

PUCKLECHURCH GARDENERS CLUB

Spring 2015 has arrived with lighter evenings, and much activity in the gardens - plenty of rain and gale force winds, plus a late frost to keep us all guessing what the summer has in store for us all!

At the March meeting, David Coombs gave a talk about garden ponds, with a slide show of ponds to inspire everyone to have a water feature. There are different types of ponds to suit everyone, from small water troughs with miniature water lilies and a couple of tiny reeds, to larger ponds planted with trees and red dogwood to provide reflections. Following on from the February theme of snowdrops, David suggested planting the summer snowflake, (*Leucojum aestivum*), which will keep flowering throughout Spring and Summer.



David also suggested using the RHS Plant Finder book to find nurseries selling plants of interest.

The Frank Bradley trophy - 'Flower arrangements in an interesting container' - was won by Dave Harris, with Joyce Harris in 2nd place and George Alway coming 3rd.



In April, the talk from Caroline Tatham from the Cotswold Gardening School got off to a late start after her peacocks made a break for freedom just as Caroline was about to set off, and she spent 30 minutes cajoling them back into the safe haven of their shed! However the wait was worth it and Caroline gave a really interesting talk about garden design and structure, and how the world of interior design has spread to the garden with the use of mood boards to chart out the colours, structures and importantly the timing of interest for the various plants.

Caroline then had the enviable task of choosing the winner of the Frank Bradley trophy - 'Easter Biscuits' competition. Taste and texture saw Greg Bate pick up the winning spot, with Joyce Harris in 2nd place and Gill Watkins coming 3rd.



In May the AGM took place, the committee was re-elected, and the Treasurer's report was presented by Ann. It was also decided that due to the rising costs of speakers, the annual subscription will be increased to £10.

Those members that have sadly passed away this last year were also remembered. On a brighter note, it was a pleasure to announce that George Alway, a founder member of the Club, was to be made a life member of the Club.



The Frank Bradley trophy award for the past year was also presented by Carmen Bradshaw to Greg Bate who has proved a multi-talented all-rounder. Carmen thanked everyone who has entered into the spirit of the competition, expressing the wish of her late husband that the competition should at all times remain light-hearted and fun.

Preparations are being made for the summer party in July which will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Pucklechurch Gardeners Club, and current and old members are all invited.

Anyone interested in joining the Pucklechurch Gardeners 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.

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



SUMMER 2015

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.pucklechurch.org

REVEL

It's the most wonderful time of the year.... well maybe the second most wonderful!

Revel is nearly upon us and the committee has been working away like busy little bees putting the finishing touches to the Revel.

There are lots of exciting things taking place in Revel fortnight.....

Event	Location & Details	Date
Revel Ramble	Leaving Village Hall at 10am, returning to Star Inn early afternoon	Sunday 14th June
Revel Thanksgiving Service	St Thomas a Becket (Church garden service weather permitting, inside if not). Refreshments from 6pm, service begins at 6.30pm.	Sunday 14th June
Revel walk for Health	Leaving from Fleur de Lis at 10.30am through quiet lanes around the village. 3.25 miles.	Monday 15th June
Revel Quiz	Fleur de Lis, 7.30pm. Curry buffet available. Maximum team of 6, £2 per person.	Monday 15th June
Poetry in the Garden	7.30pm at 49 Homefield Road. Tickets £5 to include cheese and wine. Call Elaine on 0117 9373105 to book a place or email elainerudge@aol.com	Tuesday 16th June
Cribbage Drive	PSSC (Social Club at Village Hall). 7.30pm for 8pm. £5 per couple to enter, prize for winner.	Wednesday 17th June
Bob Todd Memorial Pram Race	Recreation Field from 6.30pm.	Thursday 18th June
Don Webb Trophy	PVSSC (Pucklechurch Village Sports & Social Club), St Aldams Drive. 8pm.	Thursday 18th June
Revel Day	Recreation Field from 12.00 midday	Saturday 20th June
Beer Festival	Star Inn car park. 7pm 'til late.	Friday 26th June / Sat 27th June

We've already had our first event of 2015 and this was our Revel family disco. Although the event was not as well attended as we had hoped, it was a success with our 2015 Royal Family chosen.

Revel Queen	Thalia Wynter
Revel King	Stan Gibbs
Princesses	Molly Bailey Chloe Ashby
Prince	Oscar Woolf
Pixies	Eden Flook Dillan Flook

Over the coming weeks you will see more and more advertisements for Revel, posters, trifolds and banners. So please take a look and get involved and come and support one of our many events. Beer festival tickets are already being sold at an early bird special price - so buy early to avoid disappointment. Revel day is shaping up nicely and all we hope for now is glorious sunshine like last year. We are still accepting bookings for stalls and tables so if you would like to get involved please contact: Lori-Anne Button on 07789707278 or Lorianne.scantlebury@googlemail.com

We hope to see you all at Revel 2015!

Pucklechurch Parish Council Chairman's Report – Summer

Parish Elections

For the second election in a row parishioners who put themselves forward for election were “elected uncontested”. This situation arises when fewer individuals stand than there are places on the Council and so at the time of writing there are two vacancies for co-option. Your Parish Councillors are:

Gail Boyle
Rick Dunning
Lynne English
Jayne Hawkins
Tina Symons
BoB Symons
Malcolm Watson

Martin Smith decided to stand down after more than 10 years of service to the Parish and his influence, hard work and determination to make a difference should not go unrecognised. Martin is a community ambassador of the highest order and his presence at meetings will be missed, although I do know that he will still be involved in Council business. We send our best wishes for the future.

Annual Parish Meeting:

The meeting was held on the 22nd April at the school. My thanks to all those who attended. Draft minutes will be posted on the Parish Council Website as soon as possible <http://pucklechurchparishcouncil.weebly.com/>

Defibrillators:

The stolen defibrillators have now been replaced and we have added one more in the phone box at Shortwood and another at Eagle Crescent. Work to place a final machine in Parkfield is now under way. My thanks to all those who have made Pucklechurch one of the safest parishes in Great Britain for individuals should there be an unfortunate heart problem.

We are now able to finalise the plaque recognising the individuals who took part in the 50:50 Challenge. Please check the list below to ensure its accuracy and let our Clerk know if you are aware of any errors or omissions at:
parish.council@pucklechurch.org or on 0117 214 0551

Royal Wedding Party
Pucklechurch Women's Institute
Mr and Mrs Hills
Thursday Night Wine Club
Chris Moore and Family
Pucklechurch CE VC Primary School
Mr and Mrs Ryland
Pucklechurch Twinning Group
Philippa Vanderheur and friends at Parkfield Rank
Pucklechurch Mafia Skittles Team
Pucklechurch Badminton Club
Pucklechurch Short Mat Bowls
Pucklechurch Footballers and Better Halves Skittle

Group
Pucklechurch Playgroup
Dr and Mrs Wimbolt
Mrs Jane Ainscough
Mr and Mrs Hallett
Pucklechurch Cricket Club
St Thomas a Becket Choir
Mrs and Mrs Deacon
CJ and EJ Aze
Pucklechurch Gardening Club
PVSSC Open Mic Night
PCC (St Thomas a Becket)
Jacki Berry in memory of Tina Berry
1st Pucklechurch Scout Group
Mr and Mrs Hitchens
Orchard B&B
Shaun and Julie Bidwell
Mr and Mrs Right
Pucklechurch Folk Club
Pucklechurch Drama Group
Parents School Association
Pucklechurch Handbells
Sue Mansfield
Pucklechurch Village Sports & Social Club

Obstructive Parking

Parishioners have continued to raise concerns over this behaviour and in particular at the Annual Parish Meeting, where the serious issue of cars parking on pavements was raised. Could we politely ask that cars are parked on the road and remind parishioners that parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs.

Vandalism

Unfortunately there has been a spate of vandalism in the parish. The new bus stop noticeboards have been removed or damaged and bus information boards have also been damaged. Similarly the goal posts at St Aldams have been removed or/or damaged. We will be replacing all the damaged items but we have to do so from your council tax and this seems an unnecessary waste of public funds. Should you see anyone committing wilful damage or have information regarding these acts please telephone the Police. If you know of any other damage then please inform the Clerk at: parish.council@pucklechurch.org or 0117 214 0551.

The Big Pull

The Big Pull is an activity organised by South Gloucestershire Council as part of the Wild4life project in conjunction with 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



1st Pucklechurch Beavers

Pucklechurch Beavers have been enjoying some lovely weather and getting in touch with nature this term. We've been learning about the importance of and declining numbers of wildflowers in England and have done our bit to help by planting wildflower seeds in the village, as well as constructing bee hotels for the visitors we are hoping to attract! Some of our Beavers enjoyed a night's camping in May. We sang around the camp fire, toasted marshmallows and tested our nerve with a bit of climbing and abseiling. It was an exhausting weekend but we can't wait to do it again! In term 6 we will be becoming Explorers, taking part in a parachute challenge where we will be designing and making our own flying objects and attending an action packed fun day at Woodhouse Park.

We're delighted to have welcomed some new Beavers into our colony this term but we do have a few spaces left. If anyone is interested in their child joining, or would just like some more information please contact Emma on 07539 692986 or at pucklechurch.beavers@yahoo.co.uk



1st Pucklechurch Cubs

As I write this, we are very busy planning a camp for next weekend at Woodhouse Scout Camp near Thornbury. The Cubs will learn some fire lighting skills and help each other reach the top of Jacob's Ladder using ropes. The Beavers will join us camping for Saturday night with a camp fire and toasted marshmallows and for climbing and abseiling on Sunday morning. We are hoping for some early summer sunshine!

In January and February, we carried out experiments for the Scientist badge, creating gases to blow up balloons, firing

bottle rockets, creating volcanoes, growing cress and making a compass. We have also helped the Beavers and Scouts to make a family of Scarecrows for the village Scarecrow trail.

We had a lovely evening at Wapley Common to play games and to renew our Cub Promise to mark St George's Day (St George is the patron saint of Scouting as well as England!). It was not quite as the sun set as that was a bit late for our youngest Cubs but a lovely evening none the less! 4 Cubs have moved on to Scouts since January having achieved their Chief Scout's Silver Award (the highest award a Cub can achieve). We are very proud of them.

For more information please contact Rachel Smith – 07736 320003



1st Pucklechurch Scouts

Pucklechurch Scout Troop now has over 20 members, the largest number for over fifteen years. Since we last wrote the scouts have completed their Swimmer Staged Activity Badges and camped at a new campsite (to us) that is south of Keynsham. In the coming weeks we are going orienteering, and walking behind a waterfall. A few of us are even going gliding. Eight scouts are taking part in the District Camp at Whitsun, which is water-activity based; we also hope to have three scouts taking part in the Avon Scouts water regatta.

We very much hope that Tohil Explorers will re-open in September. For it to be really successful we would really appreciate some of the old members of the troop coming forward to help the new leaders run it. Please contact one of the group's leaders if you feel able to help, even if it is only for a few hours a month - it might make all the difference to us, and you will be able to enjoy scouting yourself once again.





GUIDING REPORT

All five Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Senior Section Units in the village are continuing to grow and offer interesting and exciting programmes within the Guiding framework with our Promise and Laws at the centre. These pointers challenge us to care for the individual, to work in small groups with the girls choosing their own activities to provide a varied programme, whilst working for prescribed badges. All this is made possible by a group of dedicated leaders and helpers, people just like you and me. Let's give them a big thank you through this newsletter.

If you feel inspired to help in any way then please contact me. We welcome anyone who'd like to share a skill on a one off basis, to more regular commitments. You gain experience with children and adults, team building skills, adaptability, fun and friendship, all of which look good on a CV.

Shortly we will all be gathering together, with units from Marshfield and Wick, for an afternoon of fun and challenges on Sunday 14 June at our county Activities site at Briarlands.

If you are a Guiding member please make every effort to attend, or contact me for further details.

If you're a girl aged between 5 and 15 then we have spaces for you in Rainbows (5-7yrs), Brownies (7-10yrs) and Guides (10-15yrs). Older still, then why not join our Senior Section which caters for members up to age 26. This Section is great because you can choose whether you just join in all the fun activities or, additionally, offer to help with the younger Sections as well.

Ros Abbott

Local Support Guider

9372157 or rosabbott@hotmail.com

VOTO

(Villagers on their own)

This group is for single people over the age of 50. If you would like to join us or would like more information contact Elaine on 01179373105 or email elainerudge@aol.com

So far this year we have enjoyed a Beetle Drive and meals out at Aqua, Cosmo and the Chinese Restaurant in Chipping Sodbury. Trips out have included visits to the BBC, snowdrops at the Rococo Gardens in Painswick, the rhododendrons at Bowood and a guided tour at Arnos Vale Cemetery.

We have a lot of other trips and events planned and are looking forward to our trip away to Lisbon in September. Not everyone goes to everything and the idea is that you choose to go to the events you would enjoy. Do come and talk to us on our stall at Revel if you want more information.



ST. THOMAS a BECKET PUCKLECHURCH

Sunday services

1st Sunday of month

8.30a.m. Holy Communion

10.00a.m. Café Church

This is very informal and suitable for everyone; the Church is set up like a café; a short video, popular hymns & songs.

2nd/3rd/4th Sunday

10a.m. Family Communion

All the young people go out for a time of Christian teaching, after the first hymn and then return later on in Service.

SPECIAL SERVICES

JUNE 14th - 6.30p.m. Revel Service

In the Vicarage Garden if dry and Church if wet. After the service refreshments will be served.

In order to maintain the theme "All Creatures Great and Small" this will be a pet service, when any animal large or small will be most welcome to attend together with their owners.

Patronal Festival Service

Sunday July 12th at 10.00a.m. in Church

Family Communion. Followed by Birthday Cake and refreshments

MUSIC SUNDAY July 19th at 10a.m.

Family Communion. Anthem sung by Choir and special musical items

Saturday 11th July

2p.m. Garden Party and Fete

Vicarage Garden if dry - Church if wet

Stalls include Cakes, Preserves, Books, Plants, Bric a Brac, Tombola

Refreshments to include Strawberry & Cream Tea; Raffle available.

River Frome. SGC will provide equipment and guidance if you provide the pulling power.

Join us for a free Big Pull morning on:

- Saturday 6 June
- Saturday 25 July
- Saturday 8 August

The mornings run from 10am to 1pm. Meet at the far end of Celestine Road, Yate, BS37 5HB.

- All ages are welcome and there's no need to book
- Free refreshments and snacks provided
- Please wear strong outdoor footwear and weatherproof clothing
- Long trousers and sleeves advised plus sun cream and hat if sunny

Mixed Use path from Pucklechurch to Shortwood:

The funding acquired from the King's Forest Area Forum and the Local Sustainable Transport Fund will only pay for construction work up to Horseshoe Cottage. Further funding to complete the path to Policeman's Hill, so that

it joins up with the existing path around the prison, will now be sought by the Parish Council in conjunction with the Pucklechurch Countryside Access Group.

The final stage will need planning permission as it will be constructed in the Siston Conservation Area on the other side of the hedge. Since the work required will not be alongside the highway itself it can be carried out with the help of community volunteers. Many of you may remember how volunteers from Pucklechurch helped complete the Coxgrove Hill to M4 section of the Yate spur of the Bristol to Bath cycle track. As well as strengthening the funding bid this will be a great community activity and a fitting way to complete a project that the village has needed for over thirty years.

BoB Symons, Chairman

(The Parish Clerk can be contacted at parish.council@pucklechurch.org or on 0117 214 0551)



Once again our friends from Pringy visited Pucklechurch slightly later in the year and from Wednesday to Sunday instead of the usual Saturday to Wednesday. This worked out very well for all and we were very lucky with the weather. On Thursday they visited Bournemouth, Friday Bristol, then on Saturday they had the day with their hosts.

As usual there was plenty of food and wine and on our Friday evening in the village hall we had an excellent buffet and our Twinning "Horse Racing Game". With our 20p bets and donations we raised £67 which we put towards the Nepalese tragedy fund. Well done everyone.

Twinning is changing from two visits per year to every other year in April, so our next visit to Pringy will be in April 2016. For twinning to continue long into the future we do need members from the younger generation, so if you would be interested in joining twinning please either come along to one of our events, see us at Revel or contact Ann Smith our membership secretary (0117 9372030).



Pucklechurch Players present

' Pullin' the Wool'

a comedy by Frank Vickery

Friday 10 and Saturday 11 July

at the Community Centre

**For tickets call Elaine on
0117 9373105
Also available from 'The Old Dairy'**



Shortwood village is pleased to report that our defibrillator is now installed in the phone box on Main Road. We would like to thank the Parish Council for its support, with a special mention for Tina Symonds for her guidance and help in this matter.

Pucklechurch Scarecrow Trail and Competition 2015

The Pucklechurch Scarecrow Trail and Competition this year was a resounding success and raised £2291 for the St. Thomas à Becket restoration fund, which goes towards the upkeep of our beautiful village church. As always, the standard of entries was high. The winner of the £50 prize for the most correct answers was from a gentleman from Horfield and the £25 prize for the best scarecrow as voted for by the trail entrants was 'The Invisible Man'. Photographs of the scarecrows will soon be available on the <http://www.pucklechurch.org> website. Thank you to all the scarecrow makers, visitors and organisers who made it such a great event.

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:

10th August for September edition (Autumn)

10th November for December edition (Winter)

10th February for Spring edition (Spring)

19th May for Summer edition (Summer)

PA Pucklechurch Community Association Report

The Pucklechurch Community Association Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 11th May, and was attended by the representatives of the many groups

that have used the facilities of the Community Centre during the past 12 months.

A wide range of different activities take place at the Community Centre and, hopefully, will be of interest to many of you who live in the village. Why not look and see if there is anything that appeals to you? If you do not know

what activities are provided, please see <http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/community.html> for a list of the various activities, together with contact details if you would like to participate.

Information about the activities is also provided in a leaflet available at the community centre.

If you are interested in starting a new group that does not already operate in the village, which you believe would benefit the community, please contact Booking Secretary Karl Fuerstenberg - email kfue5634@gmail.com

Please also contact Karl if you are interested in using the Community Centre hall for one-off events, like parties.

Following the Annual General Meeting, a number of members of the Executive Committee have stepped down, and we thank them for their dedication, hard

work and input in the past. Thank you to Alan Holder (Chairman), John James (Maintenance Manager), Martin Doyle (Treasurer) and Anna Sharpe (Booking Secretary).

However, whilst some new members have come forward to take over the vacant positions, we are still seeking a further person to join the committee.

If you are interested in joining the committee as an Executive Member to help us improve and sustain the facilities available to the community, please contact Peter Nunez on 0117 9374653 or email peter.nunez@btinternet.com

ABSON VILLAGE MARKET ON THE GREEN

SATURDAY JULY 25th
10.30 am - 4pm

Stalls, games, crafts, local produce

Cakes, barbecue, ice creams, teas

Parking available in field behind the church

Good Neighbour Scheme

In the last few months, The Good Neighbour Scheme has taken many new calls for help and company from members of our community.

As well as welcoming new volunteers, our work to provide ongoing company to several people in Pucklechurch continues. We are also providing company and help to new users of the scheme. We have provided help with some small gardening tasks and making sure bins are put out for collection and returned afterwards.

We're available to help residents throughout Pucklechurch and Shortwood who may need our help or benefit from other people's company. We don't have a set list of tasks we will or won't do, and we can help with a range of things. So if you would like help with something you can't manage yourself, please give us a ring. If we can't help (our insurance doesn't cover transport or working at heights) we may be able to help you find businesses or organisations that can help you.

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.

HAPPY CIRCLE COACH TRIPS

(open to everyone in the village)

The planned trips are:

June	-	Bournemouth
July	-	Exmouth
August	-	Weymouth
September	-	Cardiff
October	-	Gloucester
December	-	Street

All trips are on the first Tuesday of the month.

Cost per person is £13 - a deposit of £5 is required to secure a seat on the coach.

Coach leaves Pucklechurch at 9.00 a.m. and returns no later than 7.00 p.m. Pick up points are Shortwood Road bus stop and Village Hall bus stop.

If you require information about any of the above please ring Lesley on 9374073 or Diane on 9372428.

Tower Playgroup

Spaces available for 2 year olds and over from September

Opening times are 9am -midday Mondays and Fridays and 9am -3pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

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

Now taking names for September 2015

Pucklechurch Fishing Club



Fishing Club News

There is a saying in fishing that goes; 'When the wind's in the east, the fish bite least'. When we arrived at Shiplate Fishery, Bleadon, the wind was indeed in the east and boy did I ever struggle. No matter what I tried I could only catch tiddlers and when I did eventually hook into something big, it came off.

So, just tales of the one that got away for me and while I had a hard time, most caught and the person doing most of the catching was Pete Humphris, winning with 49 pounds of Carp. There were also several other catches of over 30 pounds.

Our next match at Walters Lake proved several things; 1. How much luck plays a part. 2. How decisive the wind direction is. 3. How fickle fishing is. Before we started fishing we felt that, due to the wind direction, whoever drew peg 19 would win. I was lucky enough to draw peg 19 and I won with a 34 pound catch consisting mainly of Carp, and went from being last in the previous match to being first in this. Most of us caught between 10 and 20 pounds of fish.

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

ABSON CHURCH SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING & VILLAGE MARKET

June 27th 10.30 am - 12 noon

produce including meat, vegetables, plants
Cakes and preserves, crafts, bric-a-brac.
Teas, coffee and cakes