



1st Pucklechurch Beavers

Pucklechurch Beavers has been undergoing some changes in leaders and we hope it will now go from strength to strength. We want to say thank you to Emma Barclay for her work with the Beavers over the last 3 years and hope that she comes back to Scouting in the future as we miss her.

The Beavers have been busy making firework posters and learning about safety with sparklers. They made a beautiful poppy with messages for those who have given their lives for us. They are looking forward to going to an indoor climbing wall and making Christmas crafts.

We do have spaces in Beavers so please contact Rachel Smith 07736320003 if your son or daughter (aged 6-8) would like to join.



1st Pucklechurch Cubs

Pucklechurch Cubs are currently meeting with the Beavers while we search for a leader. They are meeting with the Beavers for the time being and taking part in the same activities.

If you are interested in getting involved please get in touch for more details. We do have spaces for new Cubs, boys or girls aged between 8 and 10 so please get in touch with Rachel Smith 07736320003 if you are interested.



1st Pucklechurch Scouts

Our Scout Troop remains active. We became the first troop in the country to enjoy the hospitality of Go Outdoors recently for a sleepover. The Scouts climbed on the in store climbing wall and enjoyed pizza before (eventually!) going to sleep in the tents in the store tent compound. We have enjoyed some traditional Halloween fun, and played board games with a twist. We marked Remembrance Sunday and also Parliament Week, with a local councillor coming to speak with us about what her role involves. We also ran a 'balloon' debate to decide who got to stay in the balloon. We are looking forward to our Christmas meal at the scout hut with all members of the group.



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

Pucklechurch News

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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 February for March Edition (Spring)
10th May for June Edition (Summer)
10th August for September Edition (Autumn)
10th November for December Edition (Winter)



(Reg. charity no 1153851)

So what is RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA (RP)?

It is the name given to a group of hereditary disorders that affect the Retina situated at the back of the eye. RP leads to a gradual loss of vision, as with all sight loss conditions affects any age group from Children to Adults. RP Fighting Blindness and the Macular Society have announced a new collaboration to fund talented young PhD. students to carry out research in the field of genetic macular diseases. Can you help us?

WELL YOU CAN: PLEASE send us YOUR USED POSTAGE STAMPS & TAKE ON THE FIGHT (stamps cut outside the perforations will earn the charity more)

WE are also GRATEFUL for any unwanted stamp collections, old & foreign coins, £16,000 has been raised to date, YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THE DIFFERENCE

Money used by RP Fighting Blindness goes to the help line service & research into a cure for the disease which affects any age from Children to Adults.

WE TALK For anyone wishing to know more, we do a 35 minute talk to Groups and Clubs which is light hearted, informative, to promote awareness of the condition. THERE ARE NOW PATIENTS IN CLINICAL TRIALS HELP US GIVE THEM A HOPE OF VISION. THANK YOU to EVERYONE who has helped us to date, YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE.

Any Further information from Ron & Gina Pritchard 22, Huckford Road, Bristol, BS36 1EA Tel 01454772927
Email bristolsglosfightingblindness@gmail.com

PUCKLECHURCH NEWS



WINTER 2017/18

FUNDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.pucklechurch.org

Carers at Christmas

The Christmas period is a time for celebration, but if you are looking after someone with an illness or disability it can mean added demands on top of an already stressful day-to-day life.

Did you know there is a local charity dedicated to supporting unpaid carers? Carers Support Centre offer a range of services for carers of all ages living in Bristol & South Gloucestershire.

If you help look after family or friends who could not manage without this help, you are a carer. This could be caring for a relative, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problems.

The variety of tasks that a carer takes on can be broad. They can include practical tasks such as cooking, cleaning, washing, ironing, paying bills, financial management and engaging appropriate services; personal care such as bathing, dressing, lifting, administering medication and collecting prescriptions; and emotional support such as listening, advocacy, problem solving, motivating and companionship.

This time of year can place extra demands on carers. If you're caring for someone it's important to find out what help is out there for you.

Keith Sinclair, Chief Executive of Carers Support Centre, said: "Most carers first contact us through CarersLine and, when they do, they are often near breaking point. Our support workers guide them through the range of services available to make sure they are getting the best support.

"Our message to someone who is caring for a relative or friend is: don't wait for a crisis. Find out what support is available now."

If you or someone you know is a carer in need of help, contact CarersLine for information, advice and to access any of Carers Support Centre's free services:

0117 965 2200

carersline@carerssupportcentre.org.uk

Christmas Services

St. Thomas a Becket Pucklechurch

Sunday 17th December;
6pm Handbells – Punch Served in Church Porch
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 24th December
Christmas Eve;
10am Family Communion
3.15pm Handbells
4pm Christingle and Nativity
11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day;
10am Family Communion

St. James the Great Abson

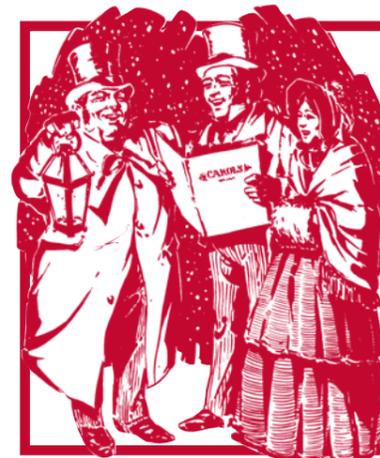
Sunday 17th December;
2.30pm Handbells
3pm Carol Service

Christmas Day;
8.30am Holy Communion

NSPCC Carol Singing

We will be touring the village from 7.00pm on Monday 11th December & Thursday 14th December, singing carols and raising money for NSPCC.

We hope to visit the pubs and Social clubs as well. Do look out for us, join us if you wish and give generously.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Clerk Update:

We are still without a full-time interim clerk and have been fulfilling the clerk's day to day tasks with a combination of support from Avon Local Council Association and Councillors who have shared and delivered some of the required activities between themselves. We look forward to Jodie returning from maternity leave in the New Year. Our apologies if we have not been as efficient as expected.

M4 J18A Update

The Parish Council would like to convey its thanks to all residents who helped spread the news, contributed to circulating information, attended meetings, completed the consultation process and wrote detailed letters. The level of support the Council received was very much appreciated and demonstrates the strength of community spirit in the Parish. We now await the next stage of activity which is technically the production of the final report by CH2M and then the decision-making process that will take place in March 2018. Until then the Parish Council will keep up the pressure on SGC and all those involved so that they continue to understand we mean business. Since the consultation closed, our correspondence with SGC regarding the content of the draft final Joint Transport Study led to amendments being made to it before it was presented to the West of England Combined Authority. Also, some of you may have read about a response to a recent question in parliament which suggested housing development was a driver for the junction, so Councillors have made formal requests to the Minister (via Luke Hall) for clarification. We understand that there are a number of other pressure groups that you may be interested in and information about these can be found on Facebook. There are also two more public consultations due to be launched soon that you might be interested in responding to about the Joint Transport Strategy and the Joint Spatial Plan. The Parish Council will be responding to both of these as soon as they are made live and will provide links to them, as well as guidance on how to respond,

via our website at www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.weebly.com. Our understanding of the JSP is that no area for major strategic housing development has been identified within our parish or within the Green Belt along the eastern urban fringe of Bristol for the lifetime of the plan (up to 2036). The revised local plan (core strategy) will have to comply with the JSP.

Dog Fouling & Dog Warden Patrols

Despite a lot of time and effort in trying to reduce this problem, including the provision of extra signage, bins and publicity regarding the picking up of dog mess, the message has failed to get through to some people. We do appreciate that the vast majority of people do pick up and dispose of dog mess in the numerous bins provided throughout the parish but the number of occasions where this does not happen has continued to increase. This is not fair on other residents, our litter pickers and sports clubs – the pitches on the Rec have to be routinely cleared of dog mess before matches and it puts our children's health at risk. We have decided to take action by supporting SGC's drive to reduce this problem. As a result, the Dog Warden will now be here on a regular basis and dog-owners caught flouting the law will be fined without exception. The Warden has also agreed to investigate any reports from parishioners about those who have not cleared up behind their dogs. So, if you do have a dog please ensure you carry plastic bags and remove the mess - the fine for not doing so can be quite hefty and it's easy to avoid being fined by being a responsible dog-owner.

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



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: THE RESULTS ARE IN - WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY



What is it we like best about living in Pucklechurch Parish? The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group can now answer that question, but there are no real surprises.

The initial public consultation conducted in May and June gathered information about residents' likes and dislikes. We asked five questions; the answers paint a picture of what's important to us about where we live.

What's good about the area you live in?

Residents love the fact that Pucklechurch Parish has a strong sense of community. We like living in a quiet village surrounded by countryside – a place that has close proximity to Bristol and Bath but still retains its rural character.

What's bad about the area you live in?

The single biggest dislike about living in Pucklechurch Parish is traffic – too much and too fast. Poor public transport comes second on the list of dislikes, and parking issues come third.

What makes a neighbourhood good to live and work in?

Again people value a sense of community very highly. It was far and away the thing mentioned most frequently in answer to this question. Other characteristics that featured prominently were having good local amenities, feeling safe, tranquillity, cleanliness, and open space.

What pressures affect the area now?...in the future?

Traffic figures large among the pressures felt in our parish, but the prospect of more development – especially housing – is also seen as a big threat. The related issue of parking comes high on the list as well.

What needs to change?

One of the most popular answers to this question was 'nothing'! Many people, however, think there should be greater protections for our open spaces and the green belt and restrictions on building any new housing in the parish (though there were also a few hands up for additional affordable housing). Quite a few people want to see the cycle path completed, and reducing both the amount and the speed of traffic is important to us.

Can you help?

Ironically, some of the very things that come top of the list – being a quiet village set in beautiful green countryside – are now under threat from a new M4 junction. Our group used the results of this neighbourhood plan consultation to support the parish's response to the Junction 18A public consultation.

If you now feel motivated to help define planning policies for our parish, why not join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group? Our next task will be to use the results of this consultation to identify the focus areas for our neighbourhood plan and organise the next level of public consultation. If you are good at data analysis or have experience of public consultations or planning policies, we could use your help.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact us by email at ppnp@pucklechurch.org

To learn more about the Pucklechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan, visit our website at: www.pucklechurch-nhplan.weebly.com

Jacki Berry on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Group

Get Ready! for The 10th Pucklechurch Scarecrow Competition and Trail

This legendary St. Thomas á Becket Church competition is on

May Day Bank Holiday
Sunday 6th & Monday 7th May 2018

The theme for 2018 is 'Somebody
beginning with J'
the 10th letter of the alphabet

*Be prepared... the Scarecrows are
coming!*



**Pucklechurch
Community
Association**

Further to the last edition of Pucklechurch News, we are pleased to confirm that the floor of the hall has now been resurfaced, and users of the hall have all commented on the much improved appearance.

The resurface of the floor is the first step in providing improved facilities for the residents of the village. As previously noted, we are looking at upgrading the building by adding an extension, which will require the submission of our revised plans in order to obtain planning permission. We will continue to provide updates on the project in future issues.

However, we would still like to appeal to you, the local community, to tell us what you want from your community centre. If you have any ideas or suggestions as to how we could improve the facilities available to the residents of the village, please contact Peter Nunez, secretary of Pucklechurch Community Association, by email at: peter.nunez@btinternet.com.

Please also contact us if you would like to start up a new group within the hall - we are able to cater for a number of different activities. At present there are groups for Bowls, Drama, Folk Club, Gardening Club, Majorettes, Starjumpers and Twinning, amongst others.

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.

I'm Beginning To Feel Like Arthur Dent!

Captain Jeltz of the Vogon Constructor Fleet explained to Arthur Dent that the Galactic Hyperspace Planning Council needed to destroy the Earth to make way for an intergalactic expressway. Jeltz explained that the plans had been available for consultation in the Alpha Centauri star system and you couldn't blame him if no earthling bothered to review them. So goes the Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy.



That feels a lot like the situation today with the Joint Transport Study (JTS) and the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP). These two documents are now going through "public engagement" (their words) before adoption. They will then become statutory documents and will guide South Gloucestershire, Bristol, Bath & NE Somerset and North Somerset in the development of their own Local Plans. It will be the blueprint for development in our area for the next 20 years. (For more information, visit <https://www.westofengland-ca.org.uk/west-england-joint-committee/>)

As it stands, there are no plans to develop housing around Pucklechurch Village. However, there is a proposal for junction 18a on the M4. There is no specific reference to 'east' or 'west' but it appears from the budget figures that they are planning for the east (Pucklechurch) option.

Did you have your say in these plans? Was any effort made to solicit your views? Were you listened to? Thornbury residents are so frustrated at being ignored that they have formed a group called TRAPP'D, Thornbury Residents Against Poorly Planned Development, to put over their views. What about doing something similar for the east fringe – the area to the east of Bristol along the Ring Road?

It appears that the four councils (and local MPs) are stuck in a 1960s mentality of road building. Building roads does not ease congestion in the medium to long term. Watch this video to find out why: <https://youtu.be/Ulvsom0Fa1Y>. I feel that an effective public transport system has been given short shrift in these plans barely coming up with anything that would meet the needs of people in the east fringe. If you doubt this statement, just go and visit the Emerson's Green Park & Ride. It beggars belief!

The recent J18a consultation didn't even look at the overwhelming evidence that was gathered to support a decent bus service for the village. In 2007, as part of the Community Plan, residents' attitudes to bus use were assessed. It showed that a bus service that is frequent, links to popular destinations, and is reliable would be highly likely or likely to encourage over 800 people to use buses. Of these, over 500 were in the age range of 18 to 64

(the range for commuters). Given that 640 people commute from Pucklechurch (2011 census) in cars or vans each day, these results suggest that the **right combination of bus services** would attract many commuters out of their cars.

The **right combination of bus services** – that's the crux of the issue. There is no evidence that the public transport measures proposed will be anything more than the minimum they can get away with. I'm sure that they will tell you different, but why should we believe them? Why not design our own East Fringe Sustainable Public Transport Plan? Let's get the people of the east fringe to back it and challenge the politicians to deliver it. **Sustainable transport options would provide benefits to a much wider group of people in the east fringe of Bristol at less cost and considerably sooner than could be delivered through a new M4 junction.**

Just imagine what a sustainable transport option might look like:

- Frequent express bus services along the A4174 from Keynsham to Filton
- Yate to Bristol via Emerson's Green express bus service
- Frequent bus shuttle services from population centres and villages to the east fringe express service
- Cycling and walking routes linking to the Bristol-Bath path (yes – finish the path into Pucklechurch)

Do you have ideas? Do you have experience in traffic engineering or bus route planning? Could you act to gather and coordinate ideas from your community?

If you're interested in helping, please email transport@pucklechurch.org But don't delay. The powers that be have been gracious enough to grant us from 22nd November to the 10th of January to submit feedback on the plan. I hope they have a nice Christmas!

Martin Smith

Revel Round Up

Revel 2018 is underway.



Firstly, I would like to welcome Su Gunningham-Reid as the new Treasurer and Chair for the Beer and Cider Festival.

Secondly, I would like to thank Gavin Sawford who has stepped down as chair, but as those of you who have attended a Beer and Cider festival over the last few years will agree, he has put in a lot of time and effort to make the festival an ongoing success.

I would also like to thank Mandi Smith, Christine Sargent, Kelly Powell, Jon and Toby Bailey, who have all stepped down as committee members, for their time, knowledge and energy over the many years they have all supported Revel. Thankfully they will all still support in volunteer roles.

I would also like to welcome to the committee Joe Ellis and Cindy Aze who will have big shoes to fill but both bring a wealth of knowledge and ideas to continue our Revel traditions.

Revel 2017 was a huge success, with the sun bringing out many attendees for all our events. This meant that Revel could donate over £2500 to local groups to enable them to continue the excellent resources they provide for our community.

We continue to plan for Revel 2018, with many events planned over the next few months.

We have: Sunday 3rd December the annual Revel Sparkle. The big Christmas tree switch on will be at 4pm by the Millennium stone followed by mince pies, mulled wine and musical accompaniment in the PVSSC (Top Club). I have even heard that Father Christmas might be taking time out from his busy schedule to attend and make sure we are all behaving in the run up to Christmas.

Also, new to 2018, will be the Revel Tri-Cup, an inter-Pucklechurch pub and club league for darts, pool and crib. Please look out for signup sheets and join one of the local teams to see who will be crowned winners in June.

More details about these events can be found on our Facebook page @PucklechurchRevel, please like and follow.

Finally, we have picked the Revel theme for 2018 and this will be, 'Music through the ages'. We hope that you join us for Revel 2018. If you have any questions or queries please email Revel on Pucklechurch.Revel@googlemail.com Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Lori-Anne Button Chair

Good Neighbours

Our group of volunteers have continued to help Parish residents over the summer months. We have helped several people with garden 'blitzes' where a number of volunteers spend a couple of hours weeding and generally tidying up gardens. This has been particularly useful this year since we have had quite a lot of rain and warm temperatures meaning the gardens have grown quickly! We've even provided some help with technology by helping explain functionality on a smart phone.

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.

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, please contact us on 07961 939574 or email goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org.

You can also find more details are on our website at http://www.pucklechurch.org/html/good_neighbours.htm

Letter to the editors . . .

I am wondering whether you could print a thank you note to everyone who attended Jackie Sexton's funeral, a) for attending and b) for their donations which amounted to £1,220 which has been sent to the Alzheimer's Society. Kind Regards, *John*

NB: We would like to extend our condolences to Jackie's family and also put on record our gratitude for the many years that Jackie spent as part of the Pucklechurch News team. Claire Dolman, Sarah Nunez, Helen Toghill and the delivery volunteers

Libraries

Following the implementation of the Library Review in South Glos the Mobile Library is no more. However, please see below details of forthcoming events at Emersons Green Library.

Pre-school story time at 2pm every Tuesday in term time and Rhyme Time (free nursery rhyme singing session) at 10.30am every Thursday in Term Time.

Saturday 2nd December : 11am Lego Club – free event suitable for primary school children – and their parents too! Takes place one Saturday each month.

Tuesday 19th December : 10.30am Winter Wonderland – free creative writing workshop with Explore Learning (pre-booking needed)

Monday 25th December – 27th December : all South Gloucestershire libraries closed for Christmas. Open Access also not available over these dates.

Monday 1st January : all South Gloucestershire libraries closed for New Year. Please note Open Access also not available over these holiday dates either.