

Parish Council

Chairman's Report - October

I am pleased to announce that the Council is now up to full strength. At our meeting on the 3rd October, Councillors agreed to co-opt Jayne Hawkins, who lives in Pucklechurch and who will now be able to take on the role as a Councillor representing the Parish.

Parish Boundary Review

In my last report I mentioned South Gloucestershire Council's review of parish boundaries and the proposal to create a new parish for Emersons Green. South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) has circulated a questionnaire regarding the "Emerson Green Area" as part of the public consultation process. As you will have no doubt read, Councillors were not satisfied the leaflet gave residents enough information and so made representations to SGC. We've followed this up with a request to meet with SGC officers to ensure that all residents are given the opportunity to make comments based on all the relevant information. **If you did not receive a leaflet it is important that you tell SGC and if you did, whether or not the information provided was clear.** You can do this by following the link on our web site at www.pucklechurch.org

Oaktree Avenue Village Green

South Gloucestershire Council has now agreed to accept the independent Inspector's recommendation that two-thirds of the requested area should be granted Village Green status. This will of course directly impact on the size of any future development there.

Outdoor & Sports facilities

We have begun the process to identify what is needed in terms of the provision of more outdoor and sporting facilities for the parish. We are hopeful that a committee will be formed (consisting of interested community group representatives and Councillors) to take the project forward. In the first instance the committee will identify specific needs, research the availability of land and sources of funding, as well as consulting with residents on any proposals that might be made.

Youth Provision

SGC has decided to focus its reduced budget for youth provision in six priority neighbourhoods. One of the likely outcomes is a reduction of funded provision in Pucklechurch and elsewhere. We are working with the Youth Club in Pucklechurch to ensure that we understand the local impacts and how we might help.

Wessex Connect

Evidence of the poor service Wessex Connect is providing has been supplied to SGC as a direct result of reports received from passengers via our successful SMS TEXT number. I hope to report the result of that meeting in my next report but in the meantime keep texting! For those of you who prefer to talk in person, the Parish Council continues its walk-in 'surgery' on the first Saturday of the month at the Community Centre. Please drop by with any issues you have or just to say hello.

Finally, good news! Plans for the new Doctors' Surgery are progressing. Although we have no timescale for work to begin as yet, as soon as we do so it'll be reported here and on the website.

Bob Symons
Chairman

Good Neighbour Scheme

The last few months have been extremely busy for the Pucklechurch and Shortwood Good Neighbours. It's been great to have received so many calls. We have helped members of the community by tuning digi boxes, putting out bins and by helping in the garden. The poor weather this summer has meant that some gardens have become very overgrown.

For many people there wasn't the opportunity to get out and do any gardening and then there was too much to do. This provided some great opportunities for a group of good neighbours volunteers to get together and do some gardening. We helped by cutting grass, weeding and pruning.

We have been able to help people who have been unable to do this themselves and taken away the worry until the Spring when hopefully we won't suffer from so much rain!

We have also welcomed two new volunteers and are continuing to renew our existing volunteers' CRB checks. If you would like to become a volunteer or know someone within the village who would benefit from help from the good neighbours, then please call us on 07961939574. Alternatively email us goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org.

We can help with small practical tasks around the home, light gardening and we can also provide volunteers to sit and spend time with someone having a chat and a cup of tea. We have approximately twenty volunteers waiting for your call.

VOTO (Villagers On Their Own)

This group is for single people over the age of 50. If you would like to join us or would like more information contact Elaine on 01179373105 or email elainerudge@aol.com

The group continues to enjoy a range of social activities and in January we will be meeting to plan a programme of events for next year.

Eight of the group have recently returned from a week in Bulgaria. Whilst there we visited a number of tourist sights including the thermal baths, a monastery set in caves and Nessebar, one of the oldest towns in the world. We also enjoyed walking on beautiful beaches and eating and drinking in some very nice bars and restaurants. We laughed a lot and enjoyed mixing with some lovely Bulgarians who were keen to show us what their country had to offer.



PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



Christmas 2012

www.pucklechurch.org

Funded by the Parish Council

Revel Sparkle

This year's Christmas Sparkle will be held at the Millennium stone at 4pm on Sunday 2nd December. There will be mulled wine, hand bells, carols and the lighting of the Christmas Tree. Father Christmas will also be paying a visit!

The Winter Cider Festival will be held on 2nd February. Look out for posters nearer the time with more details.

Pucklechurch Players

30 Years Anniversary Production

'Cinderella'

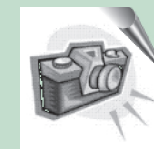
a Pantomime by Paul Reakes

at the Community Centre

29th & 30th November
and 1st December
(including a matinee)

For tickets/info phone Elaine
on 0117 9373105

Bob Stone Memorial Photography Competition Winners



Open Class

1st Clare Darlison 'K2 base camp'
2nd Richard Stephens 'Corfe Castle'
3rd Gayle Boyle 'Crossing that bridge again'
Highly commended : Anita Potter 'A seed in time'
Highly commended : Clare Darlison - 'Little girl in Pakistan'
Commended : Gill Kavanagh 'Busy Bee'
Commended : Jackie Yates 'Spring'
Commended : Chris Hall 'Look but don't eat'

Village life

1st Anita Potter 'Team work'
2nd Lyn Ford 'To the Coronation'
3rd Ann Smith 'What Coronation?'
Commended : Lyn Ford 'Coronation celebrations'

Children 7 and under

1st Rosie Farmer
2nd Madeline Brown
3rd Guy Sidney
Commended : Rosie Farmer - 'A flower'

Children 8 - 11

1st Hannah Gardner - 'Coloured tubs in the Churchyard'
2nd Bethany Limbrick 'Nature walk'
3rd Zoe Rogers 'What goes up must come down'
Highly Commended : Billy Brown
Highly Commended : Bethany Limbrick 'Peekaboo'

Children 12 - 17

1st Eleanor Gardner 'Sunrise at sea'
2nd Calypso Potter 'Feeding time'

Best of the rest winners - chosen at the exhibition by people who attended

Pucklechurch Village Life Category : Debbie Woods
'Sunrise dog walk'
Open Category : Nicki Jones

Art Competition Winners -

Key Stage 1

1st Chantal Mas
2nd Annabella Chant
3rd Any Ing
Highly commended : Zara

Key Stage 2

1st Luca Coogan
2nd Laura Westcott
3rd Jorja Powell
Highly commended : Archie Westward



St. Thomas-à-Becket

SPECIAL SERVICES

Sunday 2nd December

Advent Carol Service at 6.30p.m.

Advent Hymns & Carols

Tuesday 11th December

7.30p.m. Christmas Concert

With St. George Singers

Refreshments, Raffle and Wine available.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 23rd December

6.00p.m. Handbells

6.30p.m. Carols by Candlelight

Monday 24th December Christmas Eve

3.30p.m. Handbells

4p.m. Christingle & Nativity

Christmas Day

10a.m. Family Communion

ABSON:

Sunday 23rd December

2.30p.m. Handbells

3p.m. Carols

Christmas Day

8.30a.m. Holy Communion

SKITTLES

Is there a group of friends or neighbours who would like a Sociable night out once a week?



We are looking for at least one team to complete the Skittle league in the social club in the Village Hall.

You do not have to be an expert. It is very easy. Teams consist of 8 players, most are mixed teams but we also have one team of ladies. So mums, if you want to let your partners babysit come along, or have some rivalry with your partner (that's how some of our teams started). It only costs 50p per person per night. We can arrange a taster session.

At present, games are played on different nights during the week but it may be possible for games to be played on the same night each week.

If you are not already members of the Social club you would have to join, but annual membership is only £5.00.

If you are interested please contact Valerie Broom on 9372025 or the Social club on 9372102.

ST THOMAS-A-BECKET YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CHURCH

Did you know that St Thomas a Becket has a Youth Group? This is open to anyone between the ages of 11 (year 6) and 18 (year 12). We hold regular social events through the year at the Vicarage or go on trips to local places of interest like the climbing centre in Bristol. All our trips take place with CRB checked adults to comply with our church child protection policy (so you can tell your parents its safe!). Between now and Christmas there are some great events planned. So relax, explore, meet new people or old friends and do something different!

- There is a Christmas party/event - more details soon.
- Go to the Pucklechurch.org website to find our consent forms and event details on the St Thomas a Becket Church page.

St Thomas a Becket also has a Youth Church. This is for anyone in year 6 and above who wants to find out more about the Bible and being a Christian. You don't have to be a Christian to go and there is no pressure to make you become a Christian. Youth Church takes place on two Sundays a month at 10.00am in church. It's run by various members of the church congregation, all of whom have been CRB checked. We leave the main church service and chat, talk about our week, say some prayers, read the Bible and think and talk about what it might mean and how it could apply to our lives today. Sometimes we help out in Church services or lead part of the service. The dates of Youth Church up to Christmas are:

- November 18th and 25th
- December 9th and 16th

You can come to Youth Group or Youth Church or do both. We welcome everyone. You don't have to be a Christian to join in. If you are just curious, you can come along and try us out. Find out if you think there might be a God. Just come to a safe place to hang out. Find something else to do and meet up with friends old and new. You never know, you might be surprised!



Pucklechurch Twinning Association

By the time you read this Twinning members will have made their annual visit to Pringy.

At present they are planning the usual visit to Paris and also the town and chateau of Auvers sur Oise which has connections with Van Gogh and the impressionist painting movement. We will only discover the other places we are visiting when we are acquainted with our hosts.

Next year we are celebrating our 25th anniversary which is quite an achievement, as not many Twinning associations make and receive annual visits let alone for 25 years.

We are hoping to be able to invite any past members for aperitifs when our French guests visit next year, so if you were a member and have moved or lost touch and would like to join us please ring Valerie Broom on 0117 9372025 or e-mail v.broom16@btinternet.com.