

## From Pucklechurch to Pune...

Three Pucklechurch Guiders, Judith, Anne and myself together with Rangers, aged 16+, and other adult leaders travelled to Sangam, our World Centre in Pune, India. What a contrast to life in Pucklechurch!

Firstly there's the cacophony of noise; early morning parrots screeching, the mullah next door wailing full blast through a loudspeaker and the local ammunitions factory announcing shift changes with an old-fashioned very loud air raid siren.

Then the traffic. Oh the traffic! There's masses of it, going in every direction and all at the same time. Fortunately the Indians seem to be less stressed than us and there's no road rage, everyone gives way to one another, sometimes within a hairsbreadth but nevertheless we saw no accidents. Cows, water buffalo and stray dogs just add to the confusion and obviously the cows have right of way and can sit down in the middle of the traffic if they want to!

The main purpose of our visit was to take part in community service through various projects selected by our World Centre. There were 64 participants at Sangam and we worked in teams. Judith and her team were challenged with providing activities for boys of all ages at a school for the blind which took a lot of thought and discussion. However she found it most rewarding and was surprised at how dextrous the boys were and how quickly they learned.

Anne's project was very different. With her team she visited a waste collection service being pioneered by local women to help them realise their potential and earn their own money. She visited a smelly waste collection point, but also saw some surprisingly wealthy apartments with their own swimming pools. Here residents were being urged to sort their rubbish into wet and dry to make the collection service viable, and Anne's team distributed leaflets.

My team went into slum schools to teach action songs like the Hokey Cokey and to provide craft activities. The buildings were dingy and crumbling with peeling paint and far too many children in the room. The children were of mixed age and many wore government-provided uniform. All were spotlessly clean despite the monsoon weather outside and the shacks they lived in. We were very conscious of the gritty concrete floors as everyone has to take off their shoes and sit cross-legged on them. The children were delighted to see us, loved making things and didn't covet anything. A single bead or a pencil found was promptly returned.

In addition to the project we bought saris and learned how to wear them correctly, ate Indian food with our fingers, and learned about Indian culture. We rode in rickshaws and ancient, rickety buses. We visited teeming, vibrant markets and haggled for bargains.

After our Guiding programme ended we flew to Delhi and toured the sights, and then to Agra and the Taj Mahal which is as beautiful as depicted and certainly wondrous in its construction. After a final trip to a local market it was time to return home. We all now appreciate far more the things we took for granted. It was such a worthwhile trip and one we'll always remember.

If this has fired your enthusiasm for adventure, and you are 14 or over, then why not join our local Ranger group. This could lead to your opportunity to do something similar. Contact Judith on 9374302; she'd love to hear from you.

*Ros Abbott, Guider*

## Rogue Traders in South Glos

South Gloucestershire Trading Standards would like to reiterate the warning given recently to residents to be extra vigilant when dealing with unexpected callers at the front door.

Officers are aware that rogue traders are currently operating in the area and are offering to carry out, amongst other things, paving/driveway and roofing work.

Rogue trading incidents such as these are also linked to distraction burglaries, so we would ask that residents please look out for your neighbours, family and friends as well and report any suspicious activity.

There are a number of steps residents can take to try and avoid becoming the victim of a rogue trader.

- Be wary of traders who cold call and the deals they offer you – it is unusual for genuine tradesmen to need to cold call to drum up work!
- Do not allow any unknown and unexpected visitor into your home. If possible, try to deal with them through a window or use a door chain.
- Ensure your front and back doors are closed and locked if your attention is elsewhere.
- If you agree to work you are afforded cancellation rights by law, and these should be given to you in writing. It is a criminal offence not to provide these in certain circumstances.
- If you are unhappy or feel intimidated by the visitor – shut the door and call the police.

If you think you or someone you know has fallen victim to a rogue trader, please contact senior Trading Standards enforcement officer Neil Derrick immediately on 07801 200104 or 01454 864565.

For advice on this or any other consumer issue, contact the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06 or visit their website [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk).

# PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



AUTUMN 2014

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

## Pucklechurch Parish Council Chairman's Report - August 2014 Parish Council Community Grants

The Council has confirmed that its Community Grant Scheme will be available to applicants again this year. Application forms are available from the Parish Clerk at: [parish.council@pucklechurch.org](mailto:parish.council@pucklechurch.org) or may be downloaded from the Parish Council website at: [www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.weebly.org](http://www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.weebly.org)

This year the deadlines are as follows:

31 October 2014 - for applicants who wish to have forms checked before final submission

30 November 2014 - final application submission.

The Council expects to receive reports from all successful recipients of grants, on how the money has been spent and the benefit it has provided.

Please note we are still awaiting reports from applicants who were successful in the last round and would like to remind those applicants these should be submitted as soon as possible.

### Planning

We continue to be involved in planning applications and have attended South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) planning site visits and committee meetings to present parish views in person. The views we express are available to see in the Parish Council minutes and on SGC's website. We have also been making comments on SGC's draft Policies, Sites & Places Development Plan Document. Links to all of these can be found via the Parish Council website (as shown above)

### Hill View Road

I am very disappointed to say that we are still awaiting the report from South Gloucestershire Council. We are currently working with residents of Hill View Road to understand the issues that have been occurring over the years with regard to excess water. We have reminded SGC of their commitment to those residents.

### Multi Use Path

The Council fully supports the development of the proposed multi-user link from Pucklechurch to Shortwood Hill. The works have been split into a number of phases and consultation for "Phase 1" has taken place.

It has been decided to work from Shortwood up and there have been some concerns about leaving Policeman's Hill corner to last. The view from the project team is that if the most important part is completed first there will be little desire to spend money on less important sections. The total costs for the link are in excess of £300k. For more information see:

[https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/B4465\\_Shortwood\\_Hill\\_Shared\\_Path/consultationHome](https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/B4465_Shortwood_Hill_Shared_Path/consultationHome)

### First Bus Service:

We have been made aware that First Bus are reducing non-profit making routes in Marshfield. There is no plan yet to review our service but now that SGC grants have been removed, services will only be operated on a non-loss basis. It's a case of "Use it or lose it".

### Oaktree Avenue:

South Gloucestershire Council have decided to offer two plots of land for sale for development at the top of Oaktree Avenue. The area designated as village green has been excluded. To find out more see:

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/documents/A1>

The Parish Council will be endeavouring to ensure that the character of the buildings and all other planning aspects are properly considered should applications result from the sale.

### Website:

Please take the time to visit our new website. There is information, minutes and importantly links to "Fix my Street!" where you can report issues direct to SGC

If you would like to view the site its current address is [www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.weebly.org](http://www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.weebly.org) but please remember at some point in the near future it is likely we will be applying for our own 'gov.uk' address.

### Defibrillators:

The Council are continuing the good work of Heart Start by looking to install a fourth defibrillator in the Eagle Crescent area. Talks are ongoing with Western Power but we expect to have it in position during the autumn.

### Parish Clerk:

It is with regret that we are losing our clerk, Debra Duke. Her husband has had a military promotion and the family will be moving to High Wycombe. Debra has made a positive impact on the Parish in her short time with us and we wish her and her husband Paul the very best for the future. We have been fortunate to secure a locum whilst the recruitment process commences.

Our contact email address will remain the same [parish.council@pucklechurch.org](mailto:parish.council@pucklechurch.org) but the interim postal address will be 67 Birch Drive, Pucklechurch, Bristol. BS16 9RW *Bob Symons, Chairman*

**Pucklechurch Players Present**

## Hickory Dickory Dock

**A Pantomime  
by  
Norman Robbins**



**December 4th-6th  
Tickets 9373015**



## Pucklechurch News

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council

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Please email articles to editor@pucklechurch.org or drop them off 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:**  
See article below

## Pucklechurch News will become a quarterly publication with immediate effect

As some editions are busier than others, we've asked the Parish Council for permission to become a quarterly publication so news is more evenly spread over the year. Please make a note of our new publication deadlines:

**Copy in by 10 MAY for the June edition (Summer)**

**Copy in by 10 AUGUST for the September edition (Autumn)**

**Copy in by 10 NOVEMBER for the December edition (Winter)**

**Copy in by 10 FEBRUARY for the March edition (Spring)**

We try to get Pucklechurch News to the printer in time to be distributed in the first week of the month. We rely on volunteers to distribute the news - so if you've got some spare time and could help share the news in the village, please get in touch with Helen Toghill on the News Team (0117 9373837)

## Pucklechurch Fishing Club

Summer news



The Club's June match at Durliegh Reservoir was won by Pete Humphris with 65lbs of Bream.

Our July match on the River Severn at Ripple, was won by Pete again, this time with 38lbs of Bream. My match started off well, catching the occasional Perch on the float, however by lunch time the bites had dried up and my weight of 2lbs was one of the lowest.

The August match took place at the local Windmill fishery at Henfield. Pete Humphris completed a hat-trick of wins, this time with 63lbs of Carp.

## AMATEUR BOXING IN PUCKLECHURCH

With the recent success of the British amateur boxers at the Olympics in London in 2012 and the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, Pucklechurch Amateur Boxing Club are inviting local people to follow in their footsteps.

Since the inclusion of female amateur boxers at the 2012 London Olympic Games, there has been a huge influx of girls taking up the sport. Nicola Adams is an outstanding role model for female boxing since winning gold in both Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

Pucklechurch Amateur Boxing Club has been running since September 2013 and has people as young as 8 yrs old up to adults training every week at the community centre on Tuesdays and Friday evenings from 7.30 to 9pm. It offers a wide variety of training equipment to advance every aspect of boxing as well as a safe and friendly atmosphere to train in.



Amateur boxing is a great way to keep fit, learn self respect and respect for others and above all self belief, and all of this is on your door step, so why not come along to the community centre and give it a try.

Pucklechurch Amateur Boxing Club will be celebrating their one year anniversary with a disco/presentation on the 27th of September from 7.30 at the community centre. There will be a disco and bar so come along and help us celebrate, meet members of Pucklechurch Amateur Boxing Club and enjoy a family night out.

For further information contact Edd Baker on 0755 0076 990.

## TOWER Playgroup



**Tower Playgroup is now taking names for our waiting list.**

**We have immediate vacancies available for children aged 2 years upwards.**

**Please call for more information on 07722029077 during playgroup hours.**

**Mon/Fri 9-12. Tue/Weds/Thurs 9-3 or please pop in for a visit.**

**Email towerplaygroup@gmail.com**

## News from Pucklechurch Gardening Club

Pucklechurch Gardening Club meet in the Community Centre on the first Wednesday of October, November, December, February, March, April and May at 8pm.

Our A.G.M. on Wednesday 7 May was well attended by over 30 members. At this meeting Lynn Bate was elected as our new Chairperson. George Alway stepped down from the post but remains on the committee. We also welcomed a new committee member- Margaret Fortune. Joyce Harris won the competition for the 'Frank Bradley Trophy' having accumulated the most points throughout the year.

Our residential weekend trip to Cornwall in June was greatly enjoyed by 46 members and friends. We visited Pinstla Gardens & Nursery at Bodmin en-route to our hotel, The Penmere Manor in Falmouth. On Saturday we visited Bonython Gardens at Helston in the morning and Trebah Gardens near Falmouth in the afternoon. On Sunday we went to Healey's Cyder Farm at Truro before continuing our journey home to Pucklechurch.

Our annual Summer Supper was held on Friday 25 July at the home and garden of Greg and Lynn Bate. More than 50 members and guests had a wonderful evening with the weather being extremely kind to us. At this event, Joyce Harris was awarded the 'Frank Bradley Trophy' by our president, Tony Pratt as Carmen Bradley was unable to attend.



**Our new Winter programme begins in October;**

**Wednesday 1 October** - Martin Hall from Bristol Zoo Gardens - 'Adventures in Gardening'. Frank Bradley Competition 'A Humorous vegetable'

**Wednesday 5 November** - Mr. G. Nicholls - 'Photography in the Garden'. Competition - 'A Photograph of your own garden'

**Wednesday 10 December** - Christmas Quiz and Seasonal Supper. Competition - 'Christmas Flower arrangement'

**February 2015** is a Question Time event with hints and tips presented by George Alway

**The March 2015** speaker is Mr D Coombs, talking about Ponds and Water Gardens.

**In April 2015** the theme is Border and Plant design, presented by Caroline Tatham

**In May 2015** we have our AGM and presentation of the Frank Bradley Cup to the winner of our monthly competition.

The 2015 day trip is to the Malvern Show. The date has yet to be decided.

**On 25 July 2015 we are holding our Summer Supper and will be celebrating our 40th anniversary.**

Visitors are always welcome at 50p per person for a maximum of two visits, after which they are encouraged to join. The current annual subscription is £8 per person.

For further information about the club and its activities please contact George Alway on 9373141, Ann Smith on

## Letter to the Editor...



This time of year we hear a lot about marathons and half marathons around the country. From 1994 to 1997, Pucklechurch was the venue for the 'Great Western Ten Mile Road Race' with the Community Centre being used as the changing room before and after the race and also for the presentation of prizes. There must have been at least 350 runners with quite a number coming from the continent and also a Bristol Olympic champion by the name of Nick Rose, who had won the race several times.

The race circuit started in Hill View Road, on through Abson, then bearing left for Doynton and coming back along Rookery Lane to Pucklechurch and repeating the same circuit a second time, finishing back again in Hill View. This race is now the Bristol Half Marathon with around 12,000 taking part.

*Les Whittock*

## Top up your oil tank in early autumn.

Local charity West of England Rural Network is advising householders to top up their domestic oil tanks before expected price rises in the colder months of autumn and winter. The charity runs a community oil buying scheme which aims to save local people money on their oil bills by placing a collective order once a month.

The charity is currently offering a limited number of FREE memberships to the scheme (normally £20) to anyone over 70 living in the West of England (Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire), thanks to funding awarded by Quartet Community Foundation.

Scheme co-ordinator Jill Baker says "oil prices tend to rise in autumn and winter as demand increases. By placing a single large order we can negotiate with suppliers and everyone pays less." Members of the scheme can order as little as 500 litres, as infrequently as they choose, and still pay the negotiated price. The member oil price in July was 49.8p per litre (plus VAT at 5%). The usual annual membership fee is £20 for households, £30 for community buildings and £100 for businesses.

If you are interested in joining the scheme, visit [www.wern.org.uk/oil](http://www.wern.org.uk/oil) or call Jill Baker on 01275 333701.





## THE PUCKLE RUCK (Approx 6 miles)

### Race Report:

It started months ago! The idea of a race in conjunction with Pucklechurch Revel was mooted and quickly agreed. Now who, how and what had to be decided?

We were able to call on the expertise of Gordon Robbins, he is the man who has everything at his fingertips. His advice, paperwork and guidance was invaluable. He even ran as tail end Charlie!

Laura Sears was in charge of the marshals, she devoted a lot of time to the info sheets, each with its own photo of position and what to do. Gordon and Laura were instrumental in the success of the day.

Pucklechurch Primary School was great in providing the school for changing rooms, toilets and bag storage. David Forrester, Head teacher, made a special effort to open the school, lay out tables and sign post the areas.

The Revel committee provided the cups and pendants and a special thank you to them for providing the Samba Band that greeted all runners (we were caught out by the winner who arrived just as the band were setting up, in a better time than we expected).

All 30 runners completed the race in very respectable times.

A few issues on the track were; horses, traffic, and searing heat. Who would have thought that Revel Day would be so sunny!

Full results are available on:  
[www.emersonsgreenrunningclub.co.uk](http://www.emersonsgreenrunningclub.co.uk)

First Male: Aaron Dishma -Independent  
Second Male Sam Stone - EGRC  
Third Male Gary Slater- Thornbury

First Lady Rebecca Sheppard – EGRC  
Second Lady Caroline White- EGRC  
Third Lady Fiona Moore – Thornbury

Special Lady Sarah McNamara  
Special Male Gary Slater

Thank you to all who made it happen.



## Pucklechurch Community Association Report August 2014

Although the committee has been working hard on improvements, there have been a mixed bag of results. Making sure there is proper signage for the building has not been as straight forward as we anticipated. It's a similar case with the outer doors. It was hoped this work would be done during the summer break so as to cause little disruption to the users of the building. This will not now be the case and we will have to wait a little longer.

However it is not all doom and gloom. We have found a company to do the cleaning. They meet all our criteria and are doing a fantastic job. The building looks and smells wonderful.

We have also applied for a grant from the Churngold Environmental Fund - Quartet Community Foundation to replace the lights with low cost energy efficient ones. This was a project the committee felt ought to be addressed as a result of the Energy Efficiency Study that was carried out last year. The number of lights and the inaccessibility of many of them made it a potentially costly project. We are delighted to report our bid for £2000.00 was successful.

Many of the user groups take a break over the summer. They resume again in September. Why not pop along and see what is going on?

- Mondays – Playgroup and Bowls
- Tuesdays – Playgroup and Folk Club and/or Boxing
- Wednesdays – Playgroup, Zumba and Bowls and/or Gardening
- Thursdays – Playgroup, Cadbury Heath Children's clinic (1st and 3rd Thursdays), Majorettes, band practice, Youth Club and Drama.
- Fridays – Playgroup, Star Jumpers (gym for tiny tots), Karate, Boxing, Yoga
- Saturdays – Dance, Meet your Parish Council (1st Saturday)
- Sunday – Flying, Bowls and Badminton.

Please do contact Anna Sharpe on 0117 937 4449 or email [anna.sharpe@lineone.net](mailto:anna.sharpe@lineone.net) if you require further information.

A reminder that at the next AGM two key members of the committee will be standing down; the chairman and the booking secretary. The PCA is eager for volunteers to join the committee with a view to filling these positions. For more information contact Peter Nunez (0117 937 4653).

The Community Centre may be busy but it is available to hire. We have a special offer for villagers; Children's Parties (3 hours) for only £40.00

## Free Training for Carers

Carers Support Centre is running free training for carers this autumn.

Three out of five of us will be a carer at some point in our lives, but how many of us know what support is out there, or would even think to ask? Many carers don't even see themselves as carers. They feel they are just doing what anyone else would in the same situation; looking after a relative or friend who is ill, frail or disabled. But taking on a caring role can mean facing a life of isolation, frustration, ill health and depression.

Carers Support Centre works locally to support unpaid family carers. Services include a specialist information and advice line; help with forms and accessing local services; counselling; training courses and groups; preparing for hospital discharge; getting a break; and the Carers Emergency Card.

This autumn they are running FREE training courses for carers:

Everyday First Aid – Monday 22 September 10 -12, Fishponds.

If you are caring for someone who has dementia, is elderly, disabled or is affected by mental illness you will know that they are at an increased risk of having a medical emergency. This course can help you to learn simple first aid skills that could help if things suddenly went wrong.

Caring for those in the Later Stages of Life – 5 week course on Wednesdays 1-3pm, Southmead Fire Station (starts Weds 3 Sept). For anyone caring for a family member or friend living with a life limiting illness or near the end of life.

Understanding Dementia – 5 week course on Mondays 1-3pm, Fishponds (starts Mon 13 Oct). For anyone caring for a family member or friend suffering from dementia. For more information about training courses or other services contact:

## Mobile Library

Dates for remainder of 2014 (alternate Fridays)

12 & 26 September  
10 & 24 October  
7 & 21 November  
5 & 19 December

Community Centre 2.30 – 2.45pm  
Homefield Road Bungalows 2.55 – 3.15pm  
Homefield Road 3.20 – 3.35pm



## St. Thomas a Becket PUCKLECHURCH

### Church Services

1st Sunday in month  
8.30a.m. Holy Communion  
10.00a.m. Café Church

### 2nd/3rd/4th Sunday 10a.m. Family Communion

The young people go out for a time together during this service; for Junior or Youth Church; for Christian based teaching.

### Special Services

Sunday 12th October  
Harvest Festival at 10a.m.

### Remembrance Sunday 9th November

10.45a.m. Service of Remembrance, Wreath Laying, Two minutes silence and parade service.

### Harvest Supper

Saturday 4th October at 7.30p.m.  
Tickets available in September.

### Autumn Fayre

Saturday 15th November at Community Centre from 2pm – 4pm.

Stalls – Cakes, Preserves, Crafts, Cards, Bric-a-Brac; Books and more. Refreshments and Raffle available.

### OPEN DOORS

The Church is open on 3rd Wednesday in month; a chance to look round our lovely old Church; a time of quiet; Tea/Coffee and small sales table available.

Suitable for 0 – 100 years old.

September, 17th October 15th and November 19th.

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

During the House – to – House collection we made £1538; all this money has now been sent to Christian Aid and is already being used to provide water and help the starving, in Syria, Ethiopia and other troubled areas.

A big thank you to all who contributed to this