



July Issue 1979

Congratulations to the Revel Committee! We're sure that you will all agree that this year's Revel Week was a splendid success - and wasn't the weather kind! If you would like to be involved in the organisation of next year's Revel don't forget to attend their AGM on 13 September at 8pm in the Village Hall. For a full report on the Revel see page 3. Incidentally, at the Dyrham Revel the Pucklechurch Hockey Club float won first prize and the Tower Play-Group second in one class, and in the other class Pucklechurch Playgroup were first and Shortwood second.

On a more serious note, what a pity planning permission has been granted for three new warehouses on the Trading Estate. This is bound to mean increased numbers of lorries speeding through our village and, of course, Shortwood where their speed limit is to be increased to 40mph despite their objections.

People are always saying how puzzling the numbering of houses is on the Churchdene Estate. It's not so bad if you're driving and can go to the backdoor of the house, but if you happen to be a pedestrian and need to go to the front door it's sometimes very difficult to know which house is in which road. Do you think it would be a good idea to have the footpaths through the estate named? If so, why not suggest it to a Parish Councillor. Incidentally, the newly elected Parish Councillors are listed on page 8, along with a report on their last meeting. Parish Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.45pm in the School Canteen. Members of the public are welcome to attend as observers.

It has been brought to our notice that oil is being discharged into Back Lane from somewhere on the Trading Estate . . .

Finally, our thanks to Rachel and Dave Kerrison, founder members of this newsletter, who are soon to leave Pucklechurch. We wish them well in their new home near Yeovil.

The final date for copy for the next issue is Saturday 15 September. It can be delivered to any of the following addresses: 66 Birch Drive; Court Cottage, Syston Court; Dennisworth Farm; 56 Hawkridge Drive; 16 Merlin Ridge; 13 Shortwood Road; 35 Westerleigh Road. Alternatively, you could telephone Abson 3761.

VILLAGE NOTES

Community Association

August 11th in the gardens of Pucklechurch House (our thanks to Dr & Mrs Conrad) is the date and venue for a Bar-b-que. Last year's event was one of the nicest evenings of the year, so why not come along and enjoy it again, or if you haven't been before and meet people. Watch for the CA posters for further information.

If you are interested in joining the CA or renewing your membership contact Mrs Joan Bowering, 17 Woodpecker Crescent, Tel. 3675.

1st Pucklechurch Guides

1st Pucklechurch Guides have had a busy year. 12 Firefighter badges were gained and 6 guides are now taking their Home Nurse Badge. They belong to Yate/Sodbury Youth Council and successfully entered a pet show, gaining 3 prizes, were runners up in a 6-a-side football competition, and 2nd in the swimming gala. They are now entering a rounders competition. Scrapbooks made by the guides were given to both playgroups and Grimsby Park School, Warmley. Company funds have been raised through a Beetle Drive and catalogue orders. They had a visit by Bristol Playbus and successfully tried screen printing. On May 11th nearly 200 members of the movement from Wick, Marshfield and Pucklechurch attended a service in Pucklechurch School - theme being International Year of the Child. Highlights of the year have been a four-day camp at Dodington, when they experienced snow, frost, freezing rain and sunshine! Radio 1 Roadshow broadcast from Dodington whilst they were there and the guides were lucky enough to have a request played. More recently they spent a weekend on the River Avon aboard two narrowboats cruising between Bristol and Bath, stopping en route for an afternoon's canoeing under experienced instruction. They also went ice-skating and swimming so it was a busy weekend, but also relaxing when aboard the boat meandering down the river.

Revel Balloon Race - The Guides are sure you will be interested to learn that the winning card was received back from Brittany in France and belonged to Lynda Mail, Becket Court, Pucklechurch. The wind blew due South and other cards were received back from Bath, Shepton Mallet, Dorchester, etc.

2nd Pucklechurch Guides

The Company's next fund raising event will be in September with a "Home Produced" Auction. Details of date, etc. will be posted later. Contributions of any home-made items of food, jams, pickles, toys, etc. will be very gratefully received. Telephone 3770 or 3497 for collection please. Part of the Company are off to spend a weekend at Badminton Cottages in August - this is a return visit in spite of the last one being in cold and wet weather - let's hope for better luck this time. The Company breaks up for the Summer Holidays on July 16th and resumes on September 10th.

Local History Society

If anyone would be interested in forming a local history society please contact Laurie Tyers (Abson 3602) by 17th August.

Pucklechurch Playgroup

This Playgroup meets in the Village Hall. They have vacancies for children from three to five years old in the forthcoming sessions; Monday to Friday am inclusive, and Wednesday pm. Please call at the Playgroup or contact Ruth Newman, The Chapel, Parkfield Road, Tel. 2169 if you are interested.

Ramblers' Club

The Ramblers have enjoyed many fine, if muddy, rambles from the village over previous months. Both the CA ramble and Revel Sponsored Ramble being well supported, and sunny enjoyable walks. New members are always welcome; carried babies or toddlers and older children can come along too. Local walks are usually between five and seven miles. Unfortunately, at the time of going to press future walks are uncertain but are advertised fortnightly in local shops.

Why not come along to learn where the local footpaths are?
I'm sure everyone will be pleased to learn that Mrs Doreen Bewick
(our previous Club Secretary) has had a new baby daughter - we wish them well.

Tower Playgroup

The Tower Playgroup has some vacancies for the term beginning in September. If there are any children of pre-school age who would be interested in attending, they would be welcome to come and have a look at any playgroup session this term (Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30 - 12.00 or 1 - 3.30pm). The last session this term will be Tuesday 17 July. During the holidays registration forms can be obtained from Christine Harley, 36 Maple Walk, Tel. 2921 or from Jane Jennings, 29 Maple Walk.

Women's Institute

Report of WI meeting held on 20th June - A very well attended meeting. The Revel WI cream teas were a great success - and many compliments were received. Thanks were given to Mr L Savidge who decorated the WI float and to Mr Alway for driving the tractor. Our theme was Ladies Day at Ascot - we didn't win a prize, but better luck next time. The hats made and worn by the ladies were on display. Mrs Dawson gave a full report on the AGM held at the Albert Hall in London. It was her first attendance at such a gathering - 5,000 women from all over the world. She was most impressed and found it all a great experience. Mrs M Powell gave a report on the group meeting at Dyrham. After tea, we were entertained by a most interesting and amusing talk given by Mrs Ludlow Hewitt on Staffordshire China Figures - she also commented on some antique china brought along by the members. The next meeting is on Wednesday 18th July. Any new members most welcome.

REVEL WEEK REPORT

Without a doubt this year's Revel has been a terrific success! It must be admitted that the weather certainly contributed to this success, but without the hard work of the Revel Committee, and the numerous helpers who always turn up at Revel, it could not have happened.

This year Revel Week started with a Folk Dance organized by the village Folk Club. This was a complete sell-out and was a great success. The Sponsored Ramble organized by the Ramblers' Club was enjoyed by all who took part and perhaps next year more people will join in this energetic event. Sunday evening's Revel Service and Band Concert attracted a large audience and the music of the Bristol East Band was greatly enjoyed. The Beer Festival held on Monday and Tuesday resulted in two fantastic evenings of great entertainment. Tubby Reynolds and the Bath Morris Men soon had everyone up on their feet, and the following evening the Severn Side Jazz Men played to a very appreciative audience. Once again we must say thank you to Dr and Mrs Conrad for allowing their gardens to be used. On Wednesday morning the Minors & Mums held a Coffee Morning which resulted in a very friendly and sociable event enjoyed by all. The Picture Exhibition at School showed paintings on the subject of 'International Year of the Child' which were judged by Diane Harris of the Dyrham Craft Centre. The paintings were of a very high standard and many thanks to all the staff who organized the competition. On Wednesday evening the marquee on the Rec. was filled with children watching a Puppet Show and the magic of Barry Savage, while there was a 'full house' for Revel Bingo in the Village Hall. The Old Tyme Music Hall once again provided an evening of professional entertainment although at times the artistes had to compete with the inclement weather. Another successful Hockey Match was organized by the Pucklechurch Hockey Club on Friday and ended in a 2-2 draw. The same evening 'Silver Machine' entertained the young people of the village with a Disco in the marquee where a great time was had by all.

Then came Revel Day! With sun shining on the Recreation Field the general opinion was "it had never looked better". There were over 40 stalls and sideshows and once again many thanks to all the people who helped to make this part of Revel so successful. The floats this year were all of a very high standard and looked really magnificent as they paraded around the village led by Revel Queen Debbie Banks. There were quite a few entries for the Fancy Dress Competition, including some very sporting adults - perhaps they will be joined by a few more next year!

The 91st Bristol Scout Band gave an inspiring marching display and we were also entertained by International Folk Dancers, Morris Men and Speedwell School giving a Volley Ball demonstration. Revel Day ended with the traditional Dance where the Grand Draw took place. The winner of the Food Mixer and Blender was Mr Bannister of Westbury-on-Trym. There were a great many prizes in this year's draw and a complete list of winners can be obtained from Roger Cleevely (Abson 2296) who organized this event. 'Impact' provided the live music for this year's dance and everyone let their hair down to celebrate the end of another successful Revel Day.

Record profits were made at Revel '79 and are well in excess of £2,000. This would not have been possible without the untiring efforts of so many people. If YOU would like to help organize next year's Revel and bring along some new ideas, why not come to the AGM in the Village Hall on Thursday 13th September at 8.00pm.

LOST PROPERTY - Certain items of lost property were found during Revel Week and can be claimed from Alan Holder, 58 Abson Road (Abson 2818). All items not claimed by Friday 20th July will be disposed of.

REPORT FROM SHORTWOOD

Shortwood is a small community in the Parish of Pucklechurch. It is a small but lively place to live at the moment. On July 7th we are holding our annual Fete. We hold village meetings about once a month to discuss matters of importance as well as holding social events. The main item for discussion at the moment is the new speed limit which Avon Highways Committee has enforced upon us. We as residents of Shortwood are protesting most strongly and so is the Parish Council. We are holding protest meetings in the near future to decide what we are going to do about it. Our next social event after the Fete is a village outing to Boscombe in September.

EXCHANGE & MART

For Sale: Suffolk Colt Motor Mower (12") 4-stroke engine. Good condition. 3 years old. £50. Tel. 2296

For Sale: Dropside cot and mattress in good condition £3 o.n.o.
Pram canopy 21" wide £2 o.n.o. Mini car engine complete with twin carburettors, plus extras £25 o.n.o. 14 Lansdown Road, Pucklechurch.

Wanted: Plastic or metal ramp from any old toy for home-made multi-storey garage. J Rawlings, 18 Woodpecker Crescent, Tel. 3060

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

May I through your paper thank the Revel Committee for another great Revel Week again this year.

I know a lot of work and planning goes into it, and thanks to those who give up a week of their holidays (something which I think is not widely known and appreciated) it all runs so smoothly.

I hope that when they have the AGM later on in the year, those who have enjoyed the Revel will come along and support the Committee.

Mary Whittock
14 Lansdown Road

I felt I had to sit down and write a letter of congratulations to the Revel Committee and anybody else who helped with the organisation of Revel Day. I thought the field was very well set out and the entertainment very good. The Band were excellent, with a good choice of music which we found very entertaining.

On behalf of my family and myself I would like to say 'thank you very much for making it a most enjoyable day.

Shirley Hall
11 Cedar Way

Would you please give some publicity to the following problem, which concerns vandals around the site of our New Village Hall.

The Village Hall Management Committee have received complaints from the builders regarding damage being caused on the site. We would appeal to the general public of the village to take some action if they see unauthorised people around the site, bearing in mind that it is rate payers money which is being lost through this problem.

Les Whittock
Secretary, VHMC

Would you please include the following appeal for Riding for the Disabled. Helpers are still needed to help at Leyland Court Riding School, Winterbourne, every Thursday afternoon between 2pm and 3.30pm. We ride through the summer holidays so any school leavers who are interested and who are 16 or over please contact me for further details. Any mums who are interested can be back in time to pick the children up from school.

Mrs P Harding
16 Dyrham View, Tel. 3684

We also received a telephone call from Mr Douglas Hawkins. He wanted to thank Pucklechurch News for introducing him to the Electorate in our Parish Council Election Supplement, and also wishes to thank those that voted for him.

PROFILE - Les and Mary Whittock

In this issue we feature probably two of the best known people in the village - Les and Mary Whittock.

They moved to Pucklechurch about 24 years ago, at which time Les was working at the farm behind The Star. They hadn't come far, only from Old Sodbury, although prior to that they had lived on the edge of the Longleat Estate. Les recalls cycling through what is now the lion reserve with his young daughter - certainly not recommended these days! Originally, however, they were local people - Mary was from Oldland Common and Les from Keynsham. They have three grown-up children, the two girls both being married, each with two children, only Stephen their son remaining at home.

Unfortunately, Les slipped a disc and had to give up farm work, and has earned his living by driving since. He worked for the printers that used to be in Shortwood Road for about five years.

They weren't in Pucklechurch for long before becoming involved in village life. Les was a member of the Village Hall Management Committee as long ago as 1956 when he was the Chapel representative, and had been on and off it representing different groups, until 1975 when he was elected Chairman of a Village Hall Steering Committee which was the first committee to discuss with Avon Community Council the possibilities of adopting the principles of a Community Association. Later that year was elected Secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee and has held that post ever since. This has involved him very much in the building of the New Village Hall. Les had also been Treasurer for a time, but says that in those days the turnover was very small as they did not raise so much money themselves, depending more on the Parish Council grants. The Social Club then housed two billiard tables which were very popular until the introduction of television.

Mary joined the Pucklechurch WI in around 1959, and has recently retired as President after a three year stint. While their children were young she also helped with the clinic.

They have many interests - they are both keen members of the Ramblers' Club in Pucklechurch (accompanied by their dog Bob!). They also enjoy folk dancing. Les started the Folk Dance Club about two years ago, as a result of enjoying a Folk Dance arranged by the WI. It is now a thriving club with between 30 and 40 members. Les recalls that one night the caller failed to turn up and in order that he would be prepared on future occasions, learnt to call. The thing that fascinates Les about folk dancing is that there is always a new dance to learn.

Mary's latest interest is cake icing and very good at it she is too. She showed me trays of very realistic flowers (violets, narcissus, etc) made from icing that she prepares in advance to decorate cakes, and also some delicious looking marzipan fruits. Mary attends a course at the University Settlement at Barton Hill to learn the techniques. She also enjoyed learning flower arranging and regrets that there was insufficient interest for another course in Pucklechurch this year. Mary is a member of the Congregational Chapel and was a member of the Pucklechurch Festival Choir when it was formed for the Flower Festival in July 1972. Sadly the choir broke-up a couple of years ago because members moved away and no-one seemed interested to take their place. Mary is also Treasurer of the Gardening Club (formerly the Horticultural Society). Les is an occasional member of this club, but cannot attend regularly as it clashes with the discos for youngsters run by the Village Hall Management Committee that he helps with.

Mary, of course, is best known as our "Village Correspondent" on Radio Bristol. If you listen at 6.15pm on a Thursday evening (new time) you will hear her telling listeners of all that has happened in Pucklechurch and advertising future events, also announcing birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc. It's well worth a listen! Thinking how terrified I would be to speak on the radio, I asked Mary if she was ever nervous, but apparently she forgets that there are so many people listening, and just feels that she is talking to the particular programme presenter - most of whom she has met.

In his younger days Les played football for Keynsham Town against Pucklechurch, but never actually played for Pucklechurch. He did, however, have a hand in the formation of the junior football team. More recently (in preparation perhaps for years to come when he can no longer ramble or folk dance?) Les has been attending evening classes in oil painting at the Dyrham Craft Centre.

Les helped start Revel Week six years ago. Previously it had been a one day affair. He remembers with embarrassment the first Beer Festival - they had catered for 350 people and were forced to shut the gates at about 9pm when 1,000 people had already arrived and beer was running out. He also remembers the Revel Dance five years ago when there was a terrible thunder storm and the Hall was blacked out - it finished with tape-recorded music and candlelight. Les is delighted with the success of this year's Revel and feels that it is the culmination of six years of hard work. Revel Week has now become established.

Mary feels that Pucklechurch is now big enough, but she was pleased when the Churchdene Estate was built as it provided homes for the young people that were previously forced to leave the village when they married.

Les has been involved with the Community Association since its inception, and is a member of the Executive Committee, and was on the Entertainments Committee. He feels that the CA will prove to be the best social thing that has happened to Pucklechurch, and the more people get involved, the more they will want to.

Les and Mary have done a great deal for Pucklechurch over the years, they are also extremely nice, friendly people - we're very lucky to have them.

CHURCH NEWS

Shortwood Methodist Chapel - Our minister the Rev. Ian Cramb will be leaving our circuit after 8 years and moving to Bath. His last service at Shortwood will be on July 8th at 6pm. We wish him and his family all the best for the future.

Sunday School Anniversary - July 15th at 2.45pm
Harvest Festival - September 16th 2.45pm and 6pm

Congregational Church, Pucklechurch - Mr Bush is in attendance at the Congregational Schoolroom on Tuesdays 11.30am - 12.30pm to help and advise anyone in need.

July 8 - Miss Philpott, BA	Aug. 5 - Mr J Lee (United Service)
15 Rev. Allanson (Mangotsfield URC)	12 Mr J C Coles
22 Mr C Marsh	19 Mr C Cox
29 Rev. Bush (Holy Communion following service)	26 Rev. Bush

The Bells at St Thomas a Becket Church - December will see the 50th anniversary of the re-dedication of these bells. It is hoped that the Dean of Gloucester, a leading campanologist, will preach at the 9.30am service on 16th December and bell ringers from Gloucester and Bristol will join in the celebrations. The 14th December issue of "The Ringing World" will feature Pucklechurch on its front page. The Tower Captain, Edward Mould (17 Westerleigh Road, Tel. 2538) is writing a history of the Pucklechurch bells for this issue, and would like to hear from any former ringers or anyone else who can provide him with information. Please contact him as soon as possible so he can start to prepare his article at an early date.

District Council Report (Councillor - Dr G Conrad)

Northavon District Council have received a planning application to develop the grassed area in Eagle Crescent from the Government's Property Services Agency. There has been a great deal of protest from the local residents and other villagers who see this sort of development leading to Pucklechurch becoming another Yate. The planning committee at Northavon District Council have suggested that only a third of the land nearest Oaktree Avenue be developed because of the shortage of open space on the estate.

Avon County Council have approved a proposal to increase the speed limit through Shortwood from 30mph to 40mph despite protests from the Village Committee and the Parish Council. This road is totally unsuitable for heavy traffic going at that speed. Avon are going to review the situation in 12 months - by then it may be too late.

Pucklechurch Parish Council Report

The newly elected Parish Councillors are:

Mrs J Bailey, 14 Castle Road (2866)	Chairman
Dr G Conrad, 35 Westerleigh Road (2979)	Vice-Chairman
Mr A Boulton, 11 Poplar Drive (3252)	
Mrs N Cleavelly, 66 Birch Drive (2296)	
Mr D Dee, 34 Hill View (3256)	
Mr A J Hall, Rock House Farm, Shortwood (2321)	
Mr J Higgins, Ash Lodge, Shortwood Road (2240)	
Mr A Peckham, 21 Castle Road (3170)	
Mr H Sherman, 2 Lansdown Road	

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 3rd July in the School Canteen at 7.45pm, and all Parish Councillors were present. The main business of the evening concerned the Recreation Field. The Sports Teams in the village have agreed to rearrange their pitches to enable the Football Club to increase the size of its pitch. Charges for the new season were also agreed. Car parking on the Recreation Field was discussed as the Cricket Team had requested permission for their visitors to park on the edge of the field during cricket matches. Although the Parish Council were sympathetic towards the Cricket Club, it was decided that no parking be allowed on the Rec. as not only would it prove difficult to prevent other than cricket supporters parking there. The question of safety to children playing on the Rec. and the Parish Council's liability in the event of an accident arose.

It was reported to the meeting that the Hall Management Committee had been successful in its application for further grant aid in regard to the cost of the New Village Hall. The Parish Council agreed to provide the local contribution of £2,892.

There is no meeting planned for August, the next meeting will be on September 4th, and members of the public are cordially invited to attend.

Our Dennisworth ladies can remember:

When bus fares were 3d to Staplehill and 1s 0d to Old Market - apparently the service was better too!

When it cost £4 for a funeral in 1916 - Pucklechurch had its own coffin maker and undertaker.

When milk had to be served from a churn into customer's jugs - 1d per pint.

In Mr Nicholl's talk on "Growing up in Pucklechurch" he recalled:

When the train fare from Mangotsfield Station to Clifton Down was 7s 0d per quarter.

When petrol cost 1s 8d per gallon.

The Miners Institute (the Village Hall) cost £1,000 to build. The Coal Board gave 1d for each ton of coal raised at Parkfield towards the miners enjoyment.