

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



AUTUMN 2019

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.pucklechurch.org

Pucklechurch Parish Council – Chair's Autumn Report

Your Council Needs You!

As you will all have read in the last edition of Pucklechurch News, a new Council was elected in May. As the new Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Bob Symons, our previous Chair, and also Tina Symons for all the time and effort they put in to serving the community as Councillors – I'm sure you will agree that Pucklechurch benefitted greatly from the work they did on its behalf, much of which was above and beyond the call of duty.

On the good news front the Council itself has recently been recognised for its good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement by having achieved the Quality Council Award in the Local Councils Award Scheme. Quality councils go above and beyond their legal obligations: they lead their communities and continuously seek improvement. Continuing to be able to do this, however, will likely become more challenging because there are just 5 Councillors that currently make up the Council when ideally there should be 9. One of the possible implications of this is that whilst your Council is determined to continue to deliver its work to the highest possible standard, there may be times when meetings cannot be held because the minimum number of Councillors required to be present to allow valid decisions to be made cannot be achieved. Similarly, the number of views expressed during the decision-making process are also reduced when it would be preferable for a much-wider range of views to be taken into account. Having fewer Councillors may also mean that the Council has to become less ambitious about what it can achieve for the Parish because the work to achieve our ambitions will become too onerous for a smaller group of people to manage.

So, what can be done?

Quite simply we are looking for people to come forward to be co-opted as Councillors. No special qualifications

are required, guidance and training can be provided and it's a great way to make a real difference to the place that you live in for everyone. If you think you might be interested or want to find out more there are number of things you could do:

- Call me or our Clerk (Jodie Bailey) for an informal chat
- Come to one of our meetings to see what they are like
- Have a look at the meeting minutes on our website to get an idea of what we do

All contact details, meeting times, agendas and files can be found on our website at:
www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.weebly.com.

Other matters I would like to draw to your attention to:

Allotments

Sadly, there appears to no intelligence or evidence available to the Police that will enable the individual(s) responsible for the mindless vandalism and destruction of allotment holders' property to be apprehended. Parish Council received representations from allotment holders about what actions might be taken to make the site more secure at its meeting on 3rd July. Ideas put forward for consideration included erecting fencing around the site perimeter, a steel storage unit and a solar-powered CCTV system. Two Councillors are now working in liaison with allotment holders with a view to resolving some of these issues and Council has already agreed to provide funding for the fitting of a new gate. Allotment holders have agreed to provide a fully- explored and costed proposal to Council and are also seeking to set up a formal Allotment Association that will potentially unlock access to more funding and support.

Kerbs, pavements, verges and parking

There has been an increase in the number of vehicles driving up and over kerbs and pavements to park on

verges and other green spaces that are not designated for parking. Not only is this potentially dangerous for pedestrians but may cause damage to the footways themselves - it is also possible that it is in contravention of the Highways Act and could be subject to enforcement action. We are also aware that commercial vehicles have been driving over kerbed green spaces to access the rear of properties on the estate. If you see this happening please take details and report to SGC Street Care (see more below).

Speed Watch Volunteers

Thank you to those individuals who have already volunteered to be part of a new Speed Watch group - its not enough for us to complain about speeding traffic through the parish without trying to take positive action to deal with it. However, as with all such groups, the more people that can offer a few hours to the group the better and we do need a few more to come forward to really help it get off the ground.

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Pucklechurch Players
present

PLAY ON

by
Rick Abbott

Fri 15th and Sat 16th
November
in the Village Hall

Doors open at 7.30 pm
Performance at 8.00pm.

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If you do feel that you are able to help please send your contact details to Jodie Bailey (Parish Clerk) via email to parish.council@pucklechurch.org or by phone on 07525 842 095 (leaving a message if out of hours).

Reporting issues: the direct route

There are a number of common issues that can be reported directly to South Gloucestershire Council via its website. You can find out more about what can be reported here: <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/general-information/online-services/report/>.

The list is extensive and includes, for example, street-lighting, dog-fouling, missed bin collections, litter, fly-tipping, roads, pathways and overgrown hedges. Failing this you can also call the General Enquiries number 01454 868009 – from where you should be able to be put through the department with responsibility for dealing with your issue. If you would rather not contact SGC directly I would recommend using www.fixmystreet.com. All you have to do to report a problem here, and for it to be sent to the right SGC department is:

- enter a nearby UK postcode, or street name and area
- locate the problem on a map of the area
- enter details of the problem – you can withhold your own details

Of course, if you are unsure whether or not an issue is SGC's responsibility please direct your queries to Jodie Bailey (Clerk to Pucklechurch Parish Council) via email: parish.council@pucklechurch.org or by phone on 07525 842 095.

Gail Boyle (Chair, Pucklechurch Parish Council)



Pucklechurch Community Association

There is no further news on the project to extend the community centre, but we hope to be able to provide an update in the next edition of Pucklechurch News.

As previously noted, the new building will provide enhanced facilities for the residents of the village. For those of you that are not aware, a number of existing groups use the facilities of the building, such as Bowls, Badminton, Folk Club, Gardening, Majorettes and Model Flying. Please visit the website for Pucklechurch Community Centre at <http://www.pucklechurchcommunitycentre.co.uk> to obtain more information.

If you are new to the village and are considering starting up a new group for activities that do not currently exist, please contact Karl Fuerstenberg on 07938 972069 or pcahallbooking@gmail.com to discuss your requirements. Please also contact Karl if you would like to book the hall for a one off event such as a function, meeting or party – it is generally available on Saturdays.

Helpful Advice on getting to Southmead Hospital

If you've ever tried to get to Southmead Hospital from the village by public transport, you'll have realised that there's no easy way of doing it. However, a resident has written to Pucklechurch News to let people know that by catching the Y5 to Chipping Sodbury, the Y5 magically becomes the Y6 which goes to Southmead Hospital! It's a long way round but so much easier than having to change buses at Staple Hill or elsewhere. It appears few people know about this, so we thank this resident for contacting us to spread the word.

Library News

Activities for Children this Autumn at Emersons Green Library

Chatterbooks Reading group (for children aged 8 – 11) for keen readers this free library staff-led group meets one Saturday a month to talk about different books and try out exciting activities. Please ask staff for more details.

Advice & Support

For specific IT issues or tuition our Computer Support Volunteers offer advice and basic tuition, free of charge. Booking may be required so please contact emersonsgreen.library@southglos.gov.uk or call us on 01454 868006 or talk to staff on site. All South Gloucestershire libraries provide free computer use, WiFi facilities, scanner & printing/ photocopier facilities (a small charge applies for the latter). For details of a longer IT Beginners course run by SGS College at Emersons Green library on Mondays please contact us on the above email/ telephone number.

What to Read Next...? For adults looking for something different to read then why not try our Reading Passport? Available via <https://readingpassport.org/> or the Reading Passport App this collaborative project includes reviews of new books, suggested similar authors and details of author events locally.

Pucklechurch News - the future...

Claire and Sarah have been looking after Pucklechurch News for several years now, having picked up the baton from the previous long-standing team. We love being able to give something back to the place where we live, but we are also keen to make sure that it remains relevant to everyone who lives in Pucklechurch.

We know that 'Shout Out Pucklechurch' is a very useful source of information for villagers, but we also are mindful that not everyone uses social media. So, we'd like to think that Pucklechurch News still has a part to play in village life.

To this end, we would welcome an extra pair of helping hands, ideally someone who could monitor the news inbox on a regular basis and also perhaps find more news stories about the village that would interest residents. If you'd like to help, please get in touch - our details are in every issue.

Pucklechurch News

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council

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Please email articles to editor@pucklechurch.org or drop them off at 34 Hawthorn Close. 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 November for December Edition (Winter)

10th February for March Edition (Spring)

10th May for June Edition (Summer)

10th August for September Edition (Autumn)



St. Thomas a Becket Pucklechurch

Services

1st Sunday in month 8.30am Holy Communion
10am - Café Church

A short informal service we begin with coffee/tea; cakes etc. Worship songs, video, etc. Creche available.

2nd/3rd/4th Sunday 10am Family Communion

Special Services

Sunday 13th October - Harvest Festival 10am Family Communion

Sunday 10th November - Service of Remembrance 10.45am in Church. Wreaths laid, two minutes silence kept; Last Post sounded.

St. George Singers Autumn Concert on Tuesday September 17th at 7.30pm in Church. Raffle will be held with refreshments of wine & cheese available.

Scarecrow Competition and Trail:-

Saturday May 9th and Sunday 10th May 2020

Good Neighbours

It's amazing to think that this summer marks The Good Neighbour Scheme's 10th anniversary! We've helped numerous people over the past decade and have been supported by a merry band of volunteers. We'd like to thank all volunteers for their time and efforts which have made a real difference to people asking for our help. We'd also like to say a big thank you to Livewest for making a very kind donation of £300 to our scheme, which we will use to pay for our insurance and volunteers DBS (police) checks.

During the spring and summer, our volunteers have continued to provide help and company to people in our Parish. We've helped several people with garden blitzes where a number of volunteers spend a couple of hours weeding and cutting back shrubs. We've also helped people by fitting door screen brackets, putting bins out and visiting to provide company.

Once again we had a stall at the Revel and saw many people during the day. We were able to explain more about the scheme and how we can help the more vulnerable members of our Parish.

Please remember that we are here to help with small household tasks wherever we can. If there is something we can't help with, we will do all we can to identify a local service or business who can help.

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and would benefit from our help, or you would like to volunteer, you can contact us by calling 07961 939574 or emailing goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org (if you leave a message on the phone or email we will be in touch within 24 - 48 hours).

As a volunteer, you can give as little or as much time as you like, you get to meet new people and everything is local. Every so often, we meet to have a chat and update each other on what we've been doing as volunteers. You can also find more details are on our website at http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/good_neighbours.htm

GARDENER'S CLUB

With August under way whilst writing, the gardens have been looking very colourful, especially the roses which have loved the warm sunshine. Our club trip to RHS Rosemoor in June was well supported, and as it was a warm day the rose garden was full of colour and perfume



Our Summer Supper in July, which was held in the garden of committee member Greg Bate could have been a complete disaster! The rain didn't let up all day. Greg was determined it would go ahead, so with all our help and many gazebos the evening was saved. Greg was thanked for his hospitality and presented with a lovely Hydrangea, which he had chosen whilst at Rosemoor.

The Autumn/Winter program begins on Wednesday 2nd October and can be found on pucklechurch.org under village groups.

St Aldams Farm, Kemps Garden Centre & Elmwood Nursery offer members 10% discount on plants when membership card is presented

For more information on Gardeners' Club please contact: Jean Powell 01454528066, Val Seaman 01179372095 or Ann Smith 01179372030

Future NSPCC fund raising events in Pucklechurch

Saturday 5th October - Coffee morning at 10.30am in the PVSS Club on St Aldams Drive. There will be a bring & buy, cakes, books, and a raffle.

Saturday 9th November - Horse racing with wooden horses at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Social club, on Abson Rd.

Monday 16th December - Carol singing, starting at Greg's house on Abson Road. Everyone welcome.

Look out for further details of these events nearer the time.

If you are interested in helping to raise funds for NSPCC or want further details about our events please contact Elaine tel. 0179373105 or email elainejstone15@gmail.com

Thank you from the Allotment Holders

As a group we would like to say a big thank you to everyone in the village who has offered to help the allotment holders repair the recent vandalism. Also, to everyone who has kindly donated their hard-earned money, this will help us to set up extra security measures. It has been heart warming to have had so many offers of help, it shows that the community spirit is alive and very healthy. Well done to everyone!

As a footnote the allotment holders are confident that this money will help safeguard the allotments from further problems and ensure they stay active for many years to come, ensuring "allotmenters" present and future can continue growing! Thank You All

All units have enjoyed a variety of activities during the summer and will all resume in September. A big thank you goes to Emma and Pippa for keeping 3rd Pucklechurch Rainbows open over the last year. Emma is now off to university. As ever, please contact Ros Abbot for any enquiries about guiding in Pucklechurch - we need more girls to join the units, and adult leaders to help out. Ros can be contacted at – rosabbott@hotmail.com, 07709 639846 or 01179 372157.



1st Pucklechurch Brownies

1st Pucklechurch Brownies have had a busy few months with great help from Leaders and kind parents. Instructions were given in Mindfulness, First Aid, a variety of Dancing

lessons and a historic walk in the village, showing the Brownies all the interesting things about the area where most of them live. With help from a grandparent the patchwork rug was beautifully completed. Led by Ros Abbott District Commissioner, an enjoyable weekend camp/sleepover was had by some of the Brownie pack with Marshfield Brownies at Bitton. They did craft work, campfires and many other interesting things.

The Brownies have now gained badges in Local History, Languages, First Aid Stage 2, Dance and Mindfulness. We also held a brilliant Hawaiian themed party to say 'Farewell' to Sharon to thank her for taking us through the last year and this closed this term for the Brownies. A new leader will be joining in Autumn with a good programme already planned, including a farm visit postponed this term due to weather.

Race for Life - Pucklechurch Primary School

On Friday 21st June, when the sun was shining and excitement levels were at an all-time high, Pucklechurch Primary School held their very own Race for Life.

Preparations for the big day (run by the school's Sports Crew) had been ongoing for a few weeks and included making banners, organising an assembly and securing resources for ahead of the big day. One member of Sports Crew said, "It's amazing to be involved in such a special event. Lots of children here have family members affected by cancer so it's great to get the chance to help."

Special mentions

A huge thank you must go to Yate Tesco for donating 180 water bottles so that a water station could be provided to keep the children hydrated as they challenged themselves during the run.

Another thank you must go to Cancer Research who supplied the school with banners, blank race numbers and medals so that the children felt a real



The track at Pucklechurch Primary measures approximately 235m, therefore the children had to complete 21 laps if they wanted to achieve the distance of 5km. Incredibly, most of the children in KS2 were able to rise to the challenge and complete this distance independently, resulting in high levels of achievement and satisfaction. In KS1, most of the children were able to group together in either 2s or 3s to complete the 5km. Even the teachers got involved and most achieved distances greater than the required 5km.

All in all, it was a huge team effort by the whole school and they should be extremely proud for what they have succeeded in doing. More than 350km were completed by the children and, as it stands, £335 has been raised for Cancer Research. Hopefully, this figure will keep on growing and they will get as near as possible to their target of £500.

Pucklechurch Primary School Full Governing Body.

Your local primary school, Pucklechurch CEVC Primary School, is looking for new governors. We are inviting members of the community, who have an interest in supporting the successful education of children and who feel they could offer the time and commitment that it takes, to be a school governor.

Pucklechurch CEVC Primary School is a successful, well-run, happy school that seeks to contribute to, and participate in, the local community. The governing body is a crucial part of that success and as such, wishes to remain effective in driving the strategic vision of the school.

There are many skills and attributes that we seek to enable us to do this. You may be someone with a previous connection to the school, an interest in developing strong strategic systems or a genuine desire to help children be successful. This is a role that will give you the opportunity to contribute in all sorts of ways. Whatever your knowledge and skills you will have something that can supplement those we already have. Please don't under-estimate what you can bring to our governing body and so contribute to continuing growth and success of the school.

In the first instance we are looking for expressions of interest. If you would like to find out a little more (without any obligation whatsoever) then please contact : Tracey Ward; Clerk to Governors - tracey.ward1@pucklechurchprimary.org.uk

We really would love to develop the Governing Body and if you think that you would like to participate then please get in touch. Thank you for reading this and we hope to meet you soon.