

# PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



SPRING 2024

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

[www.pucklechurch.org](http://www.pucklechurch.org)



**Pucklechurch Players**  
present

## 'Don't Dress For Dinner'

a comedy by  
Marc Camoletti  
adapted by  
Robin Hawdon

**Pucklechurch Community Centre**  
**Friday 31 May & Saturday 1 June**  
**Doors open at 7.30pm**  
**for 8.00pm start**

Tickets available through  
Eventbrite from 1 April  
Please bring your own drinks and nibbles

Follow us on Facebook

# REVEL



## 2024

The Pixies at Pucklechurch Revel have been back to planning and organising after a very successful Christmas Sparkle where, not only did Father Christmas take time from his busy schedule to visit us to hand out sweet treats to young and old, we were also fortunate enough to have our lights switched on by Radio BBC Bristol Local Legend and breakout star from Ruby Speaking, the delightful and dashing Dan Hiscox. We were joined at the Pucklechurch Village and Sports Club by Bristol East and Kingswood (BEaK) brass band who performed a multitude of Christmas Carols to start the Christmas season with a bang. I think those that attended all had a wonderful afternoon.

The Pixies are busy planning a jam packed few months of events:

**April 27th - Bob Todd Family Race night at the PVSSC**

**May 18th - Revel Family Disco at the PVSSC**

**June 11th - Revel Quiz at the PCA Club**

**June 14th-15th - Revel Beer and Cider Festival - Recreation Field**

**June 15th - Revel Day - Recreation Field**

We are still looking for sponsors and volunteers to help fund and run our myriad of events; from selling raffle tickets, selling beer and cider tickets, helping with the waste management and helping to set-up and take-down revel structures on the weekend of Revel. Any offers of volunteering will be gratefully received.

Likewise if you are interested in sponsoring, we have a variety of offers available for discussion which could see your brand and logo on all Revel adverts and banners around the marquee and village as well as on social media,

If you would like more information on any of our event please contact: [Pucklechurch.Revel@gmail.com](mailto:Pucklechurch.Revel@gmail.com) or call 07789707278

## Pucklechurch Village Trips

Here is the programme for 2024;

<b>2nd April</b>	<b>Stratford on Avon</b>
<b>7th May</b>	<b>Ludlow/Ludlow farm shop</b>
<b>4th June</b>	<b>Plymouth</b>
<b>2nd July</b>	<b>Bournemouth</b>
<b>6th August</b>	<b>Sidmouth folk festival</b>
<b>3rd September</b>	<b>Oxford</b>
<b>1st October</b>	<b>Portsmouth</b>
<b>3rd December</b>	<b>Winchester Christmas market</b>



For further information please email [pucklechurchvillagetrips@gmail.com](mailto:pucklechurchvillagetrips@gmail.com) or call Elaine on 0117 9373105 or 07940207559

# Pucklechurch Parish Council Chairman's Report

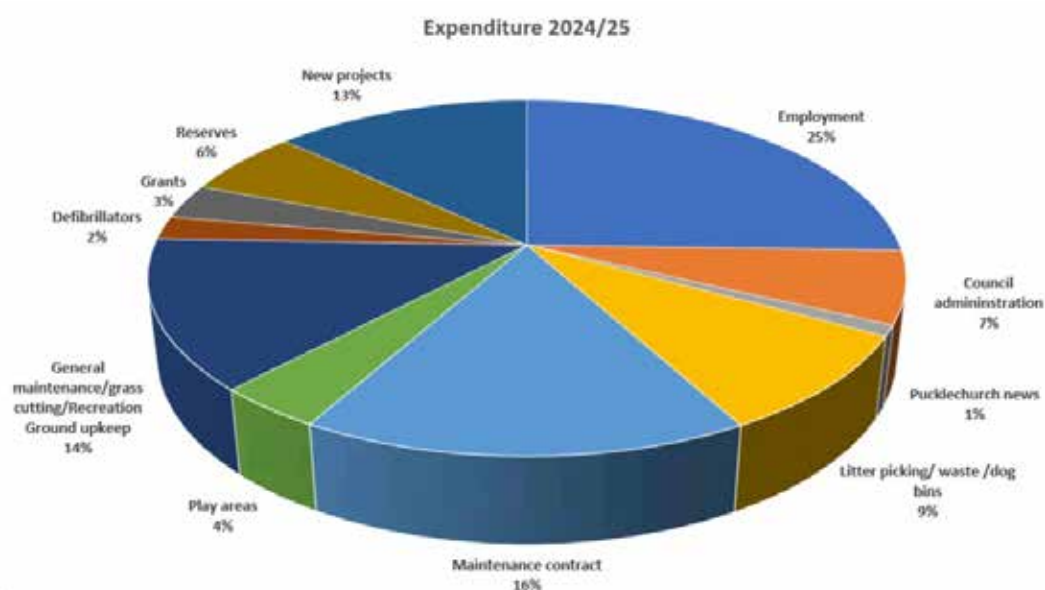
There are two items of parish council business that I would like to bring to your attention in this edition of Pucklechurch News, one being the precept and the other being our agreed response to the South Gloucestershire Council Local Plan Phase 3 Consultation.

## Precept and our budget

The largest proportion of income that enables Parish Council to fund its services is collected by South Gloucestershire Council via the Council Tax process. We begin our budget setting process in November each year so that we can agree the amount of money it requires to operate in the following financial year – this is called the 'precept'. The amount you pay relates to your tax band and is shown on your Council Tax bill. Our agreed budget is published on the website under the 'Your Council' (Accounts) tab. The Precept calculations for 2024/25 are as follows:

<b>Precept agreed 23/24</b>	<b>£96,896.00</b>
<b>Draft precept 2024/25</b>	<b>£121,896.05</b>
<b>Increase for 2024/25</b>	<b>£25,000</b>
<b>Increase from previous year (£101.61)</b>	<b>£27.38</b>
<b>Increase per week £0.53.</b>	

This diagram shows, in simple terms how the budget expenditure breaks down: it can also be viewed on our website. Please note that while these are budget headlines, there are crossovers, for example, reserves will include an amount being set aside for playground refurbishment.



## South Gloucestershire Council Local Plan Phase 3 Consultation

There is much detailed and time-consuming work Parish Council undertakes on behalf of residents behind the scenes, not least of which is acquitting its responsibility as a statutory consultee in the planning process. Council also responds to multiple SGC consultations every year. As some of you will be aware, SGC is developing a new Local Plan for South Gloucestershire, which will include a new strategy and policies to manage development and change in our area over at least the next 15 years. Parish Council has produced and published a detailed response to the latest stage of consultation, which can be read in full on our website.

Councillors attended briefings, delivered leaflets to publicise SGC meetings, attended events in Shortwood and Pucklechurch and gathered data on residents' experiences - they also, read many technical papers and over 800 pages of consultation documentation and spent numerous hours formulating the response. To her great credit, and with our grateful thanks, our Clerk, Daphne Dunning worked tirelessly to ensure that our views were drafted, expertly expressed and evidence based with as much data as possible. We are told that what was being suggested had not been finalised, but it remains to be seen whether our comments will bring about material change to the plan.

Gail Boyle, Chair, PPC.



# What's On at Emersons Green Library in March 2024

Friday 15th March at 1pm: Mini Builders - this monthly FREE drop-in lets pre-schoolers use their imagination to build with Duplo.

Need some help to use your smartphone or book that medical appointment online? Perhaps you have an iPad that you need help to use? If so, why not book a FREE advice session with our Digital Champion? Either ask library staff for details, email emersongreen.library@southglos.gov.uk or phone 01454 865022 (leave a message if we can't answer).

Friday 29th March and Saturday 30th March – please note there are no staffed hours over Easter weekend but Open Access available throughout the weekend between 8am - 7.30pm.

Not signed up for Open Access (using the library during unstaffed hours) yet? If you haven't, just come to an Induction session on any Thursday at 4pm or Saturday at 10am. It takes about 15 minutes to explain how it all works and to set you up to use it. Please bring one document providing proof of address when you come along.



## Get involved with Pucklechurch News!

Claire and Sarah, your editors, have now been at the helm of Pucklechurch News for well over a decade and we think it's time to hand the reins over to some fresh faces. Would you like to help to produce Pucklechurch News? It's published four times a year and the role is primarily news gathering and proof-reading - the printer sorts out the layout. If you're good with your grammar and would like to see the village continue to get a newsletter, do get in touch at editor@pucklechurch.org

Equally, we need folk who could distribute the magazine around the village so if you think you can help and would like to get involved, please get in touch at the email address above.

## PA PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

As mentioned in previous editions of Pucklechurch News, we are continuing to appeal to residents of the village who may be interested in joining the Pucklechurch Community Association committee. A number of roles will become vacant from May 2024 due to various members stepping down from these roles. We are looking for a new Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Booking Secretary and Maintenance Manager.

No prior experience of carrying out these roles is necessary, although it would help if you have carried out a similar function elsewhere. By joining the committee, you will be proactively involved in the running of the community centre, for the benefit of the residents of the village.

We would also be happy to hear from residents that would like to join the committee in a nonspecific 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.

## NSPCC

Thank you to everyone who supported our coffee morning in February.

Our next event is Horse Racing with wooden horses in the community centre social club, Abson Road on Saturday 20th April, 7.30pm for first race at 8.00pm.

If you would like to be involved in helping to fundraise for the NSPCC, please contact Elaine on elainejstone15@gmail.com or 07940207559

## Pucklechurch News

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council

*Produced by*

Sarah Nunez (editing & proofreading)

07540 243627

editor@pucklechurch.org

Claire Dolman (layout and printing)

07855 061735,

Helen Toghill (collection, collating & distribution)

0117 373837

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 May for June Edition (Summer)**

**10th August for September Edition (Autumn)**

**10th November for December Edition (Winter)**

**10th February for March Edition (Spring)**

# The Memory Café

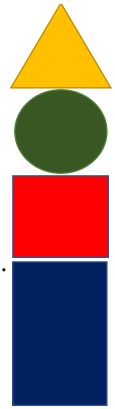
Thank you all for your support of the Memory Cafe in 2023.

The café continues to meet on the first Thursday of each month from 2-4pm at Doynton Village Hall. The next cafés will be held on, 4 April, 9 May and 6 June. We have lots of entertainment and activities planned for the year.

This free and friendly get-together is open to all those in the area with dementia or memory loss, together with their family member or carer.

More information is available on our Facebook page - 'The Memory Cafe at Doynton', or by email - mc-doynton@gmail.com or by ringing or texting 07817 311001.

## 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](http://www.towerpreschool-pucklechurch.co.uk)

Telephone: 07722029077

Email: [towerplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:towerplaygroup@gmail.com)

POP IN TO SEE US IN ACTION

Ofsted - 'Good'

## How we apply to vote by post and proxy in England is changing



You can now  
apply online,  
and you'll  
need to prove  
your identity



As a proxy,  
there are now  
limits to how  
many people  
you can vote  
on behalf of



You have to  
renew your  
application  
every 3 years

Find out more at  
[electoralcommission.org.uk/waystovote](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/waystovote)

The  
Electoral  
Commission

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT





# Scarecrow Competition

Announcing the Pucklechurch Scarecrow Competition for 2024! We are pleased to confirm that the competition and trail will be taking place this year on Sunday May 5th and Monday May 6th. We hope that you will enjoy making your scarecrows and join us over the two days for this wonderful community event.

The theme this year is, **"Something Beginning with C."**

If you would like to enter a scarecrow, please call 0117 937 3340 or email Laura Skidmore at [pucklechurchscarecrow@btinternet.com](mailto:pucklechurchscarecrow@btinternet.com). You will need to tell her:

- 1) The name/character of your scarecrow
- 2) A clue to help people guess the name of your scarecrow
- 3) Your address (so we can make a map of where the scarecrows are located for the visitors to the trail).

As always, on the day there will be trail maps, clue sheets and refreshments available from church. **Church will open at 11.30am on Sunday 5th May and 10.30am on Monday 6th May.**

If you would like to follow the news about this annual village and church event, please like our Scarecrow Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/Pucklechurch-ScarecrowTrail/>

We look forward to seeing you there and thank you for your support.

*The St Thomas a Becket Scarecrow Committee*

## South Gloucestershire News from Councillor Marilyn Palmer

Thank you to everyone who took the opportunity to attend the SGC Local Plan consultation session and submit comments. Officers will now analyse the feedback and adjustments will be made before the next stage. It is a long process which involves going through an Examination in Public with Government Inspectors, so it is not likely to be adopted before the end of 2025 at the earliest.

Progress has been made with the transfer of land needed to complete the Shortwood Road shared path. The intention is to start the main work sometime in the spring and it will be necessary to carry out some advance works to clear the remaining section of hedging so that the work can proceed without interfering with nesting birds.

Whilst progress is being made and the 'missing link' will be completed, however, concerns were expressed about clearing the remaining section of hedging. Some clearance is necessary, but the removal of the hedgerow did upset and shock a number of residents. The removal of the hedge was not something that was done lightly. To have left the hedge as it was and to provide the path with another boundary would have taken a lot more land. There were also concerns about security if the

## GARDENER'S CLUB

It has been a very wet, mild start to 2024 with just a few hard frosts on mornings, but at the time of writing it's only the beginning of February so it could get colder this month. I've managed to spend a few dry days planting up seeds, repotting plants, and having a tidy up in the garden.



Our club program began again in February when we invited Debbie Keeling to talk about 'Life on the Farm' and cooking with Bath Harvest Oils.

We have some varied speakers for our new program. For anyone who missed 'Lost the Plot' with Fiona Warin in 2011, she will be coming along to our March meeting on 6th March to entertain us with her humorous stories of allotments.

Our April meeting will be an invitation to Fonthill Garden centre at the earlier time of 6pm. More information will be shared at our March meeting. The residential trip this July is to the Bridgewater Gardens Manchester, which we are looking forward to.

So, to all our gardening friends, enjoy your garden, weather permitting!

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

Club News 2024 contact Sallie Brooks: [sallie61@me.com](mailto:sallie61@me.com)

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

path was hidden from view of the road with no surveillance. Surveys of the hedges showed the hedge which had the greatest historic value is the hedge that runs north-south between the crop field and the horse paddock, rather than the one that has been replaced.

It was a reluctant decision to remove the hedge, but the new hedge line has a greater variety of trees and plants which will provide and support a greater range of wildlife and biodiversity. Concern was also expressed that some horse riders feel unsafe riding on the path because drivers don't slow down if the horses aren't being ridden on the road. Horses are unpredictable and can easily be spooked by fast or noisy vehicles passing by, so please be mindful of this. I am told that in terms of the horse riders (and maybe cyclists) not using the path, the new path does not prevent them from using the carriageway, but rather gives them a choice. The new path provides for less confident cyclists and walkers by giving them a safer route, and of course gives local residents a connection that wasn't here before. I have also asked that before the new path is completed, the old cycle path next to the prison is tidied up and signage improved.



# GIRL GUIDING IN PUCKLECHURCH

In December we went to the cinema to see 'Wish'. Odeon and Girlguiding arrange special showings for members only. Our year ended with a lively Christmas party.

Five new Guides joined in January. We began with First Aid, although some of you may not have enjoyed being carried on stretchers made from coats and broom handles! All survived and returned the following week to make zip wires for teddies to fly down – this was great fun. During other weeks a variety of balls were thrown, rolled or caught to find out which shape best suited the activity. Another activity consisted of creating 'works of art' which included two innovative puppet shows performed by girls crouching in the kitchen with only the puppets showing through the open hatch. Very ingenious.

Special mention to our Senior Patrol who took up a baking challenge and left the kitchen spotless afterwards. They also examined how binary codes are made up and discovered there are eight digits for every letter or number, making a manual code very long.

Finally, which patrol could build the tallest, structurally safe tower from junk? Amazingly the Polar Bears, (with limited design techniques and much Sellotape!), managed a free standing tower which practically touched the ceiling. Puffins had lots of solid struts and also managed a free standing tower. Foxes made their own version of 'Operation' and managed to extract various 'organs' with an ingenious long handled 'spoon' made of clothes pegs.

Thanks to Lou Radnedge who is stepping in to help

whilst Maggie recovers from a shoulder operation. As always, if you're interested in joining us, 10+ or adults, get in touch. Ros Abbott 07709 639846.

## RAINBOWS

Thank you to Emma, our leader, who has moved away and is no longer able to come. As we don't now have a qualified leader, Ros Abbot has agreed to step in for a while, so that the Unit can continue. We have a team of Unit Helpers and parents to support her but we need YOU to come forward and offer to lead. Training and support is given and your rewards are fun, friendship, teamwork and watching girls grow and develop. Any age over 18 welcome. Contact Ros as shown above.

Now, to whet your appetite, a flavour of this term's activities. The Rainbows have learned all about healthy eating for their Fruit and Veg badge, which obviously included eating! Well, how else can you judge which foods taste best? This relates to our Feel Good theme which has included energetic games and an attempt to lie down and quietly rest whilst listening to a soothing voice – mmm!

We also wrote positive postcards to each other to make us Feel Good inside. The term ended with making Valentine cards and icing cakes – a bit messy but delicious.

As you can tell our meetings are lots of fun, so do join us.

## GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Over the autumn and winter months, the Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers have continued to provide company to people both in person and by telephone, and helped others with small household tasks such as putting out bins and recycling.

Following the Rose & Crown Gingerbread Trail and raffle in December, the team donated £330 raised by the event to the Good Neighbour Scheme. We are very grateful to Rhianne, Jamie and the whole team at the Rose & Crown, and of course to everyone who took part in the trail and bought raffle tickets. The money will enable us to continue supporting people in our community over the coming year by paying for our public liability insurance and DBS checks for our volunteers.

Please contact us if you or someone you know would benefit from our help with such things as changing light bulbs, fuses, simple household tasks or would just like occasional company. 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 you would like to join us as a volunteer, please get in touch on 07961 939574 or by emailing [goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org](mailto:goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org). You decide how much time you give and what types of tasks you'd like to help with, and everything we do is local.

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](http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/good_neighbours.htm)