

# PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



WINTER 2014

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

## *Pucklechurch Parish Council Chairman's Report January 2014*

### **HMP Ashfield**

The Liaison Group has continued to meet throughout the year. However, having addressed the concerns of parishioners, its members feel there is no further value in meeting on such a regular basis. As a result the group has now agreed to meet on a "needs only" basis. I would like to thank all group members who, along with our District Councillors and Prison Managers, gave their time to ensure that the transition was as smooth as could be expected.

### **Youth Club**

The Youth Club now has an independent management committee which will endeavour to ensure the club's longevity and the acquisition of funds to support it. Importantly this means that the club is no longer managed by the Parish Council. I'd like to express thanks on behalf of the Council to those who have volunteered to take on this responsibility and thereby making sure of the continued provision of a youth club in the parish.

### **Community Car Scheme**

As you may recall the Council was successful in securing grant funding from Kings Forest Area Forum to facilitate the start-up of a community car scheme. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts we have been unable to attract volunteers to organise and support its provision. We have therefore informed Kings Forest that we will not be pursuing this project and the grant will therefore be cancelled.

### **Parish Grant Scheme**

I am very pleased to report that the Council was able to make funds available to several organisations after receiving a number of successful grant applications. Please note that the closing date for the next round is the 31st March 2014. The successful applicants and sums awarded were as follows:

#### **Citizens Advice Bureau**

£500 to support its work within our local community (subject to confirmation of conditions specified by PPC)

#### **St Thomas a Becket Church**

£1000 towards the cost of repairing the weather vane

#### **Victim Support**

£140 to support its work within our local community

#### **Pucklechurch Community Centre Social Club**

£700 to replace a broken drinks refrigerator and the re-upholstery of seats

#### **Pucklechurch Playgroup**

£500 for the provision of outdoor play equipment and its storage

#### **Cycle Path from Pucklechurch to Shortwood**

Progress is being made by SGC on a mixed use path that will link Pucklechurch to Shortwood. Some of you may have seen surveyors from SGC along Shortwood Road a few weeks ago. Surveying the topography and trees in the area is the first step for engineers to assess the feasibility of various options. As soon as this has been done there will be public consultation. At this time we are expecting that, following the public consultation, work will start in the 2014/15 financial year and may be carried out in phases depending on funding.

#### **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 and details of topics and its format will be posted nearer the time.

#### **Twinning Prints**

Earlier in the year the Parish Council commissioned an artist to produce an original limited edition lino print to be given as a civic gift in honour the 25th anniversary of our twinning with Pringy. The remaining copies of the print run, entitled 'Pucelancyrca - Pucklechurch' by Melanie Wickham, are available for sale at the price of £35 each (unframed).



These will be sold on a first come, first served basis to a maximum run of 50 copies. The image is a stylised representation of Pucklechurch Parish and reflects many aspects of its community history as well as its Anglo Saxon origins. Melanie has also very kindly offered to license the use of a digital copy of the image to Pucklechurch community groups to use for their own purposes at low cost (£25).

To express interest in acquiring a print or to request the use of the image please email the clerk at [parish.council@pucklechurch.org](mailto:parish.council@pucklechurch.org)

**BOB SYMONS CHAIRMAN**

# FIRST

## SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE SHOW & NATIONAL ANGLING COMPETITION

The first South Gloucestershire Show will be held at the Windmill Fishery Showground on Saturday 2nd August 2014 and Sunday 3rd August 2014.

Over 10,000 visitors are expected in what will become an annual event and will be a showcase for life and leisure in and around the County. Full details of this event can be found at [www.southglosshow.co.uk](http://www.southglosshow.co.uk)

To coincide with this event, Windmill Fishery has put up £6,000 as prize money for their first National Angling competition. This will become the annual Windmill Trophy with the finals being fished on the Show days.

England Internationals Des Shipp and Callum Dicks have now entered to compete in the Pairs competition.

The event will be fished for an individual prize of £1500 with £1000 for second and £500 for third places. There will also be a separate Pairs competition with the winning pair receiving £1500 each.

Qualifying rounds for both competitions will start on 8th March and run through to July. The good news is that first and second place of EACH individual round and the winners of EACH Pairs round will go straight to the finals. Full details [www.windmillfishery.co.uk](http://www.windmillfishery.co.uk)

### VOTO (Villagers on their own)

This group is for single people over the age of 50.

We have a new programme of events for 2014. This includes a beetle drive, meals out, walks, visits to National Trust properties, skittles, tenpin bowling and visits to Marrakech and the Thursford Spectacular in Norfolk.

Not everyone goes to everything and the idea is that you choose to go to the events you would enjoy. We also tend to add extra events as we go through the year.

If you would like to join us or would like more information contact Elaine on 01179373105 or email [elainerudge@aol.com](mailto:elainerudge@aol.com)

### Pucklechurch News

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council

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Please email articles to [editor@pucklechurch.org](mailto:editor@pucklechurch.org) or drop them off to any one of us at the addresses above. Please include your name and telephone number in case we have questions about your article. We reserve the right to edit all articles. We cannot be responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication.

#### Copy Deadlines:

**10th March for Spring issue (April)**

**10th May for Summer issue (June)**

**10th August for Autumn issue (September)**

**10th October for Christmas issue (November)**

**10th January for Winter issue (February)**

## GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The calls to the Good Neighbour Scheme have continued steadily. The calls we have helped with include changing security light bulbs, unblocking a kitchen sink, putting bins out and spending time with people. Should there be snow, we have a list of people who require help to clear drives and paths and a list of volunteers who can assist with clearing.

Once Spring arrives, we already have a number of requests to help tidy gardens after the Winter. We are currently planning activities to consider expansion into surrounding villages and have secured funding to help with this.

We would like to say a big thank you to Pucklechurch Parish Council for providing funding for our Public Liability Insurance and publicity for the forthcoming year.

During these winter months we can help with making sure people are warm, making sure they have all they require and spending time with them to keep them company and making sure they are all right. We welcome all calls, and we also welcome anyone who would like to become a volunteer.

Please contact Larisa, Rodney or Ross, Good Neighbour Scheme Co-ordinators at [good-neighbours@pucklechurch.org](mailto:good-neighbours@pucklechurch.org) or 07961939574.

# Calling all Babies and Toddlers

Public transport from the village may be a problem as was made abundantly clear at a meeting last October. Fortunately for all families in Pucklechurch, especially those reliant on the buses, the Community Centre offers several activities during the week especially for those with babies and toddlers.

What do we have taking place in the Community Centre? First off there is a Playgroup in the building in the morning as well as two afternoons a week. If you are between 2½ and 5 years of age they have a range of exciting things to do both inside and outside. They have a new venture for very young people just about to start. For more details and information call George Wynter on 0117 937 3064 or 17736713730.

Then on Friday afternoons Star Jumpers run a pre-school gym club for youngsters from 5 months to 5 years. Not only do children get to tumble and roll around on lots of soft equipment but so do parents. Come and join the fun. Steve is the person to give you more information on 0117 957 0009.

At 5678 School of Dance on Saturday mornings, Abby runs classes for those aged 2½ and older. In fact, if your parents want to tap their toes more skilfully she can help them too. Maybe you fancy a dance party? If so, Abby is the person to see. She can be reached on 07955641810.

On the 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons of each month, the Cadbury Heath Children's Centre holds sessions in the hall. There's tea, coffee and chat on for the adults and toys and games are provided for the little folk. Either just pop in or phone Chris Austin on 01454 862974.

Finally, a special note for village parents. Despite having these activities in a spacious facility, a lot of people who attend them come from OUTSIDE the village. Now that you are aware of all the different things to do in the Community Centre, do come along and join in. We would love to see you all.

## Starjumpers Gym Club

Starjumpers gym club, a British Gymnastics Affiliated club, has been running classes in Pucklechurch Community Centre on Friday afternoons, and once a month on Saturdays, for 10 years.

To celebrate its 10th birthday, Starjumpers gymnasts of all ages, ranging from 5 months in the baby gym classes, to 11 years old in the after school gym classes, took part in a 1 minute sponsored starjump. They raised a magnificent £1400 for the Jessie May Trust, a local children's charity based in Kingswood, offering support to families with children with life limiting conditions.

The children took the fundraising very seriously, with lots of them practising their starjumps at home. As the majority of the children taking part were 3 and under, it meant that lots of the parents were getting involved as well! Even the babies in the "Twinkling Stars" class took part – with the help of mummy or daddy moving the babies legs!

If any more local families would like to join in the fun, please get in touch on 0117 9570009 or email [starjumpersgym@gmail.com](mailto:starjumpersgym@gmail.com)



# Pucklechurch Community Association

Since becoming the Chair of the Pucklechurch Community Association I have learned a great deal about the running of our Community Centre, and really appreciate the support of the PCA committee. The Community Centre is run by a small group of volunteers on a tight budget to offer the best possible value for the Community and a lot goes on behind the scenes to keep the Centre running on a daily basis – bookings and scheduling, daily maintenance and cleaning, financial management, promotions and awareness, through to small and larger improvements.

One of the areas of improvement we are focussing on is energy efficiency - like low-cost lighting, and renewable energies. This is essential to the general running of the Community Centre as the costs of heating and lighting are going up year on year and we need to keep these costs down so the Community Centre can be sustained within the income generated from bookings (hiring out the Centre to groups and individuals throughout the year). We also hope this will inspire the Pucklechurch Community to recognise more sustainable approaches to energy use. We commissioned an independent energy report (funded by Revel – thank you very much) and have broken the report's recommendations down into different categories – those we can implement ourselves and those we will need specialist expertise and additional funds to pay for. We are now in the process of applying for grants to help with the additional funds required.

The Community Centre is as busy as ever and probably far busier than most people would ever realise. Times keep changing though, so we are extremely keen to draw in and include many more of you (individuals and groups) to ensure we provide a vibrant centre to the Community – something that we would like everyone to be a part of. The Community Centre is your centre and we are very keen that it offers something practical and fun for everyone.

To this end we organised an Open Day back in September so the groups using the Community Centre today could show everyone what they do and can offer. In the last issue of Pucklechurch News we then asked for your feedback in terms of interests you have in the Centre today or what it could offer for you in the future. Thank you for all those who responded. However, sometimes ideas take a while to develop so please provide any feedback to us at any time. You can do this by talking to us, sending any one of us an email (mine is below), or returning the form. You are our motivation, so please don't hold back!

*Chris Davis (cma.davis@btopenworld.com)*  
[www.pucklechurchcommunitycentre.co.uk](http://www.pucklechurchcommunitycentre.co.uk)

## Pucklechurch Speed Watch

The Pucklechurch Speed Watch team need volunteers. Can you spare 90 minutes once a month?

For more details please contact [trevorgrover@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:trevorgrover@hotmail.co.uk)

## 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](http://pucklechurchcc.co.uk).

## Do you have Desk Top Publishing Skills?

If so, then the Pucklechurch News team needs you! We require a volunteer with knowledge of CorelDraw (or similar) to organise the layout of the Pucklechurch News. Perhaps you are a student needing work experience to add to your portfolio? If so, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Claire Dolman on 07855 061735 for further details.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.wern.org.uk/oil) or call Jill Baker on 01275 333701.



Our Beaver pack, which is open to girls and boys aged between 6 – 8 years, has enjoyed a fun-packed sleepover recently (not sure much sleeping took place though!). We also held a chocolate themed quiz near the anniversary of the birth of Mr Cadbury - with prizes of chocolate, of course. To finish off our year, we all enjoyed an evening of bowling, with some impressive skills on show! The Beavers worked towards several badges and many achieved the Chief Scouts Bronze award, which is the highest award in Beavers. We currently have 21 Beavers, and a short waiting list. If you would like to know more, or would like to join the fun as an adult helper, please contact Sarah Fox-Robinson on 07976 847587.



#### 1st Pucklechurch Cubs

Our Cub pack in Pucklechurch, (open to boys and girls aged 8 – 10) has been very busy. We have visited the Fire Station at Yate, been climbing at St Werburghs, celebrated Bonfire night, raised money for Children in Need (wearing our pyjamas and baking!) and taken part in a torchlit hunt on the Rec. We also visited the Hindu Temple in Bristol and many Cubs were awarded their Community Challenge Badge. Next term we are hoping for some clear nights as we work on the Astronomy badge. We currently have 24 Cubs and a short waiting list. As always new adult helpers are always welcome so if you would like to find out more please contact Rachel Smith (07989 493817) for more information.



#### 1st Pucklechurch Scouts

Our Scout troop comprises boys and girls aged 10 to 14. We usually meet on Monday nights in the scout hut, after Cubs. We currently do not have a waiting list. We've had a very active past few months. We've visited Alton Towers, been taught how to put real fires out using fire extinguishers, tried dry slope skiing, taken part in the Jamboree on the Internet, walked in the dark back to Pucklechurch from Doynton and learned how to use a penknife and bow saw correctly. There are pictures of many of these activities on our website: <http://www.pucklechurchscouts.org.uk>.

In the coming months we are visiting the Bristol Community Radio Station, cooking outdoors on open fires, walking on Dartmoor, and are camping at Woodhouse Park during part of the school holidays in February. We also play Badminton on Sunday evenings, and have a match coming up against a Scout troop from Thornbury.

## 'Think ABC before A&E' says NHS

*This is an edited version - you can read the full news-piece on the Pucklechurch Village website.*

This winter, the NHS has launched a campaign to help people in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire choose the right health service when they are feeling unwell or are injured - allowing busy services like A&E to treat people who need them most.

Across the country, approximately 47 per cent of people attending an A&E department could have received the same service via their GP, by telephoning NHS 111 or by calling in at an NHS walk-in centre, minor injuries unit or urgent care centre.

Local people are being asked to Think ABC before A&E:

- **Anytime free medical advice from NHS 111**
- **Book an appointment with your GP surgery**
- **Call in at your local minor injuries unit or Walk-in-Centre**

## Members and Friends of Pucklechurch WI Social Group Raise £650 for Prostate Cancer

Members and Friends of Pucklechurch WI Social Group  
Raise £650 for Prostate Cancer Care

This was achieved by holding a very enjoyable concert at the Community Centre in December 2013.

The hall, beautifully decorated for Christmas, combined with the colour co-ordinated floral arrangements in red and yellow provided a welcoming venue.

The audience, which included invited members from WIs in the surrounding area and the local community were entertained by the 'Royal Mail Posties Choir'. A delicious buffet supper prepared by Members and Friends was served during the interval. This was then followed by 'It's Magic' when magician Paul Praeger entertained the audience and left them spellbound as to how he managed to suspend one of our members in mid-air!! Ros is keeping mum about this.

At the end of the evening, table decorations were sold and further donations amounted to a further £60.50 being raised.

My thanks to all Members and Friends of Pucklechurch WI who worked tirelessly before and during the evening and a special thank you to the community here in Pucklechurch and the surrounding area for their support. We are given to understand that the Royal Mail will double the amount raised to £1,421.00 for Prostate Cancer Care.

*Norma Pratt*



# St. Thomas a Becket

## CHURCH SERVICES

### 1st Sunday in Month

8.30a.m. Holy Communion

10a.m. Café Church

### 2nd/3rd/4th Sunday

10a.m. Family Communion

During this service the young people go out at beginning of service for either Junior Church 3-10 years or Youth Church 10-16 years for a time of religious teaching.

## SPECIAL SERVICES

**Ash Wednesday** - Wednesday 5th March

7.30p.m. Holy Communion

**Mothering Sunday** 30th March

10a.m. Family Communion

**Palm Sunday** April 13th 10a.m. Family Communion

**Maundy Thursday** April 17th

7.30p.m. Holy Communion

**Good Friday** April 18th

10a.m. Family Service

2p.m. Last Hour at Cross

**Easter Day** April 20th 10a.m. Family Communion

## CHURCH JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY 22nd February 2pm, Community Centre. Jumble, Bric-a Brac, Books, Cakes, Curtains & Bedding, Refreshments and Raffle

## SCARECROW COMPETITION AND TRAIL

Sunday 4th May and Monday 5th May

### Thank you to all the Volunteers who deliver Pucklechurch News!

We'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who deliver Pucklechurch News around the village, throughout the year. Your time and effort is much appreciated.

We can always do with extra help.  
If you could spare some time to deliver  
Pucklechurch News,  
please contact Helen Toghill on 0117  
9373837  
The Pucklechurch News Team

## HAPPY CIRCLE TRIPS FOR 2014

May 6th 9am-7pm	Evesham & blossom trail
June 3rd 9am-7pm	Winchester
July 1st 8.30am-7pm	Mystery trip
August 5th 9am-7pm	Weymouth
Sept 2nd 9am-7pm	Poole
October 7th 9am-7pm	Oxford
Dec 6th 9am-7pm	Xmas shopping trip to Swindon Outlet Centre

## HAPPY CIRCLE COACH TRIPS

Liz & Keith would like to wish all trippers a Happy New Year. However we would like to tell you about some changes we are making this year.

Due to increased coach charges we will be raising our fares by £1 to £13 per seat (our first rise for over 5 years). A further change is that a non-refundable deposit of £10 is required 2 weeks before the date of the trip. The remainder will be collected on the coach.

We hope these changes won't deter anyone from supporting us in our 6 planned trips this year, as a full coach means we can continue with the remaining trips.

The Christmas shopping trip lies in the balance this year because last years shopping trip to Cardiff resulted in Happy Circle incurring a loss, which they couldn't afford.

*Thank you. Liz Archibald*

## Drop-in Baby Clinic

Three Shires Medical Practice and Cadbury Heath Children's Centre will be offering a Drop-in Baby Clinic with Health Visitor and Play Session at

Pucklechurch Community Centre, Abson Road, Pucklechurch BS16 9SY.

The sessions take place on the first and third Thursdays of every month from 1.30pm to 3pm. We offer baby weighing and advice. Play, toys and singing available. Everyone welcome.

## Revel Fayre

The Revel Fayre will be open for people, in addition to the usual craft side, to sell bric-a-brac, cakes, games or just general fundraising and/or awareness. The cost of a table will be £10.00, however, we would like to see some Pocket Money bits and pieces for the children available so would ask all stall holders if they can incorporate this within their stall. Children love to buy Mum & Dad or Gran & Grandad a little thing, as you are aware! They would love to have some things available for them.

You can contact me on 9373233, email: [chrischrisur@aol.com](mailto:chrischrisur@aol.com) or give any committee member your details and I will get back to you.

*Christine Murphy – Revel Fayre Organiser*

## Mobile Library Dates

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

28 February  
14 & 28 March  
11 & 25 April  
9 & 23 May

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



Registered Charity Number 1153851  
[www.rpfightingblindness.org.uk](http://www.rpfightingblindness.org.uk)

## FOREIGN CURRENCY APPEAL

Do you have any foreign currency lying around in a drawer or flight bag from your last holiday? Perhaps it's too small an amount to worth changing so you've just held on to it, or maybe you keep meaning to, but forget?

RP Fighting Blindness is launching a Foreign Currency Appeal for all coins and notes from any country. Please do consider sending us your left over holiday money – even a relatively small denomination can equal a large amount if enough people do it!

Older currencies no longer in use also have a value to collectors, so if you have any old Francs, Pesetas or Lira, please send those too!

Please send any donations to (or if you wish further information on the charity)

Ron & Gina Pritchard, Bristol South Gloucestershire Coordinators, RP Fighting Blindness, 22, Huckford road, Winterbourne, Bristol BS361EA or contact us on email: [bristolsglosfightingblindness@gmail.com](mailto:bristolsglosfightingblindness@gmail.com)

May we thank you in anticipation of your support  
Kind Regards, Ron & Gina.

## NEW SCAM CONCERNING FAKE FINES

South Gloucestershire Council Trading Standards would like to warn residents of a new scam that has been reported in other areas of the country and may well occur in this area. Scammers have been extorting money from elderly residents by telling them they are being fined over disposal of waste following building work.

Police are warning elderly and vulnerable people who have had work done on their houses not to be taken in by con-artists who have been going around telling people they are from Trading Standards or the Office of Fair Trading and they are being fined for inappropriate dumping of contaminated waste.

In December, one woman in her mid-80s paid £12,500 to tricksters in a number of bank transfers after she was told she had to pay several fines.

The advice being offered from Trading Standards is do not make payments or reveal bank details to anyone who calls at your door without prior appointment. If you receive a cold call of this nature, please report it to Trading Standards through the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 08454 04 05 06. You can also call the police on 101 or the charity CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.



### Working together to help improve your neighbourhood

Regular meetings are held for all local residents and organisations to discuss local issues and community projects. The meetings are attended by representatives from South Gloucestershire Council, Avon and Somerset Police, Avon Fire and Rescue, Town and Parish Councils, and local organisations. Everyone is welcome, you can raise any improvements or issues you may have, or simply come along and listen to what is being discussed for your area. The more residents that attend, the better the group can reflect the needs of the local area and help influence decisions.

To find out more:

- come along to a meeting
  - go on-line at: <http://groups.southglos.gov.uk>
  - call your Community Engagement Officer on 01454 864634
  - email: [communityengagement@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@southglos.gov.uk)
- Next meeting for Boyd Valley and Bitton residents:

Thursday 6th March 2014, 7pm  
Bitton Sports and Social Club,  
Bath Road, Bitton