

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



AUTUMN 2021

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.pucklechurch.org

Harvest Fundraiser

Pucklechurch Cricket Club, Pucklechurch Football Club and Pucklechurch Revel.

On Sunday October 10th at the Pucklechurch Sports and Social Club from 5pm- 8pm. We will be holding a joint Harvest auction with all monies made split evenly between the three areas.

We are looking for Auction items that we can auction on the night to those who attend. There is no item too big or too small! We are happy to receive all as the success of this night and monies raised depends on contributions and attendance to the event in October.

Donations to this event will not only benefit our fundraiser but potentially your business no matter how big or small with free advertising and product placement in the lead up to the event and on the event night.

Donations can be sent to either, Lori-Anne Button, Kelly Brown or Sarah Hedges We will be accepting donations for the auction up until October 3rd, 2021.

Contact information for any concerns is:

Dean Freestone: 07780 525 487

or deanfreestone@btinternet.com

Kelly Carter Brown: 07527 807 993

or Kbrown14@btinternet.com

Lori-Anne Button: 07789 707 278

or Pucklechurch.Revel@gmail.com

REVEL

2022

Pucklechurch Revel should be returning for the 2021/2022 season

Christmas Sparkle and tree lighting ceremony will be on 28th November and I have been assured that Father Christmas will be making an appearance!

Revel is planned for 18th June 2022 on the Recreation field. We are in need of committee members to help organise this day of fun for the village so if you are interested or would simply like some more information about all the events and

Pucklechurch Village Trips

By the time you receive Pucklechurch News I expect our trip to Windsor will have taken place.

We are planning a trip to Birmingham on Tuesday 5th October. Look out for further details nearer the time and if you would like to be added to our group email please contact Elaine on elainejstone15@gmail.com or phone 01179373105.

Pucklechurch Players Present

The Sleeping Beauty

Dec 2nd, 3rd and 4th
at 7.30pm.

Saturday matinee at 2.00pm.

Tickets available from October 4th.

Please contact Elaine: text or call
07940207559 or call 0117 9373105

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)



PARISH COUNCIL Chair's Report Autumn 2021

Meetings

As some of you may recall the ability for parish councils to meet and legally take decisions online came to an end in May 2021. This was because government still needs to bring new primary legislation forward in order for this to happen. In the interim parish council agreed that our Clerk was enabled to make decisions on its behalf in accordance with its published scheme of delegation. Since July 21, 2021, however, Council has been arranging to meet in person, and full council meetings are now scheduled to take place at Pucklechurch Primary School on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. School was chosen as a venue as it has the space to enable meetings to take place whilst still following covid health and safety guidance. Any exceptions to this are published on our website. In addition to this we have also agreed to continue to meet online on the 1st Wednesday of the month. These online meetings are not full council meetings in the sense that decisions cannot be taken at them, but they are instead advisory working meetings and in the interest of transparency will still be held publicly albeit online and of course residents are welcome to attend. Parish council has had to act in a dynamic way in order to ensure its business is transacted as efficiently as possible whilst adhering to legislative requirements. Our first (and indeed our second) 'in-person meeting' at school was held outside in the fresh air since a risk assessment was made due to the increase in infection rates across the district at that time whilst noting advice from South Gloucestershire Council's Director of Public Health. As the weather changes and the nights draw in it is unlikely that we will be able to continue to do this should the need arise!

Burial Ground: maintenance, safety, and regulations

Parish council has a duty to arrange memorial safety testing to ensure the continued safety of visitors to the burial ground as well as any of its contractors that work there. Our Area Assessment and Memorial report (July 2021) has been published on our website and work undertaken to do this has shown there are a number of memorials that are at risk of becoming unstable and one at risk of toppling.

Contrary to general public assumption, ownership and the maintenance of memorials remains the responsibility of the family of the deceased, so this means PPC will always try to trace them to take action to resolve issues that have been identified. If no one comes forward, or they cannot be traced then it is possible in some instances that stones will have to be laid flat if they are deemed to pose a risk of injury to those visiting the burial ground. Clearly PPC does not want to cause distress to families by doing this without notice or consultation and so in the first instance temporary measures will be taken to stop memorials falling over.

Information was also gathered to inform a schedule of maintenance works that PPC will be undertaking to improve the area and also to ensure that it is able to carry out its duty to preserve biodiversity through a sensitive management programme. The burial ground is also subject to Pucklechurch Burial Board Cemetery Regulations which unfortunately in some cases do not appear to be being adhered to. Please remember that, for example, no planting on graves or cremation plots is permitted since many plants, due to the depth of their roots, may prevent the future reopening of the grave. Other items, such as plastic objects, ornaments, wind chimes, windmills, flags, lights, candles, any kind of fencing or anything made of glass are also not permitted.

Trees, trees and more trees

PPC owns and is responsible for a large number of trees that are surveyed on an annual basis by a specialist company for signs of disease etc. As a result of the most recent survey, we have commissioned a number of works that will be undertaken over the coming months to resolve issues that have been identified as requiring attention. Sadly, this includes the felling of

one tree which will be replaced. We have, however, also received a request from SGC to promote a scheme to plant trees in Pucklechurch residential gardens and also to consider encouraging the community to form a Friends of Pucklechurch green spaces group or similar. SGC has access to up to 300 trees donated by the Forest of Avon which will be available to residents to plant in their private gardens. The maximum is one per garden to the value of £20.00. It is likely that the scheme will offer trees either through an on-line voucher scheme which can be used at any nursery/garden centre and through a one-day event in December at the Community Centre where residents can simply choose and collect a tree. The project can be managed by the parish council although the preferred option would be for a small group of residents who are interested in promoting environmental measures to come together to enable this to happen. Could that be you?? Please contact our Clerk if you are interested.

It has also come to our attention that the Trading Estate has new owners. In light of all the recent development and disruption, PPC has agreed to try to work with SGC to approach the new owners to undertake tree planting to both screen and enhance biodiversity around the village side of the perimeter of the estate.

And finally, we have decided to take up an offer from The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire to provide two English Oak trees in celebration of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. One of these will replace the tree which needs to be felled at St Aldams and the other located somewhere on Oaktree Avenue, subject to agreement with South Gloucestershire Council.

For more regular news of what PPC has been doing, is about to be doing, our meetings and/or any of the issues mentioned above, please visit our website at www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk and/or follow our Facebook account.

Best Wishes

Gail Boyle Chair PPC



Passionate about Pucklechurch?

Be extraordinary - help shape and champion your local community

Become a local parish councillor!



What is a parish council?

- The first tier of local government and the elected collective voice of the community helping ensure Pucklechurch's voice is heard
- Parish councillors are consulted on a range of matters that affect Pucklechurch.
- Councillors actively participate in influencing the provision and delivery of services and facilities that affect you!
- No individual councillor is responsible for any single decisions, democracy at its best!



The 9 councillors of Pucklechurch parish council are responsible for:

- The provision and maintenance of our open spaces and play areas.
- Engaging in planning issues as a consultee to South Gloucestershire Council.
- Provision of allotments and burial ground.
- Projects and initiatives to improve provision and protect biodiversity and against climate change.
- Supporting local groups that benefit Pucklechurch.



What is involved?

- Attend meetings and be part of the decision-making process that affects the community.
- Listen to and understand the views of people in the community.
- Work with key stakeholders such as South Gloucestershire Council to have Pucklechurch's voice heard.
- Act as an ambassador for the community.



How to become a parish councillor*?

- If you are over 18, a UK, qualifying commonwealth or citizen of the EU and have lived in, been registered to vote, worked or owned property in Pucklechurch parish for at least 12 months.
- Councillors declare acceptance of public office and observe an ethical code of conduct when acting on behalf of the council.

You simply need to bring integrity and a common-sense approach and be willing to look for viable and pragmatic solutions. Full training is available.

Hear what councillors enjoy!

"capacity to shape the place we live in, the how, where and what it is like to live here."
 "helping co-ordinate the community response to junction 18A of the M4."
 "speaking up for Pucklechurch so its voice is heard."

Emersons Green Library

Staffed Hours

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10am – 5.30pm
Saturdays 9.30am – 1pm

Open Access Hours

Since the end of the national lockdown South Gloucestershire libraries have been re-introducing Open Access (hours when the libraries are open but are unstaffed). As these remain subject to change at present please visit www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries to see the latest hours. There you will also find details of how to sign up for this service.

Children's Activities

Many of our children's activities have resumed over recent months. For details of these and any booking arrangements either visit the website above or email emersons-green.library@southglos.gov.uk

Innocent Smoothie Hats

Lesley Putt and her team of volunteers have been knitting little hats for Innocent Smoothie Bottles to raise funds for Age UK. Each hat raises 25p for Age UK – and our Pucklechurch Knitters have clicked away tirelessly with needles and wool to produce 3,150 hats – raising a total of £787.50.

What an amazing effort by all concerned, and next time you see an Innocent Smoothie bottle with a fetching bonnet on the top, it could have come from a Pucklechurch knitter!

Good Neighbours

With the arrival of summer and the easing of restrictions, the Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers have been out and about a little more over recent months. We have been able to help a few residents by doing a 'garden blitz' where a number of volunteers spend a few hours weeding and generally tidying gardens. We also have a few on our books to do so will be busy with those into the autumn!

We've also continued to help people in the village by putting out bins and recycling, picking up prescriptions, shopping, helping resolve computer issues and providing telephone company.

If you think you or someone you know would benefit from our help with such things as putting out bins, simple household DIY jobs or company, please contact us. Remember that if your regular helpers have to self-isolate or become unwell we may be able to help whilst they are unable to do so. If this is the case, please contact us to see if we have volunteers who can help you.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, please get in touch. You decide how much time you give and what types of tasks you'd like to help with, and everything we do is local.

You can contact us on 07961 939574 or by emailing good-neighbours@pucklechurch.org. If you leave a message on the phone or email we'll reply within 24 - 48 hours.

You can also find more details are on our website at http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/good_neighbours.htm

The recipes are available on the Pucklechurch website (www.pucklechurch.org/good_neighbours.html), so please feel free to use them.

GIRL GUIDING IN PUCKLECHURCH



The 1st Pucklechurch Guides have been enjoying a return to face to face meetings since lockdown restrictions continue to be lifted. We made the most of the nice weather exploring the village with a quiz and planting sunflowers which we will be taking to our allotment to see which Guide can cultivate the tallest bloom. We took part in an obstacle course on the rec which showed some impressive athletic skill, and some great cheerleading, encouraging everyone who took part.

After studying Ordnance Survey maps we walked from Parkfield down the steep sided valley to discover how contour lines drawn closely together indicate steep hills and valleys. After stopping for a nourishing snack (of course!) we returned via the Old Railway Line. In preparation for camp, the girls spent another evening learning to pitch tents.

This last term we had the pleasure of welcoming a real detective to one of our meetings. She helped us investigate a staged crime scene and the Guides (and the leaders) enjoyed learning how to collect evidence from a crime scene using actual police equipment and also taking fingerprints. As well as being an amazing oppor-

tunity this activity also helped the Guides complete their investigation badge. The girls were really inspired by the session and I think we may have a few budding detectives in our unit!

We have also been focusing on the history of Guides and have been learning about how Girl Guiding started and grew. The girls were shocked that they would have been expected to stay at home while their brothers' were out exploring the world. Whilst we may be glad that the uniform changed since 1910, we have enjoyed learning about the women and girls who set in motion the tradition which we are part of today. Learning about the history of Guiding has also helped prepare some of the newer Guides for taking their promise in the near future.

We have lots of adventures to look forward to in the near future, including a division camp being organised for September, and would welcome any girls aged 10-14 who want to be part of the fun and friendly unit. We meet Tuesday evenings in term time 18:45-20:15 - with most sessions beginning and ending in the scout hut next to the community centre.

GARDENERS' CLUB

Hi there to all our members, after what seems a very long time since our last meeting. It was March 2020 that we had our last meeting before we were hit with lockdown & meetings were cancelled, including the club trip to Caernarfon.



Thankfully, our monthly competitions continued, as committee member Greg Bate put together a seasonal photographic competition. Each month we had to photograph a plant or flower growing in our garden, then send it to Greg. This was hugely successful, and a difficult task for Greg to choose the winning photo each month. The overall winner of the Frank Bradley Trophy for 2020/21 by just one point was Martin Hall with 13 points, in 2nd place with 12 points was Jean Powell, and sharing 3rd place, both with 11 points, Joyce Harris & Gill Kavanagh. Many thanks to Greg for taking the time to create the competition, and well done to the finalists & everyone who took part.

Following our recent committee meeting, we have now put a winter program together, starting on Wednesday 6th Oct with our Annual General Meeting, followed by a short gardening talk by George Alway. A poster will be displayed in the Post Office as a reminder nearer the time.

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

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

Christmas Tree Festival

★ See a beautiful display of Christmas trees decorated by clubs and organisations in Pucklechurch

~ theme ~

'The Christmas Story'



Saturday 4th-11th December

Sat 10-4 Sun - Fri 2-4

★ Refreshments available

★ Entries to: angelajhallett@gmail.com by November 1st

In St. Thomas à Becket Church



PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

It has been nearly 18 months since we have posted anything in Pucklechurch News – the community centre has been closed for the majority of that time and we have had very few committee meetings.

As things begin to return to normality and restrictions have eased, a number of groups have returned to the hall to resume their usual activities, with others to follow. We hope that the users of the hall have enjoyed meeting up with their fellow group members again after such a long layoff.

As mentioned in the previous editions of Pucklechurch News, we are running a project to extend the community centre building, and whilst planning permission has now been granted, there are other issues that need to be addressed before we can move forward.

In order to comply with the change of status as required by the Charity Commission, Pucklechurch Community Association will require a change of constitution. Documentation is to be completed, which will then be submitted to the Charity Commission for their approval. Pucklechurch Parish Council will be informed of progress with the change of constitution, as they will need to oversee the drawing up of a new lease for the building, in order to allow us to apply for grant funding.

We would welcome any ideas for activities that could raise funds towards the project- some have already been provided via the "Shout out Pucklechurch" Facebook page. If you have any suggestions, please forward them to: peter.nunez@btinternet.com.

We would like to involve all the village residents in the extension project and any fund raising activities, and intend to provide updates via social media platforms. If any residents would like to assist with setting up a Facebook page, please contact me at the above email address.

For those of you that are new to the village, you may like to know that a number of groups currently use the facilities of the building, such as Bowls, Badminton, Drama, Folk Club, Gardening, and Model Flying. The hall is also used by a playgroup that meets every morning and on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons during term time, which may be of interest to any families that have moved to the area. Please visit the website for Pucklechurch Community Centre at <http://www.pucklechurchcommunitycentre.co.uk> to obtain more information.

If you are interested in 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.