

# PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



SPRING 2019

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

## THE RESULTS ARE IN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SURVEY



The residents' survey for the Pucklechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan got off to a slow start over the holiday period, but it came good in the end! We had 641 responses – about 28% of the adult population of our parish responded, though the older age groups were better represented than younger people. People gave us over 1,800 comments to the open-ended questions, so we'll have plenty to work with in the next phase: drafting planning policies that reflect residents' opinions about the future development of Pucklechurch, Shortwood, and Parkfield. Many thanks for your input.

It's quite possible that South Gloucestershire Council will require additional housing to be built in our parish in the coming years, though we don't yet know the numbers. The survey question about where this housing ought to be built gave us a clear steer:

- Only 15% of respondents thought greenfield sites outside village boundaries would be acceptable
  - 28% thought infill within village boundaries (like the new Oaktree Avenue developments) was suitable
  - A whopping 82% believed that brownfield sites (previously developed land) were suitable
- The issues that had the most support – those in which over 80% of respondents thought were important or extremely important – included:
- Protecting trees and hedges, wildlife habitats, biodiversity, and green spaces
  - Improving public transport
  - Developing safe walking and cycling routes
  - Ensuring that new development is in keeping with local character and is energy-efficient
  - Supporting Pucklechurch School
  - Improving play areas for children and facilities for young people and the elderly

It's clear that residents of Pucklechurch Parish want to keep our community green, safe, and vibrant. A summary of the survey results can be found on the Neighbourhood Plan website at: [pucklechurch-nhplan.weebly.com](http://pucklechurch-nhplan.weebly.com)

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee is a small group of volunteers, and we could use more help as we get into the policy-making phase of this project. No experience necessary – just a willingness to participate in the tasks at hand. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact us by email at [ppnp@pucklechurch.org](mailto:ppnp@pucklechurch.org)

## Get Ready! for Pucklechurch Scarecrow Competition and Trail

This legendary St. Thomas á Becket Church competition is on

**May Day Bank Holiday ~  
Sunday 5th & Monday 6th May 2019**

The theme is 'Your Favourite Storybook Character'

Cash prizes for best scarecrow, best correct answers and also a lucky dip for the scarecrow entrants

To enter or for info, contact Gill on 01179 373262 or email: [pucklechurchscarecrow@gmail.com](mailto:pucklechurchscarecrow@gmail.com) (note our NEW email address)

\* The closing date for entries is Friday 12th April \*

## Café Church Invitation!

Everyone is welcome to Café Church before the Scarecrow Trail on

**Sunday 5th May at 10.00am**

Our 'café style' lounge which offers a chance to chat and meet friends old and new over coffee and cakes. A supervised children's area with experienced staff has activities for youngsters too.

Unlike the traditional church service, this informal event has a couple of short, guitar-led hymns and a 10 minute Christian teaching video to allow those who wish to worship to do so.

We'll need a little time to re-arrange for the Scarecrow adventure when it finishes, but it never takes too long.

Rev Stuart.

\* St Thomas a Becket, Pucklechurch complies with all current Safeguarding requirements.

# Pucklechurch Parish Council – Chair's Spring Report

It seems so far away already but I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Elections:

The key point for this report is that there is an election this year in May. Many years ago, I stood for election as I believed that an election was needed to give the Parish Council a proper mandate. Proper elections are few and far between and I've not had to stand for your votes for my seat since that election way back in 2007. Our right to vote is important, but we cannot vote if no one stands. Let's make it a proper election year! It's easy to stand, in the first instance contact Jodie our Clerk via the contact information given below or speak to any current Councillor whose contact details are on the Parish Council Website. What's coming up? Development in South Gloucestershire, The Parish Neighbourhood Plan, M4 Junction 18a, speed and parking concerns are amongst the many other issues that will be discussed at Council. Public opinion is diverse so not everyone will agree with you, some don't care but some appreciate what you do, so give it a go, its only 4 years!

## South Gloucestershire Priority List:

The Parish Council has ensured that concerns around the parish have been logged with SGC, these concerns have been placed on a priority list, SGC Councillors then vote on where the available money will be spent. Since 2011 our

## Grants:

The Parish Council has awarded grants to applicants as shown below:

Applicant	Purpose of Grant	Amount
1st Pucklechurch Scouts	Insurance Costs	£1050
Pucklechurch Primary School	Upgrade to Wi-Fi	£2000
Brandon Trust	Proposed Trip	£250
St Thomas a Becket Church	Churchyard Maintenance	£2000
Pucklechurch Revel	Revel Entertainer	£436
Pucklechurch Cricket Club	Cricket Balls and Nets	£900
Tower Preschool	Outside Fencing/Storage box	£999.82
Pucklechurch Sports F.C	Hiring training facilities	£783.25
	Total	£8439.07

priority list has been:

- To investigate speed reduction and weight restriction measures in Pucklechurch
- To provide a speed table north of Homefield Rd junction – traffic calming
- To provide a speed table outside of the Post Office – traffic calming
- To provide a speed table on Westerleigh road – traffic calming – selected to go ahead
- To provide a footpath in Oaktree Avenue – selected to go ahead
- To progress an extension of the 30mph extension to Feltham Rd.

In the interim, decisions to support the provision of white lines and 20mph areas have been taken in isolation. We await further action.

## Annual Parish Meeting

The next annual meeting will take place on the 23rd May at 7:00 at Pucklechurch Primary School. Those in receipt of grants from the Council will be expected to report to the Parish how the money has been spent and the benefits derived. Pucklechurch Parish Council contact details

Clerk to Pucklechurch Parish Council  
Email: parish.council@pucklechurch.org  
Tel: 0117 9374105 (answer machine)  
Mobile: 07525 842 095  
*BoB Symons Chairman Pucklechurch Parish Council*

# EMERSONS GREEN LIBRARY

Thursday 7th March is World Book Day. On World Book Day Emersons Green Library is staffed between 10am – 5.30pm (and in Open Access 8am – 10am & 5.45pm – 7.30pm) - so why not borrow a book (or two) to celebrate the day? If you don't have a library or Active Card we can join you up – it is free to join after all. Not only that but you will then have access to our free e-books service as well. For more details see [www.librarieswest.org.uk](http://www.librarieswest.org.uk)

Don't forget you can also buy National Book Tokens at any South Gloucestershire Library (Chip/Pin available at Emersons Green Library) which can be redeemed at Waterstones, W H Smith and most bookshops across the country. Other Events

Tuesday 5th March at 2pm – popular children's book character Hugless Douglas will be appearing at Storytime at Emersons Green Library. For school aged children who would like to see and have their photos taken with Hugless we will be repeating the Story Time at 4pm. Tuesdays (in term time) – Tea, Talk & Stories; A free and open reading group meets at Emersons Green Library. We have a very flexible structure with participants just bringing along something they have enjoyed reading whether it is a novel, short story or poetry. Tea and coffee are provided!

Thursday 14th March at 2.30pm – the monthly Memory Café takes place at Emersons Green library. Memory Cafe is a wonderfully welcoming place for individuals with Alzheimer's or any type of the dementias or other brain disorders. it is also beneficial for their caregivers as well.

Fridays – Need help with your new Ipad or Laptop? Want to know more about online shopping? Why not book a free appointment with our IT Volunteer on a Friday afternoon?

# Good Neighbours

The Good Neighbour Scheme is continuing to receive calls and our volunteers are helping people in our community. We've been busy over the autumn and winter months continuing to offer ongoing and regular help to elderly residents of Pucklechurch and Shortwood by visiting and providing contact with someone. We had great fun at Christmas helping decorate the Homefield Centre with Christmas decorations. We have also helped residents complete the Community Plan questionnaire. As spring approaches, please remember that we are here to help with household tasks such as putting bins out, changing light bulbs or visiting and having a chat. We can also help with a one-off garden 'blitz' if you're unable to wake up your garden from the winter. It can be more difficult for some people with mobility issues to get out in inclement weather, so please get in touch if you think we can help

– our contact details are below. All our volunteers are police checked, we have public liability insurance and being volunteers we don't cost anything.

We've had a new volunteer join the scheme recently. If you think you can help and would like to join us, please get in touch. You decide how much time you give and what types of tasks you'd like to help with, you'll meet people and everything we do is local. Every so often, we meet to have a chat and update each other on what we've been doing as volunteers. 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 will be in touch within 24 - 48 hours. You can also find more details on our website at [www.pucklechurch.org/html/good\\_neighbours.htm](http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/good_neighbours.htm)

# Pucklechurch Primary Celebrates the Daily Mile Track Opening Ceremony!



Hi everyone, Pucklechurch CEVC Primary Sports Crew here, reporting on one of the most exciting events of the year so far! On Monday 28th January, we had a whole school opening ceremony for our brand new Daily Mile track. Our key stage 1 children are so pleased with the new track, telling us that they want to run faster as they feel safer on the track and that they can't wait to use it on Sports Day! Before we tell you more about the afternoon, we have a few people we need to say a special thank you to. Firstly, to our school's PTA. Without their kind and generous donation, we wouldn't have had the money for the new track. Secondly, we would like to thank the Healthy Schools Fund, an initiative that helps to transform school facilities to give children a healthy start to life. The afternoon began with an energetic wake and shake which the

whole school (including parents!) joined in with. After this, the youngest and oldest child in the school had the honours of cutting the ribbon to officially open the new track. One by one, each year group stepped up to complete as many laps as they possibly could! Every child worked so hard and did the school extremely proud. Our afternoon was so busy because we also had a huge variety of sporting activities going on, the children were definitely exhausted by the end! Some parents that attended our opening ceremony have told us that they think the new track is fabulous and that it makes a big difference to our school. We loved sharing the event with them, so we wish to thank everyone who came along to celebrate with us. We interviewed Mrs Capel, our head teacher, and she said, "I love the colour of the new track as it's more easily noticeable by members of the community. It is a demonstration of our commitment to children getting fitter and healthier.

. It would be amazing to have people from the community also come in and get use of the track!" Children have told us that they feel our new track is a huge improvement to the older one as it's brighter and more appealing. Other children commented that they feel they want to put in more effort on the Daily Mile now because they want to be an inspiration to others and show children how to be healthy. We also managed to speak to Mrs Bryan, our PE lead who said, "It's great to see more children using it more effectively on a daily basis, plus we can use it in all weather conditions so there's always chance for everybody to be involved!" Moving forward, we are extremely keen to run Pucklechurch Primary's very own sponsored race so that we can raise money for a chosen charity as well as continue to build on the idea of all children having equal opportunity to be active! Another idea we have had is to set a variety of challenges for children to complete during their time on the Daily Mile to ensure children stay focussed, engaged and motivated at all times!



**Pucklechurch Players**

present

## Out of Order

a comedy by Ray Cooney

**May 17th & 18th**  
**at Pucklechurch Community Centre**

Tickets available from beginning of April  
by calling Elaine on 0117 9373105  
or texting 07940 207559



**Pucklechurch  
Community Association**

We are pleased to announce that planning permission has been approved for the installation of a disabled lift, which will improve access to the Social Club. We hope to be able to provide a further update on the project to extend the community centre, which will incorporate the lift, in the next edition of Pucklechurch New.

When completed, the building will provide enhanced facilities for the residents of the village; in the meantime, the current building remains available for existing activities, such as Bowls, Badminton, Folk Club, Gardening, Majorettes and Model Flying.

Please visit the website for Pucklechurch Community Centre at [www.pucklechurchcommunitycentre.co.uk](http://www.pucklechurchcommunitycentre.co.uk) to obtain more information.

Apart from regular group activities, the building is generally available on Saturdays for a one-off event, such as a function, meeting or party.

Please contact Karl Fuerstenberg on 07938 972069 or [pcahallbooking@gmail.com](mailto:pcahallbooking@gmail.com) to discuss your requirements.

## 1st Pucklechurch Scouts

Our troop continues to be busy and grow. Before Christmas we made some very cute sock snowmen. Even our coolest teenage Scouts were quite smitten and wouldn't put them down!



We took part in the Christmas tree festival in the Church with our rustic camp fire tree, with the pieces sawn by the scouts and tied together. To complete the festivities we enjoyed our Christmas meal in the scout hut with the Beavers and leaders.

We have turned our thoughts to the environment since the New Year and have been making ecobricks out of old plastic bottles and other plastic which cannot normally be recycled. We also enjoyed a fun night swimming in Bath.

I am now coming to the end of my time as Cub and then Scout leader in Pucklechurch. I am pleased to say that Mike Pawsey and Simon Scoltock will be continuing to run the Troop and I wish them all the best in the adventures to come. I have so many memories of the achievements of the children of the last six years, seeing them grow in stature and confidence, achieving things they never thought they could, and, I hope, creating memories and resilience to last a lifetime.

*Rachel Smith*

## Vulcan Explorers

Vulcan Explorers have got off to a fantastic start to the new year. We have 4 new Explorer Scouts who joined in January. Three of our previous Explorers have returned as adult leaders and we are in the process of compiling an exciting programme for the rest of 2019 which includes climbing at St Werburghs and having a go at scuba diving.

If you are 13½ or over and would like to find out more please call 07713 280051. We meet at the Scout Hut on Thursdays from 7.30pm. All welcome

## New Cub Pack in Pucklechurch!

Exciting news that the 1st Pucklechurch Cub Pack ([www.pucklechurchscouts.org.uk](http://www.pucklechurchscouts.org.uk)) is reopening under the enthusiastic leadership of Allison Moore, an Akela with over thirty years Scouting experience.

Please join Allison anytime between 5.45-7.15pm on 25 February with activities for the young people and an opportunity to meet the leaders. The first actual meeting will be 4 March and continuing on Monday evenings starting at 5.45pm and finishing at 7.15pm.

Allison can be contacted on 07712 475880 or at [allison-moore1963@sky.co.uk](mailto:allison-moore1963@sky.co.uk)

## Draw a Scarecrow Competition and win £10!

St. Thomas à Becket church needs you to draw a Scarecrow to use on promotional posters and programmes for the Pucklechurch Scarecrow Competition and Trail

\* God is a creative genius and the Bible tells us we are made in his image. Why not put your creative talents to use and get designing! \*

Entries need to be submitted by Friday 22nd March on A4 paper only to Pucklechurch Newsagent, 3 Shortwood Road, Pucklechurch, BS16 9RA

Entry must include:

Entrant's name and contact details on reverse

Entries will be judged by the Scarecrow Competition and Trail Committee and their decision will be final.

The Committee reserve the right to edit the winning entry. Any entries may be used for indefinite promotional purposes without notice.

Contact 0117 937 3262 for more details

## Happy Circle Coach Trips 2019

May 7th	Gloucester
June 6th (Thursday)	Weymouth - a Thursday because no coach available on the Tuesday
July 2nd	Dartmouth/Totnes - river trip from Dartmouth to Totnes after lunch or coach back to Totnes
August 6th	Botanical Gardens of Wales - Westonbirt cards allow free entry.
Sept 3rd	Winchester - Marwell Zoo option available
Oct 1st	Hereford - Hampton Court Castle option available
Nov 5th	Worcester

Cost per person is £13, payable in advance. Payment can be made at Happy Circle, Homefield Centre on a Tuesday between 1.30 and 2.00 pm (except for the day of the trip) or please put the money in an envelope with your name and trip you are paying for and put through the door of 2 Shortwood Road, cottage opposite the Spar Shop. Coach leaves the village at 9.00 a.m. and returns no later than 7.00 p.m. Pick up points are Shortwood Road bus stop (8.40) and Village Hall bus stop (8.50). If you require information about any of the above trips or wish to book a seat on the coach please ring Lesley on 0117 9374073 - leave a message if Lesley does not pick up.



# St. Thomas a Becket Pucklechurch

## Church Services

### 1st Sunday in Month

8.30am Holy Communion,

10am Café Church

2nd /3rd /4th Sunday

10am Family Communion

Special Services

### Sunday 31st March Mothering Sunday

10am Family Communion

### Palm Sunday

10am Family Communion with Palm Crosses

### Maundy Thursday 18th April

7.30pm Holy Communion

### Good Friday

10am Four stations of the Cross

2-3pm Last Hour

### Easter Day 21st April

10am Family Communion

### Sunday 9th June at 6pm.

Revel Service Bring & Share Meal in Vicarage Garden if dry, Church if wet.

Christmas Fayre & Christmas Tree Display raised £673.

We would like to thank everyone who took part and those who supported this event. Proceeds were divided between St.Peter's Hospice and Caring at Christmas (Homeless). A donation of £20 was given directly to St.Peter's Hospice.

St.George Singers Concert raised £338. Half went to Jessie May Trust and half to Church funds.

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CHARITY APPEAL – THANK YOU.

WOW! What can I say, other than THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, to all who visited my Christmas Lights & 'Santa's Grotto' on Abson Road's very own 'Christmas Corner' and to all who donated so generously to this appeal in memory of my late wife, Lynn.

The charities were very special to her as she was an active supporter and fund raiser for the NSPCC and unfortunately was struck down by the dreaded Cancer. Your contributions have raised an impressive total of £423 which, when topped up with a further £120 donated by members of Pucklechurch Twinning, means the total to be shared between the NSPCC & Cancer Research amounts to an incredible £543.

Absolutely brilliant, Lynn would have been sooooo pleased. I am very glad that all have enjoyed this year's lights display – I will (barring disasters) be making this an annual display with the hope of raising much needed funds for Lynn's charities and next year's display is already in the planning (the post Xmas sales have already provided new lights for me to add) and so there will be even more to enjoy (as long as I can still get up ladders). Once again, thank you all so much for the support and particularly for the lovely messages and cards, it really makes it worthwhile and has helped me a great deal.

Greg Bate.



# Revel 2019

Hello all! Revel is well underway even with the diminished 2019 committee. It's only 17 weeks until Revel day as I write this on an unusually warm day in February.

We have decided this year's theme and it will be 'Transport Through The Ages'. So get thinking about what your parade entry can be. Remember anyone can enter the parade - you do not need to be a part of a group to join in. Just let Revel know via the contact details below. Here are the forthcoming Revel dates for your diary;

April 27th - 7:30pm - Family Bob Todd race night

May 11th - 6:30pm - Family Revel King and Queen disco

June 9th - 6pm - Revel Thanksgiving Service - in the vicarage garden if dry, in the church if wet

June 10th - 7:30 pm - Revel Quiz night

June 14 - 16th - 7pm onwards - Revel Beer Festival

June 15th - all day - Revel day

All dates and times can be found on the Pucklechurch Revel Facebook page. Please like and join us.

The committee are struggling for volunteers at the moment with the majority of work being carried out by Su Gunningham-Reid, Omie Flook and myself. So if anyone would like to join and lend a hand during Revel week or any of our events it would be thoroughly appreciated. You can contact the committee at [pucklechurch.revel@gmail.com](mailto:pucklechurch.revel@gmail.com) or via the Facebook page.

## GARDENER'S CLUB

'A Happy New Gardening Year 2019' to all our existing members, and keen gardeners wishing to join our happy successful club.



With Spring around the corner we can start planning what we are going to grow and look through all the new seed catalogues coming in the mail.

We hope that we have put together another interesting programme this year, with some new speakers and some speakers returning with a new topic.

Our monthly competitions are now well supported at every meeting, and we try to reflect a seasonal theme which started with a 'Single Snowdrop' for our first meeting that took place on Wednesday February 6th. Our guest speaker was Jill Hazell, who made a return journey to show us how she grows 'Sweet Peas' and brought some colourful slides.

Our new programme for 2019 can be found on Pucklechurch Community website

St Aldams Farm & Kemps Garden Centre both offer members 10% discount on plants when membership card is presented

Contacts: Jean Powell 01454 528066, Val Seaman 01179 372095 or Ann Smith 01179 372030

# GIRLGUIDING PUCKLECHURCH



## Guides.

We are all getting to grips with our completely new programme which is structured to give continuation between Rainbows to Brownies to Guides and to Rangers. Using the same six Award titles throughout should help girls settle more quickly when they move up as they will already understand how they can progress to Gold Awards. One main difference is that most Interest Badges should be started and/or completed at home, or away from the Unit meetings. Quite a challenge for us all.

Kim, one of our leaders, joined Pucklechurch Guides about two years ago, after camping next to them at a jamboree - guy ropes overlapping! it's always a tight squeeze at large gatherings like these, but lots of fun, and where friendships are made. She had previously been a leader at Coalpit Heath. She has just been awarded her ten year service badge – congratulations Kim.

## Brownies

Brownies numbers have risen to twenty girls. Well done Sharon, Nic, Karen and Mary, our adult leaders, and a big thankyou to Georgia and Aimee our Young Leaders who are giving back with their time so that today's Brownies can have the fun that they had. At present each Brownie is busy decorating her own 'cushion'. These will be sewn together to create a unique, colourful, individually crafted mat big enough for them all to sit on. You may be surprised to learn that many of them have 'boyfriends' and were only too happy to make Valentine's cards for them!

## Rainbows

1st Pucklechurch Rainbows continues under the experienced, watchful eye of Ruth, ably assisted by Vikki. Ruth always manages to weave nature and natural items into her programme in a most interesting way.

3rd Pucklechurch Rainbows – hats off to Emma, aged 18, who is determined to keep this Unit running, assisted by Pippa. Emma says the Rainbows have completed the Gromit Unleashed challenge badge and are working towards the Have Adventures Skills Builder, some of which includes the Camping Badge. When you're only five or six it's amazing how many Rainbows can fit snugly under a table with sheets and blankets stretched over the top and held together with clothes pegs. Their imagination is limitless; a space here for sleeping; another for playing, complete with teddy, and eating in another corner.

This Unit needs more girls and one or two local adults. The ten year award mentioned above is well deserved but Girlguiding recognises all help given, occasional or more regular, short or long term, so if you can lend a hand, please get in touch with me, and let's keep this great Guiding Movement alive and well here in our village.

Our local Dyrham Trefoil meet monthly at various locations but quite often at Dyrham park. This is Guiding for adults! Great fun and no girls to worry about. You don't have to have been a member of Girlguiding but if you share our beliefs and are happy to lend a hand now and then at local Guiding events then come and join us. Age 18+. We have been 'locked' in a room, gone on a bat trail, seen the deer close up at Dyrham park, enjoyed a tasty meal at Tracey Park and have various events planned for 2019. For all the above please contact Ros Abbott; 01179 37215, 07709 639846 or rosabbott@hotmail.com

## St Thomas a Becket – Church Opening – Volunteers Needed

St Thomas a Becket has a history going back 900 years with the origins of the present church believed to be in around 1225.

For some time the church has been closed during the week except for special services and community events. Back in September it was decided to open the church for visitors for a trial period on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Although visitors were few, those who did come commented on how beautiful the church was, and how interesting they found its history.

It is the intention to open the church again during late Spring and Summer 2019 so that more people can enjoy the experience and discover the varied history of St. Thomas a Becket. The number of volunteers to cover opening times and days are limited and drawn mainly from the small congregation. In order to allow us to open more often, we need volunteers from the wider village community. There is a wealth of historical information in the church available to volunteers and visitors. There are also some stunning examples of stained-glass windows, the latest of which is the Millennium Window.

I will continue to update readers of days and dates when the church will be open. In the meantime I would ask anyone who feels they can spare some time (for an hour at a time), to contact me to discuss details. The opening times are likely to be 10.00 – 15.00. Lyn Smith – tel: 0117 9372030

## Pucklechurch News

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Please email articles to 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:

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10th November for December Edition (Winter)

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