



St. Thomas a Becket

St Thomas a Becket invites everyone, families, single folks, young and not so young alike, to its new informal service on the first Sunday in the month;

Café Church.

Café Church aims to provide a warm, welcoming atmosphere and space in busy lives to consider some Christian teachings in a modern approach to Church.

Café Church is a chance to come into church at 10am on Sunday morning, enjoy coffee, tea and cakes/croissants, watch a short video on a Christian theme and worship through two or three hymns. Expect a warm welcome, relaxed service and time to talk, discuss the video, move around and meet with friends or make new ones.

There is a free choice children's activity in one area of the church, some toys for babies/toddlers and we hope that teenagers will want to join their families in watching the video and joining in the chat afterwards – and, of course, eating some cakes!

Café Church is being held on the first Sunday of every month in 2014, starting at 10am.

May 4th/5th is Scarecrow Weekend. This year, the Scarecrow Trail will start at 12.00 on the Sunday in order that Café Church can finish as and when people are ready to leave. Why not try Café Church followed by the Scarecrow Trail?

As part of the 'body of Christ' in Pucklechurch, St Thomas a Becket is keen to serve the community and show God's love to its people. This is one way of doing that. We hope many of you can make it.

If you would like to ask more, please contact Stuart Young (0117 9372260) or Rosaline Trueman (0117 9373134) or Julie Gardner (Julie@juliegardner.co.uk).

SPECIAL SERVICES

Ascension Day Thursday 29th May 7.30p.m. Holy Communion

Revel Service Sunday 15th June 6.30p.m. Outside if dry inside if rain. Refreshments from 6p.m.

Patronal Festival Service July 13th 10.00a.m. Family Communion

Music Sunday July 20th 10.00a.m. Family Communion

SCARECROW COMPETITION AND TRAIL

Sunday 4th May 10a.m. Café Church

12noon Scarecrow Trail Commences – Collect and pay for your trail form and map. Various stalls open including cakes and raffle tickets on sale.

Sandwiches Tea/Coffee available

2-4p.m. Cream Teas available and Handbells will be playing .

4p.m. Return any completed Trail forms to Church or take two days if you wish.

4.30p.m. Church Closes.

Monday 5th May

Church Open from 10.30a.m.

Coffee Tea, Cakes and Stalls Open.

Sandwiches available from 11.30a.m.

Collect and pay for your trail form from 10.30a.m.

2-4p.m. Cream Teas available with a chance to listen to some live music.

4p.m. Return your Trail Forms to Church

Find out the answers to the trail and see a Power Point Presentation of all the Scarecrows.

This will be followed by a short blessing.

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



SPRING 2014

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.pucklechurch.org

Pucklechurch Parish Council Chairman's Report January 2014

Parish Precept

As you may have noticed from your Council Tax bills the Parish Council agreed to increase the precept at a rate slightly above inflation over last year's figure. This was because we have had to absorb extra costs relating to Street Care passed down to us by South Gloucestershire Council. Overall we have incurred costs of circa £5000 under a new contract which we will be reviewing after the first year. All other costs were increased by inflation.

Co-option

As you may have realised from the Casual Vacancy notices we have posted, the Parish Council has been operating at a reduced number. I am pleased to say that we have now been able to co-opt two new councillors, Mark Humphrey and Tina Symons, who will serve with the Council until the end of its current term in 2015. We still have one vacancy so if you would like to put yourself forward please contact us at parish.council@pucklechurch.org.

Community Sustainable Energy

Karen Wilkinson from the Marshfield Community Energy Project gave a presentation to Councillors and reported that:

- Marshfield's Parish Plan had found that there was strong support for renewable energy. As a result thermal imaging of Marshfield had been undertaken and a funding bid is being prepared to support a feasibility study into three technologies; wind, solar and anaerobic digestion.
- Community energy projects would provide an income to the parish and increase resilience, particularly as funding from other sources was decreasing. Community consultation was important to explain the benefits to residents and design a scheme that was acceptable.
- There were a lot of organisations providing advice and some funding but this was a new area of work and practical help was more difficult to find. An event hosted in Marshfield in 2013 had been extremely well attended, with Vince Cable MP as the key speaker.
- It would be useful to work with other parishes to improve the attraction of the area for investment. Following the presentation the Council agreed to have this as an agenda item at a future meeting and have it as a topic at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting

Save the Date!

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on
Wednesday 14th May 2014.

As always, all parishioners are invited to attend this meeting. Proposed topics include the cycle path, emergency planning and the new bus service.

Speed Watch

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances our Speed Watch team has not been able to provide the level of service they would like, and so need to pass responsibility on to new volunteers.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank members of the group for their time and commitment. The Parish Council has now taken the lead on this in order to focus on delivering safer roads in our locality.

Cycle Path from Pucklechurch to Shortwood

We are pleased to say that work continues on this project and that additional funding has been secured. Although this is still not enough to fully complete the plan, it is enough to improve safety for cyclists and walkers along Shortwood Road.

Bob Symons, Chairman

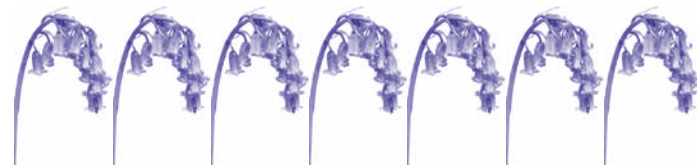
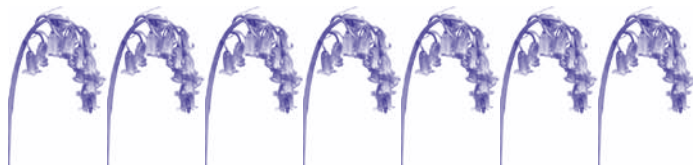
Pucklechurch Players present

'Haggard'

an entertainment by
Eric Chappell

on

Friday 16 & Saturday 17 May
at the Community Centre



It is almost a year since the election of the PCA committee and we have several new members. It has been an exciting time. Though there has not been much visible evidence of progress, a great deal has been going on behind the scenes.

The day-to-day maintenance has very successfully dealt with many issues and in several cases problems have been fixed before any inconvenience to users was caused. This has allowed the committee to look at the long term viability of the building. At present information and data is being collected and collated.

The committee works very hard and has lots of ideas but even so more members would be most welcome. We would be happy for you to join us in whatever capacity you feel comfortable. At the AGM in May 2014 the committee will be urgently seeking a secretary so if you feel you could help please do get in touch.

This year the Community Centre has its own dedicated website. Please do check it out at www.Pucklechurch-CommunityCentre.co.uk and post any comments.

The AGM will be held in the meeting room of the Community Centre at 8pm on Monday 12th May 2014. Please do come along - we would love to see you.

Fishing Club News

At our recent AGM the venues and dates for next year were decided.

26th April Shiplate near Bleadon

10th May Walters Lake, South Cerney

7th June Durliegh Reservoir, Bridgewater

5th July River Severn Ripple, Tewkesbury

9th August Windmill Lake, Westerleigh

6th September Todber Manor, Shaftsbury

11th October Gloucester Canal, Sims Gloucester

1st November K&A Canal Semington

29th November Christmas contest at Scotland Road, Melksham

Anyone interested should contact Mike Snudden on 07742925276

Recycling Bins in the Community Centre Car Park

As a result of recent changes to the kerbside collections by the local authority the plastic recycling container in the car park of Pucklechurch Community Centre is now sealed off and will shortly be removed. As a result, the PCA Committee have reconsidered the recycling facilities that are available in the car park.

Over recent months there has been a considerable increase in the number of bags containing glass and cans that are just left on the ground beside the containers. This seems to encourage others to leave bags full of all manner of rubbish. Besides making the areas messy and untidy, some poor volunteer has to dispose of this.

The PCA now propose to remove all recycling bins from the car park.

The St Peter's Hospice Clothes Bank will remain for a few weeks as the amount of revenue it generates for the Hospice is substantial (last year it was over £10,000.00). The Committee feel because so much is raised for such a worthwhile charity the opportunity should be offered to continue this service on a trial basis.

Please use the kerbside collection for your recycling. The Community Centre car park is a facility for users of the Community Centre.

Cleaner for the Community Centre

Pucklechurch Community Centre is looking to contract out the cleaning of the building. Any interested party should contact Anna Sharpe on 0117 937 4449 or email anna.sharpe@lineone.net

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 May for Summer issue (June)
10th August for Autumn issue (September)
10th October for Christmas issue (November)
10th January for Winter issue (February)



The Beaver Group continues to thrive so there is a short waiting list. We aim for the children to join as soon as possible but this of course depends on the numbers going up to Cubs.

In January we did some cooking and everyone enjoyed making their own mini pizzas. We also learnt a little about the Victoria Cross and invested our new Beavers. Sadly we had to say goodbye to two of our Beavers who were swimming up to Cubs.

This term we are working on our Friendship, Global and Promise challenge badges - thinking of Beaver scouts in other countries and how their lives may be different from ours.

Please contact Sarah Fox-Robinson on 07976 847587 if you would like to know more.



1st Pucklechurch Cubs

Pucklechurch Cubs spent January learning about the planets and Solar System. We made models of the Solar System using toilet paper and looked at the Moon and stars through a telescope. We went skiing in Churchill on the Monday after Jenni Jones had won her medal at the Winter Olympics so were lucky to have booked ahead.

To mark Founder's Day on 22nd February (the birthday of Robert Baden Powell) we learnt about Cubs and Scouts in India. More recently we have been working towards the Emergency Aid badge so our Cubs know what to do in an emergency. We are delighted that our five oldest Cubs have earned the Chief Scout's Silver Award which is the highest award a Cub can earn.

Plans are now in hand for our Summer Camp with the Scouts.

As always, new adult helpers are always welcome so if you would like to find out more please contact Rachel Smith on 07989 493817 for more information.



1st Pucklechurch Scouts

Since Christmas the Scouts have visited Avon Scout Radio at the Bristol Community Radio Station (BCfm 93.2).

They got the chance to speak on air and to record some jingles and links. Our planned camp in the school holiday had to be cancelled due to the weather, but the Scouts still had the chance to take part in the majority of the day's activities, including climbing and crate stacking.

In the coming weeks the Scouts will be finishing off some badge work, and taking part in a Scouting skills competition in Bath, as well as some hiking and off-road cycling.



Revel 2014

Revel is going from strength to strength. We have made lots of changes to the layout and running of this year's event, which we hope you will all embrace.

Firstly, a reminder of our committee:

Chair - Dave Matthews

Vice Chair - Mandy Smith

Treasurer - Brian Champion

Secretary - Lori-Anne Button - Lorianne.scantlebury@googlemail.com

Carly Neill, Dean Freestone, Claire Bristow, Chris Murphy, Omie Flook and Steve Thomas.

Secondly, we have changed the meeting timetable. Revel meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month in one of the pubs or clubs at 7:30. Our meeting calendar and a copy of our minutes are published on, www.pucklechurch.org. If you would like to pop along to one of our meetings contact the secretary on 07789707278. You can also find copies of Revel minutes and Constitution on the Pucklechurch Website.

Thirdly, as mentioned, Revel have made some changes to this year's event. The day will start at 1pm due to the Puckle Ruck, 6 mile run starting at 11am, which is being coordinated by the School, Revel and Bob Symons.

The parade will not be around the village but around the Recreation field with a Coronation of the new Revel King and Queen.

There are lots of new additions to this year's Revel including a, 'Pucklechurch Bake off'.

If you have any questions about this years Revel then please contact one of the Committee for more information.

The theme for Revel 2014 will be Carnival and the event called 'Rio Revel'

Dates for your calendar:

| | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| 10th May | - | Revel King and Queen |
| | | Disco - Village Hall |
| 28th May | - | Revel Meeting |
| 13th /14th June | | Revel Beer Festival |
| 16th June | - | Revel Quiz |
| 21st June | - | Revel Day |

Pucklechurch Gardeners' Club

Our November meeting, featuring Mr Rodney Stone's presentation on 'Tools for Self-reliance', was well attended. Mr Stone's talk was very interesting and informative. The Frank Bradley trophy competition of 'A photograph of a Gardeners' Club event' was judged by the speaker and won by Greg Bate, with George Alway coming second and Chris Stewart third.

Our December Christmas Quiz and Supper was attended by over 50 members and partners. It was a very enjoyable evening and thanks went to Greg and Lynn Bate for producing a very entertaining quiz. The Frank Bradley trophy competition of '4 Homemade Mince Pies' was judged by Tony Pratt and won by Bev Stewart, with Ann Smith second and Jean Powell third.

The first meeting of 2014 was in February when Mr P. Downe gave an interesting talk with many slides about 'Mountain flowers in your garden'. The Frank Bradley trophy of 'A small Winter arrangement' was judged by the speaker and won by Joyce Harris, with Gill Watkins second and Jean Powell third.

Future meetings:

Wednesday 5th March - Mandy Potter 'Cotswold Garden Flowers'. Frank Bradley Trophy competition - 1 Daffodil

Wednesday 2nd April - Jon Mason 'Salad crops for a small garden.' Competition - 1 Tulip

Wednesday 7th May - A.G.M. and presentation of the Frank Bradley trophy

Visitors are always welcome - 50p per person for a maximum of two visits.

For further information about the club and its activities please contact George Alway on 0117 9373141 or Ann Smith on 0117 9372030.

LOCAL MARKET AT DOYNTON

Did you know there is a regular Local Market held in Doynton Village Hall on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month? Goods on offer include locally grown vegetables, meat and poultry, cakes and pies, preserves, garden plants, house plants and sumptuous handmade chocolate. Regular handicraft stalls include handmade cards, mosaics and knitted goods. Cut flowers and locally grown fruit in season. Teas and coffees are served during the running of the Market making it a great meeting place to come and grab a bargain and sit and have a natter with friends. The Market is just open for one hour from 10.30 am to 11.30 am so the early birds catch the best bargains! Please pay us a visit and support a Local Market in your neighbouring village. Dates can be checked by going on to the Doynton village webpage at www.doyntonvillage.org. It would be great to see you there!

Countryside Walks

The Pucklechurch Countryside Access Group are in the process of surveying and publishing a series of walks in the countryside around our area. You may join in any of our walks. It's a great way to get exercise, see the lovely countryside around us and make new friends.

Walks start and finish in the Community Centre car park on Abson Road. Walks depart at 10.30am so please arrive a little earlier. Walks vary between circular walks of 1 to 2 hours, and walks to a destination for a picnic or pub/cafe lunch and then return - on some walks you can return by bus. Just turn up on the dates below, but if you want a reminder and some details of the walk beforehand, such as length and destination, please send an email to countryside.access@pucklechurch.org.

Dates for Spring 2014
Sunday, 13th April
Saturday, 26th April
Sunday, 11th May
Saturday, 24th May
Sunday, 8th June

As I mentioned above we'll be publishing the various walks and we expect to have the first set available by the end of April. Check the community website for details. http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/countryside_access.html
Martin Smith

Mobile Library Dates

The dates for future visits to Pucklechurch are as follows:-

11 & 25 April
9 & 23 May
6 & 20 June

The stop times are as follows:-
Pucklechurch Village Hall - 2:30 - 2:45pm
Homefield Road Bungalows - 2:55 - 3:15
Homefield Road - 3:20 - 3:35

TOWER Playgroup

Monday - Friday full and half days.
Now open 3 full days.

Spaces available for 2 year olds.

Please call Katherine on 07722029077,
email - towerplaygroup@gmail.com
or pop in for a visit.

Now taking names for Sept 2014.



GUIDING REPORT

1st Pucklechurch Rainbows are doing '50 Things For Free', a badge designed locally and sold in aid of a guiding trip to 'Our Chalet' in Switzerland. The girls made Valentine's Day treats and will now be venturing outside to meet more of their challenges. As a service project all the girls have diligently saved plastic milk bottle tops which, again, are helping to fund the Swiss trip. Madison, Amy and Lucy have continued to do this although they have moved up to Brownies. Thank you girls. Two new girls have joined, but others have moved on, so this Unit would love to welcome more 5-7 year olds to join in the fun. Contact Ruth Storey on 9373405.

3rd Pucklechurch Rainbows are working on their Global Roundabout badge with the girls choosing the clauses. This is one of the principles of Guiding in that it is 'girl-led' (with guidance from the leaders). It's led to some delicious meetings. They discussed Fair Trade products, including chocolate, and obviously you have to taste it. Next they learned about American Daisy Scouts (the equivalent of Rainbows) and how they sell Girl Scout cookies each year for fundraising. You've guessed haven't you - they made and ate their own cookies! The girls have also made their own set of Russian Matrioshka dolls by cutting out card templates in three sizes and colouring them in bright patterns. For more information on Rainbows, aged 5 - 7 years, contact Joanna Wallace on 0117 9574119 or email joanna@wallisfamily.plus.com

Our Brownies are still celebrating their 100th birthday and enjoying lots of varied activities as usual. We extend a warm welcome to our new Guider, Claire, who has recently moved here and volunteered to transfer from her previous Unit to us. If you are aged 7 - 10 years then Brownies is for you. To join in the fun and friendship contact Lyn Ford on 0117 9373381 or email lynrford@hotmail.com

Guides are currently recruiting and would like any girls aged 10+ to come along and give us a try. There's no need to have been a Brownie or Rainbow. Come along and join the fun. At present the girls are working on an RSPB inspired badge, Rustle, Bustle and Squeak, which includes lots of nature related clauses. They celebrated Shrove Tuesday with homemade pancakes, which were too delicious to toss, just eaten straight away! Last week the Guides made their own scented candles as gifts for Mothers' Day.

Five older girls are still working towards the highest Guide Award, the Baden Powell Challenge. So far this term, they have organised an International Evening to celebrate World Thinking Day which included a very lively quiz, and planned a meeting to celebrate Chinese New Year.

To join us contact Ellie Myers - ellebee33@hotmail.com or Lori-Anne Button - lorianne.scantlebury@googlemail.com

Dyrham Rangers subjected Westerleigh villagers to a noisy evening recently when they tried their hand at ringing the bells in Westerleigh Parish Church. They didn't tell me whether it was tuneful or not! They've eaten well with their 'Come Dine with Me' evenings. By the time you read this they will have ventured forth on a night hike. This is a small, friendly group for girls aged 13½ upwards who want interesting experiences to enhance their journey towards adulthood. Contact Judith Harrison on 0117 9374302 or email judith.louise@hotmail.co.uk.

A big thank you to all our leaders and helpers who make Guiding possible in our village. If you'd like to join us, please contact me to talk about how you can help. It doesn't have to be every week, we welcome all offers.

Rosalind Abbott
South Cotswold Deputy Division Commissioner
Telephone: 01179 372157
email: rosabbott@hotmail.com

NEWS FROM ABSON CHURCH

During the last few years George Alway, our churchwarden, has planted hundreds of spring bulbs in the churchyard. So this spring we are holding 'Spring Flowers' so you can come and see them, with teas being served in the church. The first was 'Snowdrop Sunday'. It was a great success and was followed by a 'Daffodil Weekend' in March. Sometime during April/May and depending on the blooms we shall be having 'Tulip Time' with cream teas so watch out for publicity.

The first Abson Market this year was held in February. Future market dates include Saturday 26th April, and Saturday 24th May. They will run between 10.30am-12pm. Do you cook, or make handicrafts or have anything interesting to sell? Perhaps you would like to run your own table, with 10% of your proceeds donated to the church. Tel 0117 9372156 for details.

What a load of rubbish!

I am sure that Christmas and the New Year were an enjoyable time for most of you. I'm afraid that mine was rather spoilt by a horrible pile of 25 bags of general rubbish, that were dumped by the blue bin in the Community Centre Car Park.

The car park is privately managed by the Pucklechurch Community Association and a hefty bill has to be paid each month to have the blue bin emptied. The money for this comes from the charges generated from hiring the Community Centre, which is run on a very tight budget by volunteers from the Community. The bin is ONLY for people using the Community Centre. IT IS NOT FOR ALL AND SUNDRY.

This rubbish has to be cleared either by volunteers (a very unpleasant job) or by paying a lot of money to SITA to make special trips to clear the area. With all the wind and rain a lot has been blown all over the car park. This has to be tidied up by volunteers.

The Committee wishes to announce that anyone found fly tipping in the car park will be reported to the authorities.

PLEASE PUT YOUR RUBBISH OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR FOR COLLECTION OR TAKE IT TO THE TIP. DO NOT LEAVE IT IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE CAR PARK.

Fishing Club News

In November, our final match for the Club Cup took place on the Kennet and Avon Canal at Semmington, near Melksham. Going into the final match, it was all to play for. Pete Humphris won with 11lbs of Bream and Roach, my 10lbs was good enough for second place. Normally I'm not very good at fishing the canal and finish last! So this was a major surprise. As for the Cup, after multiple checks, it was found to be a dead heat between Martin Sheppard and Bob Inker. Many congratulations go to both men for such a good year.

Our Christmas contest was on the canal once again and normal service was resumed, with me finishing second last! The winning weight was 13lbs, caught by Kevin Boltz. Secretary, Mike Snudden took second place with a 9lb catch.

Anyone interested in joining the Fishing Club should contact Mike Snudden on 07742925276.

Please Lock Your Doors!

Recently, a house in Pucklechurch was burgled whilst the occupants were at home watching television in the early evening. The occupants were unaware that they had been burgled until discovering that a handbag left in the kitchen was missing. The most likely scenario is that the thief saw the handbag through the window and entered the house through the unlocked front door which could have taken just seconds.

If your exterior doors do not automatically lock when closed, then please get into the habit of locking them even when you are at home.



CRICKET

At Pucklechurch Cricket Club we are pleased to encourage men and women, boys and girls to play or just to get involved. In fact, our end of season Tournament on August Bank Holiday Sunday last year, a glorious day in the sun, saw many of the girls and mums getting involved and having a go.

We are a strongly family orientated club with firm beliefs that the whole family should be involved. We arrange BBQs, Discos and fun days when all the family can come along.

Our age groups start from just 6 years old, with Kwik Cricket equipment, a safe way for your child to develop hand to eye co-ordination using all plastic bats, balls, wickets etc. All of our coaches are CRB checked and work under the guidance of the ECB. This age group covers up to Under 9s.

We then progress to U11s, U13s, U15s, U17s and Seniors, running 3 Saturday sides and a Sunday Development side. We are one of a few local clubs who encourage our older youth players to play in their Saturday and Sunday development sides on a regular basis.

Our coaching sessions start shortly. The Youths start on Saturday Morning at Yate International Academy, a fantastic brand new facility, on 22. February from 11am to 1.00pm. Our seniors start at Brimsham Green School, Yate on Wednesday 19 Feb from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm.

Our Youth Match subscriptions have a cost of £30 per year (no match fees but a charge will be made for teas if playing a senior match) and £10 for year for U9s. This fee includes all training sessions including indoor sessions, and all safety equipment is also included. Unfortunately, we do not take U9s indoors at Yate for safety reasons. Their sessions will start later in the season.

If you would like to learn about the club call Dean or Vicky Freestone on 0117 9373227 or visit our website at pucklechurchcc.co.uk.

Brownies

ARE CELEBRATING THEIR 100TH BIRTHDAY THIS YEAR

There's something a little more cheerful to remember about 1914 than the start of World War One.

Younger sisters of Girl Guides had been clamouring for their own 'club' and so Brownies began.

And now 100 years later, thousands of Brownies in our County have begun celebrating by taking part in the Big Brownie Sleepover at various venues around Bristol. 1st Pucklechurch Brownies joined 500 others for a giant sleepover at The Mall, Cribbs Causeway. Well I don't know whether anyone had much sleep but they laid out their sleeping bags anyway. Everyone had a wonderful time with all sorts of activities going on. Certainly something special to remember for years to come.

Meanwhile 3rd Pucklechurch Rainbows worked on the Rustle, Bustle and Squeak badges, which are linked to the RSPB. They joined 200 other Rainbows for a special Santa steam trip, and thoroughly enjoyed the lovely party that the Guides organised for them – and they sang cutely at the Christmas carol service! 1st Pucklechurch Rainbows also came along to the Guides party and carol service.



Due to internal re-organisation, the word 'District' is no longer in use. Dyrham District Senior Section didn't fancy becoming the DSS! At one of their meetings they happened to read through some very old Minutes books and found that our area had once been referred to as 'the back villages' which they found fascinating.

Therefore they have renamed themselves 'Dyrham and Back Villages', or DABs for short. Look out for their smart new hoodies. These 13+ age girls don't just sit and read; oh no, they've been ice skating and had a taste

of scuba diving, plus a Christmas party. They'd love you to join them, so give Judith Harrison a ring on 9374302; she'd love to hear from you.

In November the Guides enjoyed a weekend away in the quaintly named Macaroni Woods in East Gloucestershire. By taking part in various activities they gained their Carnival badge. In December they had a very busy day in Bristol; first a visit to the BBC Studios in Whiteladies Road, followed by a bit of retail therapy, and finally a meal in Za Za Bazaar.

Five older guides working on their Baden-Powell Trefoil organised a very successful party for all the Brownies and Rainbows, including a visit from Santa. Younger members have been, and are working on the Rustle, Bustle and Squeak badge which offers lots of choice and scope for imagination. There are currently spaces in this Guide Unit so if you're 10+ why not come and join us. Contact Ellie Myers at ellebee33@hotmail.com for more information.

If you need more information on Guiding in general or if you can offer help in any way, please contact me, Ros Abbott, Deputy Division Commissioner – 9372157 or rosabbott@hotmail.com

Community Oil Buying Scheme

Members of community oil scheme pay lowest prices since July 2012.

You would expect domestic heating oil prices to rise during the early days of January wouldn't you? Members of the West of England Rural Network Community Oil Buying Scheme were pleasantly surprised to see their heating oil bills drop to the lowest level since July 2012! Members who ordered oil at the beginning of January paid just 52.9p per litre, or around £529 for a 1000 litre delivery (plus VAT at 5%). The scheme employs a skilled oil prices negotiator, who watches the worldwide crude oil price, and places the order on behalf of the members at the optimum moment to secure the lowest price.

The community oil buying scheme, run by a local charity, aims to reduce the cost of heating and hot water for people in the West of England who depend on oil. The scheme works by placing a single large order once a month, and negotiating with the all the local suppliers to get the best price.

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