



NEWS FROM THE THREE SHIRES MEDICAL PRACTICE

We hope everyone eligible for influenza and COVID vaccinations will have had their vaccines but please contact the surgery if we have contacted you, but you have yet to arrange your appointment.

General practice in England is facing a major funding crisis. Following the change of Government, the surgery is slightly more optimistic that the new Health Minister is listening to the concerns of GPs over their ability to maintain the current level of services. The Three Shires Medical Practice is supportive of the current GP Collective Action which is being taken in line with the BMA Safe Working Guidance. This aims to support and enable practices to prioritise their delivery of safe, high-quality patient care. Most of the actions are administrative but patients could be affected by doctors having no more than 25 daily consultations. More information will be in our Winter Practice Newsletter and on the Practice website, www.three-shiresmedical.co.uk. As a postscript to this article, the Autumn Budget held on 30 October made no mention of the problems facing rural General Practices and future financial implications remain unclear.

Our Patient Participation Group (PPG) has continued to support and challenge the Practice by contacting MPs and councillors to raise awareness of the issues affecting our rural practices. One of our new MP's raised the issue of rural GP Practices in his maiden speech, so Three Shires had a mention

in Parliament! The 'Friends of Three Shires Surgeries' continue to raise funds for replacements, repairs and maintenance of medical and similar essential equipment such as ECG machines. Recent 'Friends' funding has been for two replacement refrigerators - essential for keeping vaccinations. You can donate by cheque payable to Friends of Three Shires, and left at the surgery marked for the attention of Friends of Three Shires Surgeries, or directly to the Friends of Three Shires bank account - Lloyds bank, sort code 30 99 50, account number 54449863 or use this QR code to make your donation.



With Christmas approaching, all our surgeries will be closed on 25th and 26th December and again on 1st January. Medication requests to cover the holiday period need to be with the Surgery by Wednesday 18th December so that medication can be collected on Monday 23rd December and no later than lunchtime on Tuesday 24th December

Girlguiding IN PUCKLECHURCH

1st Pucklechurch Guides

Our Autumn term begun by welcoming four new guides but any hope of enjoying some outdoor activities was thwarted by the rain. Subsequent weeks were spent in patrols learning how to be a savvy shopper and gaining nutrition and banking tips. On 8th October everyone, including those who had contributed to her fundraising, were invited to Izzy Johnston's talk on her European Interrailing trip.

This term's highlight was a 'sleepover', I use this term loosely! at Airhop with 220 Guides from all over our county. From 8pm - 10pm Guides jumped, bounced, slid down long slides, scrambled through inflatable mazes against the clock and more, before pizza and a film. Then we 'slept' from midnight until 7am, breakfast and another hour's bouncing before going home, unsurprisingly for some sleep!

Halloween was great fun as glow sticks attached to limbs, bodies and heads, turned us all into glowing, dancing skeletons.

Part of our Guide Promise is to 'serve my community' and Guides joined with the public and parish council members to plant bulbs around the 'Rec' perimeter and within the burial ground. Guides will parade to church for Remembrance Sunday and decorate a Christmas tree for the festival.

If any of these varied activities appeal to 10-14-year-old girls, and you would like to be part of our wonderful organisation, do contact me to join, Ros Abbott 07709 639846. We couldn't run without all our fantastic 14yr old+ Young Leaders, and adult volunteers.

Good Neighbours

Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers have continued to help residents over the summer and autumn months with tasks including a few small gardening requests where health issues have meant people cannot currently do it themselves. We've also helped paint a garden fence and shed and resolved an issue with a printer. With winter approaching, remember that we may be able to help remove snow from paths and drives (you never know).

If you think you or someone you know would benefit from our help with things such as putting out bins, simple household tasks or company or if your regular helpers are on holiday or become unwell, we may be able to help in their absence. If this is the case, please contact us to see if we have volunteers who can help you.

You may feel you would like to join us as a volunteer, please get in touch on 07961 939574 or by emailing goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org. You decide how much time you give and what types of tasks you would like to help with. Everything we do is local.

If you leave a phone message or email, we will reply within 24 - 48 hours. You can also find more details are on our website at http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/good_neighbours.htm

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



WINTER 2024

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.pucklechurch.org

Pucklechurch Parish Council Chair's Winter Report

I am happy to report that we are now back to a full complement of 9 councillors since we have been able to co-opt Helen Parker as a councillor. Helen is a long-standing Pucklechurch resident and has played an active role in many community projects over the years, including being part of the Neighbourhood Planning group - welcome Helen!

Parish council decisions

Parish council is consulted on a wide range of matters that affect Pucklechurch, and as well as receiving new proposals it actively participates in influencing the provision and delivery of services and facilities that affect us all. No individual councillor is responsible for any single decision as these are taken collectively on behalf of the whole community. Council must consider the wider implications of any proposals that are brought forward and as a result this sometimes means that it finds itself unable to support what has been proposed. This was the case with regard to a proposal to situate a multi-use games area on parish-owned land. I want to stress here that parish council applauded the ambition to improve sporting facilities in the village. However, when all factors were considered parish council resolved that it does not have suitable land to allocate for such a facility. If suitable land can be found elsewhere, the council would be happy to consider any further proposals.

Draft Neighbourhood Plan update

This was circulated to three consultation bodies for feedback (Historic England, Environment Agency, Natural England). I am pleased to report that no adverse comments were received and so now we can move forward to the next regulatory stage of the process.

Sports pitches and drainage improvements

Council was successful in its bid to access the remaining s106 funding arising from the Oaktree Avenue development. This now means we can commission works to improve the playing surfaces of our sports pitches and address drainage issues relative to waterlogging at the Recreation Ground.

St. Aldam's Play Area Project

An application to Suez has been submitted to fund replacement equipment at St. Aldam's Play Area. The project design and delivery went through a tender process and council has appointed a preferred contractor subject to funding being achieved. The final design will be informed by consultation with young people and an event to enable this is being planned. And finally, by the time you read this Christmas and the New Year will be fast approaching - I for one am looking forward to seeing the fruits of our labours bursting into flower in 2025 as a result of the bulb-planting you will read about elsewhere in this edition. In the meantime, best wishes to you all.

Gail Boyle, Chair PPC

REVEL



Pucklechurch Revel is back in full swing with new and old committee members bringing year around events for the benefit of the village. Revel has a number of events planned for 2024/5, more details will be shared in future editions of Pucklechurch News

2025

27th March -	The Bob Todd Memorial Race Night
17th May -	Revel Disco
17th June -	Revel Quiz
20th - 21st June -	Revel Beer and Cider Festival -
21st June -	Revel Day



A huge thank you to the volunteers who give up their time to deliver the Pucklechurch News, regardless of the weather.

Pucklechurch News

Funded by Pucklechurch parish council
Produced and edited by
Jayne Hawkins Tel: 07460 421393 and
Daphne Dunning Tel: 07525 842 095
Email: editor@pucklechurch.org and
jaynehawkins1509@gmail.com
Collection and distribution
Helen Toghill 0117 9373837
Delivered by volunteers

Copy deadlines:

10th February - Spring edition
10th May - Summer edition
10th August - Autumn edition
10th November - Winter edition

SGC Report by Cllr Marilyn Palmer, Boyd Valley Ward

532 Bus Service:

The new bus service was mentioned in the last Pucklechurch News. Well, I have now tried it out along with six friends from Pucklechurch. We caught the 11.47am from the bus stop opposite the Fleur and had a pleasant trip, picking up a few other passengers on the way. On arrival at Keynsham the driver asked if he could take a photo of us all to show his boss because he had never had so many passengers on that route! After lunch and a walk around the shops and the park and we caught the 3pm bus back. It was a very enjoyable trip and I would encourage you to try it. We do not often get a new bus service, so please support it!

Planning Application P24/02055/F land opposite Meadow View, Shortwood Road (two mobile homes, two touring pitches, day room and stables)

As ward councillor I have raised concerns about this planning application for a change of use of land to a travellers site which is adjacent to the new cycle path, falls within the Siston Conservation Area and is in the Green Belt. I want to see the application refused and enforcement action to be taken to restore the site to how it was.

I have been urging South Gloucestershire council to take a stand on this application although there is a shortfall of sites for gypsies and travellers in South Gloucestershire and the council does not have a good record in defending appeals where Inspectors generally cite the shortfall as 'Very Special Circumstances' and grant permission.

Ward Cllr Marilyn Palmer

Emersons Green Library Change of staffed opening hours

From Monday 4th November the staffed opening hours at Emersons Green Library will change as follows:

- **Tuesdays 10am – 5pm (previously until 5.30pm)**
- **Thursdays 10am – 5pm (previously until 5.30pm)**
- **Fridays 10am – 5pm (previously until 5.30pm)**
- **Saturdays 10am – 1pm (previously 9.30am – 1pm)**

However, our regular Pre-School Storytimes, 9.30am on Tuesday, and Rhyme Times, 9.30am on Thursdays, will remain at the same time and day. There is, of course, no booking required, it is FREE and all parents/grandparents and pre-schoolers are always welcome.



Lego Clubs will next take place on Saturday 7th December - its popular though, so ask staff to book a slot or email us on emersonsgreen.library@southglos.gov.uk.

Pucklechurch Community Association

It has been several months since the new PCA Committee was formed and took over the running of the Community Centre. It has not always been easy and short term challenges remain, but we are determined to do the best we can for the facility and the community that benefits from it. We would like to give our thanks to the previous Trustees for their ongoing help and advice and to everybody else who has provided support.

If you would like to become a member you can join or renew your membership now. If you are using the Social Club and are not a visiting team for cricket or football, you do need to be a member for legal reasons. Membership also brings in vital funds that keep the club and the PCA functioning and costs about 66p per month, so pretty good value really!

A number of maintenance tasks have been completed including a complete clear out of all the guttering which in places resembled a small forest. Well done to Andy's Gutters for spending the whole day sorting this out, despite only expecting it to take half a day. The PCA would also like to offer our thanks and gratitude to Clare Watts and all the other volunteers from the Pucklechurch Players drama group who have been cleaning and doing minor maintenance jobs in and around the hall over the last few weeks. It is really appreciated the time and effort put in for the benefit of everybody using the Centre. The Pucklechurch Players would love to hear from anyone interested in helping to stage plays, this could be on stage or behind the scenes. You can find their details on our website (see below).

Talking of the website, we are close to launching the revamped new-look version with improved features and better functionality. We are hoping we will be able to tell you it is up and running in the next edition of Pucklechurch News. In the meantime, you can still use our existing site for information about bookings and the activity groups using the Centre at <https://www.pucklechurchcommunitycentre.co.uk/> You can reach our Booking Secretary directly at pcahallbooking@outlook.com.

Finally, as this is the last issue before the end of the year, we would like to get in early and wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to those that celebrate it.

ASHFIELD PRISON



HMP Ashfield, located on the outskirts of the village, holds 412 male prisoners convicted of sexual offences and is a national resource for the delivery of treatment programmes. The prison has been operated by Serco for 25 years and we are proud to have won the contract for another 10 years. HMP Ashfield's relaunch of the new contract provides an opportunity to develop more sustainable operations with a positive impact on our local community. As a result, investment has been made in several initiatives to innovate our business:

- Introduced a sustainable travel plan
- Align to the Governments Net Zero carbon targets
- Install EV chargers and change our fleet to EV where appropriate
- Solar powered recycling centre on site lowering the number of vehicles using the local roads
- Ecological / Biodiversity gains
- Food waste composted onsite for use within the grounds with surplus given away to local allotments and 100% diversion of waste away from landfill
- Committed to not purchase any avoidable single use plastic
- Employee volunteering days to the local community
- Promote energy efficiency, commit to reducing consumption of electricity by 14% and gas by 6% to limit our impact on the world.

The prison wants to take this new contract as an opportunity to improve all areas of the business and our goal is to ensure that HMP Ashfield remains dedicated to rehabilitation, while simultaneously playing an integral role in enhancing the well-being of the village surrounding us. This will include keeping the local community up to date on our commitments and progress against our targets.

We have joined up with the **British Bee Keeping Association** and we now have a bee colony, along with running bee keeping courses for prisoners. As the bee population is declining, we thought this would be our way of helping, as bees are key pollinators of affordable fruit and vegetables for all, and we need to protect them. We have produced our first batch of honey this year and are now looking to increase our colony to produce honey we can sell to the local community.

GARDENER'S CLUB



It's late October now as I write this, and my garden is changing colour. Acers are turning beautiful shades of orange with the trees starting to lose their leaves. October is a cleaning up month, emptying the summer pots and potting up new bulbs for Spring. The greenhouse has a good clean now that the tomatoes and cucumbers have finished, which then gives room to bring the tender plants inside before the frosts come.

Our club started its Autumn programme on 2nd October, when guest speaker Robert Champion talked about 'home grown cut flowers.' Robert also brought some perennial plants to purchase after his talk. Afterwards, our competition of 'A picture made from leaves' was won by Martin Hall and we all enjoyed refreshments and biscuits.

The November meeting on 6th invited Carl Sadler to talk on 'Besom Brooms & Gypsy Flowers' which was interesting! Our competition is a 'Display of autumn flowers, berries & foliage' so I think I might have a go at making that!

Back to my garden now to remove the yellowing Hosta leaves which are hanging over my path and they will all need splitting up next spring. Another job on my gardening list!

Kemps Garden Centre & Elmwood Nursery offer members 10% discount on plants when your membership card is presented.

Club News 2024 contact Sallie Brooks: sallie61@me.com

Contacts: Jean Powell 01454528066 Val Seaman 01179372095 or Ann Smith 01179372030



Did you know?!

From the 1st of November 2024 as part of a 1-year experiment, we at HMP Ashfield have partnered with the Big Lemon Bus Company to provide **free** accessible transport for social visitors to HMP Ashfield, to and from Parkway Train station in Filton. They will run in line with our visit's timetables Friday – Saturday and Sunday. **This service will also be available Free of charge to Pucklechurch residents.**

This initiative is a key part of our approach to sustainability in reducing our carbon footprint in our local community, along with our plan to make visiting the prison easier, safer and more cost effective. Timetable will be displayed in our visit's bungalow.

FLY TIPPING



In providing services to the community, both Pucklechurch Community Association (PCA) and the parish council have waste bins in the community centre car park. These are not public bins. Recent fly tipping, defined as the "illegal dumping of waste usually to avoid disposal costs", has become a problem at the Community Centre as highlighted on social media.

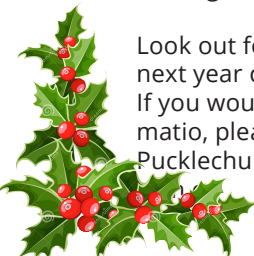
Please help to stamp it out as fly tipping affects the whole community, placing additional costs to both organisations diverting funds from improving services.

Villagers on Their Own

VOTO (villagers on their own) has been running for 14 years. Each year a small committee meets and arranges events for the year, usually monthly activities with more sometimes added as the year goes on. Activities this year have included meals, afternoon tea, a visit to the theatre, an American lunch with horse racing, visits to open gardens, docks walk, and a beetle drive. Coming up we have a fish & chips evening, tenpin bowling and a Christmas meal at the Royal Oak in Chipping Sodbury. You don't have to join every event, just join when you can. We always support Revel, with half of the money from our stall going to Revel and half to a charity of the groups choosing which this year was a local suicide prevention group. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information please contact Elaine Stone on 07940207559 or email elainejstone15@gmail.com

Pucklechurch village trips

Thank you to everyone who has supported the trips this year. Our last trip of the year will be to Winchester Christmas market in December. The coach is full but we have started a waiting list.



Look out for details of our trips next year commencing in April. If you would like more information, please contact Pucklechurchvillagetrrips@gmail.com contact Elaine on 07940207559

St Thomas a Becket, Pucklechurch and St James, Abson Churches

There are lots of new things happening at St Thomas a Becket. We continue to offer a Sunday service at 10am every week except some fifth Sundays of the month. Please visit our web page for monthly service details throughout the benefice <https://wickbenefice.net/services/>. Everyone is welcome.

If you are searching for God, a place to belong or people to meet, we offer a warm welcome and opportunities to serve God, each other, and our local community. For all enquiries, please contact our new part-time administrator on officepawdd@gmail.com. Sophia will be delighted to hear from you. If you wish to book a marriage, baptism or funeral, please continue to contact Elizabeth Webb on 0117 9372516.

December 2024 Services and Events at St Thomas a Becket

The church is open Saturday 30th November 10am - 4pm and Sunday 1st - Friday 6th December 2 - 4pm.

November 30th - December 6th - Christmas Tree Festival

1st December - Holy Communion at 10am

8th December - Morning Worship at 10am

15th December - Christmas Cafe Church at 10am

19th December - Carols at the Rose and Crown at 7pm

22nd December - Morning Worship at 10am

Carol Service at St Thomas a Becket at 6.30pm

24th December - Christingle at 3pm - come dressed as a character from the Nativity story

24th December - Midnight Mass at 11.30

25th December - Christmas Morning Prayer at 10 am

January and February Sunday services will be at 10 am weekly except the 5th Sunday of the month. Please check the Wick Benefice webpage above and church notice boards for details nearer the time.

15th March 2025 - Barn Dance at the Social Club - save the date, details coming nearer the time!

We look forward to seeing you all in the coming months and wish you a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Avon and Somerset Police SERVE. PROTECT. RESPECT.

Local Neighbourhood Policing team are actively monitoring all crime related reports from Pucklechurch and surrounding areas. We would like to encourage residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity or behaviour that takes place in the community, so together we can prevent crime from taking place and keep everyone safe. However, if we are not aware of it, then we will not be able to do anything about it.

We are often out and about in the community so please do come and speak to us when you see us. Other ways you can contact us include:

In case of an emergency, please call 999.

If you would like to report a crime, but it is not urgent, contact 101 or complete a 'Report a crime or incident' form online at

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/forms/rac>

You can view officer details, policing priorities and events in your area or contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team who patrol your area.

Main website - <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk>

Find your area - <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area>

'Boyd Valley team' - <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/boyd-valley-emersons-and-lyde-green/>

Pucklechurch Bulb Planting

On the 19th October after rain or the threat of rain all week, the sun finally shone on our young and not so young eco-warriors who gave up their time to plant bulbs for pollinators (and humans) to enjoy in the spring. Over 1500 bulbs were planted at various locations including around the Castle/Westerleigh Road's junction, the Parkfield Road triangle, the bank and inside the Recreation Ground opposite the Star Inn and the burial ground. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who donned their Hi-Viz vests and helped, especially the Girl Guides and their leader Ros, who were excellent and to South Gloucestershire Council and Pucklechurch parish council for supplying the bulbs and tools.



Rick Dunning, Vice-chair PPC.



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

For December, as in previous Christmas cafés, there will be an afternoon filled with seasonal activities with food including sausage rolls, mince pies, Christmas cake etc! The ukulele band to lead us in carol singing and the session will finish with Christmas hits from the past. The BIG RED BALLOON will finish our cafés for 2024!

To start 2025, our January session on 2nd will be a key affair with the usual art & quiz activities, jigsaws and a game of bingo. We will finish with singing and of course- the BIG RED BALLOON!

Come along and enjoy the fun!



Twinning and the Jardin du Pringy

Appeal for Help!

You will have seen as you enter the village that Pucklechurch is twinned with the French village of Pringy, located in the Seine-et-Marne department in the Île-de-France region in north central France. Began in October 1986, with reciprocal visits between Pucklechurch and Pringy and in 1987 it was mutually agreed that the two villages were happy to become partners. Further visits took place and in June 1988, the twinning was made official by the signing of the Twinning Charter and Pucklechurch Twinning Association was born!

It went from strength to strength with annual visits between families of the two communities. Two Twinning Charters were signed for the 20th Anniversary of Twinning, and these can be seen in St Thomas a Becket church either side of the plaque presented to Pucklechurch by Pringy in 2008 for the tenth anniversary of Twinning.

Although Pucklechurch Twinning Association (but not the formal twinning of the communities) folded in 2019/2020, a lasting legacy of Twinning is the Jardin du Pringy. The small garden surrounding the Millenium Stone enhancing the entry into the village, was established to commemorate our links with Pringy and enlarged in 2005. It has been maintained throughout this time by volunteers from the Twinning Association, including Roger Cleevly and most recently John Sexton aided by his partner Sue and good friend Chris Brain who together replanted the garden in 2021 with funding contributions from Revel and the parish council. Our thanks go to them for the work completed to keep the garden thriving. Sadly, John recently passed away with Sue and Chris no longer able to maintain the garden. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this task please contact the parish council clerk at clerk@pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clr Helen Parker