

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



AUTUMN 2017

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.pucklechurch.org

Pucklechurch Parish Council Chairman's Report – Autumn 2017

Clerk Update:

We are currently without an interim clerk to cover for maternity cover but will be using the services of Avon Local Council Association to support us along with all of our Councillors who are playing an active role in ensuring we are continuing to deal with the demands of a Parish Council. Our thanks and best wishes to Ellen Kenney who has decided to concentrate on Siston Parish Council.

M4J18A Update

You would have already received a very detailed flyer about the consultation but may I remind you that the consultation commenced on the 21st August and that it is important that everyone responds either online, via letter or using a paper copy of the questionnaire. If you have not completed a response and would like some help we have a group of 'Street Champions' who are available for support so please contact me on the number below. You will also find up to date information via our website at www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.weebly.com.

My thanks must go to:

- all those who have already written to SGC, Luke Hall or Chris Skidmore - you will have made a difference.
- all the volunteers who have helped by dropping leaflets, putting up posters or shared information on social media
- all those technical experts who have offered their skills and knowledge and those in the press and media

I think you will agree we have had a fantastic community response!

Pucklechurch Parish Council contact details

Clerk to Pucklechurch Parish Council

Email: parish.council@pucklechurch.org

Tel: 01179374105 (answer machine)

Mobile: 07525 842 095

New Address: 67 Birch Drive Pucklechurch Bristol

BoB Symons, Chairman

01179374105

Pucklechurch Players present

RUMOURS

A farce by Neil Simon

November 17th & 18th
Pucklechurch Community Centre

Tickets available from October
Call Elaine on 0117 9373105

Mobile Library

The South Gloucestershire Mobile Library will cease operation after 29th September. The last visit to Pucklechurch will be on 22nd September at the following times:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Oaktree Avenue | Village Hall |
| 2.15 – 2.30 | 2.35 – 2.50 |
| Homefield Rd Bungalows | Homefield Rd |
| 3.00 – 3.20 | 3.25 – 3.40 |

Don't forget it is possible to use your library or Active card in any South Gloucestershire library. You can return any outstanding books from the Mobile Library to these libraries as well. If you are unsure where your nearest library is please call 01454 868006 or visit www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries (please note the opening hours of all South Gloucestershire libraries will be changing from October onwards). If you are unable to get to a library it may be possible for you to have the Home Library Service call on you. This scheme is run by South Gloucestershire libraries in conjunction with local volunteers. To learn more about this service please phone the number above.

DO YOU NEED LIBRARY BOOKS DELIVERED TO YOU?

As you will probably know, the Mobile Library operated by South Glos Council will cease to operate in October this year. The Parish Council has investigated setting up a community library but in view of the potentially small take up and the costs involved, it was decided to defer this for now.

It has been decided, therefore, to set up a small group of volunteers to collect requested books from either Emersons Green or Yate libraries and deliver them to Pucklechurch residents who cannot easily get out.

If you wish to be added to the group for home delivery please either email or phone Lesley Putt who will then allocate a volunteer to you. They will contact and discuss the type of books you prefer and get a list of your favourite authors. lesley.putt@hotmail.co.uk 0117 9374073

M4J18A - EAST OR WEST IS NOT THE ARGUMENT

New roads help ease congestion and take traffic away from villages and towns... right? Not according to an analysis of completed road schemes conducted for the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). Evidence from a study of new road schemes concludes that they generate traffic rather than reduce it. Basically, if you make it easier to use a road, more people will use it. And that also means more traffic on the roads around the scheme.

One of the issues in traffic studies used to justify new roads is the failure to recognise the increase in traffic that will be generated just because the road exists. A new road encourages people to make journeys that they would never have made before. The CPRE report highlights this and shows that the extra traffic (over and above the regional growth) was as much as 7% greater in the short term and 48% in the long term.

The negative impact of a new road isn't just increasing traffic. A number of knock-on effects – such as more carbon emissions and poorer air quality – would clearly be an issue for our area. Roads have a permanent and detrimental impact on the landscape, nature, biodiversity, and heritage sites.

So what about the perceived advantages of a new junction? First let's look at reduced congestion and shorter journey times on the ring road and in the surrounding area. Yes, there would likely be a honeymoon period where people see traffic flowing smoothly on the new road. But remember when the ring road was first opened? How empty and free-flowing it was! Within three to five years, it was jammed at peak times, no matter how many times they redesigned the junctions. That's what happens everywhere. It's what the CPRE report warns will happen in almost every new road scheme. Why does anyone still believe more roads will fix the traffic problem?

Then there is the argument that a new junction will generate economic growth for Emerson's Green and South Glos. Sounds good, doesn't it? But what is the evidence that this works? Well, to put it bluntly, there isn't any. Here I'll quote from the CPRE report:

Of 25 road schemes justified on the basis that they would benefit the local economy, only five had any evidence of any economic effects. Even for these five, the economic effects may have arisen from changes incidental to the road scheme, or involved development in an inappropriate location, or involved changes that were as likely to suck money out of the local area as to bring it in.

For economic growth to benefit an area, it needs to do two things. First, it needs to employ people from that area. So how would an M4 junction and link road, that will clearly make it easier for people from Wales, Swindon and other locations on the M4 and M5 to get to Emerson's Green help our area? It won't. It is likely to make it more difficult for local people to find work here because the employment pool will be a lot larger. The second thing needed to support the area is for local businesses to locate there. Take a drive round the existing businesses already in the science park and commercial areas of Lyde Green and you'll see most are big corporations whose profits are not being ploughed back into South Gloucestershire.

There is scant evidence that M4 junction 18a would meet the objectives set out by South Glos Council for reducing traffic congestion and increasing the area's economic success. Evidence from schemes already built elsewhere have shown otherwise.

I don't think a new junction is needed, but if you do, be careful what you wish for. From the plans I have seen so far, I believe the western option at Lyde Green will cost significantly more and produce far greater disruption to the M4 than the eastern option near Pucklechurch. By giving your support for a new junction, you may be inadvertently backing a junction here. The estimated costs and benefits of the options should become clear once the consultation starts on the 21st August, which will give us more information to work with.

If you would like to read the full report from CPRE, visit www.pucklechurch.org/m4j18a.html

Martin Smith

Martin has lived in Pucklechurch for over 20 years and served on the Parish council for 10 years. He is now retired but was a Chartered Civil Engineer who spent much of his early career designing and building highways and major interchanges.

Pucklechurch Hockey Club

Pucklechurch Hockey Club enters a quiet time of year for a winter sport although not as quiet as you might think. We always enter a summer league to keep our fitness up and because we all enjoy the sport! We have welcomed a few new players to the team which has been very enjoyable.

We have also been playing in a few 7-a-side tournaments and hosting our own fancy dress tournament. All tournaments are so much fun but I think the element of fancy dress and a scorching day of sunshine added to it all. We raised £150 for the charity Bloodwise which supports leukaemia and lymphoma research – it's a cause close to our hearts following a charity ball we attended last year.

Pucklechurch currently sit 2nd in the summer league table, playing our last game on 6th September to determine where the team finishes - we are hoping for a top three place!

Training for winter season starts again on 4th September so there isn't really a break this year. Anyone interested in giving it a go please feel free to contact the club on pucklechurchlhc@gmail.com

DOG MESS



One of the litter pickers in the parish has contacted Pucklechurch News commenting that recently there has been a lot of dog mess on the Rec that is not being picked up. "Every day I litter pick I have to remove dog mess. I would conclude that it is the same couple of dogs who are concerned. Most people who use the Rec do clear up after their pets.

Another issue which has increased over the past months is the number of times I find plastic bags of dog mess left lying on the verges. People are clearing up after their dogs and then leaving the bags lying about.

There are plenty of waste bins in the village so please bag and bin your dog waste and keep the village a pleasant place for everyone.

Pucklechurch News

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council

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Please email articles to editor@pucklechurch.org or drop them off 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 November for December Edition (Winter)

10th February for March Edition (Spring)

10th May for June Edition (Summer)

10th August for September Edition (Autumn)



St. Thomas a Becket Pucklechurch

Church Services

1st Sunday in Month

8.30a.m. Holy Communion
10.00a.m. Café Church
6.30p.m. Evensong at Abson

2/3/4th Sunday 10a.m. Family Communion

SPECIAL SERVICES

Sunday 8th October 10a.m. **Harvest Festival**

Sunday 12th November 10.45a.m.

Service of Remembrance

Tuesday 19th September 7.30p.m.
Concert by St. George Singers in Church
With Refreshments Wine & Cheese
Tickets or on door £6.00

Harvest Supper Saturday 7th October

Autumn Fayre

Saturday 11th November 2p.m. Community Centre

Christian Aid

The House-to-House Collection in May raised £1679.32 this includes monies that were gift aided and the collection made at school on the non uniform day
Thank you to everyone who made this possible.
Thank you for being there for refugees.

Good Neighbour Scheme

It was nice to see so many people call at our Revel display this year and ask about the scheme. We hope you learned more about The Good Neighbour Scheme and how we can help. The good news is that three people became volunteers as a result of visiting our stall - welcome to you all!

Our volunteers have continued to provide help and company to people in our Parish. We have helped several people with garden 'blitzes' where a number of volunteers spend a couple of hours weeding and cutting back shrubs. This has been particularly useful this year since we have had so much rain with warm temperatures recently meaning the gardens have grown quickly!

We have also continued to spend time with people who simply like our volunteers to pop round for a cup of tea and chat. A couple of volunteers take turns to spend time with someone so that they see a different face which brings so much to their day. If you'd like to join us and become a volunteer, please get in touch. We always welcome more people to help us when required. You can give as little or as much time as you like, you get to meet new people and everything is local. Every so often, we meet to discuss the scheme so there is a social aspect to what we do.

Please also contact us if you or someone you know would like help with something such as changing a fuse, a light bulb, batteries in household appliances or other smaller household tasks. More details are on our website at http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/good_neighbours.html

Please contact Larisa, Rodney or Ross on 07961 939574 or email goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org



Pucklechurch Community Association

Many of the residents of the village use the facilities of the Community Centre, which caters for such activities as Bowls, Drama, Folk Club, Gardening Club, Majorettes, Starjumpers and Twinning. As mentioned in previous issues, we are undertaking a project to upgrade the building, in order to provide better facilities for those of you that use it.

We have revised our plans for the extension to the building, and following comments that the extension will reduce the area available for parking, we are intending to remove some bushes at both sides of the building to allow more parking spaces. Hopefully, this will allow us to accommodate the same number of vehicles in the car park when the extension has been completed.

The next step is getting the plans formally agreed and submitted for planning permission. We will keep you updated on progress with this project in future issues.

Whilst the proposed new design will take some time to come to fruition, we are pleased to report that the floor of the hall is to be resurfaced, probably during October. We are also able to advise that the building is now fully monitored by CCTV, which will provide increased security and safety for all.

If you are interested in booking the hall for a regular activity or group, or for just a single event, please contact Karl Fuerstenberg on 07938 972069 or kfue5634@gmail.com to discuss your requirements.

In addition, if you already use the building and have any ideas or suggestions as to how we could improve the facilities available to the residents of the village, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Peter Nunez, secretary of Pucklechurch Community Association, by email at : peter.nunez@btinternet.com

MINDFUL MOVEMENT CLASS ...

PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE
- MONDAYS 12.30-1.30
£8 (£7 for block booking)

The practise constitutes a combination of tai chi, qigong and yoga and so is called QiYoChi. No previous experience is necessary and all health levels and ages are appropriate.

Classes involve stretching and strengthening work and seems particularly affective for the middle-aged and older age groups due to its restorative influence on health and well-being as well as having a profound affect on mobility and levels of energy (we have many testimonies on this!).

Chris himself has appeared on television numerous times and has much to say on the matter of health and vitality in older years as well as some interesting anecdotes about his health path and teachings.

FIRST CLASS FREE!

Contact Name: Chris Milford Email : chris.milford48@gmail.com Phone : 07977 238288

Remember, if you run a group that uses the Community Centre on a regular basis, why not tell us about what you do? We are happy to consider content so please get in touch at editor@pucklechurch.org



First and foremost –

THANK YOU PUCKLECHURCH VILLAGE!

Well, what a day! The sun finally shone for our yearly village event and the crowds came.

This year saw the return of the Beer and Cider festival on the same weekend. This meant we could offer everything about Revel on one weekend. We had two fantastic bands with 92 Vine and 2Rude – the event was so well supported that at one point we had nine people working behind the bar!

The Parade returned to its former glory, albeit with a shorter route. The Parade was judged by Ali and Tanya, the landlords from the Star Inn, and they judged the winners to be Pucklechurch Playgroup. George Wynter was over the moon with the effort and smiles that the children put in for their Parade, which consisted of 'Emergency Vehicles and Heroes' which the children all chose themselves. Pucklechurch Playgroup used the new criteria which were discussed at the March group meeting. For their efforts they will be granted £25 for winning.

The arena was in prime position with everybody being able to see the events we put on throughout the day. We saw events from the African Sambistas, Zumba Freak, the Dog Show and local village band Racing Mars headed by Tim Wallace.

We had a well-supported event from both stall holders and villagers with at least 20 stalls as well as the Fair and Ice Cream van.

The Bob Stone award is changing, and this year the recipient will be for services to Pucklechurch and not just Revel.

Do you know someone who goes the extra mile to make this community a better place? Perhaps they welcome new neighbours, volunteer to help neighbours in distress. Maybe they work tirelessly in service to the entire neighbourhood and/or community organisations. How about someone who tries to make sure everyone in the community feels included? Or who shows up to lend a hand at every community meeting, fundraiser, or Community Clean-up and neighbourhood meeting?

AGM is on Thursday 27th September in the Fleur di Lis restaurant at 7:30 pm. If you are interested in standing for Treasurer, Secretary or Chairman of either the Revel or Beer Festival then please attend this evening.

AGM will also be your chance to collect your Grant cheque. If you cannot attend the please inform Pucklechurch.revel@googlemail.com prior to this event.

Revel 2017 was an event that will stay in peoples' minds for many years. We have made lots of tweaks over the years and now it is all coming together. Thank you to all that came and everybody that makes Revel an event that can still continue.

1st Pucklechurch Scouts

During the past few weeks the scouts have been very busy doing activities. One of which included a fundraising event to help aid Russell House, an organisation which helps young children with learning disabilities stay overnight if their parents need a rest. This included things such as a homemade photo booth and burgers and camp doughnuts. Overall the scouts managed to raise £86!

Another activity the Scouts did was making para-cord woggles and other items including survival bracelets and dragonfly key-chains.

Recently the Scouts went swimming at Kingswood Leisure Centre and some even managed to complete their stage badges. They played activities such as protect the president and water tag and had loads of fun.

As part of scarecrow trail the Scouts made a model Steve from Minecraft and have had lots of fun painting and modelling their very own scarecrow.

Written by Ollie and Robbie- two of our patrol leaders.

The Scouts have also returned from our Summer camp – my washing machine is still going. We went to Cranham Scout camp near Gloucester, with 13

scouts, 1 Beaver and 5 leaders. The scouts enjoyed a more relaxed camp this year keeping their feet on the ground. They particularly enjoyed "damming the stream" where they did just that and got very wet and muddy in the process. They also worked together to achieve an objective, but they may not have realised that!

They also created a Manikin Challenge film showing aspects of camp life. I have never known them to be quite so quiet or quite so still.

We spent one day in Gloucester at the National Waterways museum and taking a boat trip. Luckily our visit coincided with a food festival so we enjoyed lots of samples of fudge, popcorn and marshmallows. We visited the Cathedral and most scouts recognised the cloisters as the setting for a scene in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

As always these camps are not possible without the commitment and time of the adults attending so thank you to them for making it possible.

If you are interested in coming to scouts to have a chance to complete activities like these and much more and want to find out more please contact Rachel Smith – 07736 320003