

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



SPRING 2021

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.pucklechurch.org



Pucklechurch Parish Council: Spring 2021

It finally feels like spring is around the corner and there is definitely a feeling of optimism that lockdown restrictions may finally start to be reduced - let's hope so!

Meetings

As you will know Parish Council meetings have been taking place remotely online via Zoom which was allowed for by change in the regulations. However, there is some uncertainty that the change will be extended by Government beyond May 6th. and so, this means that at the moment that is the last date that we are allowed to hold safe remote meetings. In light of this, and because no information is forthcoming yet as to what will be required or allowed in terms of the resumption of face-to-face public meetings, Council agreed to hold its annual meeting on 5th May (via Zoom). The same conditions apply to the Annual Assembly of the Parish meeting with must be held between 1st March and 1st June each year and so we will facilitate the Annual Assembly on Saturday 24th April 10-11am using Zoom (details of how to join will be made available via our website).

Precept

Parish Councils do not receive any direct funding from central government and the money they use to manage parish assets, services and facilities is provided by the 'Precept' which is a tax paid by local electors to meet their budget requirements. Funds generated by the precept can also be supplemented by income generated from services or facilities they provide. South Gloucestershire Council collects the precept on our behalf at the same time as Council Tax. After carefully considering various options and so as to ensure Pucklechurch Parish Council is adequately able to meet its extensive liabilities for the woodland, including Ash die back, manage trees on council owned land and maintain council owned public spaces in Pucklechurch, it resolved that the precept required for 2021/22 be set at £84,476.00, which will increase the tax paid by a band D property by 22p per week.

Trees

Some of you may have noticed that new trees have been planted in several areas, which is part of SGC's ongoing programme. Some of this work was carried out by members of Chipping Sodbury Rotary Club who helped plant trees in Pucklechurch during the first few days of January (pre lockdown). Some of the trees are local heritage variety fruit trees and Rotary Club is planning to make wooden tree labels to highlight the apple, pear and plum varieties. SGC grounds staff have also planted some trees along Oaktree Avenue and more are planned for along Abson Rd and by the industrial estate fence line. Many of these trees are being supplied by the Woodland Trust but the heritage fruit trees were donated by One Planet Matters, which has supported the development of Community Orchards in South Gloucestershire and in Pucklechurch. If anyone would like to help care for the new trees to ensure they get the best start, please get in touch with our Clerk.

Allotments

Council has been reviewing its allotment provision and along with allotment holders has begun to explore what it can do to improve what is available. The allotment site is restricted in the number of allotments available to rent, so only a small number of parishioners are able to benefit. Historically some of these

allotment plots are large and increasingly some of the older gardeners are unable to manage their plots which they then have to give up. Equally there has been a huge increase in interests in allotment gardening with many residents wishing to have plots. As a way to address equality of opportunity the Council is planning to reconfigure some of the large plots which will increase the availability of allotment gardens, with smaller gardens available to use by a wider and more diverse allotment community. Funding will be required to do this so Council has applied to SGC to draw down s106 money that resulted from the Oaktree Avenue development. If successful, then the project will deliver a 25% increase in allotment provision. The funding will be used to provide access to and fencing around the revised plots, improve the perimeter track and if possible to also improve security.

Planning

Council is a statutory consultee for planning applications in the parish and takes this responsibility very seriously - in fact one of the reasons its holds twice monthly meetings is to ensure that it is never out of time to agree what should be said and to make comments through the appropriate channels (on occasion it has also called extraordinary meetings to do this too). Council also responds to consultations about changes to the systems that are used and planning policy changes proposed at both government and local level. SGC is now in the process of developing a new Local Plan for South Gloucestershire. The Local Plan 2020 will include a new strategy and policies to guide and manage growth and change in our area over the next 15 years. The public consultation provides everyone with an important opportunity for us all to have a say in what we want for our area - find out more at <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/new-local-plan/> Gail Boyle Chair, PPC

Pucklechurch Revel - Postponed for 2021

It is with heavy heart that the Revel committee have taken the decision to postpone the Revel Day and Beer Festival for 2021.

Although we have been given permission to hold the event, we felt that the safety of the community was paramount.

I know a lot of you reading this will be disappointed, but no more than the committee - we all put our heart and soul into these events and are devastated that again, we have had to make this decision.

However, we have a few plans in the pipeline to try to do something this year - a few virtual events and something outside that can be completed, socially distanced, with your family or support bubble.

We are upset that we can't properly celebrate Revel Turning 70 (we are not eligible for the vaccine!) but we will make sure we do something safe and secure soon.

If you would like to get involved with Revel and have some ideas, please do get in touch on either; 07789707278 or email on, lorianne.scantlebury@googlemail.com



GIRL GUIDING IN PUCKLECHURCH

1st Pucklechurch Guides

During the latest lockdown, Guides continued on social media during half term but we are now all a bit 'Zoomed out'. Nevertheless, we have had lots of fun working on our Whittling badge, carving pumpkins and bars of soap and, of course, wood. We remembered our feathered friends by making feeders, and taking part in the RSPB garden birdwatch. This also covered one of our laws: to respect all living things and take care of the world around us

Five Guides will always remember making their Promise virtually. This was followed by making beeswax food wraps, and a quick game. The Investigating badge came next - well, we tried taking fingerprints with flour, talc, inkpads (stained your fingers), eyeshadow, etc. without too much success; but we persevered with invisible lemon juice writing - we found that takes a lot of very hot ironing to make it visible. Then on to lava lamps, too many effervescent tablets can make everything fizz out over the top of the bottle. Finally a bit of journalistic research and badge completed; we don't think we'll make very good detectives but we had lots of fun.

We're continuing with a challenge pack based on our Guiding Region's 50 years, so lots of golden and fifty activities. We're hoping we'll soon be able to meet face to face, even if it's outdoors. Some Guides are taking part in a virtual activity weekend. Any girl 10+ years is welcome to join us. Contact Ros Abbott 07709 639846, or rosabbott@hotmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.



Club 25 member Nick Look is cycling the distance of Lands End to John O'Groats on his exercise bike.

Please donate via the links below

<http://easydonate.org/NICK>

To donate £5, text NICK to 70970
To donate £10, text NICK to 70191



Nick Look was born and raised in Pucklechurch. He's been a member of Keynsham Mencap's Club 25 for many years. Nick has enjoyed weekly social events, days out, and numerous holidays with Mencap. This year, during lockdowns, the club has arranged Zoom activities and fitness training. Keynsham Mencap supports children, young people and adults with additional needs and is fund-raising to provide a greater range of activities. Nick wants to do his bit with a sponsored cycle ride from Lands End to John O'Groats... on his exercise bike!

If you'd like to help Nick achieve his personal best, you can donate at: <http://easydonate.org/NICK>

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

We hope you are continuing to be safe and well as the Government restrictions continue. We also hope that you have received your vaccination if you are in one of the eligible groups.

Even with the restrictions in place, the Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers have continued to help people in the village by putting out bins and recycling, picking up prescriptions, shopping and providing telephone company. We have also been able to provide service contact details to people with specific requests. It's clear that restrictions will be ever changing in the coming months and we understand that you may need help if, for example, your regular helpers have to self-isolate or become unwell. If this is the case, please contact us to see if we have volunteers who can help you. If you think you can help and 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 are on our website at http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/good_neighbours.htm

The recipes are available on the Pucklechurch website (www.pucklechurch.org/good_neighbours.html), so please feel free to use them.



The latest from Emersons Green library

At the time of writing we are open for borrowing items using Click and Collect and also placing reservation of specific items only - but due to the changes happening nationally please check our website www.southglos.gov.uk/librarychanges or call 01454 865022 for current information before leaving home, as services may change at short notice.

Alternatively, stay home and stay safe with our digital services. Our free online library is always open. eBooks, eAudiobooks, eComics, digital magazines and newspapers continue to be available for library members to download anytime - www.southglos.gov.uk/eresources has all the details. It now also includes Who Else Writes Like?, and for children, Who Next? where you can find authors who write in a similar way to those you have already enjoyed reading. Simply log in with your library card number and select South Gloucestershire.

If you are not already a library member you can join online at <https://bit.ly/joinLW> - membership is free. You will receive an Online Membership number which will work for our digital services right away. Please enter an email address when you register for greater control of your account.

Also check out our Facebook pages below as we regularly run live and recorded childrens Storytime and Rhyme times from Emersons Green library.

<https://www.facebook.com/sgloslibraries>> <https://twitter.com/Southgloslibs>