

# PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



**Christmas 2013**

**Funded by the Parish Council**

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

## Revel 2014

For some, the winter months may be too early to start thinking about Revel 2014! But for others Revel is a 365 day a year job.

Revel this year has recently gone through some changes; firstly we have a new committee:

Chair	Dave Matthews
Vice Chair	Mandy Smith
Treasurer	Brian Champion
Secretary	Lori-Anne Button

Carly Neill, Mike Wiltshire, Dean Freestone, Claire Bristow, Chris Murphy, Omie Flook and Steve Thomas.

Secondly, we have changed the meeting timetable. Revel meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month in one of the pubs or clubs at 7:30. Our meeting calendar and a copy of our minutes are published on [www.pucklechurch.org](http://www.pucklechurch.org). If you would like to pop along to one of our meetings contact the secretary on 07789707278.

Thirdly, Revel wants to make some changes to Revel 2014 and will be holding a group/parish meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014. This meeting is open to anyone who puts on a float or stall or would like to get involved. The theme for Revel 2014 will be Carnival and the event called 'Rio Revel'

*Dates for your calendar:*

30<sup>th</sup> November - Beer/Cider Festival. Tickets £3 in advance, Village Hall

1<sup>st</sup> December - Christmas Sparkle, St Aldams Drive, free entry

22<sup>nd</sup> January - Group/Parish Meeting, Village Hall/PSSC

## Bob Stone Memorial Photography Competition Winners



### Open Class

1<sup>st</sup> Michael Abbott  
2<sup>nd</sup> Katherine Robbins  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mike Wallace  
Highly commended : Michael Trippick  
Highly commended : James Gardner  
Commended : Lyn Wallace

### Village life

1<sup>st</sup> Mike Wallace  
2<sup>nd</sup> Greg Bate  
3<sup>rd</sup> Rosalind Abbott  
Highly commended : Gill Kavanagh

### Children 11 and under

1<sup>st</sup> Lucas Hawkins  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hannah Gardner  
3<sup>rd</sup> Megan Aze  
Highly commended : Guy Sidney

### Children 12-17

1<sup>st</sup> Katie Robbins  
2<sup>nd</sup> Eleanor Gardner

*Thank you to everyone to entered the competition. Unfortunately, the exhibition had to be cancelled this year but it is hoped that the photographs will be displayed at another event during the year.*

## The Probing Pucklechurch Players Proudly Present



### Trivial Pursuits

By Frank Vickery

At Pucklechurch Village Hall on Friday  
22nd and Saturday 23rd November

Doors open 7:00pm  
Curtains up by 7:30pm  
Tickets £6.50

Contact Elaine on 9373105 for tickets

## SPECIAL SERVICES

Sunday 1st December - Advent Sunday  
6.30pm Advent Hymns & Carols

Tuesday 3rd December:

7.30pm Christmas Concert by St George Singers  
Refreshments, wine & raffle available

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
6.30p.m. Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve  
3.30p.m. Handbells  
4p.m. Christingle & Nativity Service  
11.30pm Midnight Communion

## Christmas Day

10a.m. Festival Family Communion

## Mobile Library

The Mobile Library dates and stops at Pucklechurch are as follows:

22<sup>nd</sup> November, 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> December

Village Hall 2.30 2.45

Homefield Road bungalows 2.55 3.15

Homefield Road 3.20 3.35



## Pucklechurch Twinning Association

This year Twinning is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

By the time you read this we shall have returned from our annual visit to Pringy at the end of October.

Having entertained our friends from Pringy in April with a Mediaeval Banquet we have no idea what entertainment will await us on Sunday or Monday evening.

As usual we are planning to visit Paris and also this year France Miniature, which has models of many famous French monuments and towns.

If you are interested in finding out more about Twinning please contact Ann Smith (9372030) or Lesley Broom (9372025)

## 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 January for Winter issue (February)**

**10th March for Spring issue (April)**

**10th May for Summer issue (June)**

**10th August for Autumn issue (September)**

**10th October for Christmas issue (November)**

## Good Neighbour Scheme

Volunteers from the Good Neighbours have been busy over the last few months with gardening, spending time with people and small household tasks. We are helping out with one-off requests for help and we also have ongoing commitments to members of our community that mean we help on a weekly basis. Please remember that we can help on a regular basis and can help people in our community weekly if needed.. If you know of someone in the community who needs us, whether it's a neighbour, friend or relative, please call us. We can help with so much.. If it's something we can't do, we are able to signpost in the right direction. We have really good links with local authority services including adult social care and the Police

With the winter months upon us we can help with making sure people are warm, making sure they have all they require, spending time with them to keep them company and making sure they are alright. We welcome all calls and we also welcome anyone who would like to become a volunteer. Please contact Larisa, Rodney or Ross, Good Neighbour Scheme Coordinators at goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org or 07961939574.

## Abson Christmas Market

Abson Christmas Market will be held in the Church on Saturday November 23rd 10.30-12.30pm.

All the usual stalls plus some Christmasy ones - anyone wanting to run their own stall please call Julie Young on 9372156 who would love to hear from you.

No Market in December or January

## 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 0117 9373105 or email elainerudge@aol.com

Pictured below: September visit to Krakow.



## FISHING CLUB NEWS

Our August match took place at Windmill Lake, Henfield. This can be a difficult place to fish, and a tactic that will catch you loads of fish one week, will leave you fishless the next week. However, I always enjoy the challenge Windmill presents. This time the lake fished well, with Jeff Agius winning with 44lbs of Carp.

In September we fished Rood Ashton Lake near Trowbridge, an attractive looking lake, with plenty of overhanging trees and an island to hold fish. It usually provides a closely fought contest and this was no exception. Bill Ferris won with 64lbs, Dickie Savage second with 63lbs and Martin Sheppard third with 61lbs.

Also in September we fished what we call an 'away day' match where we fish a new venue for the club. This time it was Todbar Manor near Shaftsbury, a canalised lake, typical of modern day fisheries. It was dominated by Carp. Bob Inker won with 80lbs.

In October we fished Walters Lake South Cerney. Again, this was a canalised venue and I expected Carp to dominate, and so it was to prove with Wayne Garland winning with 37lbs of Carp. I was genuinely pleased Wayne won, for he's been going fishing with the club more than 30 years and I can only remember him winning once before. He is one of the characters that make the club what it is. My meagre 8lbs of tiddlers was nowhere but at least I caught more fish than most!

## MP Steve Webb Praises Pucklechurch Charity's Work

Thornbury and Yate MP Steve Webb paid a visit to Brandon Trust's base in Pucklechurch (Wednesday, 25 September) to learn more about how the charity supports people with learning disabilities and autism across South Gloucestershire.

Mr Webb was invited on to the production line at their Enterprise Workshop where 13 people with learning disabilities are employed to help assemble vital NHS organ donation kits for UK hospitals.

The Minister of State for Pensions also saw the work of Fired Up Ceramics Studio, which offers a unique work training unit for people supported by the charity and met the South Gloucestershire Community Team, who provide person-centred support to help people live independently and access the local community.

Mr Webb said: "My overall impression was of a dedicated and caring staff team, enabling people with learning disabilities to make the most of their talents and, where appropriate, to prepare them for the world of work. I wish the team at Pucklechurch all the best for the future."

To mark his visit, the team at Pucklechurch presented the MP with a personalised hand-made mug from the Fired-up Studio.

Locality manager Jo Cullum said: "Our team wants to encourage and establish more links with local businesses and the community and it was great the local MP came to see first-hand the good work we are doing here.

"We have availability for placements within our South Gloucestershire projects and another part of the visit was to highlight the importance and benefits of providing employment and training opportunities for people with learning disabilities."

For more information on Brandon Trust in South Gloucestershire contact 0117 9374367.

**Background information:** Brandon Trust is a Patchway-based UK charity working throughout the South West of England and in London, supporting approximately 1,200 people with learning disabilities and autism to live the lives they choose. We provide personalised services designed around individual needs, from living solutions to vocational courses, from community and leisure access to employment training and support. We also have a wealth of experience in working with people with complex needs whose behaviour sometimes challenges the environment in which they live, or with profound and multiple learning disabilities. Brandon Trust works with a variety of partners to create innovative and person-centered support solutions for people with learning disabilities and autism, involving family, carers, purchasers and other providers in the design of the support provision.



*MP Steve Webb on the production line with the Enterprise team*

**For more information about Brandon Trust services, please call Press and Media Co-ordinator Tim Gray on 0117 952 8210 or visit [www.brandontrust.org](http://www.brandontrust.org)**





A return to Guiding this Autumn has seen all Sections busy with various activities, including ones to encompass the revised wording of parts of our Promise. Serious thought and much consultation resulted in changes which aim to reflect today's multi-cultural, multi-faith society, and allow more females to join.

*I promise to do my best:-*

*To be true to myself and develop my beliefs*

*To serve the Queen and my community*

*To help other people and to keep the Guide Law*

Through discussion it is obvious that young people understand how you feel inside if you are not 'true to yourself' and that developing beliefs includes spiritual ones. Serving 'my community' is easier to understand than 'my country'.

1st Pucklechurch Rainbows made some very imaginative 'fruit faces' and took part in the Gromit badge. Harvest snails with glittery tails were fun to make but they need a few more five and six year old girls to join in the fun. Speak to Ruth Storey at school, or contact Theresa Lear on: [theresamas@hotmail.com](mailto:theresamas@hotmail.com)

3rd Pucklechurch had a very intriguing walk, with no known destination. Why not try this yourself? Each time you come to a junction, toss a coin to determine whether you turn right or left. The Rainbows loved this, and had to look for specific items along the way.

The Brownies are still working on their Gromit badge, they've made clay Gromits and named them, and the final event will be a cake sale on 3rd December in the Scout Hut starting at 5pm in aid of the Bristol Children's Hospital. Please put this date in your diary and come along to support them, as they've worked very hard. About three Brownies managed to visit all of the Gromits and every Brownie saw some of them.

Five older Guides are working towards their Baden-Powell Challenge Badge which requires them to research, plan and prepare for their chosen activities. They filled four shoeboxes for the Samaritans Purse Christmas appeal, with the help of all members. They made 50 pairs of earrings, plus gift boxes to self fund an expedition as required by the Challenge and hopefully by the time you read this most will have been sold.

The younger Guides are working on the Rustle, Bustle and Squeak badge, a national Guiding joint venture with the RSPB, aimed at nature awareness. Imaginative vegetable monsters and 'coloured sand' bottles have formed part of this badge.

Why not join in? We need a few more girls aged 10+. Contact or Ellie at [ellebee33@hotmail.com](mailto:ellebee33@hotmail.com) or Lorianne at [lorianne.scantlebury@googlemail.com](mailto:lorianne.scantlebury@googlemail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

And what about our oldest girls? Dyrham Seniors held a sponsored walk in Dyrham Park for Cancer Research and are taking part in the Gromit badge. If you are aged 13 ½ years and would like to join in the fun and adventure that this Section offers, then contact Judith on [judith.louse@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:judith.louse@hotmail.co.uk). They'd be very happy to welcome you into their group.

Guiding cannot run without adult volunteers so, on behalf of all the girls, a big thank you to them for their continuing, tireless effort they put in week after week, to make Guiding so much fun.

**Rosalind Abbott**  
**Assistant Division Commissioner**  
**South Cotswold**

## Pucklechurch Gardeners' Club

Our October meeting saw Mr Clarke, talking about Bougainvillea. It was well attended and everyone enjoyed looking at the many beautiful plants that he brought along. Many people took the opportunity to buy one at a discount price. The 'Frank Bradley' trophy competition of 1 Dahlia was judged by the speaker and won by Angela James, with Von Holder coming second and Joy Wolfe third.

Future meetings:

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November;  
Rodney Stone 'Tools for self-reliance'  
Frank Bradley Trophy' competition. Photograph of a Gardeners' Club event

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December;  
'Christmas Quiz and Supper'  
Competition 4 Homemade Mince Pies

Visitors are always welcome 50p per person  
(maximum 2 visits)

For further information about the club and its activities please contact George Alway 9373141 or Ann Smith - 9372030



## Pucklechurch Community Association

### Committee Report

The PCA committee are pleased to report that the Pucklechurch Community Centre Open Day at the end of September was a successful occasion, with fantastic support from the many groups who use the building.

We were all absolutely thrilled that our local MP Steve Webb took time from his busy schedule to pay us a visit and talk to so many people.

Many groups manned a stall including Bowls, Gardening, Twinning, Dance, Star Jumpers, Folk club, Cricket, Drama, Cadbury Heath Children's Centre, and the Band.

Majorettes demonstrated some of their baton twirling moves. The Badminton stall was imaginative and very clever. Playgroup organized sticking activities in the meeting room. Members of Street Dance put on a short performance. The new Boxing Club demonstrated some of their training techniques. And a quietness and calmness descended over the place when Yoga showed some of their exercises

The PCA also managed to develop links with the wider village community, including the Church, School, Parish Council, Tower Play group, and Doctors. The PCA wishes to continue to develop relationships with all organisations in the community, in the best interests of the community.

Of course, we would have liked to have seen more people dropping in on the open day to see what was happening.. However, the feedback that we have had to date has been very positive.

If you would like to find out more please visit our new website ([www.pucklechurchcommunitycentre.co.uk](http://www.pucklechurchcommunitycentre.co.uk)) or see the notices in the Community Centre entrance hall where you can pick up a leaflet that has information about the groups that regularly use the Community Centre.

We would also appreciate your feedback to help us decide how to move forward. Please complete the questionnaire that came with the Pucklechurch News or go to our new website and post a comment. We hope to hear from many of you soon.

## Supporting our local foodbank

People in Pucklechurch are being urged to help those who are struggling to afford food.

Demand has increased so much at the foodbank in Yate that another has now opened in Mangotsfield.

Both foodbanks are part of a network of more than 370 across the country run by the Trussell Trust to provide emergency supplies to people in short-term crisis.

St Thomas a Becket is organising collections from the village to support the foodbanks. Donations can be left in the church or in the collection box at Pucklechurch Primary School.

Among the items needed are tinned fish, tinned meat, instant mash in sachets, boxes or drums, Angel Delight, long-life sponge puddings and washing up liquid. To see the full shopping list, visit <http://yatechippingsodbury.foodbank.org.uk/shoppinglist>

It is important that all donations are undamaged and have a long use-by date. The supplies will go to a warehouse in Yate where the food parcels are coordinated.

The Mangotsfield foodbank is based at Resound in Blackhorse Road and the Yate one is at The Candle in Station Road. Both are open on Friday mornings.

If you need help from a foodbank, you need a voucher. These are issued by 'voucher partners' such as Citizens Advice, Age UK and South Gloucestershire One Stop Shops, as well doctors, schools and health visitors. As yet, there is not a voucher partner based in Pucklechurch.

The vouchers can be exchanged for a food parcel providing enough non-perishable food for 10 nutritionally balanced meals. It will also contain toiletries and household items. Usually there is a limit of three vouchers in six months. Volunteers at the foodbank will try to direct people in need to the appropriate services to find a longer-term solution to their difficulties.



Open Monday - Friday Full and Half Days

Children accepted from 2yrs old

Please call Katherine on 07722029077 for further details, or pop in for a visit.

We look forward to meeting you.

# Parish Council

## Chairman's Report - October

As we near the end of the year I thought it would be appropriate for me to reflect on the Parish Council's activities and share a summary of our successes over the last twelve months.

### **Young Offenders Institution (YOI) Ashfield**

We arranged two public meetings in response to the announcement that the YOI would become an adult prison. Most importantly these meetings, which were attended by Steve Webb MP, District Councillors, Prison management and Ministry of Justice representatives, enabled concerns to be aired by residents and answers to be given where possible. Although we were unable to affect the overall outcome of the proposed change, a liaison committee made up of residents, Parish and District Councillors, representatives of the National Offender Management Service and Prison management was created. The committee's first meeting in July was focussed on a tour of the facility and security processes. The next meeting will be held this month.

### **Youth Club**

As I reported throughout the year, the youth club was at risk of closing due to the withdrawal of funding by South Gloucestershire Council. The Parish Council agreed to fund the club until other funding could be found and subsequently played a key role in securing a grant from the Kings Forest Area Forum. Members of the youth club made a presentation to the Forum. They were guided by Parish Councillors, and supported by the District Councillors. We have now successfully formed an independent management committee to ensure its longevity.

### **Community Car Scheme**

The Council was successful in securing grant funding from Kings Forest Area Forum to facilitate the start-up of a community car scheme. As I write a group of interested people has yet to be formed, but we are hopeful that by the time you read this, the process will have started! We are also in discussion with the school to explore the possibility of working together to provide a mutually beneficial and workable solution.

### **Parish Grant Scheme**

This year we have been able to introduce a process by which we can offer our own source of grant funding to parishioners. Application packs have already been circulated and the first round of funding will have been agreed by the time you read this. Don't forget that there is another round in the New Year.

### **Wessex Bus Service - public meeting**

Earlier this month we facilitated and chaired a public meeting in response to the high number of complaints about the quality and level of service provided, many of which were received through the Council's text message service. It was attended by representatives of Wessex Bus Company, South Gloucestershire Council, Steve Webb MP, and District Councillors as well as over sixty parishioners. There were several positive outcomes including a commitment from senior representatives of the bus company to provide an improved and more reliable service as well as apologies for the problems caused by the poor service they had provided. Officers from SGC explained that bus service provision was due to go out to tender again very soon and assured attendees that they would be looking for obvious improvement between now and then.

### **Allotment Regeneration**

We secured a grant of £4,000 pounds to be able to increase the number of allotments we provide. Although it is not a huge amount it will ensure we are able to make better use of the land we currently manage. Work will start in November and after completion we will be considering what, if any, further improvements are required and seek additional funding if necessary.

### **Play Areas**

Those of you with children will hopefully have noticed improvements to the equipment provided in our play areas. Gavin, our Parish Orderly, has been systematically renovating items wherever possible and we have been replacing those pieces which are beyond safe repair. We have scheduled works over the next year to ensure all equipment and surrounding safety areas are in the best possible condition.

### **The Doctors' surgery**

At the time of writing it appears that the surgery will most likely be relocated to the former Elizabeth Shaw building. The Council was able to support the Doctors in seeking a solution to the delays they faced in providing a new facility and in their discussions with South Gloucestershire Council. It would appear that a solution has now been found.

### **Lansdown Road garages**

Earlier in the year we assisted the residents of Lansdown road with their concerns with Merlin Housing. We facilitated a meeting to bring the two sides together in an attempt to enable agreement to be reached on the way forward, although the final outcome of this was not met with universal approval.

### **South Gloucestershire Council Streetcare**

Due to cutbacks at South Gloucestershire Council we were informed that a full review of the Streetcare services provided to Town and Parish Councils had been completed. The review highlighted the level of unequal provision between Councils across the authority and resulted in the offer of a common, but reduced, service across all areas. Sustaining the current level of care for Pucklechurch will cost in the region of an extra £5,000 per annum. The Parish Council has agreed to pay the additional costs required to ensure grassed areas and hedgerows are maintained as they have been and to review the number of dog bins that we pay for to be emptied. Dog mess has now been designated as general waste and can be placed in normal rubbish bins and so we will be considering whether or not to retain and service the current number of bins we have.

### **South Gloucestershire - Emergency Planning.**

We are currently working very closely with South Gloucestershire Council officers in the creation of a template to assist all other Parish and Town Councils to formulate an Emergency Plan. The document produced as a result of this will contain all the information required for managing emergencies, natural disasters, and any life threatening event that might impact on local people. I have tried to give you a flavour of some of the work we have been doing and I hope you agree that we have made good progress in many areas. Finally, on behalf of all Pucklechurch Parish Councillors I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**Bob Symons, Chairman**