

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



AUTUMN 2022

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.pucklechurch.org

PUCKLECHURCH PLAYERS CELEBRATE A DRAMATIC 40 YEARS!

In 1981 an ad was placed in the Pucklechurch News inviting villagers to an inaugural meeting to ascertain interest in forming a drama group. As a result of that meeting, Pucklechurch Players was formed. The first production in October 1982 was two one act comedies, 'Henry Hereafter' and 'Today of all Days'. A mini pantomime 'Snow White' was performed the same year at the PCA Christmas Concert. Our first full length pantomime 'Rumpelstiltskin' was performed in January 1984.

Forty years on and the Group has gone from strength to strength with performances twice a year, one of which is a pantomime every other year. In total, we have performed approximately 100 full length plays, one act plays and pantomimes. Some of the original members still live locally and even help out during our productions. Over the coming months, we hope to post some pictures of our past productions on our Facebook page where you will see some old and familiar faces.

We would like to thank all of you that come and support our endeavours, year in, year out and hope we will continue entertaining you for many years to come.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you at our November production of 'Murdered to Death' by Peter Gordon.

PUCKLECHURCH PLAYERS PRESENT

'Murdered to Death'

By Peter Gordon

**On Friday 18th &
Saturday 19th November 2022
at Pucklechurch Community Centre**

All Tickets £9.00 available from 1st October.

Call or text Elaine on 07940 207559

Deadline for Winter issue is the 10th November

Three Shires Patient Participation Group

The Three Shires Surgeries (covering Pucklechurch, Wick, Marshfield and Colerne) have a Patient participant group that meets approximately four times a year. The focus during the last two years has been helping patients and surgeries cope during the pandemic. The group was also the instigator of a smaller group that has organised the Memory café for people in the area living with dementia and their carers.

At our AGM in July, one question that came up from several members was about plans regarding appointments. Following the reply from Doctor Prince we asked him if he would write an article for local publications. This he has done.

We are aware that the current telephone triage-based situation is far from ideal for a lot of people, and there is a strong desire to 'get back to normal.' I think the first thing to say is that we dislike it as much as, if not more, than the patients do. None of us went to medical or nursing school to end up feeling like we are working at a call centre. We also worry about what we may be missing over the phone and end up calling a lot of folks in for a face-to-face appointment which makes everything more inefficient. Coupled with that, General Practice across the UK has had some of its busiest months on record since January, with several months seeing double the consultations of previous records. Suffice to say we will be getting 'back to normal' as soon as safely possible. Our main obstacle is of course the ongoing and currently very high numbers of Covid 19 cases in the community. We must continue providing an ongoing service for very vulnerable patients who need pre-chemotherapy bloods for example. The thought of them being in waiting rooms full of patients (who have come to see us about this strange cough they have had) is the stuff of nightmares. We also have a duty of care to our staff. With four or five clinicians working from a small building the footfall can be very high. We have given considerable thought as to how it could be done safely, but we are stuck with the status-quo for now. We currently have many staff off sick with Covid and are very aware that it is making it very difficult to provide the service we would ideally like to give. Over the next couple of months, we will be welcoming two new practitioners and a new doctor to the practice and are very much hoping the pressure on appointments will ease.

I am often asked about Nurse Practitioners so thought I would give a brief explanation. The job title is misleading; whilst many of them initially trained as nurses, the role they fulfil as a NP is far closer to that of a doctor than it is to a nurse. They are trained to take a medical history, examine patients, and can prescribe, refer on to hospital and often book x-rays. We never ask them to work unsupported by doctors and are always happy to give advice or review a patient when they need it. They can take a massive burden off the doctors allowing us to see the more complex or sicker patients and we would very much encourage people to try them.

Again, a big thanks to the vast majority for their ongoing understanding. Please remember our receptionists, who often take the brunt of frustrations caused by a situation entirely out of their hands. Here is hoping for better times in the next few months.

Dr Richard Prince On behalf of the Three Shires Medical Practice Team

If you would like any information regarding joining the PPG, please contact Clare Watts 07817311001

Pucklechurch Parish Council – Chair's Report Autumn 2022

Play areas update

As those of you who live in the area will know, works to upgrade the Eagle Crescent play area are well underway and I am pleased to report, that as of the time of writing, they are due to be completed on time. We have been made aware by the contractors of all the kindnesses offered to them by residents with regard to refreshments they were provided with during the heat wave – thank you to everyone who showed them what a caring community we have! Council will be organising a proper opening event as soon as everything has bedded down - keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for details. In the meantime, SGC will be producing a short video profiling the work that has happened and what it has taken for parish council to get it to this stage.

Sadly, however, we have had to remove some of the timber pieces at St. Aldam's Drive as they are coming to the end of their life, and this has been hastened by dry ground conditions exacerbated by the recent hot weather. Council is also aware that the slides appear to have suffered deliberate damage. Options for upgrading and replacing pieces there and in our other areas are starting to be explored.

Jubilee wildflowers

What a joy it was to have been able to see how many people sowed the seeds we provided. Thank you to everyone who shared photographs with us via Facebook – we have posted a short slideshow of some of these, and more pictures will be added soon. Since this initiative proved to be so successful, we have started to put our thinking caps on as to how we might continue to do this in some form again next year.

Bus Services

I expect many of you are aware of the issues surrounding the continued funding of the Y5 bus service and its potential withdrawal by Firstbus from October when the government's Covid funding ends. This is because bus operators must assess the viability of all routes once this funding ends in the autumn. I must emphasise that no decisions have been made and that I, along with several other residents, made the strength of our feelings known at a public meeting convened by WECA Mayor Dan Norris in Yate on August 1st. The meeting was well-attended and reported on widely in the press, and on the BBC website, as the result of contact being made with a reporter from the Local Democracy Reporting service. Since the meeting was called at short notice, I was not there to represent council views, but you should know that parish council has been raising the issue of our poor bus service at every opportunity. We are in a catch 22 situation – the poorer the bus service, the less likely it is to encourage people to use it, but conversely the less we use it the more likely it is to be cut. As I write this report, the government has announced an extra £130m of funding which will support services for an additional six months, so let's hope some of this will be used to support the Y5.

Help with the rising costs of living

South Gloucestershire Council has a range of grants to help if you are of state pension age and struggling financially and can help you access national support for the rising cost of living. The Household Support Fund is available until the end of September so we want to help as many people to access this as we can before then. Parish council publishes a wide range of news items and guides to accessing support like this on our website under the news tab at <https://www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk/> I would encourage as many of you as possible to check in to find out more or to follow our Facebook page @PucklechurchPC.

And finally.....

If you go down to the Pucklechurch woodland today, you might be in for a surprise - there is growth and vibrancy everywhere now as a result of the clearing work we commissioned. The paths are well laid and settling, and woodland plants are moving in to replace where the ground

ivy was. The trees have responded well to thinning and are currently in full leaf and there were orchids earlier in the year – a little bit of Pucklechurch paradise to explore just over the motorway bridge!

Gail Boyle, Chair, Pucklechurch Parish Council

Tower Preschool

Monday and Friday 9.00 – 12.00
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.00 – 15.00

Well qualified staff ensuring the Children's preschool experience is a happy, positive time.

15 hours free education for
2 year olds/up to 30 hours for 3 year olds (if eligible)

Website: www.towerpreschool-pucklechurch.co.uk

Telephone: 07722029077

Email: towerplaygroup@gmail.com

POP IN TO SEE US IN ACTION

Ofsted – 'Good'



Pucklechurch Community Association

The project to extend the community centre building remains on hold, as there are still a number of issues that need to be addressed before we can move forward. We will provide updates about the project in future editions of Pucklechurch News.

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, line dancing and gardening. 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.

You may be 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 and the availability of the hall at your preferred time.

We have contracted a company to work on the trees around the car park for three days from 3rd October; the trees have not been cut back for two or three years and are in need of a good trim. Please note that during these three days, parts of the car park will be closed off while the trees are cut back, although parking adjacent to the building will still be available.

Finally, we would again like to appeal to residents of the village – would you be interested in joining the Pucklechurch Community Association committee, so that you can have a say in how the community centre building will be run in the future? If you would like to help improve the facilities available to the residents of the village, and you can commit to attending committee meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please email Peter Nunez, Secretary of Pucklechurch Community Association, at peter.nunez@btinternet.com



ST THOMAS a BECKET PUCKLECHURCH

Scarecrow Competition. This was held at the beginning of May; a damp start to what was a very successful couple of days. After expenses we were able to bank, £2,400.00.

The most correctly guessed scarecrow prize was won by the Brodie family. Favourite Scarecrow was Pinocchio-Steve and Judith Seward. Lucky Dip scarecrow as Peter Pan - Chelsea Knight.

We were unable to get this information to you in time for the June edition (closing date 10th May)

Revel. We held a very successful Revel Service enjoyed by those who joined us. On Revel Day we opened the Church and served refreshments, sold cakes and books. We were able to give to Revel £65.00 the remainder to Church Funds, this was about half of the proceeds.

Church Services

1st Sunday of the month - 10a.m. Holy Communion

2nd Sunday 10 a.m. Morning Prayer

3rd Sunday 10 a.m. Informal Holy Communion and/or Baptism Service

4th and 5th Sunday 10a.m. Holy Communion

Please note we are doing Baptisms on 3rd Sunday only at 10a.m. The Service comprises of Hymns, Baptism, Reading and Prayers and lasts about ¾ hour. This is informal and is well received by all.

Please contact the Revd. Matt Stone on 0751 6135557 or email matt.stone@woodbridgegroup.co.uk or Elizabeth Webb on 0117 9372516 or email elizabethwebb2516@gmail.com for any enquiries about weddings or Baptisms.

News from Emersons Green Library

● Free Reservations - did you know that it is now free to reserve books so you can choose from over 2 million different books on our catalogue www.librarieswest.org.uk and collect them from Emersons Green library at no charge.

● Do you or someone you know need help to get online? Would you like to learn more about what you can do online? Our Digital Champions can help. They run FREE 1;1 support at Emersons Green & Yate Libraries. For more information or to book a session with them either ask library staff on site or phone/leave a message on 01454 865022 (10am - 4pm weekdays).

● Research your family history online for free using Ancestry.com library edition at Emersons Green & Yate Libraries. Includes UK census records 1841 - 1911 with images of original records; birth, marriage & death indexes; UK & Ireland parish and probate records from 1500s - 1800s & US and international sources. Please note this facility is only available on library computers (not available through library Wi-Fi).

● Doing some winter pruning but don't have a green bin or compost bin? You can purchase single use Green Waste bags, which can left out on your recycling day, at Emersons Green library at £2.50 each.

GARDENERS' CLUB



While I write this, a hosepipe ban is in place in the south and it's probably not long before it will reach us. With water butts near empty,

I shall be using my waste water to do my pots and hanging baskets. Let's hope rain arrives soon, but please can we have it at night!

Our club trip to North Wales in July, staying in a lovely hotel in Caernarfon, was a great success. Thanks to Lyn Smith's well-planned itinerary, and Ann making sure everything ran smoothly, we would like to offer a big thank you from us all.

In the same week we all enjoyed our annual Summer Supper, which this year was held in Elaine Stone's garden. The committee provided a lovely buffet, with Greg doing his usual trip to Costco to get food and drinks, and committee members making flans and desserts as well. After a light drizzle of rain, we all enjoyed the food, with Dave and Joyce Harris doing a great job running the bar yet again. Our thanks to everyone who gives their time and help with running our very successful club!

The first meeting of the Autumn/Winter 2022/23 program is on Wednesday 5th October at 8pm, when we have invited Fiona Warin to give a talk on "The Land Girls". Visitors are most welcome to come along. Club News 2022 contact Sallie Brooks: sallie61@me.com St Aldams Farm, Kemps Garden Centre and Elmwood Nursery offer members 10% discount on plants when membership card is presented

Contacts: Jean Powell 01454 528066, Val Seaman 0117 9372095 or Ann Smith 0117 9372030

Good Neighbour Scheme

What a scorcher! With summer arriving with a bit of a bang, the Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers have been helping people with more outdoor activities.

We've helped with a garden blitz, where a number of volunteers spend a couple of hours weeding, pruning and generally tidying up a garden where someone is unable to do the task themselves.

We've also helped put together a flatpack outdoor sofa, dismantled some home office furniture and have continued to help people in the village by putting out bins and recycling, and providing company. We've also provided contact information of local organisations to people with specific requests or where we have been unable to help.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from our help with such things as putting out bins, simple household tasks or company, please contact us. Remember that if your regular helpers have to self-isolate, we may be able to help whilst they are unable to do so, so 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 goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org. If you leave a message on the phone or email we'll reply within 24 - 48 hours.



Guides

1st Pucklechurch Guides

On a warm summer evening we planned to cook our suppers on wood fires. What a lot there is to learn. Firstly, fires are very hungry and need more than just a couple of twigs to keep them going! Armfuls of wood are needed. Guides learn quickly, and soon everyone's food was cooking. It always tastes so much better when you've done it yourself, and are outdoors. And you don't need to explain the evening's activity to parents – the lingering wood smoke smell says it all! Warm evenings are great for water games and water slides – loads of fun. And outdoor games too. Our final evening for the summer was a visit to our Guide & Scout owned boathouse where the Guides, under qualified instructors, spent an hour rowing around Bristol Docks. A perfect way to end an action-packed year. This couldn't happen without leaders and our two enthusiastic Young Leaders, Izzy and Frankie – a big thank you to you all. Come and join in the fun. Guides restart on 13th September for ages 10-14 years, adult volunteers are also welcome. You don't need to have been in Guiding before and you can also be in Scouts. Limited spaces available – please contact Ros Abbott 07709 639846.



1st Pucklechurch Rainbows

A big thank you to Marie, Charlie and Izzy, who relaunched Rainbows with such enthusiasm that numbers quickly grew throughout the year as there were so many exciting activities each week. Due to changing work commitments, Marie and Charlie are no longer able to continue, leaving Izzy on her own. Her training now means she is unable to come for several weeks at a time. This is where YOU come in. You don't need to have been in Guiding before. You just need to enjoy working with 4-7-year-old girls, and be available from 3.30 – 4.30 on Tuesdays during term time. If you're unable to come every week, this is ok. BUT we need volunteers, as a team will make it so much easier for everyone. So, come on, please get together and give me, Ros Abbott, a ring 7709 639846. Please don't disappoint the Rainbows. They enjoy it far too much.

Memory Café

The Memory Café serves Pucklechurch, Wick, Marshfield, and surrounding villages. The first two sessions of the Memory Café have gone really well with lots of positive comments from visitors and carers regarding activities and refreshments! The 99's and candyfloss during our "Summer Holiday" theme were well received!

The Memory Café is free and welcomes people living with dementia and their carer or friend. It takes place at Doynton Village Hall on the first Thursday of every month from 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Upcoming themes include:

September - Harvest

October - Keep Fit

November - Festivals

December - Christmas

For more information about coming to the café as a participant, please contact Clare Watts 07817311001

Revel 2022

Revel 2022 and its rain seems so long ago now as we enjoyed what was probably the hottest July and August on record! However, rain it did and it was not just light rain - yet those who ventured out did not let it dampen their spirits.

The week started off so well. The sun was shining and the committee all got together to attend St Thomas a Becket and hear Rev'd Matt's sermon of thanks and to wish us all well with Revel week after two years off. I think we were all so grateful to be back after Covid we forgot to pray for sunshine to last the whole week!

The quiz was a roaring success with the Yandell/Ford family beating 15 teams to become the triumphant winners. The quiz focused on decades from the Queen's reign and had something for everybody.

We enjoyed a very hot Friday at the Beer festival with a last-minute band, 7-8-9s, who stepped up to the plate after the previous band had to pull out due to an outbreak of Chicken Pox. The band were a huge hit and had everyone up dancing and enjoying the wares the Beer and Cider team had to offer, which included 10 real ales and 20 ciders, as well as non-alcoholic beer and cider, wines and free soft drinks.

Revel Day - the day young and old had been looking forward to since 2019 finally returned. We had hoped to share in the wonderful weather from the previous week and which was bestowed on what would have been Revel weekend during the pandemic, but it wasn't to be. It rained and then some. However, despite the weather it was great to see so many people out and about and smiling - there were over 20 stalls on the field and 10 inside the marquee from Football and Girl Guides on the Rec to VOTO and Good Neighbours in the marquee as well as many local businesses.

The fair was back in full swing, unfortunately the bands could not be offered this year and some promised equipment could not be used due to health and safety, but nonetheless children hooked ducks and rode teacups all afternoon.

We had field entertainment from Jeff and his Disco, and Jack and Harvey Todd did a wonderful, although slightly faster job with the dog show. Inside the marquee we had music with Angie who sang hits from the 50s and 60s and kept adults entertained, while the younger generation learned circus skills from Circus Uncertainty - who also topped the afternoon off with a feast for the eyes with their fire display and knife throwing. Two 'volunteers' from the crowd were scared for their lives as the duo threw knives over their heads and around their bodies before the finale of the fire juggling from which the "ooohs" and "aaahs" could be heard in Hinton!

The week ended with the second and final night of the beer festival and the band Trigger, who promised a unique stadium experience, playing songs from mainly the 80s and 90s. The dance floor was packed and the bar even busier! I think it was safe to say it was like we had never been away!

The AGM for Pucklechurch Revel will be Tuesday 27th September at the PVSSC from 7pm in the meeting room, where the presentation of the Bob Stone award for the person or persons who has made the greatest commitment to our community will be awarded, as well as Revel Grant requests and your chance to join the Revel Committee. You will be able to see a short video from Revel 2022 filmed and edited by Robbie Hedges.

The Harvest Auction - with Pucklechurch Cricket and Pucklechurch FC - will be held at the Village Hall Social Club from 7:30 on Saturday 1st October. Donations are being accepted.

The Revel Sparkle will take place on Sunday 27th November from 4pm at the Christmas Tree/Millennium Stone, then to the PVSSC to meet Santa Claus.

If you would like to get involved in Revel or ask any questions, then please contact us on: Email: Pucklechurch.Revel@gmail.com

Phone: 07789707278 Facebook: @PucklechurchRevel and @Pucklechurchbeerandciderfestivalofficial Webpage: www.pucklechurchbeerfestival.org