

pucklechurch news

FEBRUARY 1986

EDITORIAL

First of all, sorry this issue is late! Last day for copy was 6th January, but hardly any articles were received until 20th January - by which time we were all too busy with the pantomime. Our apologies to any of the contributors this inconvenienced, but we would ask people to note the copy date and try to get copy to us on time.

We have had yet more changes in the village shops! We were all very sorry to say goodbye to David & Margaret Robinson and family who have left Country Corner. Our best wishes to them in the future. Welcome to Mr & Mrs Ellis who have taken over Country Corner.

It seems strange now that Mike & Jean have shut up shop at Oaktree Avenue, although they are not leaving the area. Our thanks to them for all their help in selling Pucklechurch News, Revel and Play tickets in the past.

Despite all their denials to the contrary, the new butcher/greengrocers shop has closed too!

Postman Bill Jones has just retired after 22 years as a postman in Pucklechurch.

Changes too at the Vicarage! We said goodbye in the last issue to Rev Josh Hinton, who retired after 20 years. Well it seems we are to get a new vicar in the form of Rev Ian Wills, aged 36 with two young children. We hope that he and his wife will be very happy in Pucklechurch. Apparently Rev Wills has entered the Kingswood Marathon twice, so perhaps he will be interested in the PCA Fun Runs!

We feel that perhaps we should explain our editorial policy - basically articles must be about Pucklechurch parish only. Also, we do not include 'commercial' advertisements. However, 'domestic' advertisements will be included free of charge. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to shorten articles if necessary, or to not publish.

Incidentally, this is Pucklechurch News' tenth year - our birthday will be in August!

We would like to reprint the Village Directory and publish it with the next issue of P.News . . . so club secretaries etc please let us have up-dated information concerning your club as soon as possible.

FINAL DATE FOR COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS MONDAY 7 APRIL 1986 - DON'T BE LATE!!!

THE GAZETTE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1986

● Robin Hood has had a busy panto season in our area, and he popped up again recently when Pucklechurch Players brought him and Sherwood Forest to life while the snow was making life difficult for those who have to travel by night.

However, I was fortunate that two friends, Margaret and Vicky, braved the elements to cover the production for me.

They say that Sherwood Forest effectively came to Pucklechurch in the traditional version of right versus might as Robin Hood and his Merry Men confronted the Sheriff of Nottingham in this Richard Palmer version presented by the Players.

TOPICAL

This well staged production with a large cast coped well with the restricted stage space, and

gave us much local, topical, and family fun.

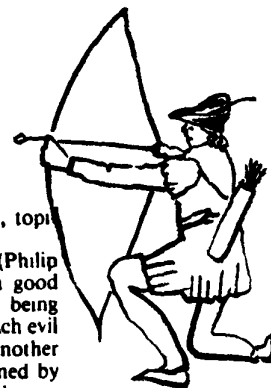
The sheriff (Philip Winter) obtained a good audience rapport, being soundly hissed as each evil deed succeeded another until he was redeemed by marrying the well characterised Abbess Morwyn (Chris Pugh).

This duo was nicely contrasted by Margaret Skidman's Robin and his attractive Maid Marion (Elaine Stone)

'Dame' Hattie Hood in the form of Brian Rogers, giving the audience much to laugh at, as the good king Richard (Andrea Ryland), finally regained 'his' birthright from the evil Prince John (Chris Biggs).

This was a colourful production, the wardrobe team deserve special mention and the woodland scene was memorable.

A bright and happy production by Rosemarie Hill, assisted by Beverley Stuart.



REVEL

Revel 86 is beginning to take shape under the new committee and an outline programme has been prepared:

May 16th	Revel Queen Disco
June 14th	Infant & Junior Entertainment Folk Dance
June 15th	Rambling Treasure Hunt Revel Songs of Praise
June 16th	Minors & Mums Afternoon Beer Festival
June 17th	Beer Festival Junior Folk Dance
June 18th	Computers & Art Exhibition
June 19th	All Comers Tug-of-War
June 20th	Olde Tyme Music Hall Pre-School Entertainment
June 21st	Revel Day Revel Dance
June 22nd	Revel Concert & Prize Giving

We have a number of 1985 commemorative Tenth Beer Festival mugs and these are available from Trevor Morris (Abson 2835). Christmas breakages can be easily replaced at the bargain price of 50p each or 6 for £2.50.

REVEL
'86



PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Report by Chairman

The Pucklechurch C.A. continues to expand and hopefully improve the facilities at the Community Centre (Village Hall to most of us). Over the next few weeks you should see the area around the Hall improved beyond recognition. The Community Programme from Northavon District Council should be on site doing the landscaping. The C.A. is going to spend £800 planting shrubs and bushes around the Hall to try and make it look more attractive. The labour is being paid for by the Manpower Services Commission (MSC). Can I assure you that there are no tall trees included and the "view" will not be impaired! May I ask everyone to try and keep an eye on the landscaping when it is done, because it will very soon become an eyesore again if we do not look after it. Please let the plants get established so that we can look at the Hall with pleasure for many years to come.

Future projects which are being investigated are: improving the acoustics in the main Hall by changing some of the ceiling tiles; making the Hall more attractive by installing some "lighting panels" on the walls, and finally investigating the possibility of extending the Hall to provide a proper stage. All this is going to cost money and so I hope you will all support the P.C.A. through its sections, users, supporters and social events.

Future Events

PCA Fun Run - April 27th

3 & 5 mile routes. Entry forms from Tony Cowley or from Shirley Hall at the Post Office.

March 14th - The P.C.A. presents The Public Parts Theatre Co production of "The Sweet Girls", a play based on the life of working girls in a Bristol Sweet Factory suitable for anyone between 12 and 92. Tickets £1.50 Adults and £1 for children & O.A.P.s.

Incidentally, thanks to all those who supported the Valentine's Sixties Disco, which was a sell out.

Waste Paper Collection

A container (skip) will be delivered to the Village Hall car park on the first Friday of each month and taken away on the following Monday.

Newsprint and magazines only can be deposited, NOT cardboard, bags, envelopes, string etc.

It will arrive for the first time on 28 FEBRUARY.

SO SAVE YOUR NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES NOW!

The waste paper will be sold for recycling.



LIFTS WANTED

Additional lifts are needed for the elderly members of the Happy Circle. Happy Circle meets on alternate Tuesdays during the winter months, and weekly from around April. Would car drivers willing to help in this way please contact Lyn Ford, tel. Abson 3381.

Extract from January's "Gloucestershire & Avon Life" from their 'spotlight' on Pucklechurch.

At the Battle of Dyrham in 577 the district fell into Saxon hands, in which it remained until the Norman Conquest, and until 950 it was royal property with a hunting lodge on the site of the Star Inn, close to what was the great hunting forest of Kingswood. In 946 Edmund, grandson of Alfred the Great and acknowledged as king of all England and overlord of the Scots since 944, was at Pucklechurch celebrating the feast of St. Augustine of Glastonbury. There he spotted and challenged Liulph, whom he had previously outlawed, and in the ensuing struggle Liulph wounded the king mortally before he was himself cut to pieces by Edmund's followers.

Edmund was buried at Glastonbury as Edmund the Magnificent, the doer of great deeds, and his successor gave Pucklechurch to the monks of Glastonbury, in whose ownership it remained until John's reign, when it was acquired by the Bishop of Bath and Wells. At the Dissolution of the Monasteries it reverted to the Crown, and then passed into private hands. Perhaps the most significant mark on the buildings of Pucklechurch was made by the Dennis family, which built most of the fine old houses with which the village is generously endowed. Most of these were once farmhouses, but the decline in agriculture has meant that they are now private homes, much of the land having been bought and added to larger farms.

As well as being a farming community, Pucklechurch was known in the eighteenth century for its felt hats and the quarrying of coarse black marble, used for fireplaces and gravestones. But its chief industry at this time was coal-mining, and this continued until 1936, when the Parkfield pit finally closed. The village has expanded enormously in the past quarter of a century, and the housing estate has brought many new families to live in what was once a very close-knit community.



WANTED: Dog lover to exercise energetic dog (neutered) while owner at work. Times to suit. Payment negotiable. Telephone: Abson 3838

PUCKLECHURCH PLAYERS



PANTOMIME TICKETS - DO WE OVERCHARGE?

Pucklechurch Players believe that their supporters may wish to know how their ticket money is spent. The cost of each ticket to adults who saw "Robin Hood" was £2, which is less than the cost of three pints of beer - and far better for you! An evening of laughter (we hope), enjoyed at one of our performances costs less than the average night out.

I have prepared some figures which, I hope, show that the £2 charge is justified. In fact, we would like to build a permanent area for general use of all clubs and societies and which could also provide a stage. You will see that ticket prices are probably too low if funds are to be raised for such a project.

Here are the details of our pantomime income and expenditure since rehearsals began in October:

Income

Ticket Sales	932.50
Coffee profit	22.30
Raffle/Programmes	71.45
(Av. raffle profit £20 per night)	
Total	£1026.25

Expenditure

Pucklechurch Hall hire	230.00
Meeting Room (rehearsals)	64.00
Dyrham Hall Hire (rehearsals)	28.00
Congregational Hall (rehearsals)	30.00
Stage Hire and Erection	165.00
Electrics Hire	89.93
Costumes	119.44
Scenery	78.40
Props	13.48
Music	15.65
Purchase of stock etc	170.32
Insurance	43.00
Total	£1047.22

For every production we need to spend money on items which we will need in future. Thus, some items of expenditure are not directly attributable to the pantomime account, but have been included as they were incurred in staging "Robin Hood". For example, we needed three microphones, extra drapes, curtain track, installation of speakers, stationery, make-up etc and these items will be used in future productions (see Stock Purchase £170.32). The insurance premium of £43 also gives us protection for our other productions.

It is well worth noting that the marvellous script of "Robin Hood" was written by Richard Palmer for Pucklechurch Players and we did not on this occasion have to pay the License fee or for scripts, the total saving being approximately £100.

P.Players cont. . .

On the subject of other productions, I should mention that we made a loss of £35 (excluding capital expenditure) on our play "Blithe Spirit" last year.

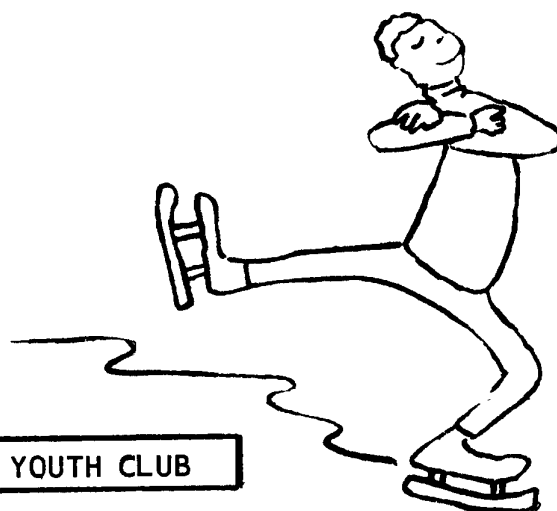
So I hope I have shown that we need your continued support. Our productions give us a great deal of pleasure which can only be gained if you come and laugh at our foolishness.

Philip Winter

P.News says: Which reminds us, we haven't had a Quote of the Month lately . . . at the end of the panto, Richard Palmer thanked the P.Players for risking their reputation by putting on the first play "wot I wrote"!

Grace Evangelical Church, Westerleigh

If you would like to find out more about this church contact Bob Gulliford, tel. Abson 2165.



Bristol Playbus members came out to the Youth Club on three consecutive Mondays in January - demonstrating various arts/crafts and video filming.

On 3rd February over 20 members and helpers went to Bristol Ice Rink. This was a really good night and will probably be repeated in the not too distant future (once last time's blisters have healed!).

New members are always welcome to Youth Club - secondary school age only. We meet on Mondays from 8pm until 10.00pm - N.B. new starting time of 8pm.

Marilyn Palmer has recently completed a Stage 2 Youth Workers Course, and will be presented with her certificate at Central Library on 14 March.

We are in need of more adult help - if you think you might be interested please come along one Monday evening and meet us. It would be nice to to receive offers of help from parents . . .



GARDENING CLUB

GARDENING CLUB

On 4th December, Mr Spooner was unable to be with us (due to being away on business overseas), so in his absence the Club held a Gardening Quiz - kindly provided by the chemical company P.B.I. This was enjoyed by all and our knowledge, or lack of it, was put to the test and members were surprised to find they knew far more than they had thought. The meeting ended with mince pies and refreshments provided by the ladies.

On behalf of the Club I would like to extend an invitation to all gardeners in the Village to join us during 1986.

May I remind everybody that planning for the Produce Show in September will have to begin now, if we are to maintain the standard of previous years.

So, a happy and productive New Year to all Gardeners.

Future Events

- 5th March George L Hedges "Plants in Tubs and Window Boxes"
 2nd April George Alway "Hanging Baskets"
 7th May A.G.M. Tenth Birthday of Club

PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Roy Wiltshire, 36 Hill View (tel.2872)

Following a letter from the Parochial Church Council the Parish Council have given a grant of £150 towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

The Parish Council is pleased the new tenor bell has been hung in the belfry and look forward to hearing the church clock striking the hours again.

The new children's slider for the Recreation Field should be ordered in the near future, together with new safety seats and chains for baby tots swings. The new swings for the Parkfield Play Area will be ordered at the same time.

The Council will be completing the fence alongside the car park on the Abson Road in the near future, the area will also be landscaped which together will be a great improvement.

The Council has not yet been successful in its endeavours to purchase land nearer the centre of the village for an allotment, the present allotment on the Westerleigh Road being too far out from the Village, the Council has also found that it is not possible to get a water supply for this land.



SUMMER HOLIDAYS PLAYScheme

I am sure that everyone would agree that last summer's playscheme was a great success, and with a daily attendance of 100 children, I think we can assume that there is sufficient demand for another!!

So, if you are interested in helping to form a committee for "Summer 86 Playscheme" please try to attend a meeting at 16 Merlin Ridge on Monday 7th April at 8pm. Put this in your diary now! If you are unable to attend the meeting but would be interested in helping please let Marilyn Palmer know (tel. 3761).

Incidentally, here is the income/expenditure account for last year's playscheme:

INCOME

	£
Parish Council Grant	275.00
Northavon D.C. Grant	165.00
Entrance Fees	84.70
Bowood Trip	111.00
Refreshments	191.79
Donation	.70
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	828.19
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£10 Balance to remain in Deposit Account

EXPENDITURE

	£
Play Conference	8.00
Leaders pay	200.00
Hall Charges	122.25
Coach Trip to Bowood	126.00
Refreshments	177.94
Bank Charges	2.00
Hire of Equipment	78.40
Materials (paints etc)	96.74
Admin. Expenses	6.86
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	818.19
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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT - George Conrad

Concessionary Travel Tokens

I read in the papers recently that Kingswood D.C. were thought to be mean because they did not increase the value of their tokens from £18 in line with inflation!!! Northavon are again discussing whether they should increase their tokens from the present miserly £6 per pensioner. The present tokens cost the Council about £75,000 per annum which is approximately ½ a penny rate. But there is the additional problem of the de-regulation to the bus service to contend with this year. We have suggested various things which are being investigated: a "Free Day" for pensioners or perhaps a bus pass which would entitle holders to a discount. When you think that all pensioners who live in London get FREE bus and tube travel at any time of the day or night we are particularly badly treated because we choose to live in a rural parish. If you have any ideas please let me know.

Housing Benefit

The District Council administers Housing Benefit which has replaced the old "rate and rent rebates". There is always a hold up with notifying claimants when the benefits change in November. There seems little you can do about this delay as all the claims have to be processed at the same time. Incidentally, you may be interested to know that the Government sets the level of benefits and under Mr N Fowler's "review" of benefits many pensioners will lose benefit. Cuts in Housing Benefit are one of the many proposals in the review. If you would like to know more, give me a ring on Abson 2979.

Refuse Collection

I am sorry for the chaos after Christmas!! The Council is trying to improve its collection service and they changed the collection day after a Bank Holiday which certainly caught me unawares!! I will try and get the changes advertised in the village more extensively next time it happens.

Disposal of commercial waste (from shops etc) has also changed. Businesses have always had to pay for this service, but they now have to buy "stamps" from the Council and stick them on the bins or bags before the dustbin men will take them away. This has caused many problems throughout the District especially where there are flats over shops - because the men cannot distinguish between "domestic" waste and "commercial" waste. On the one hand it seems fair that those who generate most waste should pay most, but on the other hand we charge higher rates on businesses and then charge them for the services that they require! That seems unfair and I have no doubt that there will be considerable debate on the matter. Let me know your opinions - please.

Lyde Green Common

The development of this land between the M4, the disused Yate to Warmley railway line, and Mangotsfield/Downend is now inevitable. Most of the development will be in Kingswood District and they are drawing up a development brief for thousands of houses. I will let you know what happens, but in the meantime keep an eye on the papers - they sometimes know well before I do!



2ND PUCKLECHURCH BROWNIES

During the autumn, the Brownies made many cups of tea for their friends and families and raised £17 for Save the Children Fund. Well done! A joint disco was held for the 2nd and 1st Brownies to celebrate Christmas and we all had a great time.



TOWER PLAYGROUP

Firstly, we would like to offer belated thanks to Revel for the donation of £50 which has helped us to buy much needed equipment.

Our recent Christmas Fayre was a great success and we would like to thank all those who helped and supported us.

The Autumn Term has been very enjoyable at playgroup. The children have kept busy with various activities and, of course, with preparations for Christmas. Mums, Dads and other family members were able to enjoy the childrens delightful nativity play and afterwards sample the Christmas cake, made by the children, which proved the saying "Too many cooks spoil the broth" very wrong.

We were very lucky to have a visit from Father Christmas to our Christmas party making a charming end to the term.

A big thank you to Elaine, our Leader, and Yvonne, our Assistant Leader, for all their hard work, caring and dedication.

P.News says: Our apologies to Tower Playgroup especially for the late appearance of this issue. Tower Playgroup had asked us to advertise their Open Day to be held on 4, 5, 6 February, and also their Second Hand Market to be held on 22nd February. We hope that these events were successful.

TOWER PLAYGROUP would like an additional storage heater. Can collect. Please contact: Margaret Dix, tel. 2146

While listening to GWR on the radio today, someone from Pucklechurch rang in to sell an item. "Pucklechurch" said DJ Dave Barrett "I wonder how it came by that name?".

In the January "Gloucestershire & Avon Life" Mrs Anne Wilson of Court Farm put forward her theory - "pucler" is probably a Saxon word meaning "fair plateau" and certainly "the village with the church on the fair plateau" is an apt description.

Interesting isn't it? What a pity the Local History Society never published the results of their research . . .

1ST PUCKLECHURCH SCOUT GROUP

May I take this opportunity to wish all boys, parents, leaders and helpers a Happy New Year and thank everyone who has helped with the Group during 1985 and look forward to your continuing help this year.

Two fund raising events held towards the end of the year have been quite helpful to the group financially. In October, boys, leaders and parents took part in the C.A. Fun Run and many of the boys were sponsored. This resulted in nearly £400 being raised for the group and enabled five new heaters to be purchased and installed in the Scout Hut before Christmas. Many thanks to those involved with the installation of the heaters. The Christmas Draw raised in excess of £200 - many thanks to those involved with the organising.

Last year saw several leaders undertake training. Allan Yates completed his basic scout course. Paul Randy completed his basic cub scout course as well as a St John's Ambulance course. Laurence Levett completed his advanced cub/scout course, a St John's Ambulance Course, and also qualified as a Life-Saver. Sharon Hall was awarded a Junior Instructors certificate on her course for young leaders. Congratulations to all the leaders.

Lorraine Bishop now holds an Adult Leaders Warrant.

And a welcome to Phil Scull who is helping Steve Hill with Friday Scouts.

Norma Pratt, G.S.L.

WANTED: A "spare" room in which Pucklechurch Players could keep their costumes on racks. A small remuneration will be paid. Must be damp free. Contact: Beverley Stewart, tel. 2963

VILLAGE DIARY

- Feb 22 Tower Playgroup Second Hand Market
V.Hall 2.30pm
P.F.C. v Frys (A)
- 28 Waste paper Collection Weekend V.Hall Carpa
Disco (Sec.School Age) V.Hall 8-11pm
- Mar 1 P.F.C. v Eden Grove (A)
4 Folk Dance Club, caller Les Whittock
8 P.F.C. v Hillfields O.B. (H)
14 P.C.A. present The Public Parts Theatre Co.
15 P.F.C. v Hambrook Res. (A)
18 Folk Dance Club, caller Geoff Elwell
22 P.F.C. v Barr Utd (H)
29 P.F.C. v Bristol Union (A)
- Apr 1 Folk Dance Club, caller Derek Hammond
2 Gardeners Club, George Alway "Hanging Baskets"
5 P.F.C. v R.W.P. (H)
7 Playscheme Meeting 8pm 16 Merlin Ridge
12 P.F.C. v Thornbury (A)
15 Folk Dance Club AGM, caller Alan Holder
19 P.F.C. v Filton (H)
26 P.F.C. v Henbury O.B. (A)
27 PCA Fun Run
29 Folk Dance Club, caller Valerie Webster

Organisers please note: A diary of village events is now being kept at the Post Office. When organising events, to avoid clashes with other village events, consult the diary.

PCA Social Club

AGM is on 9th April at 8pm.

Membership to PCA and Social Club is due on 31st March.

Front Pin Challenge - winner was Roger Cleevely - well done Roger!



COPYDATE

MONDAY 7TH APRIL



EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Copy for the next edition of Pucklechurch News can be delivered to any of the following who comprise the Editorial Committee:

Marilyn Palmer - 16 Merlin Ridge (3761) Secretary
Nancy Cleevely - 66 Birch Drive
Lyn Ford - Dennisworth Farm
Beverley Stewart - 30 Maple Walk
Elaine Stone - 25 Maple Walk
Marion Thorn - 79 Westerleigh Road