

# pucklechurch news



Happy Christmas



CHRISTMAS ISSUE 1987

## EDITORIAL

We hope you enjoy this issue of P. News - we were particularly pleased to receive articles from some new contributors - keep it up! (And if possible try to get them to us by the copy date!!)

We have been asked to mention a few things: Firstly, lots of fireworks were let off for several nights prior to Bonfire Night. The people who do this probably aren't aware of how frightened animals can be by fireworks - both farm animals and domestic pets. We are sure that people would not knowingly wish to upset animals, so perhaps they might restrain themselves next year and wait until Bonfire Night!

Secondly, boys were seen damaging young trees to fuel their bonfires, which is sheer vandalism and probably criminal damage. Don't do it boys! Surely for how much wood there is on a young tree it's not worth getting yourself into trouble.

Another problem at present is the congestion around the school at 3.05pm because of the very large number of parents collecting their children by car. This was obviously exacerbated by the school's decision that infants and juniors should leave at the same time, whereas it used to be staggered. Please consider whether you really need to take the car - and we do appreciate that many of you do need to because you then have to dash off to Mangotsfield etc to collect older children - and if you do have to, then please show consideration for others - do not park in the yellow zig-zagged areas, otherwise it is dangerous for the lollipop lady to operate, as the vision of on-coming cars is obscured.

Something we would like to carry out in the near future is a village survey, but it requires a lot of thought to compile. Any ideas?

Is anyone in Pucklechurch willing to have a lodger? The Remand Centre occasionally has difficulty in finding accommodation locally for new officers. If you are able to help please contact the Remand Centre and ask for Mr Alan Bracey.

Finally, Marilyn thoroughly approves of Ian Wills' computer typed copy, as it saves her a lot of copy typing! If other contributors would like to follow suit and provide their copy "camera-ready" we would be highly delighted! (But please note the column widths!)

We hope you all have a very Happy Christmas!



## CHRISTMAS AT ST. THOMAS A BECKET, PUCKLECHURCH

Christmas is coming and it can be a very busy time of year for many of us. It can also be very special too. Christmas is a time to be with family and friends. It is also a time to celebrate and enjoy ourselves. I hope your preparations for Christmas go well and that you have a very happy time.

At St Thomas' Church we aim to enjoy our Christmas. If you would like to come along and join in any of our Services we will be pleased to welcome you, they are at the following times:

20th Dec., 6.30pm - Christmas Carols

Christmas Eve, 5.30pm - Children's  
Carols  
11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, 10.00am - Holy Communion

These are opportunities for us to celebrate the Christmas story of God's love for us. They are opportunities to remember how that love was personified in a baby born in a stable and laid in a manger, a baby whose name is Jesus because he is the Saviour of the World.

Have a very happy Christmas,

Ian Wills.

**PUCKLECHURCH TWINNING ASSOCIATION**



I'm sure most people are now aware that we aim to formally twin with Pringy, in France. The official ceremony is to take place at Revel '88.

Meanwhile the Association exists to bring together all sorts of people interested in this project of friendship, both between members here and through visits to Pringy.

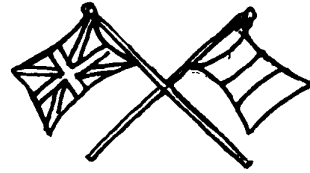
Our last visit in September was most successful and made to coincide with their celebration of the Feast of the Black Madonna. 21 of us rose at the crack of dawn on Friday to journey to Portsmouth for the ferry to Le Havre and then by cars to Pringy (via Paris during the rush hour - wow!) After the customary French welcome (lots of handshakes and kisses) we all went to our hosts houses for large evening meals. Saturday morning's guided tour of Pringy by a most knowledgeable young man was most enlightening. Like Pucklechurch it consists of both an old village and a newer part which includes a small housing estate, a small block of flats and some detached bungalows with beautiful gardens. Central to the village is the old Marie (Town Hall) and its gardens and lake. In the afternoon we drove to Fontainebleau and through the surrounding countryside. Celebration fireworks ended the evening. On Sunday morning we visited a local market, but it could have been Eastville, for the goods offered were the same, only the language was different. The afternoon was a visit to a favourite haunt of famous artists. A bit of a 'snobby' place, as our host informed us! Monday morning and back to England, still speaking our pidgin English to one another and waving our hands about in further explanation. It's hard to drop the habit after doing it for a whole weekend.

I'm sure I speak for all 21 when I say we were all made most welcome, and extravagantly wined and dined - we must all have put on several lbs in weight.

Carmen and Sophie Bradley deserve a special mention, for they had lunch with the local taxidermist who kept all his future specimens in large freezers around the room! Sophie was delighted with the stuffed Jay bird given her, but it certainly presented problems when packing for the journey home!

Our next meeting will be on Monday November 23rd at 8pm in the meeting room. This will be the AGM. New members are very welcome. If you would like to join us, contact Mrs Shirley Hall in the Post Office. She is our membership secretary and will be delighted to hear from you.

On Saturday 5th December we will be holding a Family Fun Evening in the Village Hall. Bring the family and join the fun. There will be lots of games to participate in and of course Father Christmas himself. Tickets available from the Post Office and committee members.



Events are being planned for the new year and this includes a Jumble Sale on 16th January, and a Sainsbury's Wine Tasting Evening on February 26th. This will be a joint event with Pucklechurch Players.

Plans are now taking shape for the Official Twinning Ceremony here next June.

Anyone who has applied for a penfriend and not received a letter back please contact Elaine Stone (3105).



**REVEL '88**

At a special meeting held on 24th October a new Revel Committee was formed. It is however a very small committee and we would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join us. Please telephone Marilyn Palmer (Revel Chairman) on 3761. We are particularly in need of someone willing to act as Treasurer - not necessarily as an active member of the Revel Committee, but someone willing to act as an accountant.

Revel '88 will be special because the official twinning ceremony between Pucklechurch and Pringy will take place during the week, so we will have many French visitors here.

We will, of necessity, be making radical changes to the Revel that we have become used to, in order to make it manageable. Revel Day will be on 18th June.

If anyone knows of any particularly good entertainers or events which would be suitable for Revel, please let us have your ideas!

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On behalf of all the Scouts, Cubs, Brownies and Guides we would like to thank the Simpson family of Marsh Farm for inviting us to their bonfire party. Thank you!

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**DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT - Marilyn Palmer**

I am to be a guinea pig! Northavon D.C. is taking part in a National Radon survey. Radon is a radioactive decay product of Uranium 238, a material widely dispersed in the earth's crust in low concentrations. When Radon itself decays, solid radioactive materials are produced which attach to dust particles in the air and are easily inhaled, thus exposing the lung. Normally Radon gas will diffuse from the ground direct to the atmosphere where it will be rapidly dispersed and diluted. However, if Radon is released from the ground beneath a dwelling or from materials out of which the dwelling has been built (e.g. granite) it may accumulate within the building. (Here endeth the first science lesson!)

25 detectors will be installed in houses throughout Northavon - including one in my home (not I hasten to add because I've got more dust!!) I will let you know the results in due course.

The long awaited "Rural Areas Local Plan Draft Proposals" have now been published. It has four main functions:

- (a) to develop the policies and general proposals contained in the Avon County Structure Plan (1985) and the Structure Plan First & Second Alterations as they stand for the time being.
- (b) to provide a detailed framework for development control.
- (c) to bring planning issues before the public and to inform owners, residents and developers how their interests will be affected.
- (d) to provide a detailed basis for directing and coordinating public and private development.

Aims of the Local Plan are:

- (a) to make provision for housing requirements and a suitable number and range of employment opportunities.
- (b) to minimise the loss of good quality farmland and the impact of development on agriculture.
- (c) to safeguard the character and appearance of areas of landscape quality, nature conservation and archaeological/historial importance.
- (d) to maintain and improve the character, and integrity of villages and settlements in terms of their amenity, and services.
- (e) to make provision for and support of appropriate range of education, shopping, social, health and cultural facilities.
- (f) to provide for the safe, convenient and efficient movement of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.
- (g) to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in existing built up areas and villages and to require high standards of design in new developments.



- (h) to support increased leisure, recreation and tourist facilities.
- (i) to indicate the extent of the Bristol Green Belt as it relates to the plan area.

This document has now reached the Public Participation stage.

As far as Pucklechurch is concerned it says the following:

"The Green Belt boundary closely follows the western, northern and eastern edges of Pucklechurch. It is not proposed to revise the boundaries in order to facilitate further expansion of the settlement since there is no Green Belt justification for this. It is an inset in the Green Belt. The boundaries allow for the level of development considered appropriate until at least the end of the century."

"The central area of the village of Pucklechurch containing a scattering of listed buildings, was designated as a Conservation Area in July 1975. The Council will continue its existing policy of encouraging the preservation and enhancement of the area. This will include the refurbishment of older buildings and planting and landscaping particularly in those areas which would benefit by reinforcement of existing natural features e.g. the 'green' at the junction of Westerleigh Rd and Castle Rd, also the perimeter of the recreation ground particularly the area in front of the Community Hall. The Council will seek the removal, and undergrounding of overhead wires etc to visually improve the area."

The Local Plan suggests three areas in Pucklechurch where limited development or in-filling could take place. These are: Oaktree Avenue (adjacent to the Industrial Estate and Back Lane, and also area adjacent to Dyrham View), the Homefield Rd vicinity and the area close to the Remand Centre.

These are draft proposals and this is a consultation document. The Parish Council will be discussing it at their next meeting. As always I would be interested in hearing your comments.

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SOUTH BEAUFORT YOUNG FARMERS

The South Beaufort young farmers held their AGM on 13th October where they elected their new chairman - Mrs S Humphris, Vice Chairman - Mr P Finch, and the Secretary - Miss M Isaacs.

The first true meeting of the year was on 23rd October with an enjoyable talk and discussion by David Weaver, Hoercst Animal Health. Other interesting events on the calendar include a talk on Accupuncture and a talk on Farm Plan Computers. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 24th November.

The Young Farmers welcome any new members between the ages of 12 and 26 years old, at Doynton Village Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. So why not come along and see if you like doing things in wellies!



## THERE'S A SPECTRE AT PARKFIELD!

by our Parkfield correspondent Ron King!

Karl Schollar lives along the Rank and is the designer/driver of SPECTRE, an amazingly successful Hill Climb car. Hill Climbing in a car is one of the oldest forms of motor sport and the glory (and not much else!) goes to the combination which gets to the top in the shortest time. It is a satisfying blend of technical and driving skill and is a pretty close knit community because of its demanding nature.

Last year a pale Karl said after his first test blast "Why did I do it!" Since then he and the car have developed to the point where he is one of the leaders in his class. Now if all this sounds a bit remote then it must be said that the car was built in a shed at the bottom of his garden and it is in the 500cc racing car class which means that costs can be kept low. It's technical brains and driving skill not brute force that gets Karl to the front. The car is revolutionary because it incorporates the results of Deep Thought! This gives him the benefit of a very high power to weight ratio. Breakthroughs in chassis, engine and aerodynamic performance have caused a great deal of interest and soul searching in the racing world. His position in the Midlands Championship changed from third last year to second this year, and with the definitive new car now being planned (at the bottom of the garden) we should be able to cheer Karl into first place next year! Is there a sponsor out there?

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## PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Fun Run - A successful Run was held on 25th October, with many participants breaking their previous times. Unfortunately, due to the wet weather the previous week, it was necessary to transport the 3 milers to the Cross House at Doynton and start the race there.

The Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday 13th December at the Community Centre. The Christmas parties will be held on Saturday 19th December.

The changing rooms now have heating and can be used for meetings during the winter as well as summer. If you wish to hire the rooms contact Mary Whittock (2090).

Why not hire the hall for a game of badminton? Interested - then contact R Stone (3105).

Waste Paper - we still need your waste paper the first weekend of each month. If you would like someone to collect your paper please contact Les Whittock or Len Moore.

On 13th November the Blood Transfusion Unit visited the village and once again there was an excellent response.

## Diary



### NOVEMBER

- 21st Tower Playgroup Christmas Fayre
- 21st Cubs Jumble Sale - 2 p.m.
- 23rd Twinning Assn. AGM 8 p.m. - Meeting Room
- 24th Folk Club - Alan Holder/Ron Alderton
- 28th Great Western Runners (GWR) Roadrace
- 28th Chapel Sale - 10.30 a.m.
- 29th Advent Carol Service - 6.30 p.m.

### DECEMBER

- 1st Parish Council Meeting - 7-7.30p.m. - Talk by Police on Neighbourhood Watch Schemes
- 2nd Gardener's Club - Quiz followed by refreshments
- 5th Twinning Assn. Family Fun Evening - Village Hall
- 8th Folk Club - Brian Salway
- 12th Folk Club Christmas Dance - Bridgwater Band
- 13th C.A. Christmas Concert
- 19th C.A. Christmas Parties
- 20th Christmas Carols - 6.30p.m. - St. Thomas a Becket
- 22nd Folk Club - Peter Howarth
- 24th Children's Carol Service - 5.30 p.m. - St. Thomas
- 24th Midnight Communion - 11.30 p.m. - St. Thomas
- 25th Parish Communion Service - 10 a.m. - St. Thomas
- 29th Folk Club - Les Whittock/Ted Whittaker

### JANUARY

- 12th Folk Club Party - Tony Slinger and music
- 16th Twinning Association - Jumble Sale



### EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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

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Elaine Stone - 25 Maple Walk  
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**COPYDATE**

2 JANUARY 1988



Please try to get copy to us on time!!