

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



AUTUMN2016

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.pucklechurch.org

Pucklechurch Parish Council Chairman's Report - Autumn

Designated Green Spaces:

So summer has now left us and the autumn approaches bringing with it a myriad of colour! We are fortunate that the Parish has green amenity spaces that provide residents with opportunities for recreation and enhance the place we live in. Some of you may have seen white notices on gateways/ lamp posts in the vicinity of some of these spaces. These notices refer to South Gloucestershire Council's 'Policies, Sites and Places' consultation. The Parish Council identified a number of areas to be designated as green space as it believed this would protect them as open space in future. You can view a list of all the sites we nominated on SGC's consultation website and also those that were rejected because of local objection. The sites accepted by SGC are:

- The Recreation Ground, Abson Rd.
- St. Adam's Drive play area
- Woodland at Westerleigh Rd.
- Westerleigh Road Allotments
- Parkfield play area
- Land between Oaktree Avenue and Cedar Way

You may realise that apart from the last of these, all the land accepted by SGC is owned by the Parish Council although it did nominate many more sites. You can find out more at:

<http://ow.ly/9arn3037hOr>

Tour of Britain:

By the time you read this the Tour of Britain cycle race will have been through the centre of Pucklechurch on the 8th of September at about 3pm. Councillors requested sight of plans and risk assessments relating to race management arrangements as soon as they were made aware. The rolling road closure lasted for about 25 minutes and residents along the route should have been contacted by the organisers (as should the school) at least two weeks before the race. It would appear that both the cyclists and parishioners are fortunate that SGC has seen fit to resurface some of our local roads!

Planning Applications

Some residents may not be aware that the Parish Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications relating to properties within the parish itself and in some cases for applications made in neighbouring parishes. The Council discusses applications in a timely fashion at its regular meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of every month in order to determine its position for submission to SGC. The agenda for these meetings is posted on our website and parish noticeboards a week in advance of the meeting. SGC is responsible for making information publicly available and for providing a mechanism for residents to make comments - SGC does this via its website and

also by contacting residents who may be affected: the latter depends on the scale and nature of the proposal, as well as proximity. There is a link on the front page of SGC's website that provides access to applications and information on how to submit comments. Parishioners are welcome to attend all Council meetings and may make comments on such applications, or any other matter during public participation.

Grass cutting:

You may have noticed that the grass alongside many of the roadside verges in South Gloucestershire are badly overgrown, as were the verges in the parish itself until recently. I would like to clarify the situation about responsibilities for grass cutting. The Parish owns and cares for a number of areas of amenity land which it pays independent contractors to maintain: the cost of this is met from the Parish precept.

continued on Page 2

Pucklechurch Players

Present:

Aladdin

at
Pucklechurch Village Hall

(now with comfy seats!)

December 1st, 2nd & 3rd at 7:30pm

(doors open at 7:00pm)

Saturday matinee at 2:00pm

(doors open at 1:00pm)

Book early - some performances for the last panto sold out!

Family tickets (2 adult, 2 children
available at a reduction)

Tickets:

Tel Elaine Stone 0117 9373105
or leave a text request on 07817311001

from page 1 SGC has a statutory duty to maintain its land under the Highways Act – the current level of service has been set at the minimum required to meet these duties. SGC defines its land as either amenity or verge – amenity grass is cut more often than verges but the definition of amenity and verge is not always clear. The Parish Council also pays SGC for emptying bins and for grass-cutting of the areas owned by SGC under contract. When setting its budget for 2016 the Parish Council made a decision to pay for the minimum 'core' service offered for SGC-owned land rather than an 'enhanced' service. The result of deciding not to pay for an enhanced service was plain to see and after representation from parishioners the Parish Council reviewed its position and agreed to purchase the enhanced service for the remainder of the year by reducing projected spend elsewhere. SGC's core service is clearly not capable of delivering the expectations residents have regarding the upkeep of the highway verges but the consequence is that any decision to make up the shortfall in the future may impact the level of precept requested.

Clerk's Address Change

For information these are the new contact details for our Clerk:

Jodie Bailey, Clerk to Pucklechurch Parish Council

Email: parish.council@pucklechurch.org

Tel: 0117 2140551 Mobile: 07525 842 095

New Address: 51 Fouracre Road, Bromley Heath, Bristol BS16 6PG

Please note Jodie's normal working hours are: 9am until 5pm Thursday and Friday.

Last but not least – we have a new Councillor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Craig Stephens and introduce him to you as our new Parish Councillor.

Craig brings a raft of experience and knowledge with him which will be of benefit to the Council and therefore to the Parish.

BoB Symons, Chairman 01179374105

Distraction burglars in Bristol and South Gloucestershire claiming to be from 'Age Concern'

Avon & Somerset Police have been in touch with Age UK about a recent scam where people are posing as 'Age Concern' staff to gain access to older people's homes.

Caroline Abrahams, Charity Director at Age UK said:

"It is horrible to think that anybody could target vulnerable older people in this way. Posing as someone from a charity is particularly despicable.

"Criminals who target vulnerable older people are calculating thieves and can be very convincing. We would urge all older people not to open their door to someone unless they are absolutely sure of their identity. If you're suspicious or the caller won't leave, call 999 and ask for the police. If someone is specifically concerned about the credentials of someone who claims to be from Age UK or one of our founding charities – Age Concern and Help the Aged – then we would also urge them to contact our free advice line for further advice on 0800 169 65 65. Our free guide Staying Safe can also be downloaded from www.ageuk.org.uk.

"All local Age UK staff visiting older people in their homes are advised to take some form of identification, such as an ID card, or visit by appointment only. All collectors for Age UK shops are required to carry Age UK ID cards and present them if requested."

Martin Green, Chief Executive Officer at Age UK South Gloucestershire said:

"I would echo Caroline Abraham's words. This is a despicable crime and we would urge people to make sure they know what to do to stay safe in this sort of situation.

"I would want to reassure people that when we visit older people in their homes this is **always** done by appointment so

they are expecting us. **All** local staff and volunteers **must** carry an ID card which they should show to the older person when visiting. If an ID card isn't shown when asked, please don't hesitate to close the door. If you're suspicious or feel at risk, then call the police on 999 straight away.

"If you would prefer a paper copy of the 'Staying Safe' guide, you can get this from your local Age UK Office or charity shop. "Avon and Somerset Constabulary have given more details on their website along with some advice.

"Please share this widely to make sure as many people as possible are alerted to this scam."

Pucklechurch Cricket Club



Our season is now underway with a mixed bag of weather meaning a number of cancellations but also some really exciting games.

We are always interested in talking to anyone wishing to play cricket, any age and gender. We're particularly keen to talk to parents of children under the age of 13 as we are short on numbers at U13, U11 and U9. Please contact Dean or Vicky on 01179373227 or visit our website at www.pucklechurchcc.co.uk

Tower Playgroup



Monday - Friday

full and half days.

Now open 3 full days.

Spaces available for 2 year olds.

Please call Katherine on 07722029077,

email - towerplaygroup@gmail.com
or pop in for a visit.

Rated 'Good' by Ofsted

NSPCC Coffee Morning

October 8th
10.30 - 12.00

PVSSC St Aldams Drive

Bring and buy, cakes, books,
jewellery, raffle, toys

Revel 2016 Round Up



This year's Revel Week was, without a doubt, one of the best in many years in which we saw lots of changes. We listened to your suggestions and reinstated the Parade with the help of Wessex 4X4 response, who ensured that it was escorted safely around the village. We moved the Dog Show to the main arena and it was lovely to see so many dog owners, young and old taking part and we had more music. We were lucky enough to have acts from the PVSSC Open Mic night and two talented bands for the end of evening. We also had some new events for the day, including the Chilli eating competition which caused a few sweats and sore tongues.

Our main attraction, Circus Uncertainty, which was sponsored by the Parish Council, performed their unique take on circus skills to enthral children and adults alike. Circus Uncertainty were a great team who also stayed behind afterwards to teach circus skills to anyone who wanted to learn. There was a myriad of stalls, crafts, food provided by Pucklechurch Cricket and Football clubs, the fun fair and much more, all run by village organisations. There were more than thirty prizes donated for the raffle, with the top prize of a TV donated by HMP Ashfield.

The day was relaxed and thoroughly enjoyable.

The Revel Beer Festival, running on both Friday and Saturday nights, which had moved to the Rec this year, saw an increase in sales with many commenting that this had been the best for years. We had hardly any rain and also more space. 2RUDE were the Saturday night Band and watching the crowd dance to Baggy Trousers and doing their best impressions of 80s ska dancing was a sight to behold.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank all of the committee members for their hard work and dedication in what has been a difficult year with so many changes. It will be sad to say goodbye to Dean, Brian and Carly who have all worked tirelessly for two years and Claire and Vicky who have worked for over a year. Without this merry band of volunteers, Revel and the beer festival would not be able to go ahead on the scale which we have come to love.

With the AGM scheduled for September 22nd, Revel will be looking for more volunteers to make up the committee, so if you can spare a couple of hours a month and some time in June, why not pop along to find out what YOU can do to help.

Thank you and good luck!

If you want to keep updated please 'Like us' and check out our Revel page on Facebook or www.Pucklechurch.org

GARDENER'S CLUB

As summer is now at an end, and everyone busy mowing lawns and keeping weeds away from their flower beds, the gardening club can take a well earned rest after a very successful year.



At the AGM in May, the overall winner with most points in our monthly competitions, was Joyce Harris who was presented with the Frank Bradley Trophy by Carmen Bradley

Our summer trip to East Sussex at the beginning of July was enjoyed by everyone, with a 2 night stay in Eastbourne and visiting Denmans Garden at Fontwell, Borde Hill House & Garden and National Trust Nymans at Handcross. The sun came with us as well! A big thankyou to Lyn & Ann Smith for a well planned trip.

Our summer programme ended with our Summer Supper on Friday 22nd July at the beautiful garden of Mike & Lyn Wallace in Castle Rd. The evening stayed warm & dry, and was well supported by our members.

Our Autumn/Winter programme starts again on Wednesday 5th October when our guest speaker is Gill Hazell talking on "Classic & Rare Bulbs". Our competition is "Tomatoes on the vine"

For more information about our meetings & activities, please contact:

Lynn Bate on 01179 374297, Val Seaman 01179 2095 or Ann Smith 01179 2030

VOTO

(Villagers on their own)

This group is for single people over the age of 50. Not everyone goes to everything and the idea is that you choose to go to the events you would enjoy.

Our recent trips out have included visits to Wilton House, the Chequers at Hanham and the Severn Valley railway.

We have an Avon gorge boat trip coming up, a walk at Keynsham followed by a meal out and a trip to Warners at Cricket St Thomas.

Our tombola stall at Revel raised £186 so we were able to give half to Revel and the rest to our chosen charity for this year which is Young Carers, a local based group.

If you would like to join us, or would like more information, contact Elaine on 01179373105 or email elainejstone15@gmail.com.

A letter to the Editor



We have lived in our house on Abson Road for almost 50 years and the grass in the front of our property beyond our boundary wall has been cut regularly until this year. At the end of June the grass was a metre high.

We walked around the village at the end of May and were amazed at the areas that were cut and yet verges and paths were left overgrown. Abson, Shortwood, Westerleigh and Castle were the roads most affected and the village looked untidy from every view.

Thinking that this is an SGC problem we contacted them who advised us by telephone that there are two types of grass, namely 'Highways' and 'Amenity' and that the Parish Council had decided to discontinue the Highway grass cutting that was normally carried out in between the standard two cuts each year. We contacted the Parish Council, SGC, Councillor Steven Reade and our MP.

We could not understand why 95% of the grass in Pucklechurch was cut every two weeks (including large areas of 'amenity' grass) but the main roads through the village were left uncut (now referred to as Highways) and unsightly and from a safety point of view could be dangerous. Evidently this decision was made at a Parish Council meeting in March without public consultation and therefore no warning given to the residents.

We attended the Parish Council meeting on the 6th July together with seven other residents including our immediate neighbours and informed the members that we were not at all happy with the decision not to cut all the grass regularly irrespective of the type of grass. It is important to state that we were not expecting many members of the public to attend as the vast majority of residents live in open plan areas which were not affected.

Having listened to our statements PC members were given the chance to express their views and it soon became clear that three of the members were not in favour of the extra cuts but the decision to reinstate was agreed five to three. We hope that the three members who voted against have taken the opportunity to walk around the village to see the vast improvement since the grass cutting has taken place.

Whilst we appreciate that some of our neighbours cut the grass belonging to SGC it is important to point out that we pay for this service in our Council Tax.

Finally, for those of you who think that writing to the Parish Council is a 'waste of time' we hope that you will see that by attending a meeting and raising issues this can achieve results. It is also important to read the minutes of the meetings to keep up to date and see where our money is spent.

Brian and Mary James



Pucklechurch Community Association Social Club (Abson Road Village Hall)

High summer usage of the club, particularly at weekends, has made it difficult sometimes to fit in some of the Social Club's regular activities such as Film Nights and Quiz Nights. Nevertheless, Dave did manage to fit in some quiz nights, albeit not on their usual last Sunday of the month slot, to keep our quiz team regulars on their toes. Dave also managed to slot in a couple of film nights too and I know that the good turnout for Dad's Army were kept giggling throughout most of this excellent film.

Quiz nights return to their usual last Sunday of the month slot from 25th September and two Film Nights are planned before then on the 11th and 18th September when the films Spotlight (based on a true story about how the Boston Globe uncovered a massive cover up by the local Catholic Archdiocese) and Eddie The Eagle respectively. Look out for more films to come in October, November and December with London Has Fallen, Batman v Superman, Jason Bourne and others. Keep an eye on the notice boards, Pucklechurch.org web-site and club's Facebook pages for more details. All films start at 8:00pm and are free to Members.

Revel saw the annual inter club skittles challenge between the PVSSC (Top Club) and Pucklechurch CA Social Club (PCA Social Club). This year it was the PCA Social Club's turn to host in the Village Hall and I'm pleased to report that they ran out fairly comfortable winners.

By the time you get this report the football season should be under way, check out the notice boards as they do need both players and supporters.

If you have any ideas that you think can improve what is offered please let one of the committee members know about it.

If you want to join you can get a membership application form from the social club bar – great value at just £5 per adult resident..

Greg Bate

pucklechurchsocialclub@gmail.com

Attention all residents of the village !! Pucklechurch Community Association

Do you know about the range of activities that go on in your community centre? The Pucklechurch Community Centre in Abson Road caters for all sorts of groups, who use the hall for their activities and meetings. From bowls to badminton, Folk Club to football, Majorettes to model flying, there is something for everyone.

There is a gardening club for all you green-fingered villagers, and an amateur drama group that puts on performances for the entertainment of the village, including pantomimes...oh yes they do ...

We must also mention the Majorettes - one of the group has again been selected as a member of the National Baton Twirling Association England squad, and will represent her country at the European Championships next year.

We have recently taken on three new groups that will be using the facilities of the hall - a puppy training group (for badly behaved puppies), Tai Chi (more than just martial arts) and Star Strikers (under fives football, for all you potential Messis and Ronaldos).

If you run a group, or are thinking of starting a group - no matter how unusual or off the wall - we have a home for you.

If you are interested in booking the hall, please contact Karl Fuerstenberg on 07938 972069 or kfue5634@gmail.com to discuss your requirements.

PUCKLECHURCH STAR SET TO SHINE BRIGHTLY AGAIN AFTER £258,000 INVESTMENT

As you know, Pucklechurch is well served by three pubs, the Fleur de Lis, the Rose and Crown and The Star. Many of you will have seen that The Star recently shut for refurbishment.....

National pub operator Punch has announced a £258,000 investment in The Star which has seen the pub transformed.

The Castle Road pub reopened at 6pm on Friday 2 September following the investment which has seen The Star completely refurbished inside and out, including new flooring, seating, a country style decor scheme and a larger restaurant area for diners. There are also upgraded toilets and improved kitchen facilities. Outside, the pub has benefited from better car park access, improvements to the beer garden and updated signage.

Publican Alastair Abrams is going to be running The Star together with his sister Tanya, who has worked at the pub for 13 years, most recently as assistant manager. He said: "Tanya and I are both local and we know The Star really well as Tanya has worked here for so many years. It is a great local pub with very loyal regulars and I know they are going to be delighted with the investment and the improvements it will bring about. So much is going to be better - a better and more consistent menu in the restaurant, more spacious surroundings and a much improved and brighter environment for diners and those wanting to enjoy a drink.

Several of the previous staff are staying on which we are really pleased about, and we are thrilled to be welcoming back our crib team and creating new darts and quiz teams," Alastair added.

Other plans for The Star include regular live music as well as bingo and live sport from both Sky and BT Sports, and plenty of local cask ales and ciders for customers to enjoy.

Punch openings manager Craig Taylor said: "We are particularly pleased that Alastair and Tanya are going to be running The Star, and that so many of the staff are staying on. Pucklechurch is such a lovely community it is great that regulars and new customers will be greeted by someone who knows them and the area.

The pub is going to be fantastic - better use of space, better surroundings and a better range and quality of food and drink. We are delighted with how it is all coming together, and are sure pub customers will be too" Craig added.

SCOUTS EXPLORERS

Nearly 40 members of Pucklechurch Scout group and Vulcan Explorers spent 4 nights in July camping beside the Thames at Longridge Activity Centre near Marlow. The youngest was a Beaver Scout (with his Mum) who was 6 at the start of camp and the oldest celebrated his 60th birthday while we were away. We were very lucky with the weather and for the first time in a number of years we were able to keep our raincoats packed in our bags for the duration.

The Cubs, Scouts and Explorers took part in a number of water sports, including dragon boating, bell boats, canoeing, rafting and giant water orbs. Usually getting Cubs and Scouts to shower at camp is a bit of an effort but this year it was not so difficult as even Scouts could see the benefit of a shower after they had jumped in the river. They also tested their nerves and teamwork with Jacob's Ladder, crate stacking and leap of faith. Getting even a few feet off the ground is brave if you are scared of heights.

One day was spent at the Warner Brothers Harry Potter studios seeing the props and special effects first hand. It was busy and the Cubs and Scouts were interested in all that they saw, practising wand skills and pushing their luggage through to platform 9¾. Our distinctive group neckers of red and yellow were particularly useful to keep track of them all!

We also played "wide games" across the whole site, completed crafts, developed whittling skills with penknives, performed skits and sang campfire songs and of course toasted marshmallows

Several of our Explorers (14-18 yrs old) have had more than 30 nights away, the older Scouts have camped for over 20 nights and some of our Cubs are into double figures and as leaders we aim to continue these opportunities for the young people as we feel they are invaluable in building confidence and other life skills and of course the kids love it!

As always there has been a team of adults involved in planning and running the camp without whom it could not have happened, so thank you to them

Pucklechurch News

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council

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Please email articles to editor@pucklechurch.org or drop them off any one of us at the addresses above. 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)

10th February for March Edition (Spring)

10th May for June Edition (Summer)

10th August for September Edition (Autumn)



1st Pucklechurch Rainbows held their usual Hook-a-Fish stall on Revel Day raising a few pounds for the Unit and Revel. The Rainbows themselves have enjoyed a whole range of activities, many encompassing the natural world which their leader really enjoys promoting. Currently Ruth has spaces for a few more five to seven year old girls. They meet on Tuesdays from 3.25 to 4.25 in the Scout Hut during term time. For more information contact Simon at simonmartinharris@hotmail.com who will put Ruth in touch with you.

Joanna reports on the activities of 3rd Pucklechurch Rainbows

We took the opportunity of the fine weather towards the end of the summer term to get out and about. We went for a walk on the new section of the shared-use cycle and footpath from the edge of Westerleigh which joins the Bristol-Bath railway path at Coxgrove Hill. The Rainbows enjoyed the experience of going over a level crossing across the railway, looking for a troll under the river bridge and going under the busy, noisy motorway to eventually find ourselves in a beautiful wood. Our second expedition was to join Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from across our area at the South Cotswold Division Day at the Lower Woods nature reserve. We had a brilliant day in this historic wood; river dipping, searching for fossils, scavenger hunting and finally making a pencil from wood grown in the reserve. For our final meeting of this academic year we walked in Wapley Bushes - a nature reserve on the edge of Yate. We trekked through the wood and across a wild flower meadow, then stopped to look at the view over the railway towards the Nibley monument and beyond. We are lucky in this area to have so many great places to take our Rainbows for a walk. Special thanks are due to our Young Leaders Emma and Katy and all the parents and grandparents who came out with us on our adventures this term.

We meet on Wednesdays from 4-5pm in the Scout Hut. To join our lively group contact me at Joanna@wallisfamily.plus.com



Lyn Ford says the girls are currently working on a Malawi Badge, in support of a local Ranger who will be going there next year on a Service Project. One challenge involved tie dying T-shirts and we proudly wore these whilst playing our home made musical instruments (another challenge) to provide an African dance theme for the Revel Parade.

Thirty Days Wild saw Brownies hugging trees, looking at the sky, making a collage and also woodland creatures from natural objects. The age old trick of learning to make a screeching noise by blowing through your thumbs with a blade of grass held tight was also tried, with some interesting results! We mustn't lose these simple natural activities.

The term ended with an exciting party in my garden. As it was one of our hottest days there was a huge snail squirting out water plus other water games to cool running, dancing Brownies. Why don't you join the fun if you're aged seven - ten years. Contact leader Phil Devey on philypoosis@hotmail.com or Lyn Ford on lynrford@hotmail.com



Our highlight was joining almost 4000 other Guides and Scouts at the Avon Jamboree held on the South Gloucestershire Showground in Westerleigh over the May Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Despite torrential rain on the Friday evening which turned fields into quagmires, the spirit of the young people rose above mud, mud and more mud. Saturday was dry and sunny when the Guides arrived and there was just so much to do, the best activity being riding Segways around a grassy track. There was a craft tent absolutely buzzing with activities, whilst outdoors there were hula hoops, bouncy castles and slides, a sisal trail tackled whilst blindfolded, raft building, fishing and canoeing.

The camp was divided into sub-camps, each allocated a specific area for tents, which meant being extremely close to your neighbours from other Scout and Guide Units. This led to new friendships being made whilst sitting outside our tents in the sunshine.

After camp the Guides had their own craft session making paracord bracelets and 'ironing' encaustic wax onto specially prepared paper to make amazing pictures.

As always, we invite more 10-14 year old girls to join us in the Scout Hut on Tuesdays 7-8.30pm. Contact the leader, George Wynter at wynter397@gmail.com



DYRHAM SENIOR SECTION

We ended our centenary year with a Summer Picnic on the lawns of Dyrham House (by kind permission). And it was indeed a *summer* picnic; we had one of the few gloriously hot evenings when we could all wear pretty summer dresses and not feel cold. We shared this evening with other Senior Section members from our Division, about thirty in all. Each Unit set out their picnic to reflect a celebratory summer theme and Dyrham were adjudged the best. We were able to explore the garden and then let our hair down and play with a parachute and use the bubble blower to make enormous bubbles.

As some of us will now be leaving for university the structure of this Unit will change into holiday meetings for younger members, and a Trefoil Guild for anyone over 18 who is/was in Guiding, or supports our principles and would like to join us. We will meet fortnightly on Tuesdays during term time with our first meeting on 6 September at 7pm at Dyrham House. It's really Guiding for Grown-ups, so come and join the fun.

Contact Judith for more information for either group, she'd love to hear from you - Judith.louise@hotmail.com