

Pucklechurch in the press in July

Articles courtesy of Emersons Green Voice July 2025

NEWS

King honours Rodney's community work

A PUCKLECHURCH man has been honoured for more than two decades of voluntary work with three community organisations.

Rodney Stone, 85, was made an MBE for services to the community in June's King's Birthday honours list.

The retired RAE Systems chartered engineer has been an active member of the Pucklechurch Good Neighbours scheme since shortly after the organisation, which offers practical help to older and disabled people in the village, was founded around 20 years ago.

He also helped set up Bristol's branch of Tools for Self-Reliance, part of an international organisation that collects old usable hand tools and sewing machines and refurbishes them.

The tools are then sent to help people in Africa earn a living as carpenters, builders, mechanics, tailors and blacksmiths. The group is based at Kingswood Heritage Museum,



Rodney Stone in front of Kingswood Heritage Museum's raid shelter exhibit.

where Rodney also volunteers. He has been a trustee for around 20 years and recently finished a six-year stint as chairman.

Originally from Bristol, Rodney started work at Filton in 1956 as an apprentice straight out of school, when the Bristol Britannia was being built.

He married in 1967 and he and wife Denise moved to Pucklechurch, where they still live. Throwing himself into volunteering after his retirement,

Rodney joined Pucklechurch Good Neighbours when one of the founders left. The group, which now has around 20 members, offers help with odd jobs, although Rodney has recently had to step back from being an active member due to the 'frailty of old age'.

Rodney said: "We do everything from gardening to changing lightbulbs, putting out dustbins and providing companionship for older and disabled people."

He set up the Tools for Self-Reliance group in a shed behind Kingswood Museum, in Tower Lane, Wirmley, where he is also involved in a Thriving Men in Sheds group.

At the museum, he has helped improve the set-up to help visitors learn about the many facets of Kingswood's past.

Rodney said: "It's got a lot of history, with Douglas motorcycles, miners, John Wesley and non-conformism, which started here, and outlaws like the Cock Road Gang."

Rodney also ran a motorcycle training scheme at Patchway School for about 15 years.

The letter telling him he was being made a Member of the Order of the British Empire came 'out of the blue'.

Rodney said: "I'm very, very pleased. One goes through life not really expecting anything and you do things because you want to do them but this is just a reward for all the years I've put in."

NEWS

Children get to grips with new play area

PUCKLECHURCH Parish Council has reopened the play area at St Aldams following a £60,000 refurbishment project.

The project was made possible after a successful grant application to the Suez Communities Fund, which made an award of £40,000 towards the project.

The council says the original timber play equipment which had been installed at St Aldams in 2011 had been gradually removed as it was beyond economic repair.

After a tender process, contractor Prologic was selected to install an activity trail, accessible swings, and a replacement zip wire, with the final design being created with input from members of the local community who attended a public event held earlier this year.

The aim was to rejuvenate the area with a particular focus on improving facilities for girls and older children.

The play area was officially opened by Pucklechurch Parish Council chair Gail Boyle on June 14, with residents invited to attend and try out the equipment.

Cllr Boyle said: "Council is delighted to have been able to deliver this much needed project, that we hope will become a destination play space for both our younger residents and their families to enjoy. We have been setting aside funds to refurbish several of our play areas, but we could not have achieved a project of this scale without the generous support of the Suez Communities Fund, for which we are extremely grateful."

The Suez Communities Fund gives grants to community and environmental improvement projects using funds contributed by the recycling company through the Landfill Communities Fund, which enables landfill operators to redirect a small proportion of their landfill tax liability to schemes that create environmental and public benefits.



Trying the monkey bars.

The action boards.

Congratulations!

Funded by the parish council and grant from Suez Community Fund

NEWS



Claire Young with staff and Year 6 pupils at Pucklechurch Primary School

Pupils' Parliamentary report

YEAR 6 pupils at Pucklechurch Primary School have welcomed their MP, Claire Young, to tell her about their trip to Parliament.

The class gave a presentation to the Thornbury & Yate MP, whose constituency includes the village, in June to tell her about their experiences, which included going into the House of Commons chamber.

Ms Young said: "I enjoyed asking them some questions about their trip. One boy said he fancied being the Speaker - perhaps he's a future MP in the making!"

NEWS

Revelling in the summer heat

THE longest and hottest day of the year so far saw Pucklechurch Revel volunteers pull off a successful day of fun and community celebration.

Villagers young and old took part in a parade led by the 'Revel Royal Family' including king and queen George and Piper, princesses Lyla and Bonnie, prince Albert and prieres Dudley and Honey.

This was followed by a day of activities on the recreation field, including children's games, a tug-of-war organised by First Sports Coaching and stalls run by local groups and craft sellers.

The event was well attended, in spite of the heat, and people enjoyed music from 52nd state and Rocknugus among others, as well as the popular beer and cider festival in the community centre in the evening.

Revel made a small profit this year and organisers are now looking forward to the 2026 event, which will be the 75th anniversary of Revel and the 50th anniversary of the beer festival.

Suggestions for next year are being invited via a survey on the event's Facebook page, while more volunteers would be welcome to support the hard-working team of organisers.



The Revel royal family



A tug of war team prepares



At the beer and cider festival

The parish council was pleased to award £250 towards this trip for Year 6 pupils to learn more about our democracy.

Well done Revel. The parish council was pleased to support the event with a £546.75 grant towards banners, shelter and entertainment.