



Now that we have a large unit of girls between 10 - 14yrs, we have introduced a Senior Patrol who meet and end half an hour later to enjoy more mature activities in a smaller group. They began with soap making and water candles.

As mentioned in the previous issue, we intend to publish some easy walks around our village, as part of The Big Help Out. We have done the walks and Guides took photos. This is still work in progress.

We're working on our Guiding History badge so that today's girls understand how Guides began and grew. We chose "Fame" for the Revel parade. We had 'big hair', headbands and leg warmers.

Josh, from First Sports Coaching entertained the Guides for a whole evening with lots of different outdoor active games which they all thoroughly enjoyed. Thankfully it was fine and warm for our last evening as we played games with lots of water, including a soapy slide along groundsheets, and throwing water-filled balloons.

And then, off to camp! We were to stay in a tented village at Woodhouse Park Scout Activity Centre. It had rained most of the week and leaders were not looking forward to a wet weekend. Thankfully, on arrival, we were transferred to the indoor training centre, with a large kitchen, dining and activity rooms, and dormitories with bunk beds. What a relief! Despite the abysmal weather all weekend we managed to have a camp fire on Friday evening. Due to imminent high winds, crate stacking was moved to Saturday morning and took place amid alternating sunshine and showers, but this challenge was thoroughly enjoyed by all. On Saturday evening, despite heavy downpours, we managed to cook patrol meals on wood fires, although rain and damp wood created a lot of smoke. There were indoor crafts too. However, I think the final activity on Sunday afternoon was the best. An obstacle course through very muddy tunnels and ponds filled with muddy water. The Guides loved it. They got absolutely soaked and then it was time for them to go home. We did warn the parents beforehand!

We restart on 12 September and look forward to welcoming everyone back, plus anyone else who's aged 10 - 14. We would appreciate extra adult help too. If you're 18+ and enjoy fun, adventure, and working with children, then please come and join us. You'll gain valuable experience working as a team, planning and delivering a programme, which often changes at short notice. These qualities can enhance a CV and provide evidence for DofE service, and aid entry to specific courses. Contact Ros Abbott 07709 639846. Awaiting your call! 07709 639846.

What a lovely day Revel was? I know there were threats of rain, but for the day we were really fortunate with the weather.

We had fun with the Flaming Feathers who brought some burlesque dancing to our parish and finished with Stupid who really brought the house down with their range of pop punk and rock which kept those at Revel going.

We had two fantastic nights at the Beer Festival. Friday night saw music from Dreamscape and on Saturday night we had Ska band, the Houdini's.

Hopefully we have raised lots of money for your grant requests.

AGM

The Revel AGM is on Thursday 14th September in the lounge at the PVSSC from 7pm.

There are many management posts up for nomination this year including:

Revel Chair
Revel Secretary
Revel Treasurer.

The Beer festival is a sub-committee of the Revel and the chair of that will be elected at the subsequent Revel meeting as per the Revel Constitution. If you are interested in that role, please attend the AGM to join the committee.

Please attend the AGM in order to receive reports from the 2023 committee and to share your feedback and grant monies. Lori-Anne Button

Brownies

1st Pucklechurch Brownies are looking for additional support and leadership at their thriving unit.

We currently have 25 Brownies who undertake the whole Brownie programme on a weekly basis.

We would like someone to join our team who is enthusiastic, likes children, willing to learn and has good patience.

If you feel you have any of these qualities or would like to get involved please drop me a line on 07789707278

Lori-Anne Button



Pucklechurch Players

present

DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT

Thursday 30th November,
Friday 1st December
Saturday 2nd December.

The evening performances on each day will begin at 7:30 pm with doors opening at 7pm, and end at around 10pm.

The matinee on Saturday will begin at 2pm, with doors opening at 1:30 pm, ending around 4:30 pm.

Tickets are £10 and £9 for concessions

This year we are introducing an online booking system for all yourpantomime tickets, using Eventbrite. We have chosen Eventbrite as it is user-friendly system that will allow you to select your tickets at your own convenience. Eventbrite is a first come, first served system and requires payment at the time of booking.

Further information will come out on our Facebook page nearer to 1st October, when the booking system will open.

This means that tickets can no longer be booked by contacting Elaine as with previous productions. This is a good opportunity for us to thank Elaine for the incredible job she has done for so many years, juggling complicated ticket requests from many different individuals and groups.

Elaine remains in charge of 'Front of House' and will be involved in managing the ticketing behind the scenes with Eventbrite. However, if you do not have access to the internet and so cannot use Eventbrite or are having significant difficulties, please do contact Elaine so she can assist you.

The new system simplifies things for Elaine and for our audience members and means we no longer have to handle large amounts of cash. We hope you understand why we are moving to this new method of ticketing and believe you will find it helpful and easy to use.

Three Shires Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Our 5th AGM held in June was well attended by members and staff from the surgeries.

Our guest speaker was Joy de Berker, who spoke movingly about the death of her son, Jacob, from sudden unexpected death from epilepsy (SUDEP). She is passionate about disseminating information about this little-understood condition, and possible ways to prevent it. Epilepsy is a common neurological condition, about which there is very little research. 21 people living with epilepsy die

unexpectedly each week in the UK, and the charity, also called SUDEP, provides counselling for bereaved loved ones.

The Social Prescriber and both Care Coordinators were present at the AGM and took away literature on the subject.

Dr Greenway told us that the volume of telephone calls and appointments experienced by the practice is still much higher than previously, and they are having difficulty meeting this with workforce issues, including increased staff sickness, and locum shortages. However, they are trying to maintain a flexible approach offering a mix of face to face, telephone, online and video appointments.

A question was asked as to why specific times could not be given for telephone appointments.

The reasons given were to do with the need to have a duty doctor at all 4 sites daily, to respond to the needs of each site, and the increase in urgent calls arising, partly due to difficulties accessing hospitals and ambulances with recent issues including strikes, and partly poorer health overall, including mental health, since the Covid pandemic.

The PPG is putting out a questionnaire to give patients an opportunity to air their views about the service the Practice provides. This can be accessed from the website; www.threeshiresmedical.co.uk and will also be available in paper form at the Practice in September and will be handed out at the flu clinics in the autumn.

Janet Spence, Chair, PPG.
4patientparticipation@gmail.com

Pucklechurch Parish Council – Chair's Report Autumn 2023

Sadly, we haven't had the warmest of summers but that doesn't appear to have stopped many of our community groups, clubs and businesses continuing to put considerable efforts into making Pucklechurch such a great place to live, work and play – thank you to everyone who puts such a lot of their spare time in free of charge in to doing this.

Unusually, in this edition, I have decided to report back to you on one significant issue PPC is having to contend with.

Parish council maintains five play areas, all of which are inspected for wear, tear, and safety on a regular basis. PPC also contracts independent inspection reports on them too. Wherever possible repairs are undertaken as soon as possible, but obviously this is contingent on suppliers for parts. Sadly, some of the equipment is starting to require considerable investment in repairs and other pieces have had to be removed altogether – the wet summer has not been kind to our timber pieces some of which are essentially at 'end of life'.

The situation has recently been exacerbated at St. Aldam's play area, where independent inspection by specialists, suggests that it is likely that multiple adults used the zip wire together at the same time. This resulted in the crossbeam timber being ripped out on one side. It is likely that it will now need a new crossbeam, new bolts, deck repairs and re-tensioning of the wire itself.

The unthinking actions of a few adults has not only resulted in a much-used piece of children's play equipment being taken out of action, but also a costly repair. Every time something like this happens, it sets back the refurbishment of the areas themselves. We need you to be the eyes and ears of the community and to report anything untoward directly to the police as soon as possible. Equally we ask that where issues arise that you report it to our clerk as soon as possible to avoid further damage and to avoid any injuries.

To provide some context financially to what can or cannot be achieved as far as playground refurbishment is concerned:

The budget set aside for play area maintenance/ repairs and renewals is £4500 per year.

With careful budgeting over the last few years an earmarked reserve to provide new equipment has been accumulated, which now amounts of £45,000.

The refurbishment of the Eagle Crescent play area cost more than £60,000.

One wheelchair friendly roundabout could cost more than £7500 plus installation.

One standard pair of swings could cost more than £1500 plus installation.

One horse seesaw on springs could cost more than £2000 plus installation.

None of the above takes account of the safety surfaces that may be required or ongoing maintenance.

It's not hard to see that £45000 will have to be spent wisely to provide the most benefit, especially as installation costs must be factored in. PPC will likely be looking for sources of grant-aid, sponsorship, and additional fund-raising activities to support what needs to be achieved. Work relevant to play provision also needs to be balanced against all other projects that need to be delivered. There is much work to be done.

Gail Boyle Chair, Pucklechurch Parish Council

Pucklechurch Ladies' Group

In a previous edition of Pucklechurch News we announced that the Pucklechurch branch of the Women's Institute intended to leave the Federation of WIs. Well, we did and the transition to Pucklechurch Ladies Group has gone very well. At our last meeting we were pleased to welcome seven new members! This does mean, however, that for the time being we will have to start a waiting list for any further applications to join. This is because we cannot comfortably accommodate any more people at our venue.

On becoming Pucklechurch Ladies Group our first event was a coffee morning during Revel Week, with half of the proceeds being donated to Revel. In June we also had a pleasant village walk down to the Avenue Cafe at Emersons Green and we all caught the 525 bus back (it was late and we were starting to think we would have to walk back too!)

Later in June we had a fascinating talk by a retired police detective who had worked on the Shirley Banks murder investigation in Bristol in 1987 which led to the arrest and conviction of John Cannan. At the July meeting we were visited by members of the charity 'Dogs for the Hard of Hearing' along with one of the wonderfully trained dogs who help people to live independently. For our August meeting we will have (weather permitting) hopefully enjoyed a cream tea in the garden of a member and in September we will be learning about the work of the Burns Unit at Downend.

If you would like to join the waiting list, please contact Maureen Hurcom on 0117 937 2691.



ST THOMAS a BECKET PUCKLECHURCH

Services:

1st Sunday of Month: **10am Holy Communion**

2nd Sunday: **10am Morning Prayer (Hymns, Readings, Prayers)**

3rd Sunday: **10am Holy Communion or Baptism Service** (Baptism Service is Hymns, Readings, Prayers – short service)

4th Sunday: **10am Holy Communion**

At this moment in time we do not have a Priest, everything is taking place as usual.

A warm welcome to everyone; we always have a cup of tea or coffee after worship. Elizabeth Webb

MEMORY CAFE

Our local Memory Cafe has continued to meet throughout the summer with visitors enjoying a variety of indoor and outdoor activities and entertainment. The cafe is completely free of charge and we meet on the first Thursday of each month from 2-4pm at Doynton Village Hall, BS30 5SY.

Each Memory Cafe get-together has a theme and in the Autumn these will include Harvest, Armchair Fitness and Food & Festivals. We expect to enjoy some country dancing and performances from a Sea Shanty group and the Strummers Ukekele Band. This is in addition to tea and cake, lots of conversation, craft activities, games and usually a little singing.

If you know someone who is living with memory loss or dementia and might benefit from attending, please do spread the word. You can contact us via our Facebook page 'The Memory Cafe at Doynton' or by calling 07817 311001.

We are grateful to the local councils and organisations in the Three Shires and surrounding areas who support the cafe through grants and donations - as well as those who attend our fundraising events. This enables us to offer a free, reliable service with lots of interest and variety for our visitors and continuity, which is very important to us.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, we would also be happy to hear from you!

Can you help to deliver Pucklechurch News?

Pucklechurch News has been going for many years now and relies upon a team of volunteers to deliver it. Some of our volunteers are now looking to 'retire' and so we need people to come forward to volunteer to deliver Pucklechurch News, particularly around the estate. You can do as many roads as you wish, or you can just deliver to your own road. We would be grateful for any help you can give. Please contact Helen Toghill on 0117 9373837 for more information.

GARDENERS' CLUB



After a very successful spring/summer program, (including some new guest speakers to our club, our day trip to the Cotswolds, where we visited Batsford Arboretum & Hidcote Manor) we ended the program with our annual summer supper which was held at Duncan & Margaret Fortune's lovely house & gardens on Friday 21st July.

The Autumn/Winter program will begin on Wednesday 4th October, when we invite Marion Stainton to give a talk on 'Raised bed vegetables' with the club competition being 'Vase of Autumn cut flowers & foliage'.

We look forward to meeting up again this autumn to share our gardening experiences this summer and jobs planned for the autumn.

Visitors are most welcome to come along.

Club News 2023 contact Sallie Brooks: sallie61@me.com
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

Good Neighbour Scheme

This summer the Good Neighbour Scheme celebrates its 15th anniversary! Yes, we set up the scheme in the summer 2008. It's amazing how time flies! In those 15 years, we've answered many hundreds of requests for help ranging from phone calls and visits to provide company, garden 'blitzes', simple DIY tasks, changing fuses and bulbs, retuning digi-boxes, help with computers and laptops....the list goes on. We also had a team of volunteers who set up and ran a food bank in the village hall during the pandemic, which helped many people at the most difficult of times.

Over the past few months, we've carried on helping people by gardening and small DIY tasks. Some volunteers have also continued to provide in person and telephone company to people.

If you think 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 are on holiday 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 goodneighbours@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 on our website at http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/good_neighbours.htm
Here's to the next 15 years!!!



Pucklechurch Community Association

As mentioned in the last edition of Pucklechurch News, several members of the Pucklechurch Community Association committee have given 12 months' notice to step down next year. We will therefore be looking to fill specific roles within the committee, starting in May 2024. These roles are Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Booking Secretary and Maintenance Manager.

Do you have any experience of carrying out these roles in the past? Have you carried out a similar function elsewhere? Would you like to make a difference to the residents of the village, by having a significant part to play in the running of the community centre? We are planning to extend the building in the future, and you will be directly involved in the project as it begins to take shape.

We would also be happy to hear from residents that would like to join the committee in a non-specific role.

If you are interested in joining the Pucklechurch Community Association committee, either as a member, or by filling one of the above roles, and you can commit to attending 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.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Pucklechurch Open Mic

Are you a musician or singer? Come and perform at Pucklechurch Open Mic. All genres of music welcome and you don't have to be a professional musician. We look forward to seeing you there.

Last Friday of the month at the Pucklechurch Village Sports and Social club, 8pm start. If you want further information, please contact Chris on 0741875532 or look up Pucklechurch Open Mic on Facebook

Pucklechurch Village Trips

October 3rd - Abergavenny (market day) & Monmouth

December 5th - Birmingham Christmas market

For further information please email pucklechurchvillagetrrips@gmail.com or phone Elaine on 01179373105 or Valerie on 01179372025

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 –



SHORTWOOD VILLAGE WI

Hello from Shortwood Village WI. Our meetings include lots of interesting talks by various speakers, quiz nights and social events with a varied diary coming up for 2024. Speakers this year so far have included History of the Dramway, Dogs for Good, and How Your Wardrobe Can Save The Planet. We meet in Shortwood Chapel on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm so please join us for a complimentary evening to find out what we are all about! For further info please email millhousejoinery@aol.com with the heading "Shortwood Village WI".

Pucklechurch News

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council

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Please email articles to edit9or@pucklechurch.org or drop them off 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)

South Gloucestershire Council news from Marilyn Palmer, Councillor, Boyd Valley ward

At the time of the last Pucklechurch News deadline, I had only just been elected to South Gloucestershire Council. Well, it's been an interesting first few months!

Boyd Valley Ward is huge – there are ten parishes from Tormarton and West Littleton down to Siston and Bridgegate. I have now been able to attend all of them and I am learning a lot, especially about Siston which is new to the Boyd Valley Ward. Siston will also come into the amended Thornbury and Yate parliamentary constituency. I have walked a lot of footpaths and lanes over the past few months with Streetcare officers, requesting improved drainage and surface repairs.

My thanks to everyone for their patience throughout the disruption caused to waste collections caused by the strike of Suez employees. South Gloucestershire Council did the best it could in the difficult circumstances, by setting up additional recycling sites around the district, and these seemed to work well, taking the pressure off the main Sort It Centres. It was a great relief when the union and Suez reached agreement on the pay offer.

There has been the sudden closure of the **M4 overbridge** at Badminton Road. The Council only received 48 hours' notice from National Highways that they would be closing this busy route due to rapid deterioration of the structure of the bridge, so they had very little time to put a diversion in place. Inevitably the closure of this busy route into Yate has had an impact on other roads as drivers have found new routes/ rat runs and I believe that Pucklechurch has suffered with extra traffic particularly at peak times. Mitigation measures have been put in place (paid for by National Highways) including the return of the temporary traffic lights at Tormarton junction of the A46/B4465.

With regards to the **Shortwood Multi-Use Path**, until the ramp was built at the end of the newly constructed path, I had no idea that the Council had not previously acquired all the land necessary to complete the new path and join it to the existing cycleway (which had been funded by the building of the 'new prison'). The Council continues to work with the landowner and I hope that an agreement can be reached. The construction has caused a great deal of disruption but we will all have a break of several months before the tree and hedge planting will take place.

A common theme at almost every Parish Council meeting is **speeding traffic** – especially in Pucklechurch, Westerleigh and Siston Hill. Most of the roads in question have speed limits but some drivers don't think the limits apply to them and they show no consideration for the safety of other road users. Enforcement is needed but the police appear to be overstretched. I was pleased, therefore, to receive offers from enough volunteers to set up a Pucklechurch

Speedwatch. Progress has been slow since then due to police delays, but they have confirmed they will be doing an initial Speedwatch assessment test soon. If anyone else is interested in joining the team of Speedwatch volunteers, do let me know.

Member Awarded Funding (MAF) – South Glos councillors each have a budget of £3000 from which we can award grants to projects within our Ward (minimum of £250). I have received a few applications from other parishes, but nothing from Pucklechurch. There are rules attached, for example, we can't give money to a school, but we can give a grant to the school PTA for a specific project. Nor can we fund individuals. If you are involved with a community group that would benefit from some additional funding, do let me know. You can find out more details about MAF on the South Glos Council website: www.southglos.gov.uk/MAF

Buses – Huge thanks to everyone who responded to my post on Shout Out Pucklechurch Facebook group, asking which secondary schools their children attend and what transport they use. It was very helpful and it became clear that the 525 needed to improve reliability, also that the timetable will need to be adjusted to get children to Brimsham Green School earlier as they will have a new start time from September. We should get confirmation any day now of the timetable change that will get children to school on time.

My contact details are: Marilyn.palmer@southglos.gov.uk or you can call me on **0117-9373761**

NSPCC

A big thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to our afternoon tea on July 15th.

The weather was against us but we managed to raise £736.00. A big thank you to Kate & Brian for accommodating us in the dry.

Our next event is a coffee morning at the PVSSC in St Aldams Drive on Saturday 28th October. Look out for more information nearer the time.

If you would like to join the waiting list, please contact Maureen Hurcom on 0117 937 2691.