

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



Winter 2013

Funded by the Parish Council

www.pucklechurch.org

Revel

Revel would like to say a huge thank you to the Revel Christmas Sparkle Team for arranging such an excellent event to begin the Christmas period. Despite the awful weather it was a great success and the busiest Sparkle so far.

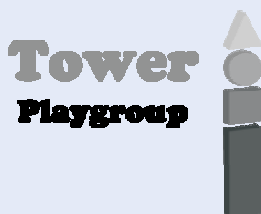
Also Revel want to thank the choir from Pucklechurch Primary School for performing at the above event. A big thank you also to Mrs Smart and Mrs Perry for being there with the choir, it was much appreciated to see teachers giving up their own time to support a village event.

Many thanks to the Handbells for their performance at Christmas Sparkle too, it was a lovely start to the event.

Revel extend their congratulations to Committee member Omie and her husband Kevin on the birth of their son, Dillan.

Looking ahead to the summer we have everything crossed for a dry sunny Revel Day after last year's wash out! The theme this year is 'Life's a beach'

By the time you read this article we are hoping that many of you have enjoyed the Winter Cider Festival on 2nd February. Many thanks to the Beer Festival Committee for all their hard work leading up to this popular event. We look forward to the Summer Beer Festival in June.



Tower Playgroup is now taking names for September 2013.

We have immediate vacancies for Wednesday and Friday am and all day Thursday (9.00am - 3.00pm).

Please call for more information on 07722029077 during playgroup hours.

Mon / Wed / Fri 9.00am - 12.00 midday
Tue / Thurs 9.00am - 3.00pm

Pucklechurch Post Office is relocating from Friday 8 March

You may be aware that Shirley, the current village subpostmaster, is retiring on Tuesday 5th March 2013. Following Shirley's retirement, the village Post Office will no longer operate from its current premises in Westerleigh Road.

However, this doesn't mean Pucklechurch will lose this valuable facility. From Friday 8th March, a new Post Office counter service will operate from Walkers Newsagents, just around the corner in Shortwood Road.

Subpostmasters operate Post Office branches on an agency basis so they are all privately managed businesses. This proposal (subject to public consultation which ended on 25/1/13) is designed to safeguard the future of a Post Office presence in the locality and maintain a service to customers.

The same range of services will continue to be available at the new Post Office counter. Customers can still collect benefits in cash as previously. The new premises will have level access with a wide door. Inside there will be a low-level writing desk, a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair. Opening times will be Monday to Friday, 09:00 17:30 and Saturday mornings from 09:00 12:30.

Pucklechurch Handbell Ringers

Did you enjoy listening to the Pucklechurch Handbell Ringers at recent Christmas events in Abson and Pucklechurch?

Did you think 'I would like to do that'?

Well, now is the time to join our merry band of ringers. We meet in Pucklechurch on Tuesday evenings from 7.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m. (Term time only)

We have great fun learning new tunes and you don't need to be able to read music.

If you would like to come and see how easy and enjoyable it is to play with us, please call Marion on 0117 937 3528.

We welcome all ages, but in order to join in all our activities, we would prefer members to be over 16.

Do get in touch!

Parish Council

Chairman's Report - January

Parish Boundary Review update

In the last issue I reported how the Parish Council had written to South Gloucestershire Council to express its dissatisfaction with the way the first phase of public consultation in this process had been carried out. South Gloucestershire Council have since responded, taking note of our concerns and indicating that we will be much more involved in phase two. Thank you to all who responded to our on-line questionnaire as your responses, copied to SGC, clearly demonstrated the level of concern amongst parishioners. The latest update from Steve Reade one of our District Councillors, is that he will be attending a briefing on the next stage of the review early in January and will also be expressing concerns over the way the initial consultation was handled.

Youth Provision

Many of you will know that SGC has reduced its budget for youth provision across the authority as well as focussing what they spend, and where, in new ways. At present we are waiting for notification from SGC as to how money from the Positive Activities Fund can be accessed and by whom before we can review local provision.

Doctors' Surgery

Unfortunately I am unable to report any progress on the new surgery further discussion on the complex issues surrounding its development is required with SGC officers before a way forward can be agreed.

Ashfield YOI

The news that Ashfield YOI is to close was not shared with the Parish Council before the Ministry of Justice released its statement on 10th January. After making enquiries in response to information we received in early December, Brian Anderson (Director at Ashfield) confirmed that a number of options were being considered but that no decision had been made. It is not clear at this stage what if any community consultation will take place with regard to the proposal to 're-roll' the YOI as an adult prison, but pressure is mounting for this, as well as better communication.

Looking forward to 2013

We will be launching our 'participatory budgeting' exercise as soon as possible. This is a way by which parishioners are enabled to play a much more active role in deciding how some of our funds are spent. We had hoped to have delivered this by now but this has not proven possible.

- A project to produce a 'Village Design Statement' is being formulated. This will be created by a group of local volunteers to help identify what aspects of the way the parish looks or feels are important to the local community and how this might positively inform the nature of any future development or otherwise.
- Sadly the Council is about to lose one of its most important members. Diane Bailey, our Clerk, has decided to retire in April. She will be sorely missed and we will do our best to ensure we keep her involved as much as she will both want and allow. If you are interested in finding out about how and when to apply for the role, please call Diane on 0117 9372398 (or me on 0117 9374105) or write to Diane at the address given below.

Finally on behalf of all the Councillors I would like to wish you and your families a Happy New Year as well as a peaceful and prosperous one for Pucklechurch.

Bob Symons, Chairman

Parish Clerk applications packs are available from:

Diane Bailey

Parish.clerk@pucklechurch.org

The Vale

Cattybrook Rd

Shortwood

BS16 9NJ

AN OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE PUCKLECHURCH NEWS TEAM!!

A vacancy exists on the Pucklechurch News Team to take over the collection and distribution. There is already a team of volunteers who deliver to individual roads, but someone is needed to collate copies and deliver to these volunteers (a car is necessary). This takes approximately 5 - 8 hours, 5 times per year. For further details please call Valerie Broom on 0117 9372025 or email her on v.broom16@btinternet.co.uk

Letters to the Editor.....

Dear Pucklechurch Residents,

We just wanted to let you know that three gardens in Abson Road had raw sewage coming into their gardens after the main sewer became blocked with sanitary towels and wipes.

Please can our experience be a reminder to those who do put these items down their toilets that it does have an impact, if not immediately, on yourself or others. We have had to have our hard surfaces disinfected, the grass will need to be returfed and animals have to be kept off the grass. If we want to grow vegetables or fruit we have been advised that crops intended for human consumption should not be planted in the affected area for 6 months and not harvested for 12 months.

Thank you
Ann Morgan

Dear Editor

It has been the norm for some time that events at PVSSC have been advertised on the roundabout at the Shortwood entrance to the village. Recently the signs advertising 3 separate events have been removed before the events have taken place. These signs are expensive to produce costing £40 each and as such are the property of PVSSC. Removing the signs constitutes theft and the police have been notified. Should the person(s) responsible be identified then the club will seek prosecution.

PVSSC aims to provide a service to the Pucklechurch community and indeed many local groups/organisations, as well as individuals, take advantage of the facilities. It is regrettable that this service can be affected by acts of theft and the club would welcome any information.

The club adopts a responsible attitude to putting signs up, in that they are always removed following the events.

Lyn. Smith

For and on behalf of Pucklechurch Village Sports and Social Club

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 March for Spring issue (April)

10th May for Summer issue (June)

10th August for Autumn issue (September)

10th October for Christmas issue (November)

10th January for Winter issue (February)

For the latest news, visit the online version at
www.pucklechurch.org

Fishing Club News

Pucklechurch Angling Society is a small, friendly, local fishing club. We hold fishing contests on a monthly basis, but, don't worry if you've never fished contests before. It's more about a good day out, with the lads, than anything too serious. The dates and venues for this year are as follows:-

April 20th Shiplate Fishery WSM 9.30am Draw

May 12th Acorn Fishery Kingston Seymour 9.30am Draw

June 8th Durliegh Reservoir Bridgewater 9.00am Draw

July 7th Sabre Lake Calne 9.30am Draw

Aug 4th Windmill Fishery Westerliegh 9.30am Draw

Sept 7th Rood Ashton lakes Trowbridge 9.30am Draw

Oct 5th South Cerney lakes Cricklade 9.30 Draw

Nov 2nd River Avon forest section Melksham 9.00am Draw

These 8 contests count towards the club cup. There are 5 further contests and these are:-

Feb 10th PAS v Avon Angling River Avon Melksham 8.30am Draw. Pig and Whistle Pub Melksham

May 18th Kennet and Avon Canal Semington 12 noon Draw

July tba River Avon Whaddon 12 noon Draw

Sept away day match TBA

Nov 30th Xmas contest Kennet and Avon Canal

Membership is £27. This includes membership of Avon Angling giving access to their waters near Melksham. Cost per contest is £12

Please contact Mike Snudden on 07742925276 or
mikesnudden@tiscali.co.uk

Pucklechurch Gardeners' Club

Members enjoyed both the October meeting - George Alway's talk about 'Polyanthus, Primroses and other Primulas' and the November meeting - Yvonne Bell's talk about 'Grandma's Edwardian Garden'. The December Christmas Quiz and Supper was attended by over 50 members and partners and everyone had a good time.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 6th February at 8pm in The Village Hall when Jill Hazell will be speaking about 'Unusual Flower Bulbs'.

Future meetings:

Wednesday 6th March - Sally Gregson - 'Cottage Gardens the Modern Way'

Wednesday 3rd April - Don Everitt 'Lilies and Summer Flowering Bulbs'

Wednesday 1st May A.G.M.

Visitors are always welcome 50p (max 2 visits)

For further information about the club and its activities please contact George Alway 9373141 or Ann Smith 9372030
We would like to take this opportunity to send our very best wishes to Frank Bradley Founder member and Treasurer of



St. Thomas-à-Becket

SPECIAL SERVICES

Ash Wednesday 13th February 7.30p.m. Holy

Communion

Sunday 10th March Mothering Sunday 10a.m. Family

Communion

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday March 28th

7.30p.m. Holy Communion

Good Friday March 29th

10a.m. All Age Worship

2-3 p.m. Last Hour at Cross

Easter Day March 31st

10a.m. Family Communion Pucklechurch

11.30a.m. Holy Communion at St. James Abson

On the first Sunday of the month there is

8.30a.m. Holy Communion

10a.m. All Age Worship informal worship suitable for all ages.

2nd/3rd/4th Sunday

10a.m. Family Communion

After the first hymn young people go out for a time together to either Junior or Youth Church.

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 23rd February 2p.m. Community Centre - Stalls including clothing, bric-a-brac;- books;cakes. Refreshments and raffle.

OPEN DOORS

On: Wednesday February 20th from 2-4p.m. a chance to look round Church; time of quiet; Tea/Coffee/Sales Table March 20th April 17th

DOG POO

The Pucklechurch News Team have been made aware of the problem of dog waste, by parents who walk their children to school, particularly on the main path that runs through the underpass. It is very unpleasant when children get dog's mess on their shoes or clothes, not to mention the various diseases that are carried in the faeces such as toxocarasis (which can cause partial blindness), asthma and a variety of worms. If your child falls into the dog's mess and gets it on their hands, these diseases can be passed into their systems should they rub their eyes and/or mouths. Please call South Gloucestershire Council's Streetcare Dept on 01454 868000 to report any dog fouling.

The more people who report this problem, the more likely that it will be investigated by South Glos Council and action taken against irresponsible dog owners.

Good Neighbours

The Good Neighbours Scheme has been really busy at the end of 2012 and start of 2013, having received 5 requests for help in November 2012 alone! We have received requests to help with light gardening and small household tasks, to provide company to a lady caring for her husband and to walk a dog for a lady who has recently suffered an injury. It has been great to be able to help so many people in our community in recent months.

Having had a request for help in Hinton, we are considering expanding the scheme boundaries. We are thinking about expanding to Hinton, Abson, Dyrham and Doynton. This will only be a possibility if there are volunteers in these areas as well. We will be putting plans in place to explore this further in the coming months.

We have had a request from the Contact the Elderly Scheme to see if we would be interested in running Contact the Elderly through P&SGNS. The Contact The Elderly Scheme is organised by a person who arranges afternoon tea for elderly people in their community one Sunday every month. Each older member is assigned a volunteer driver and they become part of a small group invited to a host's home for tea with other members of the group. Volunteers need to have a car and volunteer hosts need to have a house with easy access and a ground floor toilet. The co-ordinator makes all the arrangements for the monthly get together. The good neighbours are not able to take this on at this time. However, if anyone in the village feels that they could start this, we would be more than willing to help them and provide support.

Alternatively contact can be made via <http://www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk/> or 02072400630.

The next meeting for good neighbour volunteers will be at 8pm on Thursday 7th February 2013 at the Rose and Crown Public House. We welcome existing volunteers, people interested in volunteering and those that feel the scheme would benefit them.

Larisa, Rodney and Ross

Pucklechurch and Shortwood Good Neighbour Scheme
Co-ordinators 07961939574
goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org

Pucklechurch Majorettes

Majorettes enjoyed a festive presentation evening in December and are looking forward to perfecting their new routines ready for competitions and events this Year.



Pucklechurch Twinning Association

25 years of Twinning

Pucklechurch Twinning Association celebrates 25 years of twinning with Pringy this coming year and there will be celebrations here in April and in Pringy in October. While other twinning associations have fallen by the wayside we have continued with 2 visits a year. The French generally visit Pucklechurch in April or May and we visit Pringy in October.

How did it all begin?

Pringy were hoping to twin with Alveston but Alveston chose a village further south. When the official twinning ceremony between Chipping Sodbury and Cesson took place in Cesson, which is south of Paris near Fontainebleau, people from Pringy attended. These people talked with people from Sodbury and said how disappointed they were that their twinning had fallen through and how they would still love to twin with a village in the south west of England. On returning to England one of the people from Sodbury phoned George Conrad who was then Chairman of the CA. In 'any other business' at a CA meeting George mentioned that he had received a phone call from a friend who wondered if Pucklechurch would be interested in twinning. Nancy Clevely, Shirley Hall, Marlene Judd and myself thought it might be interesting to find out more about it.

We had meetings with Chipping Sodbury and Alveston Twinning Associations and on a Friday evening in November, 12 of us set off in a mini bus to visit this village called Pringy. After travelling through the night we arrived to be greeted at the Old School House. We were then put with families and visited the village itself, the surrounding countryside and the forest. We enjoyed excellent food and wine and on the Saturday evening a reception with local dignitaries was held. Unfortunately we had to leave just after lunch on the Sunday to get back for work on Monday morning.

We were all very enthusiastic about the village and its people and held a public meeting and formed a committee. We now had a good number of people interested and when the French visited Pucklechurch in the following March, lots of people offered to give them meals and were keen to be part of the experience of twinning. Meetings were then held in Pucklechurch and Pringy and it was decided to formally twin in June 1988 in Pucklechurch and September 1988 in Pringy.

The Parish Council were involved from the beginning and have a civic responsibility for the twinning of the two communities. Constitutions were set up and these have been renewed with special celebrations every 5 years.

Our twinning has certainly been successful - we have met lovely people, made lasting friendships, visited interesting places and had lots of fun. Many people have also improved their French if only by a few words.

Elaine Stone

If you have been a member of Twinning and would like to join us on Monday 29th April to celebrate 25 years please contact Valerie Broom on 0117 9372025 or email v.broom16@btinternet.com.



Do you care about your community?

Do you want to be heard and get things done?

Then why not come along to the next Safer Stronger Community Group (SSCG) meeting your area? SSCGs influence how services are delivered locally, establish longer-term plans to improve areas, help prevent future problems, and deal with current local issues.

There are 20 Safer Stronger Community Groups across South Gloucestershire for residents to attend and raise local issues that concern them. They can give their views on possible improvements to further strengthen their communities and keep these safe places to live and work.

The meetings are also attended by partner agencies, including South Gloucestershire Council, Avon and Somerset Police, Avon Fire and Rescue Service, NHS South Gloucestershire, Town and Parish Councils and other local organisations. These organisations work together on the issues raised and often involve the community in implementing solutions.

Some of the issues raised and tackled have included creating positive activities for young people, anti-social behaviour, school crossing concerns, speeding and parking. Community grants through the Safer Stronger Communities Initiative Fund have helped support initiatives raised at the meetings, such as Community Speedwatch groups, community garden work, youth engagement activities, park improvements, activities for older people, and equipment for walking buses to schools.

BOYD VALLEY AND BITTON GROUP:

Thursday 28th February 2013, 7pm

**Pucklechurch Sports & Social Club, St Aldams Drive,
Pucklechurch BS16 9QQ**

If you are unable to attend a meeting, or would like to read more about the work of your local group, each group has its own e-group page at <http://groups.southglos.gov.uk>. Here, you will be able to view your group's annual report, minutes and agendas from past meetings, and find other useful information for your area. You can also become a member of the e-group which will ensure you receive the minutes and agendas directly via email. Alternatively, you can speak to a member of the Community Engagement Team (formerly Safer Stronger Team) on 01454 864634, or email directly to communityengagement@southglos.gov.uk.

Our local Girlguiding organisation will be going through some changes in the near future.

Historically Units have been grouped into Districts, with several of these forming a Division, and Divisions forming a County. In Bristol and South Gloucestershire it has been decided to abolish Districts. Local meetings will be replaced by Division meetings.

Instead of being grouped into small areas like our Dyrham District, Units will be grouped together by Section -- Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section. Unit leaders will meet a few times a year with others in the same Section within the South Cotswold Division, which includes Yate, Westerleigh, and Chipping Sodbury as well as Dyrham. The idea is to encourage the exchange of ideas among leaders in the same Section.

During these meetings the Division Commissioner will also gather everyone together to discuss and impart general GirlGuiding news, and plan Division events. There may also be training opportunities.

It means that those of us who have District roles will need to find new jobs. This shouldn't be a problem because there are always plenty of volunteer opportunities in Girlguiding!

Later this month, Dyrham District will hold its final District event before the reorganisation: Thinking Day. Girls from all sections will be meeting in Doynton on Saturday, 23rd February, for an afternoon of fun that will include a tea party, campfire songs, and a range of activities. World Thinking Day is a way for girls to learn about life for their peers in other countries and to explore the similarities and differences in the guiding experience across the globe. This year there are five focus countries -- Ireland, Jordan, Malawi, Pakistan and Venezuela -- to learn about. The worldwide organisation is fundraising to take action to save children's lives and raise awareness about "every mother's life and health is precious".

If you want more information about Girlguiding or would like to help, please contact our Ros Abbott on 937 2157 or rosabbott@hotmail.com.

Jacki Berry, District Secretary

1st Pucklechurch Guides

Are you aged 10 or 11 (and a girl!) and looking for some new experiences and challenges? Have you thought about Guides? We are an active unit in Pucklechurch and in the last year we have been kayaking (twice!), been to the Big Gig at Wembley, been away to camp (twice), made a Scarecrow of One Direction for the Scarecrow trail, won a prize in the Revel Parade, and been to see David Hasslehof in Panto in Bristol. At our weekly meetings we have cooked, (indoors and out) performed dance routines, made crafts, played games and chatted with our friends (a lot!). If you are interested in joining please contact Ellie on 07733172735 or Rachel on 0117 9374664

God and The Queen

Many of you will have seen reports about GirlGuiding preparing to 'ditch God and the Queen' from their Promise. This is untrue. A consultation is in progress to examine the current wording and its relevance to, and understanding by, today's members.

Our original Promise has been amended 11 times over the past 100 years so that members can actually understand what it is they are promising to keep. Everyone, members, parents, supporters, is invited to take part in the survey. Log onto www.girlguiding.org.uk/news/promise_consultation to register your views.

Here's a sample; do you prefer 'Love my God', 'Do my duty to God', 'Serve God'. Which makes most sense to you? There are other alternatives. Take a look and I think you will understand why we need this consultation.

Ros Abbott



CRICKET

Are you or your child interested in playing cricket this year?

Pucklechurch CC runs 3 senior sides, 5 youth sides ages U17, U15, U13, U11 and U9s, and a Sunday development side.

Now is the time to get in touch if you are interested. Indoor nets start mid February in the brand new net facilities, recently opened at Yate International Academy. Senior nets will take place on Tuesday evenings and Youth on Saturday mornings.

Youth Cricket starts at the age of 6 years and both girls and boys are welcome. The under 9s age group play 'kwik cricket' which is a development game for young children played with plastic bats and balls so there is no danger involved. Training for 6-8 years will however not start until a little later in the year, as we are unable to have small children in the indoor nets for safety reasons.

The club is extremely sociable and has a firm belief in family involvement. All coaches are CRB checked and operate under the guidance of the Bristol Youth Cricket League and the ECB.

For further details please contact Vicky or Dean on 0117 9373227. Why not visit our website at Pucklechurchcc.co.uk