



Hello Revellers!

Plans for 2025 are well underway and as you know this year we are making some small changes to ensure the event continues for future generations.

The Revel Beer & Cider festival, 20th & 21st June

will be held in the village hall. We will still supply great ales and ciders with some fabulous music tickets which will be on sale in May.

Bob Todd Memorial Race night at the PVSSC (Prison Club),

● **March 29th** commencing at 6:30. This is a family friendly event with wooden horses and moderate stakes betting. Please keep an eye out for posters coming soon.

Revel Family Disco:

● Will be held in May, more Information to follow. This will be a free event and BYOB with American Supper.

Quiz night:

● 18th June, held in the Village Hall Social Club. Booking is advisable and will be advertised near the date.

Revel Day:

● **Saturday 21st June** with the theme "Children's Literature" will be situated near the village hall with the Craft Fayre being held in the village hall. Family friendly events with a fair and stalls from local groups businesses and charities.

If you would like to get involved or have questions about any of our events please do contact us on: email: Pucklechurch.reval@gmail.com, phone: 07789707278 or like us on Facebook or ask on Shout Out Pucklechurch also on Facebook.

On behalf of Revel *Lori-Anne Button*

GIRL GUIDING IN PUCKLECHURCH



1st Pucklechurch Guides started the New Year with an interesting and diverse Taskmaster Challenge:

- Can you make a jam sandwich while blindfolded, and without getting sticky fingers?
- Or accurately draw an object from given instructions only.

Guides also completed a Skills for my Future badge, learning included life hacks and simple nutrition tips.

We had great fun celebrating Burns Night with 'highland games', haggis hurl, a caber toss and tug'o'war followed by energetic Gay Gordons and Strip the Willow dances, hmm need a bit more practice for the first one!

To complete her Gold Award, the highest badge a guide can earn, Aimee pre-walked leading us over fields, along lanes, complete with a local historical quiz. It was dark and VERY muddy but we all survived. The following week Aimee received her Award, and Daisy gained her Silver Award. I am proud to report that, out of 40 Guides attending a county international



6

selection weekend, and after proving their competency, five from our Unit were selected to represent Girlguiding abroad. Four will visit Belgium in October, and one will attend a jamboree in Sweden in 2026. The downside is that £1000 each is needed for Belgium and £1700 must be raised for Sweden. We are actively fundraising now but welcome any donations or suggestions for grants. We are planning a quiz with the guides writing some of the questions, date to be arranged.

Together with a contingent from Wick Guides, nine of us are attending Kent International Jamboree in August which will be an amazing, unforgettable experience. £350 per guide, fairly reasonable, but the coach is £1,500! So, more fundraising! That'll do regarding money.

A few of us braved the cold and wind to take part in the litter pick organised by Philippa Powell. With four leaders, and four young leaders, we can provide an exciting programme for all girls aged 10-14. Contact me if you'd like to join, or help.

Ros Abbott 07709 639846.

Pucklechurch News

Pucklechurch News is produced and funded by
Pucklechurch parish council
Editor: Jayne Hawkins Tel: 07460 421393
Email: editor@pucklechurch.org and
jaynehawkins1509@gmail.com
Editorial group Editor,
Cllrs Dunning and Parker and Clerk Daphne Dunning
Tel: 07525 842 095

Collection and distribution
Helen Toghill 0117 9373837
Delivered by volunteers

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)

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



SPRING 2025

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.pucklechurch.org



Pucklechurch Parish Council Chairman's Report

By the time you read this I am hoping that the Spring bulbs planted along Castle Road and in the Burial Ground have made an appearance, despite South Glos. unexpectedly cutting the grass verges.

Councillor vacancy

Parish council has been fortunate to have had the benefit of being a full council (9 councillors) until recently when Jon Bailey decided to stand down, our thanks must go to Jon for his contribution as a councillor. We are pleased to confirm that Su Reid has been co-opted as a new councillor.

St. Aldam's Play Area - grant success!

Our application to the Suez Community Fund for a grant of £40,000 was successful and combined with money from council's play area reserve, will enable us to provide replacement upgraded and exciting new play equipment at St. Aldam's. Our preferred contractor (Proludic) will be displaying their proposed winning design at the Community Centre hall on Saturday 1st March between 10am and 12 noon. Parish council wants to share the design with younger community members to hear their views before the design is finalised and ordered, please come along.

Pucklechurch Neighbourhood Plan - Consultation OPEN NOW 1st Feb - 18th March

Our neighbourhood plan seeks to shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development by influencing the planning policies and decisions made by South Gloucestershire Council. The plan has been prepared by a Steering group of Parish councillors and Pucklechurch Parish residents and has had input from members of the public and local businesses. We want your views on the draft policies in the plan so that we know that we are submitting our final proposal to South Gloucestershire council in line with our community's expectations.

Please look at a copy of the plan and the questionnaire on parish council's website www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk. Hard copies are available to view at the following locations: Shortwood telephone kiosk, Old Dairy café (Westerleigh Road), Rose and Crown (Parkfield Road), PVSSC (St Aldam's Drive), or PCA Social Club (Community Centre). Paper copies of the questionnaire are available on request from clerk@pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk (telephone 07525 842 095). As part of the consultation process there will be a drop-in consultation event on 1st March 10 - 12 noon at the Community Centre hall. All responses to the consultation must be received by 18th March.

South Gloucestershire Local Plan

Councillor Palmer has provided an update on the progress of the Local Plan elsewhere in this edition of Pucklechurch News. Parish council will be discussing its response after 28th February when there will be a further statutory 6 week public consultation.

Gail Boyle Chair, PPC

St Thomas a Becket, Pucklechurch and St James, Abson Churches

Spring Services

For all information about church services, please check our physical notice boards outside the church, our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StThomasaBecketPucklechurch>, Pucklechurch website, <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11799/> or <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11800/> for Abson.

Easter services will be shared nearer the date.

Pucklechurch Players present 'Funny Money'

A comedy by Ray Cooney
at the Community Centre.

The play will run for two nights,
May 30th & 31st.
Doors will open at 7.00pm,
with the performance
commencing at 7.30pm

Tickets on sale from April 6
through 'Eventbrite'.
Bring your own drinks & nibbles.





PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

As promised in the last edition of Pucklechurch News, our brand new website is now up and running. It includes an introduction to the PCA and what we do, links to information about our wonderful user groups, contact details and forms for enquiries about hiring one of our spaces for your own events or parties. We would like to give our sincere thanks to Pucklechurch resident, Lexie Day from Day & Co Studio (www.daycostudio.com), who donated her time and skills to create the site for us. Big thanks to members of the Model Flying Club for the drone footage too! Take a look for yourselves at www.pucklechurchcommunitycentre.org.uk.

We have unfortunately had a problem with fly tipping in the carpark, peaking a couple of months ago when the bins were almost surrounded by other people's rubbish. Despite requests on the village Facebook page for the culprits to take it away, it fell to two volunteers from the PCA Committee to deal with it. There was a mixture of soft furnishings, children's toys, household items, general rubbish and nappies (yes, nappies!). As if that isn't bad enough, it saddens us to know that it's the whole community that loses in this scenario, as the extra waste removal costs come from the PCA charity coffers, which in turn means less money being spent on the Community Centre. However, in this case we were able to identify whose rubbish it was and reported it to the police. Our local PCSO has passed the case to SGC who are looking into it and will prosecute if appropriate. Future fly tippers, you have been warned!!!

On a more positive note, you may have noticed that the carpark has had a bit of a makeover. This is all thanks to volunteers from Pucklechurch Players and friends who spent the morning of the 18th January weeding, tidying and trimming to spruce it up. On behalf of the PCA, users of the Community Centre and the wider community, we thank you.

Pucklechurch Village Trips

Village trips commence again in April taking place on the first Tuesday every month. We have organised some exciting trips and we hope you will join us.

April 1st	Lichfield / Webbs of Wynchbold
May 6th	Poole
June 3rd	Torquay/ Brixham
July 1st	Weymouth
August 5th	Sidmouth Folk Festival
September 2nd	The Mumbles, Swansea
October 7th	Worcester
November 4th	London
December 2nd	Exeter Christmas Market



If you would like more information, please contact pucklechurchvillagetrrips@gmail.com or phone or text Elaine on 07940207559

Reports from your South Gloucestershire Councillors

The next stage of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan was voted through on 12th February '25 and will now ask for your views on a significant release of Greenbelt, which would see 1000s of new homes coming to this community and the local area. Please take the opportunity at the end of the month to submit your views on the South Gloucestershire consultation webpages or on paper at the council One Stop Shop. If you'd like more information please feel free to get in touch with me: ben.stokes@southgloucestershirecouncil.gov.uk

Kind regards,

Ben Stokes

South Gloucestershire Council Boyd Valley Ward

Cllr Marilyn Palmer

South Gloucestershire Council's Cabinet has agreed that the updated Local Plan should go to Full Council for approval on 12th February. This detailed document is available on the South Gloucestershire Council website and covers far more than just the sites chosen to accommodate the housing targets to 2041 of 20,423 home plus an 11% buffer. This is a huge increase in homes from the current 118,000. Despite increasing the number of brown field sites selected, this enormous challenge to allocate deliverable sites means regrettably the plan includes sites in the Green Belt but South Gloucestershire Council believes housing will be delivered in the most sustainable locations where schools, health and transport issues can best be addressed.

If the plan is not published by 12th March, there may be a further requirement for 5000 additional houses. It is also very important that the Local Plan is adopted to prevent speculative applications by developers and 'planning by appeal' across South Gloucestershire.

The sites are largely adjacent to the A4174 Ring Road and in Pucklechurch parish this will affect Shortwood, with a large-scale Carsons Green and Rockhouse Farm New Neighbourhoods which also includes 50 homes on Shortwood Hill post 2041- full details and the masterplan are detailed in the local plan. In addition, Pucklechurch village is being asked to take 60 houses on a site adjacent to Abson Road (between Lower Hodden Lane and Hodden Lane).

From 28th February there will be a further statutory 6-week public consultation with a prescribed format for comments. Comments made at this stage go to the Planning Inspectorate who will determine the issues that need further discussion at the Examination in Public stage to determine if the plan is "sound".

Editor's note: For information much of the new Carsons Green Neighbourhood is in the adjacent parish of Siston. There are other developments within Pucklechurch parish in the Local Plan including the North Lyde 'ecotech' Village (Pucklechurch and Westerleigh & Coalpit Heath parishes) and there are both new and intensified sites to accommodate Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across the parish.

GARDENER'S CLUB



It's been a cold, wet start to 2025 in the gardening calendar, with not much incentive to get out there at the moment.

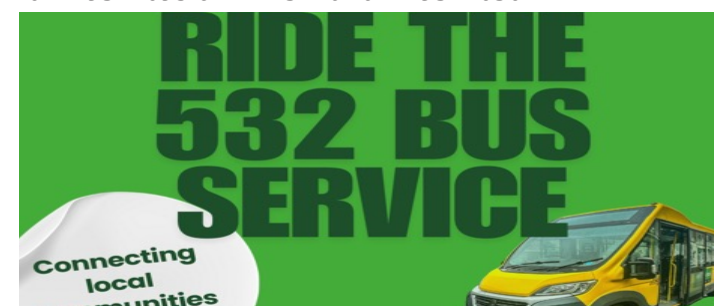
In saying that, the garden is looking quite colourful, with viburnum blossom, snowdrops, primroses & bulbs appearing.

Our new club program began on Feb 5th when we invited orchid grower, Kelvin Bush to bring some of his lovely plants and give a slide show of his prize winning orchids. The meeting was well supported, with a few newcomers showing an interest in joining the club.

The monthly competition of 'A posy of winter flowers' was won by our chairperson, Jean Powell, with committee member Martin Hall in second place. For our next meeting on March 5th, David Usher has been invited to give a talk on the 'Restoration of Hestercombe Gardens' which will be very beneficial to us as we have a club trip being arranged to visit this garden on July 6th. Hopefully, we will soon be out in our gardens again, planning a new project perhaps, or a bit of pruning & tidy up. There are always some jobs to get on with, so enjoy your garden!!

Both Kemps Garden Centre & Elmwood Nursery offer members 10% discount on plants when your membership card is presented.

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



Residents in part of Pucklechurch will benefit from an extended bus service from April as WESTlocal 532 bus serves Oaktree Avenue in the village for the first time. It could be followed by more changes as the people behind the community-led service call for views on a proposal to serve the retail centre in Longwell Green.

The WESTlocal 532 service launched in September 2024 and runs from Emersons Green to Keynsham, via Pucklechurch, Oldland, Warmley and Bitton during the day, with journeys extending to Yate at each end of the day. It's one of a number of WESTlocal services created thanks to funding by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority led by Mayor Dan Norris.

Cllr Rick Dunning of Pucklechurch Parish Council said "We really value feedback and suggestions. Our current customers have told us they love the service with great comments about the punctuality and the drivers' friendliness. We've had a steady start, but we do need more people to use the service. Changes to the route may help, and we're really keen to hear what people think of extending the route to Longwell Green."

People can have their say by completing a simple online survey at oldlandparishcouncil.gov.uk/westlocal-532-survey A more comprehensive consultation will be launched shortly to enable those not online to participate and give feedback. Changes will need to be considered by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and Eurocoaches but could happen from September 2025.

HMP Ashfield

As HMP Ashfield enters 2025, we would like to remind residents of the Big Lemon Bus we fund, which provides local residents a free service that as well as offering residents improved connections to Emersons Green, connects HMP Ashfield and Pucklechurch village with Bristol Parkway Station on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. If a weekend trip starts with a train or just shopping at Emerson's Green, why not try the service! More details can be found on the website Bristol Parkway - HMP Ashfield - Pucklechurch | The Big Lemon <<https://thebiglemon.com/hmpashfield/>>

We would like to offer help and support to local schemes where we can, as our aim is to be an asset to the community. Ashfield has a work party called the Reclaimers who make items such as planters, bird boxes, bug houses, outdoor tables and chairs and recycling bins from waste pallet wood to name but a few. Please make contact if we can help with any projects you have planned or just want a planter for the garden. A big thank you to Richard Austin Alloys (Southwest Ltd), Avonmouth, who very kindly supply us with pallets that allow us to continue to support local good causes.

We also have a design and print workshop where we design and print flyers, banners, cups, T-shirts together with media displays etc, we would love to support local events and business in this area. All the products we produce are made to the highest standards and using the latest Tech, prices are priced very competitively and, in some cases, free! For all Social Value requests and enquiries please email dave_oakes@serco.com

We are currently in the process of installing EV chargers in our carpark which we will be opening to the community. Further information will be communicated once they are installed and ready though the parish council website.

Pucklechurch Cricket Club



SUMMER IS COMING! I know that it doesn't feel much like it right now but as soon as the New Year is over, at Pucklechurch Cricket Club, our thoughts turn to the new season. This year the club will be running training programmes for children, All Stars for 5-8 year olds and Dynamos for 8-11 year olds. We will also be playing competitive matches at Under 9s, Under 11s and Under 13s. For those children over 13, the club will be running three Saturday sides and a midweek team. So, if anyone in your family, male or female, young or older, fancies playing some cricket this summer, please look at our website, pucklechurchcc.co.uk, or contact Dean on 07780 525487.

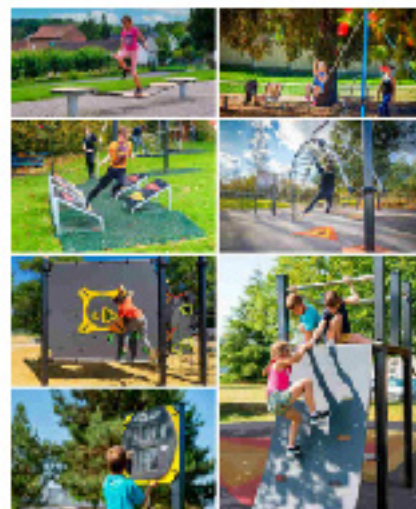


Grant success!

St Aldams play area will be getting its much needed replacement equipment and a new obstacle trail thanks to the Suez Community Fund grant of £40,000.00 and parish council playground reserves.

The proposed winning design by Proludic will be on display again in the Community Centre hall on Saturday 1st March between 10 -12 noon. As agreed before the council places the order, we want to hear from our younger community members to ensure this design provides them with a dedicated space to socialise, have fun and be active by taking the obstacle trail challenge and beating the clock.

Come along and help inform the final design.



©Proludic



Good Neighbour Scheme

£240 raised at the Rose & Crown Music Bingo evening in held in December, was donated to the Good Neighbour Scheme. We are very grateful to Rhianne and the whole Rose & Crown team, and of course to everyone who took part. The money will enable us to continue supporting people in our community over the coming year by contributing to our public liability insurance and volunteer DBS checks.

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.

We've been joined by two new volunteers who we welcome to our merry band. 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.

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, please contact us on 07961 939574 or emailing goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org. 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 leave a message on the phone or email, we'll reply within 24/48 hours.

The Adventures of a Village Agent

It has been a busy couple of months for me as Village Agent for the Boyd Valley!

Lots of referrals from enquiries about local cleaners, helping families find carers to help loved ones stay at home, signposting people to the correct support groups and organisations in regard to health, finances, digital inclusion as well as organising Free home fire safety checks with Avon Fire & Rescue.

Transport is always a big issue in the rural areas of South Gloucestershire, but I have been able to signpost many people to transport services for hospital appointments etc. I am in the early stages of aiming to find a solution to the ongoing problem of transport to local lunch clubs and groups in neighbouring villages. Finding a solution to the transport problem will make a huge difference enabling many to engage in social activities that they would otherwise struggle to attend.

After the success in helping to launch the very popular 'Knit and Natter' group, held in Marshfield Community Centre every Tuesday, 1.30-3pm, I have now ventured into Pucklechurch to start the ball rolling to open a new community drop in at the Community Centre, to be held the first Monday of each month, 1.30-3pm. We will have visits from Avon Fire & Rescue, our local Policing team, Age UK and many other organisations, and of course there will be plenty of tea and cake!

It was a pleasure to visit the Doynton community Café, held every Wednesday, 10.30-12pm, in Doynton Village Hall. It is fantastic to see so many people enjoy this space regularly

and receive such a warm welcome from the volunteers that make it happen, becoming an important group for those who attend.

I have also been able to signpost and issue E-Vouchers for foodbank vouchers with The Trussell Trust. While this can be a daunting issue to reach out for help for, there is never any judgement, just endless help and support to everyone that walks through the door.

It is great to be receiving an increase in referrals from Professionals such as Social Workers, Sirona and the local GP surgeries, but it is also great to see the amount of people that self-refer themselves to this service, showing the service has embedded well into the communities that I cover. The Village Agent service is proving very beneficial, and it is exciting to engage with lots of people from different parishes. I am looking forward to continuing to attend The Three Shires Surgery in Wick, last Friday of each month, where I will be available to chat in the waiting room, offering help and advice with the ability to signpost onto organisations and support groups that may help. The first visit was held on Friday 31st January from 10.00-12.00 midday. This is something I hope to offer in all the surgeries in time.

If you or someone you know may benefit from The Village Agent service, please do not hesitate to reach out. A free and confidential service that is for anyone over the age of 18. Most importantly, I am a friendly face and listening ear. Email :- aimee@wern.org.uk

Aimee Cherry-Williams, Village Agent – Boyd Valley

The Memory Café

Doynton Memory Café

The Memory Café at Doynton is your free local monthly get together (normally on the first Thursday of the month, 2-4pm at Doynton Village Hall) for those who are living with dementia and their family members/carers.

The volunteer run café has taken place monthly since June 2022 with over 30 cafés held to date with increasing visitor numbers. Each café follows a similar pattern with a warm welcome, conversation and catch-ups over tea/coffee and home-made cake. A variety of optional craft and art activities are held together with quizzes and wordsearch, singing together and a range of entertainment from country dancing to choirs, armchair fitness to gardening demonstrations.

Our February café took place on Thursday 6th and we were treated to pantomime sketches performed for us by members of Pucklechurch Players. At our March café on Thursday 6th, some gentle fitness activity has been planned. For the April café we will celebrate Easter and Spring with music and dance planned for summer cafés. The May café will take place one week later than usual, on the second Thursday.

Our AGM will take place on Monday 28th April, 10am at Doynton Village Hall. The agenda will include a review of the café over the past year and also look forward to helping our local communities to become more dementia aware/friendly in the coming year. All supporters of the Memory Café and anyone interested in learning more about us will be welcome at the AGM.

In the meantime, if you would like to know more about the café or are interested in applying to volunteer with us, we look forward to hearing from you.

You can contact us via our Facebook page 'The Memory Café at Doynton', by email: mcdoynnton@gmail.com or by call/text to 07817 311001. Find us on Facebook -The Memory Café at Doynton'

Scarecrow Competition and Trail 2025

The wonderful scarecrow trail will be take place over the Bank Holiday weekend, Sunday 4th & Monday 5th May. We look forward to seeing you there as ever. If you would like to enter a scarecrow this year, we will be delighted to hear from you. The theme is A Fictional Character, with a prize for the favourite scarecrow as voted by the public who visit and a lucky dip prize.

To enter or find out more, please ring Gill on 0117 9373262 with the following information:

1. The name of your scarecrow
2. A clue to help people guess its name
3. Your address, so we can make a map of the village for the trail day.

The deadline for scarecrow entries is April 19th. Please spread the word and look out for more info here: <https://www.facebook.com/PucklechurchScarecrowTrail/>

Vicar's Administrator: For all enquiries: please phone Sophia Taylor on: 07935 590033
Church email: officepawdd@gmail.com

Other Events: Barn Dance with food and BYO drink: March 15th in the Pucklechurch Village Hall: 7.30 pm - 11.00 pm.
Contact Julie on 07713 280051

As ever, we look forward to serving you in our community.

News From Three Shires Medical Practice

General Practices continue to face a major funding crisis. Although we were slightly more optimistic, Rural Practices like ours are particularly affected. The rise in National Insurance contributions is problematic as staff wages make up 60% of the Practice budget. The practice is continuing to support the British Medical Association's collective action advice of 25 patient consultations for each doctor each day and we are doing our very best to keep our services going on all four of our surgery sites

Now some good News!! Our flu and COVID vaccination campaign went really well this year; we are very grateful for all the volunteer help at Pucklechurch and Marshfield.

We have a new and very experienced mental health nurse, Gemma North, funded by the local Primary Care Network. She is making a significant contribution to support for people living with mental health issues and is having a very helpful impact on the number of people needing appointments with a doctor.

Our Patient Participation Group (PPG) of patient volunteers continues to support and challenge us and raise issues affecting patients with MP's and councillors. The Friends of Three Shires continue with fundraising and have raised nearly £10,000 for essential equipment needed to run our services efficiently and effectively. This includes two refrigerators, two ECG machines, two adjustable examination couches, four emergency medical packs and three oximeters. A VERY BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the Friends efforts.

If you would like to contribute, the Friends have a Lloyds bank account. Cheques can be made out to Friends of Three Shires, the account details are, sort code 30 99 50 and the account number is 54449863, or you could use the QR code.



The PPG can be contacted by email on 4patientparticipation@gmail.com if you have any issues you would like to raise for them to bring to the quarterly meetings. If you don't have access to technology, please hand in a letter addressed to the Chair of the Three Shires Patient Participation group at your local surgery.

