

PUCKLECHURCH News

SUMMER 2026

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Pucklechurch Parish Council: Notes from the Chair

Recent months have been a period of intense activity for the Parish Council, with our agendas dominated by significant planning developments and the management of community assets.

Planning updates: Marsh Farm and Leigh Farm

Major development proposals continue to require close scrutiny. In March, the Council formalised its response to the outline planning application for Marsh Farm (P25/02362/O), which proposes 100 new dwellings. We have consistently raised concerns regarding its position within the green belt and the sustainability of this site, focusing particularly on traffic access via Abson Road and the potential impact on village drainage systems. At the time of writing, the application has been recommended for approval, but the final outcome depends on what SGC's committee members decide. Given the lack of a 5 year land supply for housing, and changes to legislation introduced by the government enabling more housing to be developed on what is currently green belt, it is highly likely the application will be approved. While we acknowledge the proposal for 50% affordable housing, we remain committed to ensuring any development is sympathetic to our village's character and its infrastructure capacity, as well ensuring appropriate s106 and CIL contributions are agreed.

Regarding the Leigh Farm wind turbine proposal, an extraordinary meeting was held on 9th March to agree a formal position statement. While we support the principle of renewable energy, the Council has been firm in demanding greater clarity from the Bristol Energy Network (BEN) and SGC regarding tangible community benefits. Our priority remains to ensure that Pucklechurch residents see what the direct benefits, or otherwise, from this project might be before any planning submission is finalised that requires a response.

Action Plan 2025-6

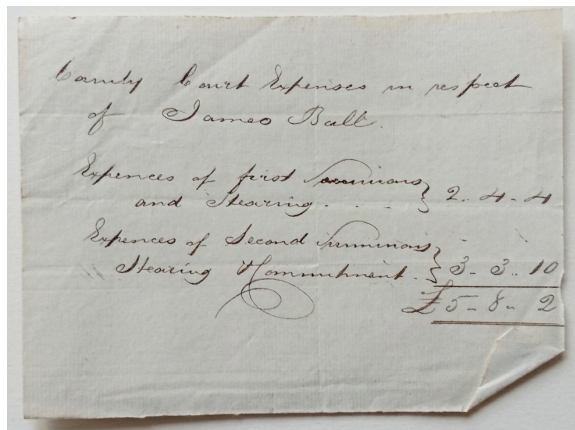
Our action plan is a living document that provides us with a road map of the specific steps, tasks and resources required to ensure we make informed and real progress towards delivering the community priorities identified for any given year. Some projects are ongoing, others are time bound. We will be agreeing the content of our next action plan over the next month or so, but if you want to see what we have achieved this year, the plan can be found here:

https://www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk/Accounts_33815.aspx

Gail Boyle

Chair, Pucklechurch Parish Council

The Great Rent Dispute of 1845 A Bit of Pucklechurch Past: No 5



History is often hiding in the back of a drawer or a dusty attic, or on this occasion in a Parish Council filing cabinet. One document sheds light on a mid-800's event involving two Pucklechurch residents: James Ball and James Wilson. Like many other places in the 1840's, Pucklechurch was not immune to economic hardship.

Church owned land was a vital source of income for the parish to fund poor relief. In 1845, the Churchwardens' patience over debts finally snapped. The two men were at the centre of this story: James Ball who was a stone mason from the village, renting land at £3 per year and James Wilson, an agricultural labourer living in Shortwood with his wife, Sarah, renting a tenement at 52 shillings per year. By Midsummer Day 1845, both men had fallen significantly behind. Wilson owed £4 11s, while Ball was £4 10s in arrears.

On July 21st 1845, the Churchwardens issued a final ultimatum: pay up or face "instant proceedings." Wilson may have negotiated his debt, but the mason was not so lucky. James Ball was taken to the newly formed County Court at Chipping Sodbury. A "Hearing of Assessment" ruled against him, and the court expenses alone totalled £5 8s 2d, higher than the original debt itself and amounting to months of wages for a skilled craftsman. Whether he was disputing the rent or simply could not pay, his story serves as a vivid reminder of how high the stakes were for our Pucklechurch ancestors when the parish came knocking for its dues.

Gail Boyle

South Gloucestershire Council Report

The Boyd Valley Ward I represent is large, covering nine parishes (more than any other SGC Ward) so I attend a lot of Parish Council meetings. One thing they all have in common is the often contentious issue of Planning. As a longstanding member of CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England), it is something that I have always had a close interest in.

The Examination in Public of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan started on 19th May. Without a local plan and a five year land supply we are currently in a planning vacuum and developers are seeking to take advantage of this. Several speculative planning applications have recently been submitted across South Glos as the developers try to get their applications through the Council's planning process before the SGC Local Plan is adopted. Or, if refused by the Council, to get their applications to Appeal.

In 2024, the Government introduced the concept of 'Grey Belt' to make it easier to target development areas for the 1.5 million homes that they pledged to build over the next 5 years. Initially we were told it would include 'ugly' bits of the Green Belt, like disused petrol stations, but the definition of Grey Belt was broadened and now any Green Belt land is threatened by being used to release high quality farmland for development.

Grey Belt is defined as:

Land in the Green Belt comprising previously developed land and/or any other land that in either case does not strongly contribute to any other purpose

- To check unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas
- To prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another
- To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns

Because it refers specifically to 'towns' this objective is not met in the Boyd Valley ward because we have villages and not towns. This makes it difficult for the Council to defend a decision to refuse an application when it goes to Appeal. Local examples, that have been assessed as so called Grey Belt are the Meadow View traveller site (at Appeal) and the Marsh Farm application to be determined by SGC on 14th May. (The areas of the Ward around Tormarton and Cold Ashton have the added protection of the Cotswold National Landscape designation.)

In addition to this, South Gloucestershire has been shortlisted by the Government as a potential 'New Town' site, named 'Brabazon and the West Innovation Arc'. There is very little information or certainty about the proposal, but the area identified is from Patchway to Lyde Green. We are told that it promises an area of huge opportunity for local businesses and residents, and unlocks investment in infrastructure, homes and jobs. It also throws everything up in the air being announced just as the Examination in Public of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan is underway.

Cllr Marilyn Palmer

Pucklechurch Ladies Group

Pucklechurch Ladies Group will be holding a Coffee Morning at Pucklechurch Village Sports & Social Club (St Aldams Drive) on Tuesday 16th June, all welcome. Funds raised will be in aid of Children's Hospice South West.

Author Talk Emersons Green Library



Emersons Green Library is delighted to host an author talk from Jacqueline Crooks on Thursday 18th June at 7pm.

Jacqueline grew up in the 70s' and 80's in Southall, part of London's migrant community, carving out a space through music, culture and politics.

Her first novel, *Fire Rush*, was shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction, Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize, Jhalak Prize, Paul Torday Memorial Prize and Author's Club Best First Novel Award. It was also chosen as an Observer Best Debut Novel of the Year.

A selection of her short stories was published in the collection *The Ice Migration*. Jacqueline has been nominated for the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction, Wasafiri New Writing Prize and BBC National Short Story Award.

Her latest novel, *Sky City*, will be published in August 2026.

Jacqueline visits Emersons Green Library as part of a Southwest tour of new authors. For booking details visit:

Words Alive in Libraries - Literature Works

The Little Village Childcare

Following the closure of the Pucklechurch Playgroup, a new childcare facility will be opening in September '26 at the Community Centre, offering a welcoming, safe, and nurturing environment for local families and young children.

The Little Village Childcare is an Ofsted registered childcare setting and is run by Lizzie, who grew up in Pucklechurch and has 20 years' experience working in schools, nurseries, children centres and private households. Lizzie has seen and experienced various care/educational settings enabling her to gain an abundance of knowledge along with her My Early Years Education degree and SENCo qualification.

For further information please contact us via our email:
thelittlevillagechildcare@hotmail.com

Revel Diamond Jubilee Celebration

The village of Pucklechurch is preparing for a very special celebration with the Pucklechurch Revel returning on Saturday 20th June. We will be marking our Diamond Jubilee with a fabulous 1970's themed day of fun, music and community spirit.

Festivities begin from 11am at the Pucklechurch Recreation Field (BS16 9RF), with plenty to enjoy for all ages. One of the highlights of the day will be the Revel Parade, setting off at 11:45am from Hillview Road. Residents are encouraged to embrace the 1970's theme with colourful costumes, creative floats and plenty of retro flair as we celebrate 60 years of this much loved village tradition.

The recreation field will host a variety of local stalls, featuring community groups and charities, offering a chance to browse, support local causes and connect with neighbours.

Live music will provide the soundtrack to the day, with performances from Marshfield Brass Band, Sam Eaton, Stacey Charles and Bohemian Bar Thieve, delivering an exciting mix of styles and atmosphere throughout the event.

Families can also look forward to Inflatable Fun and entertainment with DJ Bridgee, ensuring children are kept smiling and energised all day long.

Whether you're joining the parade, enjoying the music, visiting the stalls or simply soaking up the atmosphere, the Pucklechurch Revel Diamond Jubilee promises a joyful and memorable day for the whole community.



Date: Saturday 20th June



Starts: 11am | Parade 11:45am from Hillview Road



Location: Pucklechurch Recreation Field, BS16 9RF



Theme: 1970's – Diamond Jubilee

Dust off your flares, dig out your platform shoes, and come along to celebrate in true Pucklechurch style!

Pucklechurch Village Trips

Tuesday 7th July: Welsh Botanical gardens
Tuesday 4th August: Sidmouth Folk Festival
Tuesday 1st September: Salisbury
Tuesday 6th October: Paignton /railway to Dartmouth
Tuesday 3rd November: Glastonbury/Street
Tuesday 1st December: Cardiff visiting the Christmas Market & shopping

For more information visit pucklechurchvillagetrips@gmail.com or contact Elaine on **07940207559**



It is with great sadness that we are sharing this, but we will be closing our doors permanently on the 21st July 2026. The playgroup has provided over 50 years caring for and educating the children from Pucklechurch and surrounding areas.

This decision has not been taken lightly, but after exploring many different options we are unable to sustain the playgroup moving forward.

There has been some confusion regarding another playgroup starting up once we have closed. There will be a childminder in the community centre called The Little Village which is an independent business not connected to Pucklechurch Playgroup.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has played a part in our organisation over the years, and for all the lovely comments on Shout Out Pucklechurch. We would like to invite everyone who can, to attend a celebration of Pucklechurch Playgroup on Saturday the 18th of July from 10 am to 12 pm in the community centre.

Kindest regards

Pucklechurch Playgroup Committee:
George, Fi and Karen

Why Every Carer Should Have a Carers Emergency Card

Do you look after a family member or friend who couldn't manage without your help? If so, a **Carers Emergency Card** is essential and it's completely free to apply for.

This card provides peace of mind. If you're taken ill or have an accident, it's used to alert a 24 hour emergency call centre so steps can be taken to ensure the person you care for is safe.

Carers discounts are also available to card holders. Apply today and make sure you're prepared for the unexpected.

Find out more at www.carersbsg.org.uk/CEC or call **CarersLine** on **0117 965 2200**.



New advice sessions for South Gloucestershire residents in April

Supported by Westerleigh and Coalpit Heath and Frampton Cotterell Parish Councils, Citizens Advice will be running new drop in sessions between 1 - 3pm at either:

Westerleigh Village Hall on first Friday of every month (from 1st May)

or

The Bickeridge Centre, Frampton Cotterell on all the other Friday sessions (from 10th April).

No appointment needed, all welcome.



If you need advice, Pucklechurch residents can attend these sessions in Westerleigh and Coalpit Heath. Other local drop in centres include:

Yate, Unit 1 Badminton, Station Road, Yate, South Gloucestershire BS37 5HZ
Monday (4pm - 6pm), Tuesday (10am - 3pm) and Friday (10am - 1pm)

Lyde Green, Lyde Green Community Centre, BS16 7GW
Monday 10am – 12 noon

Emersons Green, Emersons Green Village Hall, Emerson Way, BS16 7AP
Thursday 10am – 12 noon

Staple Hill & Mangotsfield, Page Community Association, BS16 4NE
Friday 10am – 12 noon

New Pucklechurch Woodland Project - Update

Volunteers from Pucklechurch and beyond have helped ensure the target for this year's tree planting and mulching has been achieved. Every Tuesday and Thursday a dedicated band of helpers have tirelessly worked to support Neil, Jette and the team at South Gloucestershire Council. The results are looking great with the saplings bursting into life in their protective sleeves. Do try and find time to go and have a look.



Pucklechurch Parish Council has been pleased to contribute to seeding some extra areas edging the 'rides' with wildflowers and look forward to seeing these start to grow. A number of fruit trees have also been added near the scrape but unfortunately these are proving very popular with the local deer population so protection guards will need be added.

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that it will be arranging an evening bat walk in the new woodland later in the summer so keep a look out for dates.

A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in this unique project which will provide such a lasting legacy for future generations.

Cllr Richard Dunning

Pucklechurch Players - Behind the Scenes

By the time you read this, your favourite (we hope), local drama group will have entertained you with their latest play 'Off the Hook', a complicated comedy by Derek Benfield. We hope that you loved it!

The weeks leading up to our performances are always challenging. The request from the Director, 'Scripts Down' is enough to strike fear into all the cast. As one cast member commented 'It is strange how you always remember certain lines whilst others just will not sink in'. Rehearsals increase to two or three per week and are held in the bijou surroundings of the Community Centre meeting room or in someone's front room. We use whatever props have been sourced and can be fitted into the rehearsal space, otherwise we make do. For this play a knitted rat is standing in at rehearsals for a packed lunch!

But, we all hope, it will be alright on the night!

We couldn't do it without our wonderful audiences, and we hope to perform our next play for you in November/December.



Gardeners Club

With Spring starting very dry, I was beginning to think we would have to start using the garden hose as the water butts were close to empty but thankfully May has arrived and we have had a few downpours with the garden greening up nicely.

The Plant Share arranged for our March meeting was a success with many members bringing along plants to share with others and taking home plants to try in their gardens. Duncan did a short PowerPoint presentation regarding the residential trip to Norfolk in June.

At the April meeting we invited Julie & Yvonne from the Hedgehog Rescue to share useful information concerning hedgehogs in your garden. I'm sure many of us went away having learned a few useful tips on making their garden hedgehog friendly.



The last club meeting we held was the Annual General Meeting on May 6th which was well attended. Everyone agreed to the Committee's proposal to increase our annual subscription from £12 to £15 to reflect the increasing cost of our monthly speakers.

The Frank Bradley Trophy, which is awarded to a member with most points in the fun competition each month, was yet again won by budding Monty Don aka Dave Harris. Joint second place went to Suzanne Wembridge & Lindsey McGowen with Martin Hall in third place. Well done everyone, a brilliant competition from Martin yet again. With all business finished we enjoyed a short reminiscent farming story from our club president, George Alway.

The last event on our program finishes with our residential trip to Norfolk in June, when we visit Belvoir Castle, the Sandringham Estate & Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire which Duncan Light has kindly arranged for us.

In July we shall be holding our annual summer supper in Kate & Brian Cudlip's garden at Bridehill Farm, Feltham Rd, when we will celebrate the Golden Anniversary of Pucklechurch Gardeners Club. An amazing achievement for a village club to have grown from a handful of keen gardeners meeting up to share a love of gardening in the Chapel room, to the very successful club of over 70 members & still growing!

Club News 2025 Contact Sallie Brooks: sallie61@me.com

D. Kemps Garden Centre & Elmwood Nurseries offer members 10% discount on plants when a recent membership card is presented.

St Thomas a Becket Scarecrow Competition and Trail

May Bank Holiday saw the return of the Scarecrow Competition and Trail this year. The event was organised by St. Thomas a Becket Church Scarecrow Committee supported by the volunteer scarecrow creators, HMP Ashfield, who kindly lent their car park for the day and well-wishers from Pucklechurch.

Raffle Prizes were donated by the following organisations: Westonbirt Arboretum, The Old Dairy, Tree Top Golf, The Entertainer, Flawless Aesthetics Pucklechurch, Mendip Leisure, Avon Valley Railway Family, Cinema Luxe, Bottegino's, Lyfe Health Downend, Rose and Crown Pucklechurch, St Aldam's Garden Centre, Isla Moody Fitness, PVSSC, Mr A's Bakehouse, Brows and Beauty with Charlotte, Pucklechurch community centre social club, Pucklechurch Post office, Kemps Garden Centre, Elmwood Garden Centre, CL Group Electrical, Rose and Crown Wick and First Sports Coaching. Thank you all so much.

The winning scarecrows this year, voted for by the visitors to the Trail, were:

A wizard, created by Emily and A Brownie (the lucky dip scarecrow), created by Lori-Anne and the Brownies. The winners of the Trail for most correctly guessed scarecrow names were Vicki and Clemmie. Congratulations to everyone.

The event raised a huge amount for the church, £4,700, before expenses were subtracted. This makes a good contribution towards maintaining the fabric and services of our church in Pucklechurch.

The main benefit, though, was the joy the event brought to the village and the visitors on both days. People are introduced to the village and its businesses and organisations, as well as the church. Thank you to all the organisations and businesses that supported the event and advertised it with us. We were inundated with people, and especially families, walking, talking, enjoying and making connections and good memories.

Some comments on the Scarecrow Facebook page included:



"The special effects with the wizard were great - especially the wooden spoon!"

"We had a great time, there was a buzz of energy throughout the village too. It was lovely to see so many people out. Thank you for your efforts and for all the creations on the trail."

"We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves today. Everyone who was involved in this deserves massive credit! Roll on 2027"

"Cream tea was amazing...!"

We thank everyone for your support this year. It has been worth all the effort and time. The best spirit of Pucklechurch was fed and visible during these days. What a community!

Thank you, God.

Julie Gardner

On behalf of the St Thomas a Becket Scarecrow Committee



Pucklefest Returns This Summer!

Get ready for another unforgettable weekend as Pucklefest returns from 31st July to 2nd August with this year shaping up to be our biggest and best yet.

The line up is now officially confirmed, with live music across the weekend from JPJ, Freeze, We Are The Lost Boys, The Coyote Kings, and many more fantastic acts still to be announced. From crowd favourites to new discoveries, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Behind the scenes, preparations are well underway as the team puts together the final arrangements to make this year's festival even bigger, better, and more memorable than ever before. Expect a brilliant atmosphere, great entertainment, and a fantastic community weekend at the pub.

Whether you're a long time Pucklefest regular or planning your first visit, make sure the dates are in your diary, it's set to be a weekend not to miss.

More details will be shared soon, so keep an eye out for updates. We can't wait to welcome everyone back this summer!

Pucklechurch Allotment Association

For the first time in many years, we now have all plots allocated to local residents. It's good to see everyone getting their plots up together and ready for the growing season. Well done to all our newcomers, you're doing a great job! However, if you are interested in an allotment and a resident of the Parish you can still add your name to the waiting list for when one becomes available. Please email the Parish Clerk clerk@pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

We will be supporting the Revel again this year with our 'village stocks' and other activities and hope to see you all there. Fingers crossed for good weather, the sun always helps! Let's try and make it a memorable day for the village on this special Revel year.

1st Pucklechurch Guides

Another busy term. All guides produced craft items for our Table Top Sale in March, but we would have liked to have welcomed a few more people. Nearly £200 was raised through sales and generous donations, supporting Katie and Issy who passed a selection weekend to attend a jamboree in Iceland in 2027. We're very proud of them but they must each raise £2,700. Issy organised a stall at a car boot sale and Katie has been gardening in a very large garden which opens to the public.

We also had stalls at Abson market, Dyrham and Hinton craft fair, and Marshfield and Cold Ashton WI May Fair. A big thank you to The Old Dairy who are allowing us to display and sell craft items and handmade cards in their café. And thanks to Maggie, one of our leaders, the 'lady with the pink hair' who kindly donates some of her profits from sales of her wide range of jams, marmalade and pickles.

During half term we joined with about 50 other Guides from Yate/Chipping Sodbury and travelled by train to Clip and Climb, Gloucester. A great day out and a chance to meet others in our local area. We celebrated St Patrick's Day with our version of Irish hockey, indoors, fast, furious, and great fun.

We spent an evening finding out what should and shouldn't be flushed down toilets - only toilet paper! We discussed acceptable behaviour and produced our Unit Guidelines which everyone, including leaders, signed.

As part of our Guiding History badge Guides learned how messages were relayed by semaphore flags long before telephones, or mobile phones, were invented. The girls

signalled short messages to one another on the Rec before it became cold and finishing with a game of Balloon Frenzy inside to warm up. Issy ran a tuck shop raising money towards her trip. A great way to end the term.

We will begin the summer terms with the Entomology badge by looking for insects/bugs on the ground. Lyn at Denisworth kindly allowed us to use her grounds to continue the Entomology badge, catching flying insects in handmade nets followed by campfire songs and 's'mores' mm!

We chose to make Chase from Paw Patrol, plus Chicoletta, for the Scarecrow competition. Everyone helped scrunch newspaper to stuff the costume, with Chase standing proudly in my garden during the Trail. Issy and Katie sold drinks and snacks to add to their Iceland funds.

During the term Isabelle, Annika and Grace gained their Take Action Stage 4 badge. The syllabus teaches them that by helping in small ways, like planting trees, helping build a scarecrow, etc. they can make a difference. Esme gained her Take Action Theme Award by earning an Interest Badge, a patrol badge and taking part in Unit activities. Dana gained her Conscious Consumer Badge. Maisy, Dana and Issy produced excellent, interesting posters following observations in local woodlands to gain their Biodiversity Badges. Many others are working on individual Interest Badges.

Now our older guides have left to form a Ranger Unit, we have spaces for guides aged 10-14, Young Leaders and Duke of Edinburgh volunteers 14-18, and adults 18+. All are welcome, whether or not you have been in Guiding previously. Contact Ros Abbott on **07709639846** for further information.



Green Community Travel Ltd
Helping the community for 30 years

June Dates Hospital Shuttle Bus 2026

This is the last month for the pilot! We may see if we can extend the pilot for another 6 months but we haven't had the uptake we hoped for so at present we won't be able to apply for a grant to roll this out as a permanent 5 day a week service.

The Hospital Shuttle bus will be running on:

- Monday 1st / Tuesday 2nd / Thursday 4th / Friday 5th / Wednesday 10th June

It has been working well getting passengers to their appointments on time so we haven't got a set schedule of times, passengers may be asked to arrive slightly earlier/wait a short time depending on other passengers but the wait times have not been excessive.

Depending on other bookings we may be able to offer alternate times.

Although we are focusing on Southmead we may be able to accommodate other destinations, but our Vol Car Scheme is still fully running.

Non members can join for £5 (shuttle bus service only) and we will set the fare for the shuttle bus at £15 (for a return journey. £2 more if no bus pass) This will still be for a door to door journey.

We are here for anyone that cannot access public transport, this could be due to mobility, age, location, availability of services.

Our Facebook page remains the best place to keep up to date with this pilot scheme and we hope to speak to you soon.



COMMUNITY FUND



01454 228706 admin@greencommunitytravel.co.uk

Green Community Travel Hospital Shuttle Bus

June is the last month for the shuttle bus, dates are stated in the poster.

There may be an opportunity to explore further funding via applying for a grant to extend the pilot for another 6 months. Unfortunately, the bus hasn't been used enough to enable a grant for a 5 day a week service.

The main point of a pilot is to understand if something works. It was good to try though.

You can find a map for the travel area [GCT Test - Google My Maps](#)

Hazel Everett

Community Engagement Officer – Area 2 Yate and Cotswold Edge

Tower Playgroup

We have had some fabulous terms so far this year. We have enjoyed learning about and celebrating Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday, World Book Day, Easter and The Scarecrow Trail. We are busy with our preparations for Revel and supporting our older children with their transition to 'big school' in September.

We have limited availability for September, for further information please contact us on **07722029077**, towerplaygroup@gmail.com or alternatively pop in and see us.

Katherine and Maria

Pucklechurch Community Centre

A lot of work has gone in over the last several months to ascertain the overall condition of the Community Centre and identify what needs to be done to make it safe and viable for the future. We recently met with Pucklechurch Parish Council and have agreed a way forward which will improve the safety of the building. This is part of a long-term plan and we'll keep you posted of our progress. One task that has been completed is the replacement of the side door for the hall and the fire escape for the social club. Not only are the new doors more secure, but they are better insulated to help with our energy use.

As you may be aware, Pucklechurch Playgroup is closing in July after decades of looking after the children of our village. The PCA would like to extend its good wishes to all the wonderful staff and thank them for their support and help with the PCA and Community Centre over the years. Looking to the future, we have The Little Village Childcare starting up in September, offering 'year round early years care (0-5)' together with 'wrap around care including Pucklechurch Primary pick up & holiday club'. If you would like more information their email is littlevillagechildcare@hotmail.com.

Despite our previous pleas, parking is an increasing issue in the Community Centre car park. The issues include residents using it as if it was their own drive, workers parking there and going to work, and even residents holding large garden parties with the guests using the car park. It is not uncommon for it to be half full of cars that are not using the Centre. As a charity, we rely on people booking our rooms and those users should be able to park there. If they can't, they will go elsewhere and that could jeopardise the future of the Community Centre. We are investigating how we can best tackle this issue.



Memory Café

A relaxed, informal **free** drop in café, providing support for people with dementia along with a family member, carer, or friend. The café meets from 2pm-4pm on the first Thursday in every month at Doynton Village Hall, BS30 5SY

In June we welcome back our four legged and feathered friends with another visit from Playful Paws! There will be a chance to hold and feed and groom the animals, which proved extremely popular last year.

With a Summer filled with sport, we once again hold our Sports Day! When the whistle blows there will be egg and spoon racing or tower building to be part of or to watch. Great fun! Medals will be given for winners and any other sporting achievement including best hula hooper!

Along with our main entertainment every session, there are always quizzes, colouring, jigsaws and art activities that visitors can join in as well as enjoy the refreshments, including an array of lovely cakes! A free book and jigsaw stall and an information table is always available for our visitors.

Each session always end with singing of popular songs from the 60's and the appearance of the BIG RED BALLOON!

Come along and enjoy the fun!

Tel 07817311001 for more info or find us on Facebook

Are you Curious?

Unpack the Christian faith together.



Meet new people and explore the Christian faith together. Alpha is for anyone who's curious. No judgement, no pressure. Each session unpacks a big question of life, faith, and purpose, and is designed to spark conversation. Come along, see what you think.

St Thomas a Becket Church are planning to have a course for those who wish to know more about Christianity.

Called, "ALPHA"

Starting Tuesday 8th September 2026

7pm to 9pm at St Thomas a Becket Church, 12 Westerleigh Rd, Pucklechurch. BS16 9RB

Everyone is welcome.

For Alpha website: Click on QR code, and then click on

Try Alpha.

If you have any questions or to let us know that you are interested, please contact Sophia at officepawdd@gmail.com



Good Neighbour Scheme

Spring is here bringing lighter mornings and nights, allowing more time for the Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers to help people. Over the past few months, we've done a variety of tasks for residents, including a garden blitz by weeding and tidying a back garden for someone unable to do it themselves. We've also mowed a lawn whilst someone buys a new lawn mower following a change in circumstance.

As well as gardening we've helped people by completing some small DIY tasks including fitting a couple of screws to a wall to hang a security light and replacing some screws on a gate to allow safer and easier access to a drive. We've also re-hung a curtain that had come out of its curtain ring and was too high for the person to reach. One of those small tasks that makes a real difference to the householder.

We can help with a variety of small household tasks such as changing bulbs, batteries and fuses, simple DIY tasks, filling in forms, putting out bins and recycling, and providing in person or telephone company. We can also help with a "garden blitz", where several volunteers will weed and generally tidy up your garden if you're unable to do it. If you have regular helpers, we may be able to help if they are unavailable due to holidays or illness.

This is not an exhaustive list, so if you have anything you think we could help with, please contact us and we can come to have a chat with you.

In the meantime, if you or someone you know would benefit from our help, please contact us on **07961939574** or via email at goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org. If you leave a message on the phone or email, we'll reply within 48 hours.

Three Shires Medical Practice

In the Spring edition of Pucklechurch News, we said that we were waiting to hear from the Government about the GP contract for 2026/27. The new core GP contract was announced at the end of February and will be imposed on GP Practices without any negotiation from the start of April. Nearly 60% of GP's responded to an invitation to vote on whether to accept the new contract and 99% of those GP's have overwhelmingly rejected the new contract. The GMC will be seeking negotiations with the Department of Health to achieve a more financially viable contract. As this contract will not relieve the financial pressure on our practice, we are reviewing our operations and services with the money we have available.

We continue to be extremely grateful to everyone who has supported the Friends of Three Shires where the fundraising for equipment has made an immense difference to our ability to provide the current levels of medical services we are able to offer. Almost £30,000 has been raised and vital equipment has been purchased which we would not otherwise have been able to afford.

On a positive note, the Memory Café continues to thrive and the Bereavement Group in Marshfield continues to meet. The group is also looking to support carers where the person cared for has either recently been admitted to residential or nursing home care, or is in the process of being admitted.

We hope that you will continue to be understanding with Practice staff as we work our way through the challenging months ahead.

Editorial Group: Jayne Hawkins (Editor), Rick Dunning, Helen Parker and Daphne Dunning

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If you would like to provide an article, please email pucklechurchnews@pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk by the deadline.

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10th May '26 for June Edition (Summer)

10th August '26 for September Edition (Autumn)

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Articles do not necessarily represent the views of the editor or the parish council unless specifically stated.

In line with its agreed Editorial policy, Pucklechurch News Editorial Group reserves the right to edit or omit articles and decisions taken are final.

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Pucklechurch Community Association Social Club

Pucklechurch CA Social Club is situated above the Community Centre (Village Hall) and is open to both members and non-members. New visitors to our club are surprised by its friendly and pleasant atmosphere. The balcony overlooks the Rec and at this time of year and through the summer boasts some of the best views in Pucklechurch. So, if you are watching Pucklechurch Cricket team play, Revel activities or just soaking up the sun at the weekend or an evening with a refreshing drink in your hand, the balcony is the place to be.

Our Chair, Derek Watts, has introduced various new beers from a local brewery; Bellringer, Paragon and Bath Pale Ale, and we're also serving Timothy Taylor's Landlord from time to time, all of which are proving popular. If you are a real ale drinker, why not come along and sample a pint!

Our internal skittles league of 9 teams play Monday to Thursday evenings and all are welcome, even if you aren't playing. On Friday evenings the Club and skittle alley are open to all, with some members ordering takeaways, playing board games or, if they have booked the alley, holding their own events. If you are interested in playing skittles or are in a team and looking for a venue to play, please contact us.

Various events are held at the Club monthly with quizzes usually held on the last Sunday of each month. A popular night is the Boozy Bingo where prizes are, you've guessed it, bottles of alcohol. In April, we held the first of our 60s/70s Singalong evenings. This was a great success with everyone joining in bringing back memories of their youth. We hope to have many more such evenings.

With free pool table, darts, board games and crib boards available, there is plenty to entertain. Sport is shown on Sky on our 85" television and we often have draws and raffles. Currently, there is the chance to win a game of golf at the Players, Codrington. The prize is 18 holes of golf, valid for a 4 ball (midweek play only), expiring 31st March 2027. To enter this draw you need to be a member.

We welcome you to the Club as a non-member but, if you'd like to become a member, complete the form available at the bar. Being a member, you will pay a lower price at the bar, which is very competitively priced. As a member you will receive a monthly newsletter which details upcoming events and other information.

If you are interested in becoming a member either pop in or email us at info@pucklechurchsocialclub.co.uk or visit <https://pucklechurchsocialclub.co.uk>

We look forward to welcoming you to our friendly Social Club.