between Ashfield and SGC. The Director of Children, Adults & Health will also separately make contact with Ashfield with regard to the management of safeguarding and social care issues.

Emergency Planning

As many of you may know SGC has a legal obligation to produce plans that enables agencies to respond to emergencies such as natural disasters, pollution (e.g. spillages, radioactive substances, toxic gases), war/terrorism or any other incident which poses a threat to the welfare of the community. To this end Pucklechurch Councillors have been working on a pilot project with SGC to produce a toolkit to assist parish

councils to produce plans appropriate to the local community. Watch out for more information coming soon about the ways in which residents can become involved in this process.

Congregational Chapel Site

Those of you who have lived in Pucklechurch for many years will know that the Congregational Church at the centre of the village was demolished in 1991. After several failed planning applications for its redevelopment permission has now been granted for the construction of a house (subject to several conditions relating to its position in the conservation area). Details of the plans are available on the SGC website.

Speed Limits

We have been contacted by several residents with regard to speed limits and road safety in light of the serious road traffic accident on Shortwood Road involving a pedestrian a few weeks ago. Changes to speed limits are not within the power of the Parish Council but they can be changed on the recommendation of the local authority, i.e. South Gloucestershire Council. This requires traffic engineers to judge the effectiveness of speed limits on local roads and then recommend the safest speed based on the evidence they have gathered. In the light of this, an officer from SGC has been invited to attend our Council meeting on June 5th to discuss road safety in Pucklechurch and other related matters.

Parish Council Drop-ins & Meetings

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

Precept

Since my last report the Council has agreed this year's Precept and I can confirm that it has been increased by 2.6%, i.e. the rate of inflation. The Council continues to be committed to providing the best service possible at the lowest cost and believe this increase will support that statement.

Bob Symons,
Chairman

Parish Council at Revel

Look out for the Parish Council stall at Revel.

We'll also be joined by SGC.

As well as being able to chat to

Parish Councillors you'll get information on:

Home Energy conservation

Planning for an Emergency

Pucklechurch Emergency Response

A new grant for community projects



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

Then why not come along to the next Safer Stronger Community Group (SSCG) meeting 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.

There are 20 Safer Stronger Community Groups across South Gloucestershire for residents to attend and raise local issues that concern them. They can give their views on possible improvements to further strengthen their communities and keep these safe places to live and work.

The 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 organisations work together on the issues raised and often involve the community in implementing solutions.

Some of the issues raised and tackled have included creating positive activities for young people, anti-social behaviour, school crossing concerns, speeding and parking. Community grants through the Safer Stronger Communities Initiative Fund have helped support initiatives raised at the meetings, such as Community Speedwatch groups, community garden work, youth engagement activities, park improvements, activities for older people, and equipment for walking buses to schools.

Next meeting date for Boyd Valley and Bitton residents:

**Thursday 6th June 2013, 7pm
Tracy Park Golf and Country Hotel, Bath Road,
Wick, BS30 5RN**

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-group page at

<http://groups.southglos.gov.uk>. Here, you will be able to view your group's annual report, minutes and agendas from past meetings, and find other useful information for your area. 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 Community Engagement Team on 01454 864634, or email directly to communityengagement@southglos.gov.uk.

Mobile Library



The South Gloucestershire Mobile Library visits Pucklechurch on the following Fridays
June 7 & 21
July 5 & 19
August 2 - 16 & 30th

With the stops remaining as at present:
Pucklechurch Village Hall, 2.30 to 2.45pm
Homefield Road Bungalows, 2.55 to 3.15pm
Homefield Road, 3.20 to 3.35pm

Countryside Walks

The Pucklechurch Countryside Access Group was formed last year as a result of an action in the Community Plan to make the wonderful countryside around our village more accessible. A group of people have been out walking and surveying a series of circular walks from Pucklechurch. These are being written up and will be published in due course.

After we finish the circular walks we're going to start longer walks to places of interest within reach of Pucklechurch. All walks will start in the Village Hall car park at 10.30am.

Footpath Access Walks for Summer 2013

Sunday, 30th June - Final petal
Saturday, 13th July
Sunday, 28th July
Saturday, 17th August
Sunday, 1st September

It's not too late to get involved. If you are interested just come along and join one of the above walks. You can just turn up on the day but if you email me I'll be sure to let you know what we're doing and information about the next walk. Email countryside.access@pucklechurch.org to be included on the mailing list or look on the community website www.pucklechurch.org for information on forthcoming events.

Martin Smith

Volunteer Public Transport For Pucklechurch

Hundreds of rural communities around the country run successful volunteer schemes to provide additional public transport for their communities. Are there enough people interested in Pucklechurch to set up a scheme here?

Funding is available to lease a vehicle and to provide a service. All that is missing is a group of people willing to get this up and running.

First, we need a small group to define what is needed. It could be a volunteer taxi service, a shuttle to and from Emerson's Green or an evening service to and from Bristol or other destinations. Or it could be all of the above. Do you have ideas about what is needed?

Once we have a plan, we will need volunteer drivers. Ideally people would only need to volunteer for a one or two of shifts per month. We need a small team to manage the day-to-day running.

Other communities both smaller and larger than Pucklechurch have successful schemes. Can **you** help get one started here?

Come along to a kick-off meeting in the village hall meeting room at 8.00pm on 17th June and make a difference to Pucklechurch. For more information email: community.car@pucklechurch.org

Martin Smith

There's a spine-tingling adventure waiting for children in South Gloucestershire Libraries this summer!

The theme for the Summer Reading Challenge this year is *Creepy House*. The challenge begins in all South Gloucestershire Libraries on July 13 and runs until September 14. It's free to join in the fun.

Children are challenged to read just 6 books to collect their very own medal and certificate and be entered into our grand LibrariesWest prize draw for a chance to win a Kobo.

More than 6,100 children took part in Story Lab last summer. The parent of one child who did said 'I thought the Summer Reading Challenge was a fantastic incentive to encourage my son to read throughout the summer. He thoroughly enjoyed taking part and couldn't wait to reach silver to get his wristband. The gold medal at the end was a really nice touch and made my son feel special.' Visit any South Gloucestershire Library this summer for children to take part in *Creepy House* and collect their own gold medal.

Libraries are also holding free activities throughout the holiday to help children complete the challenge. Visit your local library or log on to www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries to find out more.

For more Creepy House fun visit www.creepy-house.org.uk.

THE BIG SPRING CLEAN 2013

Volunteer Groups across the Parish of Pucklechurch are urged to spring into action and help clean up their neighbourhood and open spaces, helping to transform our villages.

Last year was not so well supported but we are hoping that with the event being a little later in the year and the weather hopefully better to receive fantastic support. 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.

The Parish Council is running the Spring Clean 2013 event on Saturday 1st June in Shortwood and on Sunday 9th June in Pucklechurch. Gloves and refuse sacks will be provided.

Shortwood

10am Saturday 1st June
Meet outside the Chapel.

Pucklechurch

0am Sunday 9th June
Meet outside Scout Hut

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.

Now I'm Retiring Information Event

Saturday 15 June 2013, at Yate Library, between 11am-2pm.

Are you about to retire or new to retirement? Would you like to find out about the exciting and rewarding opportunities that you can grasp. Come along and discover more about social and volunteering activities are available to you in South Gloucestershire.

For more information please email:

Cengagement@southglos.gov.uk

or call 01454 862356

Sue Jaques

Community Engagement Officer

Children, Adults and Health

South Gloucestershire Council

On behalf of Precious Time Partners

Telephone: 01454 868267

Fax: 01454 865940

Minicom: 01454 865900

Postal Address: PO Box 2083, Council Offices, Castle Street, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire, BS35 9BR



Fishing Club News

On February 10th we had our annual match against Avon Angling Club on the River Avon at Scotland Road Melksham. Pucklechurch has been affiliated to Avon Angling for about 15 years or so, since becoming affiliated, we've had an annual match. For the first 5 years Pucklechurch won, but, for the last 10 years we've been second best. I'm pleased to tell you that this year, we managed to turn the tables. Pucklechurch beating Avon Angling with long time Pucklechurch member Dickie Savage winning the match with 11lbs of Bream and Perch. I'm afraid to say, my 14 ounces of tiddlers, didn't exactly set the world alight. However, I think I'm safe in saying. I caught more fish than anyone else. On April 20th, the first match, in the 8 match series to decide the club cup took place at Shiplate near Bleaden, WSM. This was a new venue for the club and nobody knew what quite to expect, while there were strong rumours of a good head of Bream, I thought Carp were going to be the main species of fish, we were going to catch. Indeed the match was won by Jeff Agius with 48lbs of mainly Carp with a few Bream, however, most people (including myself with 18lbs) caught Bream and Carp were few and far between. It was agreed by all who fished, that this was a place we should fish again. As always the best part of the day, was the pint in the pub afterwards. Our next few matches are at Durleigh on 8th June, Sabre Lake Calne on 6th July and Windmill Lake on 10th Aug. Anyone interested in our on-going fishing adventure should contact Mike Snudden on 07742925276 or e-mail mikesnudden@tiscali.co.uk.

South Glos Bogus Council Officials

South Gloucestershire Council Trading Standards would like to warn residents to remain vigilant when dealing with unexpected doorstep callers, no matter who they say they are.

Trading Standards have received a report of someone claiming to be from the Council in order to gain entry into that person's home. Council officers will always have identification, which can be verified by contacting South Gloucestershire Council's contact centre on **01454 868009**.

All staff from the utility companies and even the police carry identification. A genuine caller will be happy to wait on your doorstep for you to confirm their identity.

Please remember: Never give personal or financial details to strangers unless you are satisfied you know who you are giving them to; Do not allow anyone to enter your home unless you know who they are; Remember, it is your front door! It is not rude to close it on someone if you feel uncertain or unsafe.

If you feel you have fallen victim to such a scam, report it to the Police on 101.

If you would like to report a scam or would like further advice on this or any other consumer issue, please contact the Citizens Advice consumer service on **08454 04 05 06**.

Don't let the Loan Sharks bite

South Gloucestershire Council Trading Standards would like to warn you about Loan Sharks.

A Loan Shark is someone who lends money without a licence from the Office of Fair Trading. They charge very high interest rates and rarely give paperwork to confirm the arrangements made. If payments are missed they often use intimidation and violence.

The Illegal Money Lending Team is here to help if you have any information on loan shark activities. These include threats for non payment, and taking bank cards as security.

If you, or anyone you know, is experiencing any of the above then contact the Illegal Money Lending team **IN CONFIDENCE 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**.

Telephone - **0300 555 2222**

e-mail: reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk
or by text to: loan(space)shark(space) + your message to **60003**

Pucklechurch Twinning 25th Anniversary

This year Twinning is celebrating 25 years since the signing of the first Charter between Pucklechurch and Pringy. Annual visits have been made each year which is quite an achievement for two small villages.

This year our French friends arrived on Saturday morning 27th April. This gave us the opportunity to show them more of the surrounding area with visits taking place to Bath and the Holbourne museum, Devizes town the locks on the canal and Slimbridge, before some families opted to eat together whilst others ventured into Bristol to eat and sample the night life.

Sunday morning saw several families visiting Dyrham Park and others visiting the new M shed museum. Our French guests had been told that Sunday was a surprise only the English hosts knew what was planned but had difficulty keeping it a secret until we arrived at Caldicot Castle but even then our guests thought they were just visiting "un chateau". Following a guided tour of the castle we were finally shown to our places for a medieval banquet in the presence of the Baron and Baroness (the President of the French Twinning and her husband). A very entertaining evening followed trying to eat meat and vegetables with just a



Yves & Martine Oliver

dagger!



Members of S. Glos & Parish Council

As this year marks the 25th anniversary it was felt that we should mark it in a special way and our thanks go to the Parish Council who hosted a Buffet on Monday evening with guests including Mrs Janet Biggins, Chair of South Gloucester Council, Parish Councillors and past and present members of twinning. Following speeches and the cutting of a cake, the Charters were re-signed by a Representative of the Council and the two Twinning Chairmen. Tuesday evening saw many members eating and celebrating together, before we said good bye on Wednesday morning.



Cutting the Cake

We will visit Pringy in October to celebrate the 25th Anniversary there, where we have been promised another 'surprise'.

If anyone is interested in joining twinning please contact Anne Smith 9372030 or Lesley Broom 9372025, or visit us at the 'Café du Pringy' on Revel day.

It was when her daughter Lauren was a baby that Juliet Hills decided she would like to do something to help the NSPCC. The original plan was for a coffee morning in the community centre so how did that snowball over 24 years to raise nearly £150,000 for the children's charity? "I don't really know," admits Juliet, "but what I can say is that a large proportion of that money has come from the pockets of people in Pucklechurch, who have supported our efforts with unfailing generosity. I really cannot thank them enough."

In those early days, Juliet approached the NSPCC, which suggested she set up a support group. At the time, there were 17 fund-raising committees around the area for the Bristol NSPCC branch. Pucklechurch was unusual as it mainly comprised working mothers in their 30s rather than retired ladies.

The first fund-raising event in 1989 was a fashion show. The following year saw the first of 20 auctions of goods and promises in Pucklechurch, which have all been well supported. Other regular activities have included cheese and wine quizzes, summer suppers, and lasagne evenings.

For many years we carried out house-to-house collections, organised by Mary James. A major contribution to our fund-raising came from Keith and Evelyn Shorricks, who sold bric-a-brac and books at car boot sales and fetes. Keith, Evelyn and Mary all received long service awards from the NSPCC.

Juliet and Lauren attended a Buckingham Palace garden party in May in recognition of her work for the NSPCC. Juliet is moving to America with her husband David for three years, but the current group intends to continue the

Good Neighbours

The spring has seen the Good Neighbours helping people who are unable to manage their gardens themselves. If you or someone you know struggles to maintain their garden, please give us a ring and we may be able to help. We can also help with other light household tasks or you may know someone who would like some extra company during the week.

The Good Neighbours have attended an event working with volunteers in older people's services who support and recruit volunteers to help deliver their work. We will update you in the next edition of Pucklechurch News. Larisa joined a Neighbours Networking and Good Practice sharing event with the other local good neighbours schemes. If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Larisa, Rodney and Ross, Pucklechurch and Shortwood Good Neighbour Scheme Co-coordinators 07961939574



Girlguiding UK



Venezuelan Straw Craft, Malawian Face Masks and yummy biscuits iced by hand in the colours of the Irish flag. Add Arabic bingo and Mehndi hand painting and you have a flavour of the activities enjoyed by our Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section and Leaders at our recent Thinking Day celebrations held in Doynton Village Hall. Not only do we 'think' about our 10 million sister Guides around the world, but offer financial support to specific countries.

This year the World Association is supporting Ireland, Jordan, Malawi, Pakistan and Venezuela. We held a ceremony and placed our donations, and the relevant flag, onto a world map, and explained that when everyone's small contribution is added together we can make a big difference.

In the last issue Jackie explained changes occurring locally in Guiding so this fun day was rather poignant as it ended 78 years of Dyrham District, which has bound Marshfield, Pucklechurch and Wick together for so long. Although we are now part of a larger Division, we will still get together informally.

To celebrate this historic occasion we mounted an exhibition of Dyrham District throughout these 78 years, showing an early photo of 1st Dyrham Girl Guide Company, and that 1st Pucklechurch Guides were open by 1932, and maybe earlier. A Coronation Party Programme from 1937 reveals that Dyrham Guides performed 'physical exercises' whilst Pucklechurch Guides displayed 'Flags of the Empire'. Most intriguing however is Wick Rangers who performed 'Margaret Morris Exercises'. Does anyone know what these were and why they were so special?

We ended by singing from our own specially printed souvenir Camp Fire Song Book and everyone received a souvenir cloth badge, and decorated their own cotton bag.

Rachel Smith, Assistant Leader, 1st Pucklechurch Guides, is taking a break in order that she can run Cubs instead. We are very sorry to see her go but quite understand as she has two sons and the current Cub Leader is stepping down. She will, however, remain as a Guiding member, and help when she can. We would like to thank her for all her hard work since joining us. This means there is room for another volunteer! So do contact me if you'd like to join us.

Finally, those of you who are keen eyed will have noticed a logo change and new strap line, all part of our national rebranding to keep GirlGuiding current and relevant to today's girls.

Ros Abbott
Deputy Division Commissioner
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