

## Pucklechurch Parish Council: Chairs Report Winter 2022

It's hard to believe that 2022 is nearly over and although this year has seen improvements on the Covid front there are still many challenges to be faced, not least of which is the current cost of living crisis. Parish Council is doing what it can to publicise support measures on its website, as well as via social media, and it's worth noting a few here:

The West of England Rural Network community oil buying scheme.

Local and financial support measures for South Gloucestershire.

Green Community Travel.

Warm Welcome Venues in Yate and Chipping Sodbury.

The details of all of these plus many more can be found under the News tab at <https://www.pucklechurchparish-council.gov.uk/>

### Parish Council Community Grants

The application window for our community grant scheme is now open – the closing date for applications is 27 January 2023. The aim of this scheme is to support and promote an active community in Pucklechurch. It provides small grants for new organisations as well as grants to existing organisations for work or projects that will be of benefit to residents. N.B the applicant organisation must be based in the Parish of Pucklechurch. The total amount of money any one group may be awarded is limited to the amount set aside by the Council for this purpose, which is £4000.00 for 2022/23. Parish Council expects, however that the amount requested by community groups will collectively exceed the amount available and so will use its discretion to make decisions on how best to apportion funds to achieve the most beneficial outcomes. Application forms and detailed guidance can be found on our website under the Your Council tab.

### Neighbourhood Plan

Considerable inroads had been made into the delivery of this project prior to the pandemic but sadly until recently all progress had stalled. The original company we commissioned to facilitate the development of the plan had produced an initial draft but are no longer able to support us in its completion. We have now commissioned a new consultant (from Andrea Pellagram Ltd.)

## Buses for Shortwood

Sue Hillier from Shortwood has been in touch to ask for some help regarding the bus service that ran from Pucklechurch to Shortwood. Sue says: "Before the demise of the Y5, I took a petition around Shortwood which every household signed. Villagers were encouraged to email their concerns to Luke Hall MP, Dan Norris the West of England Mayor and the Managing Director of First Bus. This they did."

"On 4 November there was a Surgery at Shortwood Methodist Chapel to which villagers were invited to attend, along with Luke Hall and Steve Reed, a transport counsellor. The Managing Director of First Bus also walked through the village."

"I would love the residents of Shortwood and Puckle-

church to review the work done to date and to create an action plan to take us forward. We have also made an application for a Neighbourhood Planning Grant and increased the number of clerical hours available to us to support the administrative work the project involves.

### Oaktree Avenue replacement fence

Some of you may have noticed the new fencing that has been installed along Oaktree Avenue. The original fence was somewhat dilapidated and had become overgrown with brambles and was a dumping ground for litter. Parish Council approached SERCO with a view to resolving concerns that had been raised by residents over the state of the fence. The company's positive response has resulted in the whole area being cleared and a new fence being installed. Parish Council would like to thank SERCO for their efforts and the expense they went to in resolving the issue.

### Full Council – new members, new projects

I am very pleased to report that we no longer have any vacancies on Council as we have co-opted two additional councillors – this brings us to a full complement of nine councillors. Many of you will already know Dean Freestone through his work with Pucklechurch Cricket Club and you may also recognise Jayne Hawkins as someone who has previously served as a parish councillor. Welcome to them both. They arrive just in time to help us set out our ambitions for the coming year, which will likely involve looking at how best to re-invigorate the other parish play areas and the provision of 'sporting facilities' using the remaining s106 monies. We are also currently in the middle of setting our budget requirement for 2023/4, in the process of drawing up a new maintenance contract to go out to tender and progressing the neighbourhood plan....so there's plenty to keep everyone busy!

And finally.....

By the time you read this, Christmas festivities are likely to be well under way, so it befalls to me to extend seasonal greetings to you all on behalf of Parish Council and all good wishes for 2023.

Gail Boyle, Chair, Pucklechurch Parish Council



church to continue their campaign by emailing Luke Hall MP, Dan Norris and First Bus and telling them of their concerns. For example, the time it takes to get to town, especially for those that work there, and access to dentists, shops etc that are based in Staple Hill, Fishponds etc. The young stuck in Mangotsfield after school or with friends."

"I was encouraged by Luke Hall to keep up the pressure. They received hundreds of emails before, let them get hundreds of emails again!"

You can make contact at [luke.hall.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:luke.hall.mp@parliament.uk), [mayor@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@westofengland-ca.gov.uk), and [feedback@firstbus.co.uk](http://feedback@firstbus.co.uk)

# PUCKLECHURCH NEWS

WINTER 2022

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

## REVEL



Christmas is fast approaching and by the time you read this, the Revel Sparkle - Christmas tree switch-on and visit from Father Christmas have been held. We had to book it early as Father Christmas is very busy this year getting the elves and reindeer ready for Christmas eve and all his deliveries!

Back at the beginning of October we had the Harvest Auction along with Pucklechurch Cricket Club and Pucklechurch Football Club. We had around 40 lots ranging from vegetables donated by the Pucklechurch Allotment Association, bird tables, planters and chillies donated by HMP Ashfield and even a room decoration worth £500. It was a great event and made even better by the singing from the football team. We made over £1700 which was split equally between the three groups. A fantastic event and lots of fun was had by all that attended.

Revel in 2023 will be June 16th and 17th on the recreation field and plans are already underway.

We are always looking for volunteers to join us, people to help us run events, design posters, run stalls or even help us empty bins on Revel Day. You can give as much time as you are able to commit.

if you would like more information on what we do please contact, Lori-Anne on 07789707278 or email [pucklechurch.revel@gmail.com](mailto:pucklechurch.revel@gmail.com)

## 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' - spending a couple of 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.

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

## Carers Support

**Are you an unpaid carer? If you don't already have a Carers Emergency Card, make sure you apply for one.**

Carers Emergency Cards are free and having a card will ensure the safety of the person you care for should you fall ill or become unable to provide care. If you have an accident or there is an emergency, the card can be used to alert a 24-hour emergency call centre that the person you care for needs help. Steps are then taken to ensure the safety of the person you care for.

And that's not the end of the benefits of having a Carers Emergency Card, as holders will be entitled to a variety of discounts including days out, retail and eating out. Find out more and how to apply on the Carers Support Centre's website at [www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk/our-services/carers-emergency-card/](http://www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk/our-services/carers-emergency-card/) or call their CarersLine on 0117 965 2200.



## Kingswood Heritage Museum

will re-open again after the Winter Shutdown at 2pm on Saturday 1st April 2023.

The Museum will then stay open throughout Summer 2023 on Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm.

Rodney Stone  
Chair, Kingswood Heritage Museum.  
Tower Lane, Warmley. BS30 8XT

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

## GIRL GUIDING IN PUCKLECHURCH



### 1st Pucklechurch Guides

During the Autumn term the unit welcomed six new girls making a total of 24 Guides, divided into four patrols, all named after endangered species – Pandas, Polar Bears, Puffins and Penguins. We're working on 'I'm a Survivor – Guide me out of here', a fun badge with many different clauses. Patrols have tackled 'Lily Pad leap' (successfully crossing an imaginary pond without falling in), captured other patrols' flags outside in the dark, built mini rafts, bracelet making and a gory 'worms in the dirt' with ingredients supplied by leader Maggie.

Guide programme activities have included going on a penny hike in near darkness, which resulted in ending up in the pumpkin field! Another activity challenged patrols to find out which glues or tapes worked best when trying to stem leaks in plastic bottles. To familiarise new Guides, and reinforce all with our six laws, patrols acted out ways of breaking them, quite realistically and definitely noisily, but thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Quieter times have been spent selecting patrols and agreeing our Unit Guidelines, which all signed, and which are displayed on our noticeboard. Girlguiding teamed up with Children in Need and held a Sewathon where girls sewed, or learned to sew, badges on their camp blankets – a useful skill for life. Another evening was spent learning the art of decoupage, resulting in an impressive array of pretty gift boxes.

We joined with Scouting members for the Remem-

brance Parade and Service, and all helped raise funds for the Poppy Appeal through the sale of coffee and cakes after the service.

Our Christmas tree for the church festival displayed our hand-made clay decorations. One night we recycled plastic and other materials into a magnificent Beast. At the beginning of December we have a cinema trip to Bath to view Matilda at a special screening just for Girlguiding. Then we'll end with a party on 13 December.

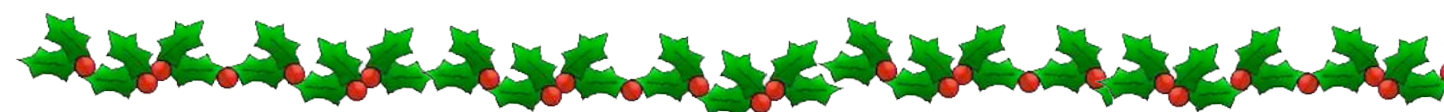
A special mention to Young Leader Izzy, and Guide Liv, who attended the county Camptastic in September and declared it a wonderful experience.

Thanks to all volunteer leaders, parents and girls for your continued support. If you'd like to join us, please contact Ros Abbott 07709 639846, for more details.

### 1st Pucklechurch Brownies

Brownies have had a really busy term. We have around 20 Brownies aged between 7-10 who meet weekly to complete the Brownie programme. So far since September we have completed Unit Meeting activities in Clowning Around, made slime, made our own colours using water and food colouring, and made a wonderful poppy wreath from old water bottles for the Remembrance Service in November. We have two trips with other units in Bristol and South Gloucestershire, one to Santa Train at Avon Valley and another to the special Girlguiding Screening of Matilda.

If you would like more information or would like to get involved in volunteering for Brownies, please contact Lori-Anne on 07789707278



## PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The project to extend the Community Centre building remains on hold, as there are still a number of issues that need to be addressed before we can move forward. We will provide updates about the project in future editions of Pucklechurch News.

For those of you that are new to the village, you may like to know that a number of groups currently use the facilities of the building, such as Bowls, Badminton, Drama, Folk Club, Line Dancing and Gardening. The hall is also used by a playgroup that meets every morning and on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons during term time, which may be of interest to any families that have moved to the area.

Please visit the website for Pucklechurch Community Centre at <http://www.pucklechurchcommunitycentre.co.uk> to obtain more information.

If you are interested in starting up a new group for activities that do not currently exist, please contact Karl Fuerstenberg at [pcahallbooking@gmail.com](mailto:pcahallbooking@gmail.com) to discuss your requirements and the availability of the hall at your preferred time.

Finally, we would like to appeal to residents of the village – would you be interested in joining the Pucklechurch Community Association committee, so that you can have a say in how the community centre building will be run in the future? If you would like to help improve the facilities available to the residents of the village, and you can commit to attending committee 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)

## GARDENER'S CLUB

With autumn upon us now, our village is looking very colourful around the fields & hedgerows, which seem to have an abundance of hawthorn berries & sloes this autumn.



At our first meeting of the calendar on October 5th we invited Fiona Warin to give a very entertaining talk about the life of the "Land Girls" which was great fun, and the "carve a pumpkin" competition was won by Dave Harris.

At our November meeting we invited George Alway to give "Hints & Tips" on jobs to do in the autumn garden, and George did a lovely autumn hanging basket while he was talking, which he donated to our raffle. Our monthly competition of "decorate a gourd" was won by Caroline Carter.

The December meeting on 7th Dec will be our Christmas Supper & Quiz which our members always enjoy as it's a lovely social get together at the end of a very enjoyable summer program.

The 2023 club program starts again on Wednesday 1st February when we invite Andrew Jeanes back again to talk about the "running of a plant nursery & A-Z of climbers" so we will look forward to him bringing some lovely plants to buy.

So until then, enjoy the lovely mild weather in your garden.

Visitors are most welcome to come along.

Club News 2022 contact Sallie Brooks: [sallie61@me.com](mailto: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 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](mailto: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)

## EMERSONS GREEN LIBRARY

### Christmas / New Year Opening Hours

Christmas Eve: staffed 9.30am – 1pm.

Christmas Day: Closed

26th – 28th December: Open Access only 8am – 7.30pm

29th December and 30th December: usual staffed hours 10am – 5.30pm, usual Open Access hours 8am – 7.30pm

Saturday 31st December: usual staffed hours 9.30am – 1pm, usual Open Access hours 8am – 7.30pm

1st – 2nd January: usual Open Access hours 8am – 7.30pm

### Seasonal Activities

Tuesday 6th December: Coffee Morning 10am – 12pm – all welcome!

Saturday 17th December: Christmas Crafts 10.30am – 12pm : free crafts activities, suitable for children aged 4-10 years old. Spaces limited, please book at the library or via [emersonsgreen.library@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:emersonsgreen.library@southglos.gov.uk).

Tuesday 20th December: Christmas Crafts 2pm – 3pm: free crafts activities, suitable for children aged 4-10 years old. Spaces limited, please book at the library or via [emersonsgreen.library@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:emersonsgreen.library@southglos.gov.uk).

Thursday 22nd December: Stories Around the Tree: 2.30pm and 4pm, drop in, no need to book.

### Digital Champion

Did you have a new tablet, Smartphone or laptop for Christmas and need some help to use it? Why not book a FREE session with Stephen, our friendly Digital Champion, who may be able to help. Either ask staff for details, call 01454 865022 (leave a message if we can't answer) or email [emersonsgreen.library@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:emersonsgreen.library@southglos.gov.uk).

### Christmas Tree Recycling

If you can't get your Christmas Tree to the Recycling Centres you can have it collected from the kerbside by purchasing a single use Green Waste Bag. These are available for £2.50 from all South Gloucestershire libraries.

