

PARISH COUNCIL
Chair's Report Summer 2023



Elections

At the time of writing this report, the results of the parish council elections have just been published. This was the first time in 16 years that we have had a contested election, i.e., where there were more than 9 candidates. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those individuals who played a part in the previous council's activity over the last four years. A report highlighting the council's achievements during that time will appear on our website shortly. I would also like to welcome new councillors to the council and look forward to working with them to continue to deliver what is best for our community as well as to resist what is not.

The names of those that were elected in alphabetical order are as follows:

Jon Bailey, Gail Boyle, Rick Dunning, Lynne English, Dean Freestone, Andy Hemmings, Jayne Hawkins, Mike Pibworth and Tina Symons.

The results of the election can be found on the SGC website here: <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/election-results/>

Amendments to parish boundaries in Pucklechurch and Emersons Green

As the result of a Community Governance Review requested by Pucklechurch Parish Council, South Gloucestershire Council's Regulatory Committee unanimously voted to approve the proposed changes at its meeting on 23 March 2023. This means that the properties at Lyde Green cease to be represented by parish councillors from Pucklechurch and will instead be represented by town councillors from Emersons Green. This change will also be reflected in the work being done to progress our Neighbourhood Plan, as well as the amount of precept funding collected as part of the council tax process.

Annual Parish Meeting 22 March - Neighbourhood Plan update

This was not a meeting of Pucklechurch Parish Council but must be held once a year between 1 March and 1 June and open to all electors. Lee Searles, our specialist

planning consultant, presented an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. The draft plan is deemed to be comprehensive and based on community feedback. Work is currently underway to provide extra detail in the form of a housing needs assessment and a local design code. All this activity is being achieved with funding from Locality, the Government's chosen grant funder. This work must also be seen against the emerging South Gloucestershire Local Plan. Housing needs are unlikely to be met in urban areas alone and Pucklechurch could face pressures from the wider area or from any proposed extensions to South Gloucestershire's core villages. South Gloucestershire Council is also proposing a Green Belt review with public consultations likely in the autumn. Please be reassured that parish council is playing an active and vocal role in responding to all local planning consultations. Our aim is to get a robust neighbourhood plan completed and presented for inspection and approval as soon as is practically possible so it can influence any new plans.

Gail Boyle, Chairperson, Pucklechurch Parish Council

NSPCC

The Pucklechurch NSPCC committee are hosting afternoon tea at Bridehill Farm Hinton on Saturday 15th July from 2.30pm until 5.00pm. Tickets are £10 each to include sandwiches, scones with jam and cream and cake. There will be a raffle and hopefully entertainment. Lifts from Pucklechurch can be arranged.

For further information phone or text Elaine on 07940207559.

Tickets available from Elaine and other committee members (Ann Smith, Joyce Harris, Angela Hallett, Margaret Dix, Caroline Carter, Diane Davies) The committee would like to thank everyone who has attended events or given donations during the past year. We made £2,225.20 in the last financial year.

Pucklechurch Village Trips 2023

Future village trips -

Tuesday 4th July - Weymouth

Tuesday 8th August - Sidmouth (folk festival)

Tuesday 5th September - Dartmouth

Tuesday 3rd October - Abergavenny & Monmouth

Tuesday 5th December - Birmingham Christmas market

For further information please email pucklechurchvillagetrips@gmail.com or phone Elaine on 0117 9373105 or Valerie on 0117 9372025



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 August for September Edition (Autumn)

10th November for December Edition (Winter)

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10th May for June Edition (Summer)

10th May for June Edition (Summer)

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



SUMMER 2023

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.pucklechurch.org



REVEL

Revel season for 2023 is upon us!

For those new to the village, Revel is a year-round not for profit activity that aims to bring the community together through a series of fun and exciting events with an aim to save and donate money to parish groups and organisations.

Revel is run by a merry group of volunteers from the village who enjoy helping to create memories that will last a lifetime.

Forthcoming Events

June 12th - the annual Revel quiz at the Community Association Club (upstairs at the Village Hall) quiz starts at 7:30pm. Maximum of teams of six and costs £2.00 per person.

June 16th - Beer Festival on the Recreation Field. 7pm-12am with music from 'Dreamscape'.

June 17th - Beer Festival on the Recreation Field. 7pm-12am with music from 'The Houdinis'.

Tickets can be purchased from any of the local pubs and clubs or alternatively you can go online and buy tickets at <https://www.pucklechurchbeerfestival.org/>

Prices: Friday night - £10, Saturday night - £14, or come to both nights for just £18!

JUNE 17TH - Revel Day!

Revel Day is our annual village 'fete' which takes place on Pucklechurch Recreation Field between 11:30 and 18:00. We will have lots of events including the 'Flaming Feathers' who will be leading our parade which starts at 11:45 from Hillview Road.

We have lots of stalls which will be selling items from local groups and businesses between 11:30 and 4pm. We will also have our beer tent open all day, selling a selection of real ales and ciders, until 6pm.

The day will finish with local band 'Stupid' who will be on the Revel stage at 4pm.

If you are interested in joining our merry band of volunteers please contact, Lori-Anne on 07789707278 or email Pucklechurch.revel@gmail.com

USE IT OR LOSE IT - please use the new 525 bus service!

At present we have a reasonable bus service even though we now have to catch other buses to get to Staple Hill, Downend and Bristol. It is hourly and, up to now, usually on time and runs on Sundays and Bank Holidays. To keep this service going, people in Pucklechurch need to use it. If you have a bus pass why not use it at least once a week to go to Emerson's Green or Yate. You never know when you might have to give up driving and be dependent on buses. There is always lots of grumbling when there is talk of withdrawing buses so USE it or LOSE it. Elaine Stone & Diane Davies

SOUTH GLOS COUNCIL REPORT Boyd Valley Councillor - Marilyn Palmer

My grateful thanks to everyone who supported me in the district elections on 4 May. I am honoured to be elected as one of the Boyd Valley councillors, and I will work hard to serve the residents to the best of my ability. At the time of writing, I have only been a councillor for a week, and I am currently attending several induction training sessions on the role and responsibilities of being a councillor. As there is no overall control by one party, discussions are taking place for new arrangements and collaborative working. I do not yet know which committees I will sit on, but I will keep you informed. If you think I can help with anything that comes under South Gloucestershire Council, you can email me: marilyn.palmer@southglos.gov.uk or ring me on 0117-937376



Tower Preschool

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

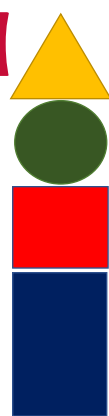
Well qualified staff ensuring the
Children's preschool
experience is a happy, positive time.
15 hours free education for 2 year olds/
up to 30 hours for 3 year olds (if eligible)

Website: www.towerpreschool-pucklechurch.co.uk

Telephone: 07722029077

Email: towerplaygroup@gmail.com

POP IN TO SEE US IN ACTION –
now taking names for September
Ofsted – 'Good'



GARDENER'S CLUB

We are already into May, but with it being so cold in April my spring bulbs are still in flower!

At our March meeting, club member Martin Hall gave a colourful slideshow of "A garden for all seasons" which everyone enjoyed.

The evening ended with refreshments, a raffle and our club competition of "A Seasonal Buttonhole" which was won by Elizabeth Heal.

We invited Gill Hazell back again to our April meeting to give a talk on "Gladiolus". We were all amazed that there were so many different types of these colourful plants.

The competition

this month of "An Easter Garden on a plate" was won by Elizabeth Heal.

As I write this, the club has just held its AGM and club members nominated three members to join the existing committee. Martin Hall, Caroline Carter and Annette Fuerstenberg were welcomed onto the committee to help with the organising of the club, as we now have over 70 members.

Our summer program ends on Friday 21st July when our Summer Supper will be held at Duncan and Margaret Fortune's garden. Details of this will be emailed to all members prior to the event.

The Autumn/Winter calendar will begin in October with a new program of speakers and events, so enjoy your gardens this summer and hopefully we will get some sunny days.

Visitors are most welcome to come along.

Club News 2023 contact Sallie Brooks: sallie61@me.com
St Aldams Farm, Kemps Garden Centre & 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



News from Emersons Green library

Whats On @ Emersons Green Library

● **Story Time** – our FREE weekly Story Times are on Tuesdays at 9.30am (including outside of Term Time). No booking required. Suitable for pre-school children.

● **Rhyme Time** – our FREE weekly Rhyme Times are on Thursdays at 9.30am (including outside of Term Time). Booking required (either ask staff or email emersonsgreen.library@southglos.gov.uk)

Suitable for pre-school children.

● **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 Champion can help. Book a FREE session to improve your skills using a computer, tablet or smartphone. Learn how to search the internet, make videos or apply for a Blue Badge online. Ask staff, call 01454 865022 (you can leave a message) or email downend.library@southglos.gov.uk to book a FREE session.

● **Earth Fest** – Saturday 1st July : we will be staffed from 9.30am to 4pm when winners of the Tell Us About It competition will be announced in the library. This is a nature themed art competition, more details from the library during June. Plus all our usual library services will be available.

● See www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries for other events across all South Gloucestershire Libraries including this Summer's Reading Challenge – Ready Steady Read – which starts on Saturday 8th July.

● Contact Centre 01454 868006.

Good Neighbour Scheme

The Parish Council recently awarded us a grant of £200.00 towards the costs of our insurance. We are very grateful and thank PPC for their support.

Over the spring, the Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers have continued to provide in person and telephone company to people and helped others with simple household tasks such as putting out bins and recycling.

As we move into summer, if you or someone you know has mobility issues and could benefit from having a few people round to do a 'garden blitz' please contact us. This is where a number of volunteers get together and complete simple gardening tasks (e.g. weeding and trimming) for a couple of hours.

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 have to self-isolate or become unwell we may be able to help whilst they are unable to do so. If this is the case, please contact us to see if we have volunteers who can help you.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, please get in touch. You decide how much time you give and what types of tasks you'd like to help with, and everything we do is local. You can contact us on 07961 939574 or by emailing 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

YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Pucklechurch Community Association committee, some of the members have given 12 months' notice to step down next year. We will be looking to fill specific roles within the committee, starting in May 2024. These roles are that of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Booking Secretary and Maintenance Manager.

If you are interested in filling one of these roles, we would be pleased to hear from you. The intention would be for you to shadow the person in their current role, to see what they do, and to raise any queries that you may have. Hopefully, you will then be able to move smoothly into the role in May next year when the current committee member steps down.

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.

If you would like to join the committee and take on one of the roles mentioned above, and you can commit to attending meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, please email Peter Nunez, Secretary of Pucklechurch Community Association, at peter.nunez@btinternet.com



THE MEMORY CAFÉ

The Memory Café is almost a year old! It is a relaxed, informal and free drop in for people living with dementia and their carers. The Café runs on the first Thursday of each month at Doynton Village Hall BS30 5SY from 2pm until 4pm.

Each month the Café has a different theme. The programme through Spring and into Summer includes Easter, Traditions, Sports, the 50's, 60's and 70's and Holiday Reminiscences.

There is always a plentiful supply of free tea and cakes and a chance to talk and share thoughts, feelings and ideas. There is a variety of activities for everyone to get involved in and useful information for carers. There is always time to sing a few songs together before the café finishes.

The Memory Café welcomes everyone who could benefit from and enjoy coming along.

If you would like to visit or to find out more about the café please phone 07817 311001 or contact us via our Facebook page 'The Memory Café at Doynton'.

GUIDES



1st Pucklechurch Guides have had a busy Spring term. They responded magnificently to a request from Andrew Davies, of motor bikers' group Freewheelers, for Easter Eggs to be distributed to children unfortunate enough to spend Easter in hospital.

The following week the Royal Navy 'Attract – Engagement' team visited and explained how girls can find a wide variety of careers in the Navy. There was a challenge for the groups to build a two-metre-high free-standing tower from the equivalent of a giant rigid plastic Meccano set. This was tackled with great enthusiasm and achieved by all.

During the holidays we joined with 1st Westerleigh Guides on a day trip to Cardiff. The journey involved three trains there, and another three for the return. Some had never travelled by train before, so they certainly had a great experience. Our morning was spent in Cardiff splash pool with loads of curving water slides and fountains to enjoy. With energy to spare we walked across to the ice rink for the afternoon. Some found skating easy and were soon whizzing around, whilst others proceeded with caution keeping close to the barrier. Everyone agreed it was a great day out.

Following a game of rounders on 25 April, the Guides opted for 'Royal Crownders' on 2 May. Those scoring the most 'crowns' became King and Queen for our splendid coronation re-enactment. An abundance of gold card led to the creation of many bishop mitres, gold swords and sceptres. Everyone had a part to play and adorned themselves in a glorious array of cloaks and scarves as they paraded and, in turn, presented the monarchs with various royal regalia. The Archbishop anointed the King with oil (tap water from the Scout Hut!) and the Governor of the Tower presented crowns on cushions. A splendid orb was made and presented by Bishop 'Lexie'. The ceremony ended with homage whilst heartily singing 'God Save the King'.

For the Big Help Out, we intend to walk several short footpath routes, and take photos, and make these available locally. Our first attempt was thwarted by the rain, but we will complete them in due course.

Girls aged 10-14, plus adult helpers 18+ - If you want to know more about Guides, contact Ros Abbott 07709 639846.

BEAVERS

1st Pucklechurch Beavers

Over the past few months, Pucklechurch Beavers have been doing lots of different activities. Julie from the church gave us a tour with activities which was great. The Beavers have made pancakes and other food.

Josh from First Sports Coaching led a team building session. Big thanks to Gemma and Chris for bringing exotic animals in for the children to see. We even had a Beavers Got Talent contest which was won by Star & Liliyana with some amazing dance moves.

The monthly tabletop sales are going from strength to strength on the last Sunday of each month. Pucklechurch Beavers meet up every Thursday at the Scout Hut between 5 and 6pm. To join Beavers children need to be aged 5 years and 9 months up to 8 years. We do have a waiting list for those not yet old enough to join. For further information on joining, please email AllisonMoore1963@sky.com