### E DISCOVER, WE GRO Girlauidina



1<sup>st</sup> Pucklechurch Rainbows have seven eager girls attending regularly. Under Ruth's capable leadership they have followed the seasons. There are some colourful snowmen and cut-out snowflakes on their notice board. I expect the Rainbows are hoping for a bit more snow so that they can play in it!

**3<sup>rd</sup> Pucklechurch Rainbows** has nine girls. The leaders were delighted to welcome back a former Rainbow, Emma now aged 14, who has chosen to earn her 'service clause' for her Duke of Edinburgh Award through helping in the Unit. She joins Amber aged 15 who, although she has completed her Award enjoys Rainbows so much she's stayed on. Let's applaud these teenagers for choosing to use their time and talents to benefit others.

With all this help the Rainbows are able to have an exciting programme. They've made 'Promise mice', learned about colourful Kente cloth patterns and designed their own. Now they're beginning a 'Roundabout' badge - All About Me; the girls choose four different activities from a number of options. This follows the Guiding principle of girls choosing what they want to do.

If you are aged five - seven and would like to join in the fun, please contact Joanna Wallis on 01179 574119 or email joanna@wallisfamily.plus.com



1st Pucklechurch Brownies are delighted Lvn Ford and Phil Devey are back again. Congratulations to Michelle who has completed her Adult Leadership Qualification and is now a fully fledged Brownie Leader. As usual there is a buzz at meetings and this term the Brownies are focusing on nature. They have wassailed an apple tree which they hope to donate to the community, built bug hotels and are completing their star gazing badge.

At present they have a full complement but please email Michelle for further information on titch\_shaw@ hotmail.com





#### **1st Pucklechurch Guides**

Guides re-opened in January under new leadership and George's report is below. However I would like to mention the four Guides who have shown determination and tenacity during a difficult period and have achieved their Baden-Powell Challenge Award, the highest a Guide can earn. I felt proud and privileged to be asked to present badges to Kate, Beth, Ella and Carla who completed a wide range of challenges, including the Christmas Shoe Box appeal, visiting, and donating to, Bath Dogs and Cats home, earning their First Aid Badges and organising a party for the Rainbows and Brownies.

George Wynter reports - 1st Pucklechurch Guides meet on Tuesdays at 7.00 in the scout hut. We have 10 girls and if you have a daughter who would like to join us at Guides please email George Wynter, guide leader, for further information on: wynter397@ gmail.com. At present we are working on our Confectioners badge and we are going on our first sleepover at the end of February. We have lots more fun activities planned for the next few terms including a trip to the boat house in Bristol for some rowing and raft building activities. Why not come along and join the fun.



Dyrham Senior Section - Leader Judith Harrison, who writes 'Our Rangers are organising the whole term themselves, no reminders from us as leaders, arranging their own activities, bringing items needed. Last week they made smoothies, naming each one. At our next meeting they are doing yoga and making pancakes. We have a County Camp coming up in September and a trip to the Isle of Man next year to celebrate the Senior Section Centenary.'

If you are aged 14 and looking for fun and adventure, then contact Judith at judith.louise@hotmail.co.uk







Revel is nearly here. This year's theme is all things animals, so expect animal displays and stalls.

Letters are currently going out to all groups about participation. If you haven't received yours or would like one please email the secretary at: lorianne.scantlebury@googlemail.com

A few dates for your diary:

Family Disco - May 9th - village hall

**Revel Service - June 14th - Church** 

Revel Quiz- June 15th - Fleur de Lis

**Revel Day- June 20th** 

Revel Beer Festival - June 26-27- The Star

More publicity will be available at the beginning of May, so please look out for it.

Lastly, if you would like a stall on Revel day or you know someone who would be interested please get in touch. All contact details for the committee can be found on the Pucklechurch.org website.

We look forward to you continued support.

#### **Pucklechurch Players Present**

## 'Pullin' The Wool'

a comedy by Frank Vickery

Friday 15 and Saturday 16 May at the Community Centre

> **Tickets - Call Elaine** on 0117 9373105

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL www.pucklechurch.org



# Pucklechurch Scarecrow Trail & Competition 2015

Join in the May Day Bank Holiday family fun at St. Thomas a Becket Church, Westerleigh Rd, Pucklechurch BS16 9RD.

> Sunday 3rd May Church open 11.30 to 4.30

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May Church open 10.30 to 4.30

# 'Heroes - or Fiction'

is the theme for this year with prizes for the best scarecrow and best correct answers.

Sandwiches, drinks and cream teas are available at the church all day, as well as craft stalls, raffle and sessions from handbell ringers and musical interludes from local groups.

# Entry: Family £5, Adults £2, Children £1.

For more information contact Gill Kavanagh on 01179 373262 or email: info@pucklechurchscarecrow.co.uk

Last entry for Scarecrows April 15th

### Pucklechurch Parish Council Chairman's Report – Spring 2015

#### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Chairman gives formal notice that the Annual Parish Meeting will be taking place on 22 April 2015 in the School Hall at Castle Road. The agenda will be circulated nearer the time.

#### **Burial Ground**

The Burial Ground is now full and closed to interments other than those which can be accommodated in plots that have been previously purchased, burials resulting from the reopening of family plots and the interment of ashes. There are currently no plans to provide more facilities in Pucklechurch.

#### Water at Policeman's Corner, Shortwood Road

Despite our best efforts to get this problem resolved by the relevant authorities this continues to be an issue. The water authority and South Gloucestershire Council have fixed leaks and cleared drains but water continues to flow onto the road. We will continue to report the excess water and would suggest that individual residents report the issue, to support our efforts, directly to South Gloucestershire Council's Highways and Street Scene Services – telephone 01454 868000

#### **Obstructive Parking**

Concerns have been raised about cars parked in such a way that might cause an obstruction to emergency vehicles. Please could I ask that all drivers consider this when parking and any residents who believe the 'parking to be an immediate significant obstruction and / or is placing other road users in danger then call 999 for assistance'. This advice has been taken from the Avon and Somerset Constabulary website.

#### Defibrillators

You are no doubt aware that there has been a spate of defibrillator thefts in the Bristol area, including two from Pucklechurch. The publicity around this led to me being invited to talk about it twice on Radio Bristol. After hearing about our thefts, Mr Simon Hoddinott, a Wick resident, offered to donate £500 towards a replacement defibrillator in Pucklechurch, and then suggested that he would double this to £1000 should the station play 'Are you lonesome tonight' by Elvis Presley. The presenters and I all said that we would sing it ourselves!

So the radio played the song and Mr Hoddinott made good his promise. It was then suggested that members of the Parish Council should both sing and record the song at a PVSSC Open Mike session. Thus 'Bobby & the Defibs' was formed from a variety of local bands and performers. These included Les, Tom, Chris, Andy plus the horns and keys from 'Up The Function', and vocals provided by several Parish Councillors, who then performed in front of a live audience. Look out on YouTube for the recording. Special thanks go to Mr Hoddinott and all those who took part in the song.

We have now purchased replacement defibrillators for the bakery and Community Centre, and will be increasing coverage in the parish by installing extra equipment in Eagle Crescent and Shortwood. All of our defibrillators will be provided with improved security measures. We are currently evaluating the practicality of placing one at Parkfield.

#### **Policies & Group Contact list**

A number of new policies governing the work of the Council have been agreed and others updated, these will shortly be available on our website; <u>http://</u><u>pucklechurchparishcouncil.weebly.com/</u>. However, in order for us to be able to communicate more effectively with community groups we need to update our email list. Please will all groups in the parish provide contact details to the clerk via email at <u>parish.council@pucklechurch.org</u>. We are happy to add interested individuals to this list too if you also supply us with contact details.

#### The Big Pull

After three years of very poor turnouts we have decided not to arrange an annual spring clean and will concentrate our efforts on a new South Gloucestershire Council initiative - 'The Big Pull'. This is being organised as part of the Wild4life project and involves the Avon Invasive Weeds Forum. Himalayan Balsam is a plant which is rapidly spreading across the UK, invading the banks of our rivers and streams, smothering our native plants and causing flooding. Pulling it up is the easiest way to control it.

Last year's campaign was very successful, with 106 volunteers helping to clear a 675m stretch along the River Frome. We will provide the equipment and guidance, you provide the pulling power. We'll provide news on the dates of Big Pull mornings at a later date.

#### **Elections May 2015**

Parish Council elections will take place at the same time as the General and District Council elections planned for May 2015. The role of a Parish Councillor can be a very rewarding so have you thought about standing? If you think you might be interested and would like to find out more please contact any of the current Councillors or the Clerk by email/phone using the contact details available on our website. There have been 14 other individuals who have served the community as Council members over the past 4 years and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their support.

BoB Symons, Chairman

## **Pucklechurch Gardening Club**

The chilly December evening of the Pucklechurch Gardening Club Christmas Quiz and Supper evening started with a welcoming cup (or two) of warming mulled wine. Once everyone was relaxed and the quiz contestants had settled into their team tables, the questions came thick and fast with Lynn Bate taking on the role of Quiz Master.

After a traditional buffet supper, congratulations were in order to Joy Wolfe's team, who were our winners.

The Frank Bradley trophy – 'A Christmas Flower arrangement' - was won by Rosemary Cummins, and Greg Bate was magnanimous in defeat as he was pipped at the post by his wife, Lynn, who came second.



At the February meeting, Graham Nicolls gave a really interesting talk on 'Photography in the Garden'. Here's an example of his work.

Graham's top tips include;

- Using a tripod to keep the camera as steady as possible, with either a hand-held remote shutter or using the camera's own timer delay
- Arranging the flower using stick and pegs to get the right angle in front of a background canvas, emphasizing the features of the flower;
- Spraying the flower with water as the water droplets can accentuate the colours;
- Shading yellow flowers when photographing to achieve more depth of colour.



The Frank Bradley trophy – 'Snowdrops' - was won by Greg Bate, with George Alway placed second and Gill Watkins in third.

2

Arrangements are now in place for the coach trip to the RHS Malvern Spring Festival on Friday 8 May, and the good news is that the cost of the trip was reduced by  $\pounds$ 5 per person. If anyone else would like to go on the trip, the coach will cost  $\pounds$ 11 per person and they will need to pay for entry on the day. We will leave Pucklechurch at 8am and return from Malvern at 5pm. This has been a fantastic day in the past and all are welcome.

Anyone interested in joining the Gardening Club is very welcome to come along to the Pucklechurch Community Centre. For any queries or information about the club, members Lynn and Ann are available for a chat on 01179 374297 and 01179 372030 respectively.

## **CRICKET - 2015 Season**



2015 represents an exciting time for Pucklechurch Cricket Club as we launch a new venture with the introduction of Ladies Cricket. Growing from a few practice sessions during the last two years, we have now formed Pucklechurch Panthers Ladies cricket team and are keen to invite all ladies from teenagers upwards to have a go.

We are also looking for new players, male and female, at all age groups. We run U11s, U13s, U15s, U17s and Adults sides, including 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 our Saturday and Sunday sides on a regular basis.

Our pre-season training sessions start in late February, with Youths on Saturday Mornings and Adults on Monday evenings all at Yate International Academy.

We also run U9s, typically this starts at 6 years old but we will assess younger children for suitability. This is played with Kwik Cricket equipment, a safe way for your child to develop hand to eye co-ordination using all plastic bats, balls, wickets etc. Training for this age group starts later in spring.

All of our coaches are CRB checked and work under the guidance of the England & Wales Cricket Board.

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

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

### **Pucklechurch Panthers**

Pucklechurch has a newly formed ladies cricket team. Pucklechurch Panthers will be playing friendly cricket matches with other ladies teams throughout Bristol and Gloucestershire. We will be playing our home matches on the Rec on Sunday afternoons - why not come along and support us. If you would like to join this friendly girls and ladies team please email George Wynter at Wynter397@gmail.com,

# Have you received a call offering to change your council tax band?

South Gloucestershire Council Trading Standards is warning residents to be on their guard against companies who claim they can move you to a lower Council Tax band or get you a refund.

Officers in South Gloucestershire have received reports of residents in the area receiving unsolicited telephone calls advising them that they are in the wrong council tax band and, as a result, have been paying too much council tax. One caller claimed to be working with the local council.

In a previous but similar scam, residents received unsolicited telephone calls offering to arrange for a representative to visit the property to discuss potential council tax re-banding and refunds.

Typically this kind of company will charge an 'upfront' fee (or retain a percentage of any refund paid) to residents for providing this service. Charges may also be applied even when the appeal is unsuccessful.

It is also possible that a review of a property's Council Tax banding could result in it being moved to a higher tax band.

It is not illegal for a firm to charge a fee for making an application on your behalf to check your Council Tax banding is correct – but residents can do this themselves for free.

Anyone can check if they are in the correct band, or apply to have their Council Tax band reviewed, free of charge, by contacting the local Valuation Office Agency on 03000 501501 or visiting their website, <u>www.voa.gov.uk</u>

The VOA also produce a handy leaflet entitled, "What to do if you disagree with your council tax banding", which is available on their website.

For further advice on telephone scams, please contact the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06.

# Mobile Library

The mobile library will be in Pucklechurch on the following dates at the usual times and stops at the Village Hall and twice along Homefield Road:-13th & 27th March 10th & 24th April Community Centre 2.30 – 2.45pm Homefield Road Bungalows 2.55 – 3.15pm Homefield Road 3.20 – 3.35pm



#### Services for Holy Week and Easter;

Maundy Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 7.30p.m. Holy Communion

Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 10a.m. All Age Worship – Video will be shown "Why did Jesus die"? 2-3p.m. Last Hour at Cross

#### EASTER DAY 5th April

10a.m. Family Communion at Pucklechurch 11.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Abson

#### Sunday Services:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in month 8.30a.m. Holy Communion 10a.m. Café Church

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Sunday
10a.m. Family Communion
During this service our young people go out for a time together either for Junior Church or over 10 Youth Church.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY Saturday July 11th Garden Summer Fete

# SHORTWOOD METHODIST CHURCH.

Main Road, Shortwood.

We would like to invite families to join us for our second 'Messy Church' event:-

'Egg-stravaganza' why not come along and help us create an Easter garden.

There will also be painting, craft, egg decorating and an Easter egg hunt.

This is a drop-in event, all are welcome, the Church will be open between 2pm and 4pm on Saturday 4th April.

Our Easter day service is 5th April at 2.45pm led by Re Debra Chidakwa.

All are welcome.

### If you do nothing else today read this article

#### It could save the life of a family member, a friend or even a complete stranger

Did you know that there are several defibrillators located around the village – do you know where they are? How would you get to one in an emergency?

Did you know that you can use them without any training?

#### Simple to use

In the event of a medical emergency call 999 and ask for 'ambulance'

They are simple and safe. The machine gives clear spoken instructions. You don't need training to use one.

Once in position, the defibrillator detects the heart's rhythm. It won't deliver a shock unless one is needed.

Every second counts

In the event of a medical emergency call 999 and ask for 'ambulance'

After a cardiac arrest, every minute without CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and defibrillation reduces someone's chance of survival by 10 per cent.

When you call 999, the ambulance service will know the locations of our defibrillators. They will tell you to get one if necessary. Do you know where your nearest one is? How would you get there?

Don't delay or interrupt chest compressions to get it, send someone else if you can.

The ambulance service will also dispatch an ambulance to help and possibly a local First Responder. They will also stay on the line to help if needed.

#### **Pucklechurch News**

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council Produced by Sarah Nunez (editing & proofreading) 07540 243627 editor@pucklechurch.org Claire Dolman (layout and printing) 07855 061735, 34 Hawthorn Close Helen Toghill (collection, collating & distribution) 1 Orchard Road

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: 10th May for June edition (Summer) 10th August for September edition (Autumn) 10th November for December edition (Winter) 10th February for Spring edition (Spring) Speed is important so go to your nearest defibrillator a fast as safety allows.

The ambulance service will give you the access code

Return to the patient with the defibrillator.

If instructed by the ambulance service open the defibrillator – it will tell you what to do

#### How to use a defibrillator

In the event of a medical emergency call 999 and ask for 'ambulance'

Defibrillators are very easy to use. Although they don't all look the same, they all function in broadly the same way. If you're on your own, don't interrupt the CPR to go and get a defibrillator unless instructed to do so. When you can, send someone else to find one. Once the defibrillator is open, all you have to do is follow the spoken instructions.

#### REMEMBER

1. In the event of a medical emergency call 999 and ask for 'ambulance'

2. You can already use the defibrillators located around the Parish. YOU DON'T NEED TRAINING

3. If you don't know the location of your nearest defibrillator or how you would get there find out now. Don't leave it until there is an emergency

#### Want More Information?

Information on defibrillator locations in the parish. http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/heartstart.html

Cardiac arrest and chest compressions

https://www.bhf.org.uk/heart-health/conditions/ cardiac-arrest

General information about public access defibrillators

https://www.bhf.org.uk/~/media/files/hcps/aed\_ guide\_final-17\_12\_13.pdf

### **Pucklechurch Fishing Club**

#### **Fishing Club News**



Our 2015 Matches	are as follows:-
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18 April	Shiplate Lake near Weston Super Mare
9 May	Walters Lake, South Cerney nr Cirencester
6 June	Durleigh Reservoir, Bridgwater
4 July	River Severn, Tewkesbury
8 August	Windmill Lakes, Westerleigh 🚬 💦 📃
12 September	Todber Manor, Shaftesbury
3 October	Gloucester Canal, Elmore, Gloucester
31 October	Kennet & Avon Canal, Semmington, Melksham
28 November	River Avon, Scotland Road, Melksham

# **Good Neighbours**

Calls to the Good Neighbours have continued steadily over the winter months. We have been able to provide help and company to many people, so if you would like us to help you please contact us on 07961939574 or goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org.

We're available to help residents of Pucklechurch parish who may need our help. We can help with a range of things. We don't have a set list of tasks we will or won't do, so if you would like our help with something you can't manage yourself, give us a ring. That said, our insurance doesn't cover transport or working at heights but we may be able to help you find businesses or organisations who can help you in these circumstances.

We have a number of volunteers who are happy to help out if you are struggling to cope with your garden. We can't offer regular maintenance but with spring around the corner, we can help once or twice a year when there is more to be done.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you can give as much or as little time as you like. Please contact Larisa, Rodney or Ross on 07961 939574 or email goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org.

# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SUPPORT CARERS**

Could you please help us to develop and increase our support to carers, people who are looking after an unwell, disabled or elderly family member or friend?

If you are outgoing and could offer two mornings a month to greet and give information to carers when they visit their GP Practice or you could offer two to three hours a week to sit with an older or disabled person so that their carer can have some time off, we'd love to hear from you.

Full training and support provided. Please contact Mike Hatch, Carers Support Centre volunteer on 07503 577830 or e-mail gp\_volunteers@outlook.com

# **Pucklechurch Primary School** want you!

Would the school be interested in any talents/skills you have? The answer is yes!

Pucklechurch Primary School would be very interested if you have any skills that you would like share with us. We are looking for anyone who can share their knowledge of woodwork, crochet/ knitting, cooking and any other basic crafts. We would be delighted if you could share your talents with us. If you can help please call 01179372579 and ask for Helen Lees.



### Pucklechurch Community Association Report

#### February 2015

The heating system has been replaced. John James did a wonderful job keeping the old one running for so long, but the new one is much more efficient. Hopefully this will be reflected in lower energy bills.

As we mentioned in the last issue of Pucklechurch News, several long-standing members of the PCA committee are standing down. No volunteers have come forward to replace them and the committee are now concerned about the future of the Community Centre. An Extraordinary General Meeting was called in January to discuss the situation, with the aim of avoiding a crisis at the AGM in May. The meeting was well attended, but it would have been nice to have seen younger villagers and heard their views.

The current chairman, Alan Holder, reminded the meeting of the improvements to the building that have been carried out. The list is long and has moved the building from being in a position of mainly crisis management to one where it will now be possible to plan ahead.

He went on to suggest a change in the structure of the committee and the responsibilities of some committee members. This was with a view to improve the efficiency of the committee. At any time the new committee could change these roles as they are open to negotiation.

Could you tackle one of these roles?

**Chair;** Chair monthly meetings, liaise with secretary, monitor projects and any new ideas, liaise with Football, cricket and social club and apply for grants.

**Vice Chair;** Deputise for chair, deal with all aspects of health and safety, submit annual report to Charity Commission, monitor 'Community Matters' to help the running of building and seek out grants.

**Secretary;** Draw up agenda, produce the minutes, file minutes, remind committee of meetings, keep committee members informed and deal with correspondence.

**Treasurer;** Receive money and cheques from Booking Secretary, bank money, organise payments and monitor all bills to ensure good value.

**Community Manager;** Liaise and involve the local community, create and promote regular events, promote the centre, raise the profile of the PCA and raise funds.

**Booking Secretary**; Keep the diary, receive bookings and deal with necessary enquiries and paperwork, update website, ensure hirers have all they need, create and send out monthly invoices, check payments, arrange for centre to be cleaned after parties and pass cheques to treasurer.

**Maintenance Manager;** First point of contact for any problems, contact contractors to do any repairs, arrange for workmen to gain access, monitor heating, check safety of chairs, tables, fire exits etc, and check PAT testing, gas safety certificate emergency lighting etc.

If you would like to get involved or would just like to meet the committee, please contact either Alan Holder on 0117 937 2818 or Anna Sharpe on 0117 937 4449. If the Community Centre is to more forward into the 21st Century, we need your help.



#### **1st Pucklechurch Beavers**

We have been busy Beavers in Pucklechurch recently! We enjoyed a trip to Tesco Yate to take part in their 'Farm to Fork' trial where we learnt about where our food comes from. We also learnt that our whole colony can fit in just one of Tesco's huge bakery proving ovens and that we couldn't last long in their minus 22 degrees freezer! The following week the Beavers made some tasty snacks back at the Scout hut to earn their Healthy Eating bads.

We have also started work on our Safety badge and will be learning some first-aid skills as well as how to keep ourselves safe with the help of a police officer who has kindly agreed to visit us. We have enjoyed learning all about Space and had fun with crafts, including Christmas decorations and birdfeeders. We have also got something lovely planned to make for Mother's day but that's top secret!

The Beavers will be joining the Cubs on a trip to Bristol Zoo in March, and for our first night away camping in May, which we are very excited about.

We have been very sad recently to wave goodbye to a number of Beavers as they swam up to Cubs. On the bright side however, this means we have spaces available for some new children to join us. Beavers is open to boys and girls aged 6-8 and we meet on Thursday evenings in the Scout hut. If you have a child who would be interested in joining please contact Emma Barclay on 07539 692986 or at pucklechurch.beavers@yahoo.co.uk for more information.



#### 1st Pucklechurch Cubs

Our Pack continues to enjoy a variety of activities. Twenty Cubs went Scuba diving at Kingswood Leisure Centre before Christmas. They very much enjoyed this once they had got used to the fact they could breathe underwater. It was certainly one of the quietest activities they have done.

We prepared for Christmas by learning more about the Christian and other World faiths, culminating in reading prayers written by the Cubs at the Scout and Guide Carol service. Two of our Cubs let us heartan example of a Hindu





prayer at the service and we would like to thank Reverend Young for enabling this. We made ceramic Christmas tree decorations which should be gracing the Christmas trees of Pucklechurch for years to come. By contrast, very few of the peppermint creams we made as gifts for our families, actually made it home before being eaten by the Cubs.

Plans are in hand for a camp with the Beaver Scouts in May, and a summer camp with the Scouts in July. We are also looking forward to visiting Pets at Home and the zoo as part of our Animal Carer badge.

For more information please contact Rachel Smith – 07736 320003



#### **1st Pucklechurch Scouts**

Six Pucklechurch Scouts chose one of the windiest and coldest days of January to take part in Winter Camp at Gilwell (the headquarters of Scouting), along with 2,500 other brave souls from around the country. They survived overnight temperatures of -3°C and winds strong enough to destroy one of our camping shelters to take part in a wide range of challenging activities and games in the mud. Their verdict; been there, done that, never again! Other more down-to-earth activities we have done since we last wrote include raising money in conjunction with the Rotary Club for the Bristol Polio 'Mile'itis Challenge, climbing at the new centre in Winterstoke Road, a night hike home from Doynton, and making batteries out of lemons.

# To join us, or for more information, please contact Tony Wallis on 07702 096491 or Steve Ball on 07980 290991.

We now have a large number of scouts that are now reaching the age to leave us and move on. We would very much like to restart the Tohil Explorer Unit in the Pucklechurch Scout Hut for them. To do so, we really need one or two more adult volunteers to help us run the unit. If you would be willing to get involved in any way, then please contact Tony or one of the other leaders. If we are successful, then the unit would also be open for others aged 14-18 who have had to give up scouting in the past because they could not get to an Explorer unit.



