

# Pucklechurch Parish Council: Chairs Report Winter 2023

Parish Council is facing several challenges, not least of which are the conversations we are having around the setting of our budget for activity over the next 12 months, but also the next 3-4 years. What Council wants to try and achieve, what our fixed costs are, and what is possible financially and legally are not easy considerations to balance, especially as we are mindful of the current economic climate and the squeeze on household expenses. We also have a big piece of work to do to access and then use funds that were generated for the provision of sporting facilities as a result of the development of Oaktree Avenue. Then there are the improvements to our play areas, dealing with the consequences of Ash die back in our woodlands, and the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan. Alongside all of this I would like to draw your attention to:

## Community Centre - PCA needs you.

Some of you may already be aware that several members of Pucklechurch Community Association committee will be stepping down from their role as trustees at the PCA AGM in spring. The village came together to build the community centre and for many years the PCA has successfully operated it. Without new committee members coming forward, PCA is likely to be dissolved and in September parish council issued an open letter explaining the consequences of this - you can read the full text of that letter on our website or on our Facebook page. In short, if the PCA ceases to exist, it is not possible for Parish Council to just take over responsibility for the operation of the centre. If there is no PCA to operate and manage the centre, it will have to be closed until such time as an alternative solution can be found. Parish council has no budget or staff resource to run the centre and would have to ensure best-value solutions can be found, one consequence being potentially significant increases in hire charges to cover the management costs of a new external leaseholder. So, I am asking for you to consider coming forward to be a PCA trustee

and committee member, as I am sure you will agree we would be all the poorer without the centre being available to us and it needs to be managed for local people by local people.

## South Gloucestershire Draft Local Plan

By the time you read this SGC will have launched its consultation on the next phase of the Local Plan and will be seeking views on its new strategy and planning policies, as well as areas allocated for potential development. At the time of writing the full documentation was not available to view but all indications are that there are several areas of our parish that have been identified for growth, and in particular along the ring road, impacting Shortwood and land to the north of Lyde Green. Messaging from SGC is that no decisions have been made at this stage, and that comments will be sought that could change what is eventually decided. Please be assured that Parish Council will be responding to the consultation in forensic detail, and I would encourage ALL residents to respond to the consultation too. We will do our best to communicate how to do this, what the issues are and provide help wherever possible. SGC will be arranging a public meeting in Pucklechurch in January - please make sure you keep up to date with what is happening and when by following our Facebook page as well as checking our website and noticeboards.

Finally - not only have we have acquired new solar powered-lights for the Christmas tree as part of our drive to be more environmentally friendly, but we will be producing a parish wide climate change and nature action plan in the New Year that we will encourage all residents to become involved in. Let's hope 2024 brings something for us all to be joyful for - Season's Greetings from all at PPC.



WINTER 2023

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

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



## St. Thomas a Becket

### Pucklechurch Christmas Services

**Sunday 17th December 10a.m.** Carol Service - Well known Carols and Readings

**Sunday 24th December - Christmas Eve**

10a.m. Holy Communion                      3p.m. Christingle and Nativit

**Christmas Day 10a.m.** Service

Please bring your child dressed in costume - we can provide some.

A new Priest in Charge of Pucklechurch, Abson, Wick and Doynton with Dyrham, the Rev. Elaine Jones, will be joining us in February 2023.



## Girlguiding IN PUCKLECHURCH

1st Pucklechurch Guides had an unexpected start to the autumn term. Courtesy of Chris Simpson, they began by picking apples at Marsh Farm. A few were kept for their own consumption and the rest donated to the Food Bank in Yate. A few weeks later we experienced caving at UK Active Outdoors in Keynsham. Kitted out in helmets with head torches, and knee pads, most thoroughly enjoyed crawling through tunnels in the dark, although some found it a real challenge, but I'm proud to say everyone gave it a go. Thanks to Tristan Bawn, one of the owners, for the invitation and who thoughtfully lit a warming brazier on which to toast marshmallows whilst girls waited their turn.

The Guides now have a thirst to gain Bronze, Silver and Gold Theme Awards and we're all working hard to achieve these through various activities incorporated into our weekly meetings. We held a parents evening in October when we presented two badges each to Erin, Evie, Issy, Maisy, Nancie, Polly & Sophie - Camp Skills Builder and Have Adventures Theme. These two completed the necessary qualification required to gain the more prestigious Bronze Theme Award which was also presented. Guiding History badges were presented to Ava-Skye, Darcy, Issy, Milly, Ruby. And everyone who went to camp gained their Backwoods Cooking badge - well deserved, having lit a fire and cooked a meal on a cold, wet, windy night.

Guides enjoyed creating their own exotic mocktails for their Mixology Badge - these concoctions were thoroughly tested by our Senior Patrol and marks awarded. Fortunately all passed

muster and were awarded their badge. The Senior Patrol chose Photography, part of the syllabus was to create a really interesting and informative board of ten photos, which they had taken, to document various aspects of their lives. This was really well presented and all gained their badge.

We spent a most energetic evening performing sponsored star jumps and 'bearpees' for Children in Need. Mention should be given to our leader, Frances, who appeared to be the speediest starjumper of all! Final amount raised not known at time of writing but it will be over £100. There is a Take Action badge designed for girls who make a difference by taking part in five various actions, such as this. It makes them aware of how, even in small ways, they can help make differences to others.

We have held two successful fundraising stalls towards supporting Izzy Johnston for her European Experience next year, and we were present at the Rose and Crown Christmas Craft event on 25 November.

Many of you will have seen us parading to church on Remembrance Sunday with Brownies and a few Beavers. We were sad to learn Scouting was closing here in Pucklechurch and glad to see there is still a spark. I would like to welcome our new Guide leader, Sally. It's people like this that keep Guiding and Scouting alive.



## REVEL

The Revellers have been busy bees planning events for the remainder of this year and 2024

As well as the recent Christmas Sparkle, we have the following events planned:-

**April 27th** - Bob Todd Memorial Race Night

**May 18th** - Revel Family Disco

**June 11th** - Revel Quiz

**June 14th - June 15th** - Beer and Cider Festival

**June 15th - Revel Day** - All Creatures Great and Small

We have a busy year of fun events planned for all the family.

If you would like to know more about our organisation and what we do please do get in contact.

Email - [pucklechurch.revel@gmail.com](mailto:pucklechurch.revel@gmail.com)  
Facebook - Pucklechurch Revel  
Phone - 07789707278



## Good Neighbours

Over the summer months, the Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers have continued to help residents with a number of tasks. We've helped with some garden 'blitzes' where we spend a few hours weeding and generally tidying up gardens. We've also continued to provide telephone company to people and helped others with simple household tasks such as putting out bins and recycling.

With winter approaching, remember that we may be able to help move snow (who knows...?) from paths and drives.

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 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 are on our website at [http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/good\\_neighbours.htm](http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/good_neighbours.htm)

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2024.



## Petition to Lower the Speed Limit on Abson Road for Feline Safety

We are a community of cat lovers in Pucklechurch, Bristol, UK. Our kittens are part of our families and bring joy to our lives. However, we have experienced heartbreak too often as our beloved cats have been hit by cars and killed on Abson Road. This is not just our personal tragedy; many of our friends and neighbours share this sorrowful experience.

Abson Road currently has a speed limit of 40mph. This high speed limit makes it dangerous for smaller animals like cats to cross the road safely. According to a study by the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, reducing traffic speeds can significantly decrease the risk of fatal accidents involving pets (JAVMA, 2012).

We believe that lowering the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph will make Abson Road safer for all residents - both human and feline. By making this change, we can prevent further tragedies from occurring in our community.

Please join us in urging local authorities to reduce the speed limit on Abson Road from 40mph to 30mph so that we can protect our beloved pets and keep them safe at home where they belong. Sign this petition today!

[https://www.change.org/p/lower-the-speed-limit-on-abson-road-for-feline-safety?source\\_location=search](https://www.change.org/p/lower-the-speed-limit-on-abson-road-for-feline-safety?source_location=search)



### Memory Café

A relaxed, informal and **free** drop in café, providing support for people with dementia along with a family member, carer, or friend. The café meets monthly from 2-4 on the first Thursday in Doynton Village Hall- BS30 5SY

Various activities are offered together with refreshments, friendly faces, singing and a monthly theme that often reflects the time of year but equally be quite diverse- pantomimes, achievements, circus skills, international and more!

**Come along and enjoy the fun!**

For more info : call/text 07817311001  
Find us on Facebook -The Memory Cafe at Doynton



## GARDENER'S CLUB



With October starting very mild, and the borders still in flower, I did my annual trip to buy new bulbs & winter pansies before pulling up all my annual plants.

The rain & high winds arrived with a vengeance, so I was glad that I managed to get all the planting done before a very wet end to October.

Our first meeting on October 4th was well supported, and we enjoyed a very informative talk from Marion Stainton on 'Raised bed vegetables' The competition of 'A vase of autumn flowers & foliage' was won by Dave Harris. "You have been hiding your flower arranging talents Dave!"

We invited Sally Oates back again to the November meeting to talk to the club about adapting to climate change and how our seasons are changing. Our club competition of 'A bowl of pansies' was won by Dave Harris.

Our final meeting of the year will be the members annual Christmas quiz & supper on December 6th, when we will enjoy cheese, wine & a very competitive quiz.

The winter program will begin again on Wednesday Feb 7th 2024 when Debbie Keeling will talk about 'Life on the farm' & cooking with Bath Harvest Oils.

The club competition is a 'Winter Nosegay'

Enjoy your winter garden & Merry Christmas to our members

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



### Pucklechurch News

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council

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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 February for March Edition (Spring)**

**10th May for June Edition (Summer)**

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

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

## Pucklechurch Community Association

We are continuing to appeal to residents of the village who may be interested in joining Pucklechurch Community Association committee, as a number of roles will become vacant from May 2023 due to various members stepping down from these roles. We are looking for a new 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](mailto:peter.nunez@btinternet.com)

### News from Emersons Green Library

There's a warm welcome waiting for you!

**Warm Welcome**  
Come in and get cosy in our libraries



Choose a book from our shelves and get comfy



Ask our staff about local activities and support



Use our FREE Wi-Fi  
Browse the internet or use our computers with your free library membership.



We run free children's activities, ask our staff for details

### Consultation on how to implement spending reductions on Library services

South Gloucestershire Council is currently consulting on options to save money on the libraries service. The proposals presented in the consultation will have an impact on the way libraries in South Gloucestershire operate.

We are asking everyone to suggest where changes to opening hours, for example, would have the least and most impact. Please spare 5 minutes to fill in this consultation form and tell us what your local library means to you and how you prefer to use the library services in your area. We would really appreciate hearing your opinions.

Find out more and have your say by 10 January 2024. Either online: [www.southglos.gov.uk/librariansavings-consultation](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/librariansavings-consultation) or pick up a printed copy from any South Gloucestershire library.

**Find us:**

Emersons Green Way, Emersons Green BS16 7AP

**Staffed hours:**

Tuesdays/Thursdays/Fridays 10am – 5.30pm and

Saturdays 9.30am – 1pm

## SGC Report by Cllr Marilyn Palmer, Boyd Valley Ward



**Speeding** through the villages of Boyd Valley continues to be the issue that I raise most often with South Gloucestershire Council and the Police. The Police have carried out speed tests on different roads in the village but they will only do these in 30mph zones. Surprisingly, they concluded that we did not meet the criteria for introducing Speedwatch. They have assured me that they will be doing further speed checks in the near future.

**South Gloucestershire Local Plan.** South Gloucestershire Council will soon start a nine-week consultation about where new homes are to go between now and 2040. The formal documents, with the maps and proposals in detail will be published on 4th December, with public meetings in January so villagers will be able to put their questions to officials. There will be a meeting at Pucklechurch Community Centre on 22nd January 2024 between 3.30pm - 6.30pm and another at Mangotsfield Football Club on 17th January 2024 between 4pm -7pm.

The Council has to allocate sites for 9,463 homes across South Gloucestershire, and they have searched for Brownfield sites (land previously used but now available for housing); Urban infill and market town sites; Sites not in the Green Belt. They have maxed out all of these, but that still leaves 5,740 to find.

As a last resort the Council is consulting on alternatives including some Green Belt housing, mainly adjacent to the Ring Road. The sites put forward will go some way to meeting the Green Belt objective of preventing coalescence of communities so that villages and communities will keep their character and identity, but they would impact on Shortwood.

The Local Plan also proposes around 50 - 80 homes in those villages which have facilities such as a school, GP surgery and shops including Wick, Marshfield and Pucklechurch where 60 houses are proposed. An Abson road site is the most likely, but the council really wants your views, and can be flexible about the plan and the best location.

It is important that you make your views known as it is an emerging strate



Rainbows have been having lots of fun this term. We have been doing some arts and crafts, making our own mermaids and marble runs. We hosted our own talent show and played lots of games, all whilst working towards our leadership and book lover badges! We have been getting into the spirit of autumn by making some leaf printing paintings, autumn wreaths and decorating pinecones. We enjoyed our Halloween party, and we painted some beautiful poppies for Remembrance Day.

If anyone would be interested in volunteering with us, or if your daughter would like to join our waiting list, please go to this website:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/finding-your-nearest-unit/>.

Rainbows is open to all girls aged 4-7. We meet every week in term time at the Pucklechurch Scout hut 3.30-4.30.

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