

Pucklechurch News



Winter 2011

Funded by the Parish Council

www.pucklechurch.org

Calling All Candidates!

In May a new Pucklechurch Parish Council will be elected. Are you running for the Parish Council? (The closing date for nominations is 5th April, by the way. Contact South Gloucestershire Council for details.) We would like to publish a voters' guide in the spring edition of *Pucklechurch News* and would like your details for publication. This edition will be delivered in April, so it's perfect timing for the May 5th election. What a great opportunity to let the people of the parish know what you stand for.

The deadline for the spring edition is 10th March. Please send the following to editor@pucklechurch.org or drop it off to one of the *Pucklechurch News* team at the addresses shown in this publication's information block:

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

We look forward to hearing from you!

Community Plan Win for Local People

The data from the Community Plan played a pivotal role in getting South Gloucestershire Council to consider a local connection for the Oaktree Avenue development. "Local connection" refers to people who have a connection with the community and who might want to move into housing in the village if it were available. Without this there would no preference given to local people.

The Parish Council pushed hard to get this established and the data from the Community Plan convinced SGC to carry out a Housing Needs Survey (which was distributed with the *Pucklechurch News* in September). The Parish Council has been told that the survey carried out by SGC confirmed a definite need for a local connection and put it in place for the development. However, at the time of writing, SGC have not given any details.

Cllr Martin Smith



Plans call for 26 dwellings to be built in the open space between the barrage balloon site and the existing homes on Dyrham View.

Pucklechurch: a PIG of a place?

As many of you will know, there's more to Pucklechurch than meets the eye – whether it be its rich and varied history, its industrial heritage, or its natural environment. In fact, Pucklechurch has so much to interest such a wide variety of people that we are hoping to form a new group that celebrates it as a place, including its past, its present and its future. If you are interested in local history, nature, or environmental issues, this might be the group for you.

Responses to Community Plan questions regarding the local historic and natural environment suggested that an overwhelming majority of people think the best way to preserve and enhance these aspects in our area is to encourage an active interest in them. And there were over a hundred people who said they would be interested in working on environmental issues. A preliminary meeting for people who would like to be involved with, or know more about, the Pucklechurch Interest Group (PIG) will be held at:

**Pucklechurch Community Centre
Tuesday, 8th March, 8.00pm**

The evening will include an illustrated talk entitled, "946 and all that The Truth about Edmund & Pucklechurch", by Gail Boyle, museum archaeologist, local historian and Pucklechurch resident. We are hoping to be joined by Professor Mark Horton of Bristol University, who many people will recognise as a regular presenter on the BBC's *Coast* and Channel 4's *Time Team* programmes. So whatever your interest, please do come along.

**A date for your calendar...
Annual Spring Clean
Shortwood:
Saturday, 16th April
Pucklechurch:
Sunday, 17th April**

Please plan to come along and help polish up our little corner of England
More details in the next issue



St. Thomas-à-Becket

First Sunday of each month	8.30am 10am	Holy Communion All-age worship (a short, informal service) Guitar music suitable for everyone
All other Sundays	10am	Family Communion Young people and children go out for a time of religious teaching and come back into church for the end of the service. Tea and coffee are served after the service.

Jumble Sale

Sat, 5th March	2pm	Community Centre Bric-a-brac, books, toys, cakes, raffle & refreshments
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Open Church

The church is being opened on the following Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4pm for a time to look round, have a chat. Refreshments and sales table available. A warm welcome awaits you all and we look forward to seeing you.

Weds, 16th February

Weds, 16th March

Remembrance Service

The collections from the Remembrance Day Service held on 14th November came to just over £281. This was divided between the Earl Haig Fund, the British Legion and Help for Heroes. We had a full church, with a parade by the uniformed organisations. During the service, wreaths were laid and the last post sounded. We would like to thank everyone for their support on this occasion.

Christmas Services

All the Christmas services were well supported, from the Carols by Candlelight, Christingle, Nativity, Midnight and Christmas Day celebrations of Holy Communion. We would like to wish all readers a Happy New Year.

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

This winter we have seen some of the coldest weather for a number of years. The cold, snow and ice make life really difficult for lots of people. It can be difficult to get shopping, prescriptions, take rubbish out and also see others for company. The Good Neighbour Scheme has 18 volunteers in the village who are ready and willing to help out. We are all CRB checked. We do not have an exhaustive list of what we do, so please feel free to call us and ask. If you or anyone you know needs help in any way, please let us know. You can contact us by phone on 07961 939574 or by emailing goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org.

Larisa, Sarah and Ross

Good Neighbour Scheme Co-ordinators



Pucklechurch W.I.

Pucklechurch W.I. held their AGM in November when new officers were elected.

During November several members attended a fashion show at Marks & Spencers in the Mall at Cribbs Causeway. This was for WI groups in the area, and all money raised went to Children in Need. Members and friends also visited the Bristol Hippodrome to see the Sound of Music.

In December a coach party went to Norfolk to see the Thursford Christmas Spectacular. This show is acknowledged as one of the best Christmas productions in the country, and it certainly lived up to its reputation. Our final meeting of 2010 was an American Supper Christmas Social and "Snowman Drive" (a new take on the popular Beetle Drive).

The first meeting in 2011 was our birthday party, held in the Rose & Crown, when Pucklechurch W.I. celebrated its 74th birthday.

We are all looking forward to our day out on February 9th when we go to the Cardiff International Arena for a matinee performance of Holiday on Ice.

Norma Pratt, President



Time to Share?

South Gloucestershire Council are looking at bringing together people of all ages to share their ideas, interests and hobbies to promote a greater understanding and respect across the generations that live in the village. If you've got an idea, hobby, or interest you would like to share with others or just to find out more, please contact Sue Jaques on 01454 868267 or email sue.jaques@southglos.gov.uk.

Sue Jaques, Community Engagement Officer

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 March for Spring issue (April)

10th May for Summer issue (June)

10th August for Autumn issue (September)

10th October for Christmas issue (November)

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



Pucklechurch Twinning Association

As usual Twinning has started their new year with a very successful Christmas meal at the Rose and Crown.

A calendar of social events has been prepared for this year, with the highlights still being the visit to Pucklechurch by our French friends in April and our trip to Pringy in October half term. We are now in our 23rd year. This is quite an achievement for our village. We would like to see some new members as we are relying on the younger generation to keep it going for another 23 years!

Our next social event open to everyone is a quiz on Saturday, 26th February, at P.V.S.S.C. (the Prison Club) starting at 7.30pm. Teams of six maximum, £1.50 per person. Come along and test your brains.

We are also holding a Bingo Night on Saturday, 19th March at the same club, 7.30 pm for 8.00. We hope to see you at one of these events.

If you want to join us, please contact Ann Smith on 937 2030 or Lesley Broom on 937 2025.



South Gloucestershire's 20 Safer Stronger Community Groups are all about working together to improve your local community. The groups also enable you to have your say about the services that your community needs and receives.

These groups have been set up as part of the South Gloucestershire Council's Community Engagement initiative and the Neighbourhood Policing Model. Their members include people who live and work in the area and representatives from South Gloucestershire Council, the local police, Avon Fire & Rescue, the Health Authority, town and parish councils, and other local organisations. The group's aims are to:

- Work together to ensure that local communities are safe and pleasant places to live, work and play
- Give local people a greater voice and influence over local decisions and the priorities of the service providers
- Support actions and initiatives that meet local needs

Next meeting for the Boyd Valley Group:

Thursday, 17th February 2011, 7pm

Wick Village Hall, Manor Road, Wick, BS30 5RA

Visit <http://groups.southglos.gov.uk> to find out more, such as future meeting dates, meeting agendas and minutes, and access to more information about the issues and projects in your area. Alternatively, you can contact your Safer Stronger Communities Officer on 01454 864625.

Pucklechurch



The Revel Committee are busy making preparations for this year's Revel, which starts with the Beer Festival on 10th June and finishes with Revel Day on the 18th. Our theme for the parade this year is "Forest Friends". This

came about after discovering that 2011 is the United Nations Year of Forests. This year we are hoping to have a falconry display in the arena, as well as our own majorettes. If there are no competitions that day, the Harriers Acrobatic Gymnastics Club will perform. We have also booked a surf rider (a mechanical surf simulator), which offers you the challenge of riding the waves just like a real surfer. There will be more news on other events in the next edition of *Pucklechurch News*.

For Revel to be successful, we need a lot of volunteers. We will be holding a meeting a few months before Revel for volunteers to attend. If you think you might be able to help and are not on the list, contact Elaine on 937 3105 or email elainerudge@aol.com. Also, if you or the firm you work for would like to sponsor an event, please contact me.

There will be another photo competition this year with an exhibition in October. As you go through the year, print off any photos you are really pleased with and put them in an envelope. That way it won't be a mad dash to find some photos in September.

Elaine Stone, Revel Chair

Localism Bill Would Hand Real Power to Parishes

In December the Coalition Government published its Localism Bill with the aim of shifting considerable power from central government to local governments. This would push the responsibility and funding for many decisions and services down from national level to county level and from county level to parish level. Opinion is, of course, divided on whether this is a good thing, but if this bill is passed, it will fundamentally change what our own parish council can do.

The Localism Bill would give Pucklechurch Parish Council the opportunity to draw up development plans for our parish and take the decisions required to enforce them through the planning process. Parish Council elections are in May, and our new Parish Council could have much greater responsibility for shaping our community's future development and day-to-day operations. If you ever thought of running for Parish Council so you could make a difference, now might be the time. The deadline for nominations is April 5th. Contact South Gloucestershire Council for more information.

To learn more about the Localism Bill, visit the Parliament website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/localismbill/

Jacki Berry

Reducing Our Energy Use - Switching Off Streetlights After Midnight

Following the successful trials at Charfield, South Gloucestershire, the Parish Council have asked South Gloucestershire Council to draw up plans to switch off some of the streetlights in the parish between midnight and 5.00am. This is supported by the findings of the Community Plan, which calls for turning off some of the parish's street lights during the early morning hours to reduce the amount of energy used for local street lighting.

The current plan calls for all streetlights to be turned off during the wee hours EXCEPT in the following places:

- Main Roads (Shortwood Road, Westerleigh Road, Abson Road)
- Areas around the sheltered housing in Dennisworth Close and Homefield Road
- Lighting for the underpass at Oaktree Avenue
- The alleyway from opposite the Community Centre on Abson Road into the estate

The benefits of switching off lighting include:

- Reducing the amount of energy used
- Reducing the cost to taxpayers
- Reducing light pollution
- Improving the environment for nocturnal animals

The next step is to consult with the community on the plans to make sure we get it right. A small-scale plan is published opposite and larger scale plans will be available online. Go to www.pucklechurch.org for more information. Large-scale plans and other documents will be available at the public consultation on:

**Wednesday, 23rd February
6.30pm to 8.00pm
Community Centre Meeting Room**

The Street Lighting Team recognise that fine tuning may be required following the change and requests for the reinstatement of individual streetlights to all-night operation will be considered by the Parish Council on their merits.



The Plan for Part Night Lighting

**Blue highlights on the map above
indicate areas where lights will remain
ON throughout the night.**

Part Night Lighting: Frequently Asked Questions



Letters to the Editor

Q. Won't darkness encourage crime?

A. This has not been the experience in almost all of the places around the world where this has been tried. In Charfield, a village in South Gloucestershire and of a similar in size to Pucklechurch, there has been no reported increase in crime.

Q. What about accidents?

A. For roads that pose a greater risk of accidents, such as main roads, junctions and roundabouts, lighting will remain on.

Q. Can I have the light outside my house left on?

A. If there is a good reason, for example, safety, this will be considered. But many of your neighbours may want the light off. The Community Plan showed that the community was almost equally split on whether lighting should be switched off or not.

Q. Why isn't the Castle Road lighting remaining on? Surely it is a through route.

A. The Community Plan showed that a significant number of Castle Road residents were concerned about traffic in their area. Castle Road is not considered a through route by the Highways Department at SGC. If it were to be lit, it would encourage people to use it as a through route.

Q. Why isn't Oaktree Avenue lighting remaining on as this is the main access road for the estate?

A. Oaktree Avenue does not meet the basic criteria for a main road as it does not have significant road traffic or a night-time injury accident record. The Community Plan also sought to ascertain the number of non-injury accidents (which are not reported) across the parish and two people reported three accidents on Oaktree Avenue in the five years prior to the survey.

Q. What about Shortwood? And Parkfield?

A. The lights on the main road in Shortwood will remain on because it is a through route. The lights on Parkfield Rank will be turned off because it is not a through route.

Q. What about the lighting at YOI Ashfield?

A. YOI Ashfield are in the process of replacing their current light fittings with low-energy shielded fittings.

We can address these and other questions in more detail at the consultation.

Cllr Martin Smith

Dear Editor,

As a parishioner I feel I must put pen to paper regarding the Oaktree Avenue Proposed Development. Do the public realise that:

- The land is valued at £700,000 to £800,000 per acre, making the site worth £1.5 million upwards
- The land for the medical centre is being offered to the GPs for £150,000 and is a "transaction to the sale to Sovereign Housing Association"
- The dwellings will consist of approximately one-third affordable, one-third shared ownership, and one-third open market
- Parking is totally inadequate

The Chief Executive of South Gloucestershire Council has stated that the value of the grant to Sovereign is not known, nor is how much Sovereign will pay for the site. This means SGC is selling something not knowing what it will get. If it's as stated by councillor "X" at a Parish Council meeting, it will be a peppercorn sum. We, as a parish, stand to lose the true market value for this land, but we can rest assured that our council taxes will go up.

Into this equation must also be taken the various categories of green and recreational land within Pucklechurch, which is way under official levels, but the planners will tell you otherwise.

SGC should be looking after residents' interests, but are they?

Chris Simpson

Dear Editor,

Does anybody in the area have any display boards I could borrow? I will be holding an exhibition of netball photos in May at the Community Centre and would like a few more display boards to use in it. I would only need to borrow them for one day on Saturday, 21st May. If you can help, please contact me at helensharpe@hotmail.co.uk

Helen Sharpe

Dear Editor,

A few people have contacted me about documenting a year in the life of Pucklechurch as Pat Scanlon did in 1981. If anyone else is interested, please contact me on 937 3105 or email elainerudge@aol.com. I think a good starting time would be Revel 2011.

Elaine Stone

Dear Editor,

I have had several requests for Ruby and Amber to accompany other dogs on walks. It is good for dogs to socialize. I will be happy to meet up with anyone interested in group dog walks on the first Sunday of each month at 11.30am on the Rec. We'll walk for about an hour. If you can suggest a walk we could do, that would be great.

Anna Sharpe

Buying Local Gets Easier

There are lots of reasons to "buy local" and, with the opening of a new farm shop, buying locally sourced food just got a whole lot easier. The Old Dairy Farm Shop and Coffee Barn opened its doors at the end of November in a barn at Feltham Farm on Feltham Road.



Proprietor Sarah Holloway, who lives in Pucklechurch, is mindful of food miles (the distance food travels from its source to your plate). "Food shouldn't have to travel so far," says Sarah. "It's so much better to buy things that are local and in season." Of course, there isn't a banana season in the West Country, but the market gardener who provides much of the shop's produce grows what he can locally as the seasons permit and sources what he can't grow from sustainably run farms elsewhere. "He's the expert in the food's provenance and he really cares," says Sarah's husband Jason.

In January, though, there was still a considerable amount of local produce: potatoes from Marshfield, cabbages, carrots, and broccoli from the market gardener near Bath. As our local weather warms up, expect to see a lot more fruit and veg from within 10 miles or so of Pucklechurch.

It's not only the green stuff that's local. The shop sells eggs, poultry and meat as well. The pork sausages come from right there on Feltham Farm, as do some of the pork, beef and the Christmas turkeys. The free-range eggs come from Frampton Cotterell, and the cheese from small producers in Somerset and Devon. And, oh, the cakes! Sarah bakes many of them herself right on the premises.

"We try to source what we sell from as close as possible to reduce the food miles," says Sarah, "but for us the quality is also important. I'd rather get something really good from a little farther away than compromise on quality." Not a bad philosophy.

Supporting our local shops does a lot more for our community than buying from a large corporation. Pucklechurch has lost many businesses over the years and the ones that remain need our support. Our bakery, café, local store, newsagent, post office, hairdresser, pubs, and the new farm shop depend on you. The people who work in these places are your neighbours. Let's use them and not lose them!

Parish Council Chairman's Notes

Parish Precept

At this time of year SGC (and other unitary and county councils) have to consider the amount of council tax they will levy for the new financial year which begins in April. Parish councils, too, have to decide on the level of the parish precept they need in the next year.

As you know, the Coalition Government decided that council tax rates will be frozen at their current level for two years. Parish Councils do not have this constraint, and so my colleagues and I will be deciding in the next few weeks how much (if any) the increase in the parish precept will be. We do not pluck an arbitrary figure out of the air, but look at the spending in the current year, expenditures that will need to be repeated, and any projects that will require additional funding in the future. We also budget to help various groups within the parish and give small amounts to certain charities that are especially relevant to our parishioners. When all this has been done, we will arrive at the precept for the coming financial year. Any increase in our precept will take account of past spending and you will see this in the information which SGC will send to you in March or April.

Graffiti

During the last year there has been a continuing problem with graffiti in Pucklechurch. Council are mindful that such daubings are an unsightly nuisance in the village and so take prompt action to remove it. If you see graffiti, please contact either our clerk or any councillor with details about its location. We can keep our village free from graffiti and litter only if everyone takes their part in helping to eradicate it.

Future Matters

In the next edition of Pucklechurch News I hope to update you on some outstanding issues, particularly the proposals for housing at the top of Oaktree Avenue, the proposed play park on parish-owned land near St Aldam's Drive and the part night switch-off. All these matters are now under consideration or are being actively developed by SGC.

Omar Beg, Chairman

Pucklechurch Community Association

PCA Report

I will tempt fate and report a nice quiet year ending 2010 at the Community Centre.

A generous donation of £300 by Two Tors helped towards the financing of an expensive fire door to the rear of the Centre. A rigorous Health and Safety Check by Olive Scantlebury was much appreciated, though it has given us a few projects to tackle.

The donation of the Christmas tree by Roger Payne and the efforts of a team of volunteers made for a very festive atmosphere in the main hall.

The Community Centre's main hall will be closed from April 12th through 24th for major work on its floors. We apologise for this inconvenience while this much-needed work is undertaken.

A sad note is that Jill Hayden, minutes secretary to the PCA for so many years, has decided to give up that role, but she will continue on the Executive Committee. Goodness knows how many words she has penned and typed. On behalf of all the Committee members she has helped, we give her many, many thanks.

Alan Holder, Chairman

YOI Ashfield Annual Report

The latest report from the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) on HMP/YOI Ashfield noted a number of significant changes during the reporting year 2009-2010. A new director, Brian Anderson, was appointed in September 2009. The average population at Ashfield dropped sharply from 349 in 2008-2009 to 258 last year, in part reflecting the decrease in the national juvenile prison population. Refurbishment and redecoration of housing blocks, reception areas, and the library have improved the environment for young people, visitors, and staff.

Several housing blocks have been converted to specialised units, the most noteworthy being the Phoenix Unit for life and indeterminate sentenced prisoners. This unit is a national resource that can accommodate up to 24 young people. Other specialised units deal with new arrivals, those with substance misuse problems, and young people under 16 or otherwise vulnerable, allowing staff to provide for specific needs more effectively.

The report indicates that the IMB is very concerned about what happens to vulnerable 18-year-old young people when they leave the supportive environment of Ashfield and questions who has responsibility for them when they are moved to another prison or are discharged having served their sentence. Ashfield strives to give its young people the skills they will need to live independently after release, with training and information available in the areas of home skills, budgeting, banking, and CV writing. In addition to standard education classes, occupational training and work placements feature prominently in the curriculum.

The population at Ashfield is diverse, with about 35% identifying themselves as non-white and 10% registering a religion other than Christianity. Diversity programmes are run for both staff and young people. During the reporting year, 79 foreign nationals from 34 different countries were accommodated at Ashfield. A number of foreign nationals have been detained at Ashfield on Deport status after they are eligible for release, a situation the IMB found unacceptable.

As the juvenile prison population has declined and a number of juvenile facilities have been converted to adult prisons, the number of young people placed on remand at Ashfield whose court appearances are far away (typically in London) has risen. The long journeys to and from court each day are difficult for the young people and staff, as well as being costly to the public purse. The IMB would like to see greater use of video conferencing and consideration of alternative accommodation being made available closer to the court while young people are on trial.

The overall report on YOI Ashfield was good. The IMB's view is that the director and staff are working hard to provide a supportive environment for the young people in their care, helping them develop the education and life skills they need to integrate back into society.

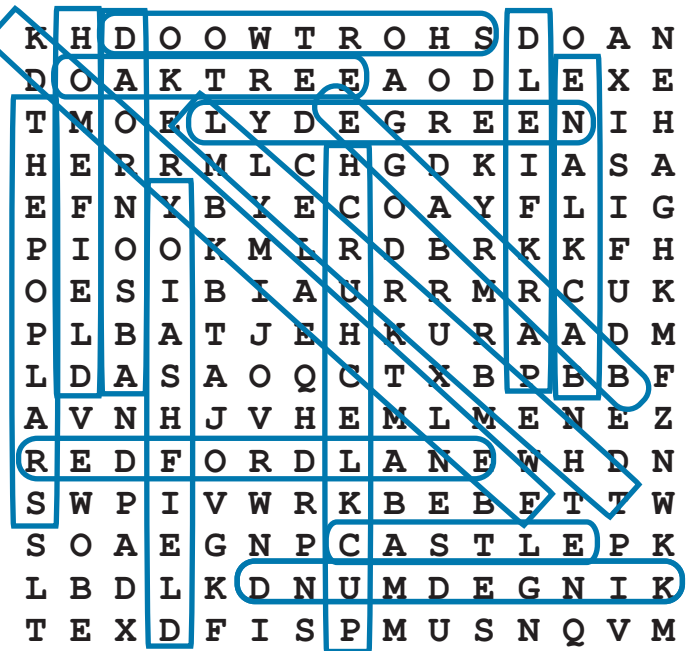
Jacki Berry



The Pucklechurch NSPCC committee has been fundraising for the children's charity for more than 20 years. We used to carry out door-to-door collections but more recently have concentrated on rattling tins outside supermarkets. Our regular auctions of goods and promises are our biggest money-spinner, but we also hold coffee mornings and other events. We are always looking for new ideas and for more people to help us. If you would like to get involved, please ring Juliet Hills on 937 2279.

Linda Tanner

Pucklechurch Parish Word Search



Find these local names in the puzzle above:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Abson Road | Parkfield |
| Back Lane | Pucklechurch |
| Barrage | Redford Lane |
| Castle | Shortwood |
| Feltham Brook | The Burrell |
| Homefield | The Poplars |
| Lyde Green | YOI Ashfield |
| Oaktree | |

And can you find someone hiding in the puzzle?

'Tis King Edmund

(Answers will be given in the online version)

Pucklechurch Revel Cider Festival

Saturday, 5th February, 7pm
Pucklechurch Village Hall

Listen to the
RIFFTOADS

Rock and Pop from
the '50s to the present

A Good Selection of Cider
Tickets £5



Girlguiding UK

Undaunted by the many and varied extra activities undertaken throughout our centenary year, our units continued with busy programmes right to the end of 2010.



Some of our Rainbows went to Wapley Bushes as part of their Get Healthy badge, and they love cooking (mini pizzas being a favourite). They ended the year with a Christmas party – what else!



Our Brownies raised £80 for Children in Need and also enjoy food. They held a chocolate evening...mmmm! They all went to our excellent village pantomime and ended the year by completing the Girlguiding Monopoly Challenge.



The Guides have been away again, this time to a special Guide weekend in Warwick Castle, where they camped in the grounds with hundreds of other Guides. They had fun and games and were entertained with ghost stories. The girls are busy fundraising for leukaemia. They made Christmas crackers and jewellery and went to the pantomime at Bristol Hippodrome.

Senior Section girls dressed up and made an evening meal at Dyrham House on 20th October to celebrate the ending of our centenary and, through a live television link, renewed their promise at 20:10pm with the rest of Guiding in Britain.

On a very cold, snowy December evening, we leaders soon warmed up at Lyn Ford's as she offered hot mulled wine on arrival and, after a brief meeting, we indulged in an American supper and plenty of chat. It was easy to relax in the glow of Christmas tree lights and decorations and reflect on our centenary year and all that's good about Guiding.

We are presently looking for a new District Commissioner to take over from Elaine in March. This is a voluntary post, and duties include visiting all the units as and when convenient (this is the nice part, no planning, just go along and join in the fun), liaising with all the leaders, and keeping records up-to-date. You would also attend Division meetings and cascade the information received by arranging District meetings. There are a District Secretary (me) and a District Treasurer to help you. So, come on, join us and help run this fantastic organisation as it begins its 101st year.

Ros Abbott, District Secretary
Tel: 937 2157 rosabbott@hotmail.com



Scouts

If your child (and we are open to boys and girls) is between the ages of 6 to 8 and would like to join Beavers, please call Sarah on 957 1266.

If your son or daughter is between 8 and 10½ and is interested in joining Cubs, call Steve on 0787 213 7609.

To join Scouts, call Tony on 957 4119.

We have a new contact for hiring our hut. Sharon Venning is on 303 9139. The hut is generally available in the week during the day and weekends. What a great venue for that children's party or small gathering. We offer cheap rates with all revenue going to support Scouting in this community.

Dale Dennehy

Pucklechurch Cricket Club A New Season Beckons



With appetites whetted by England's recent success in the Ashes series Down Under, now is the time to start thinking about getting ready for the summer season and practice net sessions. Start dates are being arranged for February/March for all age groups and it is anticipated that training sessions will be organised as follows:

- U11s (from age 8 years upwards) at Pucklechurch Community Centre
- Youth Teams (from 11 to 17 yrs) at Yate International Academy (formerly King Edmund School) on Saturday mornings
- Senior Nets at Yate International Academy (formerly King Edmund School) on Thursday evenings

Pucklechurch Cricket Club prides itself on its friendly and welcoming attitude towards all players, spectators and parents, and we have a lively social calendar of events to satisfy all ages. We are particularly looking for more players for our U13s squad this year, so if you know anyone who might be interested, please encourage them to come along. Information regarding specific times and dates will be listed on our website at www.pucklechurchcc.co.uk or for further details contact Dean or Vicky on 937 3227.

The Good Life

□ The Parish Council have been looking at the allotments in the parish and would like to understand the demand to decide on whether to expand the current provision. The best way to register interest is to get your name on the waiting list. To do this, simply email parish.council@pucklechurch.org, call the clerk Diane Bailey on 937 2398, or write to the Parish Council, The Vale, Cattybrook Road, Shortwood, Mangotsfield, Bristol, BS16 9NJ

□ Allotments can vary in size, but the standard is "ten square poles". No, this isn't a Two Ronnies joke. A pole is an ancient measurement (also called a perch) originating with the Romans. Today that tends to equate to an area of around 300 sq metres (usually 10m x 30m). Plenty of room to keep a family and some friends in fresh vegetables!

The upside:

- Your own fresh fruit and vegetables
- Lots of exercise
- Only £5 a year (subject to review)
- Lots of people who will give you advice

The downside:

- No on-site water supply
- You'll have to build your own fence to keep out the deer

If you are interested, please put your name on the waiting list.