

The Village Voice

Issue Nº 01

Pill, Easton-in-Gordano & Ham Green

November 2019



We're back!

Well, this is it, the first edition of The Village Voice, and I can't tell you just how delighted I am to be back. It's like putting on comfy slippers!

There are so many people who deserve thanks for getting us to this point, but most of all it's you.

Yes, you!

How we got here is old news, but without your magnificent, heartfelt and public show of support and affection, I would never have truly appreciated just how much the paper is valued and we wouldn't have been spurred on to grasp the challenge!

I'm looking forward now to this exciting new opportunity to keep your news, views and events circulating around our village. If you have ideas for new features, or changes you'd like to see, please do get in touch as we welcome your feedback to make sure we keep this as relevant, informative, useful and entertaining as possible. As ever I'll do my best

to get your items to print – but stand a much better chance of it now!

Which brings me onto advertising. Thank you to those advertisers who have taken a 'leap of faith' without knowing what this paper would be like, but have made the commitment anyway. As you know, the paper is being sponsored by the Parish Council, but any revenue we can bring in to offset the cost helps to ensure its longer-term future.

We're printing 2,500 copies each month; it's still being delivered door-to-door, thanks to Nigel and his generous team of volunteers, and is a great platform to promote your business. So, if you want to support us, details how you can advertise inside.

I'll sign off now but want to say a final huge thank you to everyone who has worked so hard, supported, contributed and just shown such wonderful, enthusiastic encouragement to make this happen. This is just our maiden voyage – hope you'll stay with us for the rest of the journey!

Deadline for December's paper is Friday 15 November – and please don't forget to send me your Christmas wishes!

Jo Smith (Editor)

The Village Voice

Covering Pill, Easton-in-Gordano & Ham Green

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(Please let us know if your paper is very late)

Disclaimer: Whilst the parish council runs advertisements within the magazine, this does not mean its endorsement or otherwise of any of the contractors/advertisers.

Front cover photo courtesy of Peter Milner.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Jo,

I wanted to write to express my admiration for the wonderful publication that is 'T'ain't Christmas' – a history of the Owls of Pill. Beautifully written by Alan Vowles, it captures village life, its characters and traditions so vividly and was a joy to read.

Many congratulations to The Owls for reaching their Centenary year. What a magnificent achievement! May they continue for many more to come.

Sara Grey (nee Derrick)

Farewell to the Pill Paper

It has been a real pleasure to work on The Pill Paper for the last 30 years, but one thing for certain is that I couldn't have done it without the help of Jo, our trusted editor, Nigel who organised our distribution (not forgetting Bert too, who co-ordinated this for many years before) and of course everyone who went out, no matter the weather, to help deliver it every month!

The paper would not have existed without all our advertisers, contributors and readers, in fact anyone who has ever been involved (and there are many of you). I thank you all for your support over the years.

I am thrilled to hear that Pill has a new paper now that can continue with the great job of uniting the community, and I wish you every success for the future.

Julie Petford (Publishing Today)

A Word from the Parish Council

The Parish Council is delighted to support the launch of the new monthly paper, The Village Voice, and thanks everyone for their support, contributions, help and encouragement over the last twelve weeks. This is a genuinely village-centred paper under Jo's continuing and much-loved editorship and is produced, printed and distributed by people who live in the village. You will, of course, notice that the name has changed reflecting that it includes all parts of our village - Pill, Easton-in-Gordano and Ham Green.

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Gerry Hunt (a previous Chair of the PC) had the inspired idea in 1981 to establish The Pill Paper which he edited for fifteen years. He was followed by John Keeley for three years and now by Jo in her twenty second year. For almost forty years all three editors have been supported by a loyal band of deliverers and local advertisers who recognise that it is vital for our village to have a regular means of communication about matters which affect or interest us all. The Village Voice continues that recognition and it will also be available online in early 2020 thereby widening its reach.

The Parish Council believes that The Village Voice will now move forward into new and exciting times and is unanimously committed to ensuring its lasting survival. You will have access to all the financial details of our partnership with The Village Voice and we hope that you will continue to keep the copy, comments, news and local advertisements flowing to Jo who is now rightfully re-installed as editor.

Long may The Village Voice be heard!

Paul Kent (Chair of The Parish Council)

Regatta 'Keep Pill Afloat' Update

Pill Regatta Committee is astonished by the fantastic sum of £1400 raised by the Charity Rugby Match on 29 September at Gordano Rugby Club ground. We would like to thank Bristol Port Company for the unexpected and very welcome donation of £500, Nick Venn and Wayne Harvey of Bristol Port, who organised it all...stars!, players from both sides who gave their time, money and goodwill to make it happen, all those very kind people who donated prizes for the raffle and the Dutch Auction (and

St Wayne for his masterful management of said auction!), Morris and Glenis Jones, with Linda Osborne for slaving away at the food all day, Marcus Stratton and all at Gordano for generous use of the club facilities and two lovely, nameless safety guys at the Port who won a £50 prize and gave it to us. Money is still coming in - thanks Ian Wilcox for kindly emptying your pocket and giving us £45.

We mustn't forget the fantastic entertainment provided by Spencer "famous up a crane on TV" Flay and the inimitable melodic humour of "Half a Barrel"! Oh, and Ross Stevenson who introduced us to Nick Venn and Wayne Harvey and started this whole Port/Pill fundraising ball rolling.

So, a very big thanks to all our pals on both sides of the water.

Lou (Regatta Chairman)

Get Fit, Stay Fit and Age Well

Thinking about getting a bit fitter or maybe just working on your strength and balance to ensure you stay well and steady on your feet? Ageing Well (a programme managed by Age UK Somerset) runs a great class at the Pill Community Centre. "Extend, Movement to Music" is a fun and upbeat session, with movements and exercises that can be done standing or seated. The class is great for improving general fitness and for giving the circulation a boost. It runs on Wednesdays at 10.30am.

There is no need to book, just pop along and join in. Everyone is welcoming and there is a very relaxed atmosphere. Each session costs £4.50. To find out more call Nikki at Ageing Well on 07530 777895 or email her, nikki.smith@ageuksomerset.org.uk

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Stitch Away Stress

Join us at our Knit/Crochet & Natter Group for those affected by or supporting someone with an invisible illness or disability. We meet up on Tuesday evenings, 7.30-9.30pm and Friday mornings 11am-1pm. Please come along and join us, whether it is just for a natter or if you would like learn; you are more than welcome. Please bring along what you are already working on, or if you are wanting to learn we have plenty of wool and needles. Contact Luanne Gibbons for more details on 07584 060297.

Pill Lunch Club

If you live in Pill, Ham Green or Easton-in-Gordano you are invited to join us for a hot, homecooked meal on Thursdays between 12.15pm and 1.45pm at Pill Community Centre. If you would like to meet up with other members and enjoy some company, please give us a try - you would be most welcome. Any enquiries - phone Moira on 01275 373754.

Pill Methodist Church

"The Church on the Green"

Now that we have a really local paper we will try to let you know what is happening at the church. We extend a really warm invitation to come and join us at our regular Sunday morning meetings, which start at 10.30am and last for an hour. After the meetings we have coffee/tea and an informal natter, for those who would like to stay. If you want to know more about the Christian Faith or just feel the need for some friendly support, then do please come up the steps, where someone will be waiting to greet you.

In November we also have these activities to which anyone is welcome to join in.

- **Saturday 2 November, 6pm**
Meal and Film Night
- **Friday 8 November, 7.30-9.30pm**
"5 Minutes Peace" - an evening of craft and cake for busy mums
- **Tuesday 19 November, 6.30pm**
Quiz Night



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Local Climate Emergency Declaration to Help our Community Protect our Planet

As you perhaps know, the Parish Council has declared a climate emergency. We are one of hundreds nationally, along with over half the principal local authorities in England. Over the next months, we intend to include articles in The Village Voice explaining why we've taken this step and some of the ways in which collectively and individually we can take action.

The science is clear: the world has warmed by an average of 1.2°C since pre-industrial times - a dramatic and sudden acceleration compared to historical patterns. This is due to the greenhouse gases (like carbon dioxide and methane) that human activities have caused, and are continuing to emit, into the atmosphere at an increasing rate.

Some consequences are already ruining people's lives around the world - floods, landslides, heatwaves, droughts and forest fires are all happening more often and more devastatingly than in the past. Recent UK experiences are bad enough, but mild compared with those of people in the developing world. Ice-melt in mountains and the polar regions is adding other problems such as sea level rise, which is set to become a big problem for Pill (and Bristol) in the fairly near future.

Human activity is killing off much of the natural world on which we depend, and modern agriculture is destroying the soil, without which we all starve.

All of this has been understood since the early 1990s when the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up

Every month we'll be giving you an idea for something you can do to help tackle the climate and environmental crisis.

TOP TIP No. 1

Cut back on the amount of meat and dairy food you eat, especially beef and lamb. Globally farming animals produces over 20% of greenhouse gas emissions and is one of the main causes of rainforest clearance.

to give world governments scientific advice. Despite various international agreements to reduce carbon emissions, global emissions of greenhouse gases have risen from about 22 billion tonnes in 1990 to 42 billion tonnes in 2018, and the climate is getting worse faster. The last main IPCC report made it clear that humanity has very little time to make major changes to many aspects of our lives if we are to prevent the climate crisis becoming a climate catastrophe. They concluded that drastic reductions of over 50% in total global emissions are needed by 2030.

We are approaching a tipping point. Disasters such as more frequent forest fires, permafrost and ice melt - caused by global warming - could put the problem beyond recall. The legacy for our children and grandchildren would be an uninhabitable planet.

The Parish Council accepts the science: humans have brought the world to crisis. We need an emergency response to prevent catastrophe. Next month we'll outline some of the things we can all do to help. To get involved in planning a range of initiatives contact Bob Langton on (vovlangton@hotmail.com)

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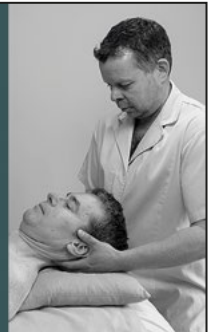
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Parish Council Update

Unfortunately, Andy King has resigned as a Parish Councillor as a result of work pressures. We are all grateful for the excellent work he undertook to restore and secure the seating at the head of Pill Creek and to encourage memorial plaques to be purchased. His place has been taken by the returning Bill Ovel. In addition, Graham Hopkins has been co-opted, meaning that the Parish Council now has a full complement of members - which has not happened for some time.

The new working groups have been meeting regularly and updates on their activities will be available monthly in the Village Voice. (See, for example, this month's focus on Climate Emergency.) In particular vital work is being undertaken in partnership with Abbots Leigh on the local and strategic plans, which could have far reaching consequences within the Parishes and the surrounding area. (Again, see separate article on back page.) Other interesting work is being undertaken on restoring, protecting and maintaining footpaths - crucial for our village, which has a thriving number of walkers and walking groups.

Of most immediate importance has been our desire to update the ways in which the Parish Council can communicate with everyone in the village. In this context we are committed to having an up-to-date website (which will incorporate a digital version of The Village Voice early in the New Year), and councillors who are more confident about using new technology. In all these areas we are being massively helped by Tomas Rawlings and Graham Hopkins who are patiently training us in up-to-date ways. We hope you will see the benefits in the future!

Paul Kent (Chair of The Parish Council)

Pill Ukulele Fund Raising Quiz and Experience

At the Kings Head on Thursday 14 November starting at 8pm. Teams of four, £1 per person, also a raffle. FFI Pauline, Pauline.mcdade@hotmail.co.uk

Pill Ukulele Experience 2019 is an afternoon of communal playing interspersed with performance by local groups and will take place on Saturday 23 November at Pill Memorial Club, starting at 1pm. All abilities of players welcome to come along, or why not come along for a sing song? We'd love to see you.

Pill & District Gardening Club

Our next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20 November at St George's Church Hall when, by popular request, David Moon is returning to give us another illustrated presentation to lighten an autumn evening, called 'Gardens of the Rich and Famous'. Members, why not bring a friend along to what promises to be an entertaining evening, and introduce them to our warm, friendly and very sociable club?

If you are not yet a member but have an interest in gardening or simply like to look at nice gardens, just turn up at any of our meetings, introduce yourself and say I invited you along. If anyone has any gardening issues or you need help and advice, someone will assist you. Why not give us a try? FFI Mike James on 01275 568 605 / 07771 887 331 / mike.ofd@sky.com

Our grateful thanks to Jo Smith, the Parish Council and all those connected with the NEW Paper, well done and welcome back.



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Morgan's Charity

This ancient charity was set up in the 17th century to financially benefit local parishioners in times of need. Through the years it has come to the rescue of many who find themselves in difficulties due to some unexpected emergency. Records from the early 1900s show grants of thirty shillings being given to help after the death of a child and 6/8d to purchase a pair of elastic stockings. Ah, the good old days!

Nowadays, problems are more expensive to solve but thankfully there is more in the kitty to help. Sadly, the word "charity" can put off proudly independent people and it is left to others to apply on their behalf.

If you feel that the trust could help you or if you know of someone who might welcome a helping hand, please contact one of the trustees. Only residents of the Pill and Easton in Gordano parish are eligible, and strict confidentiality is assured. This is not charity, merely a neighbourly helping hand in time of stress.

The trustees are Revd Astrid Tiesema-Samsom: 372804, Roger Collins: 372761, Pat Derrick: 372326, patderrick@btinternet.com.

We Need Muscle at the Lunch Club!

We offer a lovely hot lunch, together with a warm welcome on Thursdays at the Community Centre. A commercial dishwasher makes life easier for our volunteers, but we would really welcome some extra 'muscle' to help as loading and unloading large trays of crockery can be challenging. If anyone can spare a couple of hours to help out – not necessarily every week – then we would be delighted to hear from you. Further details from Moira Worgan, on 373754.

Clothes Swap Evening

Ladies, come along and bag yourself a new wardrobe whilst being good to the planet and raising money for homelessness in Bristol. Join us for our next clothes swap evening at Pill Community Centre on Friday 8 November. Entry is £5 on the door. Drop items and enjoy a complimentary drink from 7.30pm, swapping starts at 8pm. We welcome our usual good quality ladies' clothes, shoes, accessories etc plus all warm clothes, clean blankets and toiletries for the homeless. Call Wendy 372662 for more information.

Did You Know...?

There is a well-stocked charity shop at Penny Bohn, with a large selection of quality clothes for ladies and men. Also, books, jewellery, games, trinkets and plenty more! Open Monday and Friday 11am–4pm, Tuesday to Thursday 10am–4pm. Come along and pick up a bargain!

Please – Pay Attention!

To the riders of those beautiful horses on our roads in the village, could you please ride in single file and not use your phones for calls and texting whilst you are riding those horses on the roads – which are narrow anyway – this is an accident waiting to happen!

Concerned resident (Name and address supplied)

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@ NO. 4

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Stitch Away Stress

Knit/Crochet & Natter Group for those affected by or supporting someone with an invisible illness or disability. We meet up on Tuesday evenings, 7.30-9.30pm and Friday mornings 11am-1pm. Please come along and join us, whether it is just for a natter or if you would like learn, you are more than welcome. Please bring along what are you already working on or if you want to learn we have plenty of wool and needles. Contact Luanne Gibbons for more details on 07584 060297.

Miller's Close

Every Friday, 9.30am-2.30pm. Young at heart and looking for good company for a couple of hours? You will receive a warm welcome and a good meal. We can arrange transport if you need it. Contact Win Mackenzie 373292 for more details.

Pill Friday Club

We meet every Friday in Pill Memorial Club dance hall. Doors open 2pm. New members very welcome. Come for a cup of tea/coffee, a game of bingo plus a raffle. FFI ring 373120.

Lego Club

At Pill Library and Children's Centre on Saturdays from 11am-12 noon. Children aged 4-11 and their parents/carers are welcome to come along; we provide the Lego, you bring your imagination! FFI contact Pill Library on 01394 426070.

Little Apples Pre-School Group

Children love the outdoors, so bring your pre-schoolers to Little Apples, the parent/carer and child group based in the Orchard at Watchhouse Hill. The group's focus is on play, creative activities using natural materials and lots of fun. Wednesday mornings, 10-11.15am. FFI Hannah, 01275 218376 or littleapplespill@gmail.com

F.r.i.e.n.D.S Together

A group for those who have invisible illnesses/disabilities as well as family/ friends. First and third Wednesdays each month from 1-3pm at Pill Salvation Army Hall. Cost, £2, which includes tea/coffee/cake. Come along and make a supportive network of friends who understand. Arts and crafts available or just come along to be with others – that's fine too. FFI Luanne Gibbons 07584060297.

Easton-in-Gordano WI

First Wednesday of each month in St George's Church Hall, 7.30pm.

Things to do, places to

Crockerne Pill & District History Society

All meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at Pill Memorial Club in the downstairs Main Hall commencing 7.30pm FFI Maggi Stowers 373887.

Lunch, Coffee Mornings and Prayer Meetings at Christ Church

Second and fourth Monday each month, open house at Christ Church with soup and a roll, followed by tea and cake from 12 noon to 1.30pm. Second Tuesdays of the month, coffee mornings at Christ Church, 10-11.30am. All welcome for coffee, cake and a chat. We are now having a prayer meeting at 9am on the first Monday of each month.

Crockerne Men's Group

Second Thursday of most months of the year in the Community Centre, from 9.45am. FFI David Billington 372329.

Baptist Ladies Fellowship

Meets at Millers Close every Monday at 2.30pm to enjoy an interesting talk, a cup of tea and a chat. They were one of the organisations for many years connected to the Baptist Church but when that closed moved to Millers Close, where they will give a warm welcome to anyone wishing to join them.

Pill Lunch Club

Thursdays, Community Centre. A lovely hot lunch, together with a warm welcome. If anyone can spare a couple of hours to help out – not necessarily every week – then we would be delighted to hear from you. Further details from Moira Worgan, on 373754.

Pill Community Market

Last Saturday of every month except December at the Community Centre, 10am-12 noon. FFI contact Jill Coleman email jill.penelope.coleman@gmail.com

Art Group

Meet at the Community Centre every Tuesday evening 7-9pm. FFI Steve Crossley 376935 or 07733055091 steve@crossley34.plus.com

Whist Drive

Tuesday afternoons at Miller's Close Community Room, 1.30-4.30pm. FFI 373402.

o go, people to see...

Flower Bank Monthly Walks

More info www.flowerbank.org.uk, email admin@flowerbank.org.uk or contact Bob on 373750.

Support for Those Living With Parkinson's

The group meets on the second Saturday of each month for an informal coffee morning at St Francis Church Hall in Nailsea, 10.30am to 12.15pm. FFI Jill Gilbert 01275 855524.

Pill Goldies

At Millers Close Community Room from 2-3pm on Thursday afternoons. "Goldies" enjoy a one hour, fun sing-a-long session to the music of the 50s, 60s and 70s. FFI Abby Rakes on 01761 470006, email hiho@golden-oldies.org.uk or visit www.golden-oldies.org.uk

Portbury WI

Third Tuesday each month at 7.30pm at Portbury Village Hall. FFI call Daphne Vise - 01275 372644.

Zumba

Dance fitness to great music from all over the world. Tuesdays 6.30pm at Pill Community Centre. £5. Just turn up with water and a sense of humour! FFI Marie 0117 963 4104 bristoldancezumba.co.uk

Movement To Music

Age UK Somerset offers an EXTEND class, suitable for both men and women, on Wednesdays at 10.30am at the Community Centre. FFI, contact Nikki Smith 07530 777895, email nikki.smith@ageuksomerset.org.uk or visit our website www.ageuksomerset.org.uk.

Pill Gardening Club

Third Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm at St George's Church Hall. Further information from Mike James, 01275 568605 mike.ofd@sky.com or visit the club's site www.pillanddistrictgardeningclub.co.uk

Pill Festival Band

Every Monday night during school term time at Pill Memorial Club. We now have beginner band 6-6.45pm, training band 6.30-7.45pm and performance band 7.30-8pm. All orchestral and concert band instruments welcome. FFI Rachel Woollatt rachelwoollatt@gmail.com.

The Leaf Restaurant

Opens its doors every term time Thursday. For a menu, and to book a table at this fabulous establishment run entirely by the dedicated hospitality staff and students at St Katherine's School, email Bev.Williams@skdrive.org or telephone 373737.

Yoga Classes

Build strength and flexibility whilst learning to quiet the mind and relieve stress and anxiety. Join one of three regular Yoga classes in the village with experienced and qualified local teacher Suzie Delve, 07717307812, www.facebook.com/suziedelve, yogawithsuzie@gmail.com.

Gordano Footpath Group

Walks of different distances for a range of abilities each month. Further details from the Chairman, Ian Donovan (01275 848024) or Christine Scruby (01275 817139), or by visiting our website at www.gordano-footpath-group.org.uk.

All Amateur Artists Group

Meet at Brackenwood Garden Centre, 2-4pm on the second and fourth Monday each month, 2-4pm. FFI Steve Crossley 376935 or 07733055091 steve@crossley34.plus.com

Abbots Leigh WI

Second Tuesday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm in Abbots Leigh Village Hall. All welcome, contact Donna 375378.

Quiz

First Thursday every month at The Anchor, Ham Green, from 7.30pm for Pill-based Penny Brohn UK. Teams of up to six, £2.50 per person. Winners bag a bottle of bubbly. Food available.

St George's Church Hall, Easton-in-Gordano

For hire at reasonable rates. With very good car parking, it lends itself equally to private functions, social groups and clubs, dance and sporting activities, teaching and rehearsing and is suitable for use by all ages. FFI Wendy Moncrieffe on 373481.

Pill Community Centre

Offers flexible and affordable space for the community and is an excellent venue for all sorts of events. There are rooms to suit any kind of meeting or activity, and excellent kitchen facilities. Contact Lesley on 372745 or email info.pillcommunitycentre@gmail.com for more information.

The Owls of Pill – Celebrations to Mark the First 100 Years



This Christmas is the 100th anniversary for the Owls of Pill and you are invited to join us at the events planned to mark this significant milestone.

Each December the Owls raise money for charity by singing at around 80 venues, starting at the Pill Art Exhibition and the Pill Christmas lights switch-on event, and include Tyntesfield Chapel, care homes, schools, private parties, dinners and many other events in the North Somerset and Bristol area.

On Saturday 16 November at 2pm a plaque will be unveiled by the railway viaduct at the heart of Pill. This is a special place for the Owls and near to where each year's programme ends, late on Christmas Eve, by singing within the wonderful acoustics of the railway arch.

This year we are arranging two special centenary carol concerts within the village. They will be at St George's Church, Easton-in-Gordano on Friday 6 December at 7.30pm and Christ Church, Pill on Saturday 14 December at 6pm. Tickets will be available from the Resource Centre at £5 for adults and £3 for children. This includes a souvenir programme and drink in the interval.

Looking for a local Christmas present? The book on the history of the Owls by local author Alan Vowles is still available. Professionally published and over 200 pages long, the book is illustrated with photographs and has interwoven the history of the Owls with that of Pill. The price is £10 with all proceeds from the sale going to the charities supported by the Owls.

The book is available from the Resource Centre and some other local outlets; details available from our website www.pillowls.co.uk. For further information, or if you have any anecdotes, photos or documents referring to the Owls, please contact Nigel Manning at manningnigelp@aol.com

Look out next month for details of how to buy a DVD of the film we commissioned to mark the centenary. These were both produced with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund. Many thanks to the local pubs and other outlets that have supported us by selling the book.

WANTED! Blooming Marvellous People

Thank you to those people who stepped up to the task when they read my plea on Facebook for people to help water the tubs around the village through the summer. At various locations, these are planted and maintained by volunteers in Pill in Bloom. We were delighted with the response and are very appreciative of the support.

Our next challenge is to find some 'muscle' (and know-how), who could help us to straighten up some of the tubs which have tilted over the years since their installation.

We have a lot of new and exciting projects coming up next year to enhance and improve our village. If you could help – in any capacity – or would like to become involved in Pill in Bloom, please contact me, Jo Smith on 374897 or josmith0704@gmail.com.

... and a very grateful thank you to the Pill & District Gardening Club for their generous donation, which we shall use to add more colour to our village next year.

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Church Services

On Sunday 3 November we have an All Souls Service at 6pm at Christ Church, when we remember all those who have died in the three Parishes. It is an ecumenical service covering all denominations.

On Sunday 10 November the Remembrance Service is at St George starting at 10am, again an ecumenical service for Pill and Easton-in-Gordano. There is a separate service at 10am at St Mary Portbury.

On Monday 11 November there is a short service of remembrance at Christ Church starting at 10.45am round the war memorial in our churchyard.

Christmas Lights

Please note the Christmas lights will be erected in Pill on Friday 22, Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 November, starting at 8am and finishing by 4.30pm.

The roads affected will be Heywood Road (main road through the village), The Green, Marine Parade, Underbanks and Watchhouse Road. If possible, please could you take an alternative route to avoid delays, thank you.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused or traffic disruption.

If anyone is able to spare an hour or two on these days your help will be most welcome. Just turn up on the day at any time; this will be much appreciated. It's worth coming to help to enjoy free homemade soup for lunch, provided by our lovely Soup Dragons.

Thank you on behalf of the Christmas Lights Volunteer Group.

Use Them or Lose Them – Support Your Local Pub!

I'm sure you will all have noticed around the country pubs that have closed and turned into flats/homes or been left derelict. And how many of you have said "Isn't that a shame"? Statistics say that at present, in this country, 14-18 pubs a week are closing their doors for the last time.

In our village, including Easton in Gordano and Ham Green, we are blessed with five pubs and a member's club, each providing a variety of services which are vital to the wellbeing of our community. But for how long?

Each outlet is doing its damndest to provide an affordable service, entertainment, bar sports, live TV sports coverage and venues for community meetings, functions and simply social places to meet up and chat with other people. But they need you to support them! They cannot survive without you. None of us wants to be saying "Isn't that a shame it's gone". When they're gone, they're really gone... for good.

Remember The Railway? Gone for good.

Remember The Duke of Cornwall? Rescued at auction in 2001 preventing closure.

Remember The King's Head was boarded up 9 years ago and then rescued.

I would like to think I can meet up with friends and acquaintances in the pubs of Pill for years to come. But it's up to you, people of the village, to keep these jewels of the community alive.

Martin Hart

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Gordano Community Cars

Gordano Community Cars exists to transport patients registered with the Heywood Family Practice to hospital and surgery appointments, and we wait to return the patient home. Requests for transport should be made with Reception at the Surgery. (Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate wheelchairs.)

All our drivers are volunteers and give their time freely but there is a small charge to cover fuel. We always welcome new drivers, but realise people have many other commitments, so an hour or two a week would still help us. If you would like to know more please contact Carol Sexton on Pill 374752.

Pill Christmas Art Exhibition

Get Christmas off to an early but great start at Pill Community Centre on Friday 29 November from 7.30pm, when the Owls will be performing as usual at our annual Art Exhibition. You will know that The Owls are celebrating their 100th Anniversary this year, so we anticipate a greater demand for tickets for our Preview Evening and therefore numbers may have to be limited. Tickets will be available to purchase from the Resource Centre sometime in November, or from the Art Class in the Community Centre on a Tuesday evening, 7-9pm. Entry £4. The exhibition is also open on Saturday 10-4pm (free entry) when tea/coffee and cake will be available.

Pill Ward Councillor

Donald Davies, North Somerset Council

I shall be holding my surgeries this month for residents at Abbots Leigh Village Hall on Saturday 9 November from 10-11am and at Pill Resource Centre on Monday 25 November from 12.30-1.30pm, no pre-booking needed. A private room is available on request. If you cannot make that time, please feel free to contact me with any concerns you have. My phone number is 07900 097671 and my e-mail donald.davies@n-somerset.gov.uk.

The Christmas Lights Draw

Congratulations go to Liz and Peter Milner for winning first prize of £75 and to Rupert Tucker for winning second prize of £25 in October's draw.

If you wish to join the club, please sign up in the Resource Centre (cheques payable to Pill Christmas Lights). It's a one-off payment of £24 for a calendar year. Your name is entered into a monthly draw with the chance of winning first prize of £75 or second prize of £25. The December draw has a first prize of £500 and second prize of £100.

Annual Closure of Church Gates

The PCC gives advance notice that the churchyard gates will be locked from 8.30am on Wednesday 20 November to 8.30am on Thursday 21 November. This closure is to affirm the churchyard as private church property. In order to do this, the precinct must be closed once a year for 24 hours. We regret any inconvenience caused by this necessary measure.

Pill Memorial Club

(01275) 372 176

1 Lodway, Pill, BS20 0DH

- Real Ale & Ciders
- Pub Garden
- Parking
- Function Room
- Traditional Pub Games
Snooker, Two Skittle Alleys,
Pool & Darts
- Live Music
- Sports TV (65" Screen)

**Open
12pm–12am**

Pill Festival Band Christmas Concert

Monday 9 December, 7-9.30pm
Pill Memorial Club

The band is already in Christmas swing and busy rehearsing for our Christmas Concert. Thirty seven of us are playing this year! Our Christmas concert was popular last year and we hope the village will support us again. We are adding new pieces to our repertoire and will perform a varied selection of Christmas contemporary and classical favourites and medleys to get you in the mood for the festive season. As usual there will be some fun audience sing-along opportunities!

This concert is very much a family friendly event, all ages welcome. No set charge on the door but a suggested donation of £3 per adult towards our youth work would be much appreciated. Refreshments for sale during the interval and we'll have our usual raffle to raise further funds for our work. Come along, we'd love to see you there!



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Pill Library & Children's Centre – So Much More Than a Library!

Did you know that Pill Library and Children's Centre has toys and dress up for free play? Snuggle up with a book on the comfy sofa or come along and try out our board games. We are open Tuesdays and Fridays 9.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-5pm, and Saturdays 9.30am-1pm.

Rhyme times at Pill Library - Come along to fun, free sessions sharing nursery rhymes, action rhymes and musical instruments every Friday 9.30-10am throughout the year.

Pill Lego Club at Pill Library & Children's Centre - Love Lego? Come along to Lego Club at Pill Library on Saturdays 11am-12 noon. We provide the space and the Lego – you just bring along your imagination and get ready to build! All children must be supervised by a parent/carer.

Lego Club volunteer vacancy - Time to give? Enjoy working with children? Pill Library is looking for a Children's Activities volunteer to help run Lego Club on Saturday mornings. To register your interest visit www.northsomersetlibraryvolunteers.wordpress.com. Alternatively, contact the Library Volunteering Team on 01934 426657 or 01275 884315 or email library.volunteers@n-somerset.gov.uk

Portishead Floral Art Society

Are you interested in flowers? Would you like to learn more about the world of floral art? Portishead Floral Art Society holds classes (first Wednesday of the month) and demonstrations (third Wednesday of the month) at 7.30pm in Somerset Hall, Portishead.

We are a busy club with three classes running to suit all levels (no exams or anything serious, just for fun and friendship). The demonstrations are onstage and are with regional and nationally-recognised demonstrators, many of whom compete in national and world competitions. We also hold regular workshops, flower festivals, trips to places of floral interest, social events etc. We would love you to see what we do, so why not come along and join us? Follow us on Facebook Portishead Floral Art or call 07810 203504 for further information.

Could You be a Marie Curie Helper or Companion?

Marie Curie are looking for dedicated volunteers for their Helper and Companion Services in Somerset. The Helper Service offers emotional and practical support to people in your area living with a terminal illness. This includes visiting them at home, going out with them or talking to them over the phone. The Companion Service is based at Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton and offers one-to-one support for patients and their carers in their final days or hours of life. These volunteers give around three hours each week and provide companionship, comfort and emotional support for people on the hospital wards as well as family and friends who are visiting them. All services are completely free to the terminally ill person and full training and travelling expenses are given for all volunteers. If you are interested, please phone 08003047400 or email southwesthelper@mariecurie.org.uk

Christian Aid Christmas Fayre

This year's Christian Aid Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 16 November at Pill Methodist Church, 10am-midday. Christmas goodies, cards, cakes, raffle, bacon butties, coffee and mince pies.

Please come and support this event for a charity which supports some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

Easton-in-Gordano WI

On 6 November we will be holding our AGM to elect our Committee for 2020. This will be followed by a talk on ballet from Sandra Ashton. The Group Social is on 21 November and tickets are now on sale. Visitors are welcome to join us at our meetings on the first Wednesday of the month in St George's Church Hall at 7.30pm. Craft Group dates are 12 and 26 November. Thank you to everyone who supported our coffee morning for Macmillan.



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Drivers Needed

Could you help us out for a short time on a Friday? Miller's Close Day Centre meets on Friday mornings to provide much needed social time for local people who might otherwise not get out. We need drivers to collect people at around 9.30am (finish about 10am latest), then return to take people home at 2.30pm, so just an hour's commitment could make a big difference to someone.

If you can't make every Friday but would be willing and able to help out occasionally, please do still get in touch as several volunteers could share the task. Please contact Win McKenzie 373292.

F.r.I.e.n.D.S Together

Coming soon – a group for those who have invisible illnesses/disabilities, as well as family/friends. We plan to meet on the first and third Wednesdays each month at Pill Salvation Army

Hall. Cost, £2, which includes tea/coffee and cake. Come along and make a supportive network of friends who understand. Arts and crafts will be available or, if you prefer, just come along to be with others – that's fine too. FFI Luanne Gibbons 07584060297. More details of dates and times next month.

Pill Food Bank

Many, many thanks to all of you who supported the efforts of the Pill Food Bank over the school holiday period. We were able to provide parcels to 35 families in two big distributions in July and August.

It won't be long before we think about supporting families at Christmas time – so please keep your donations coming in either to the Resource Centre or through the churches or by giving cash in at the Resource Centre. We are always particularly grateful for tinned goods, long life milk, tea and cereal.

Personal Training for People Living with Cancer

Penny Brohn UK has teamed up with The Bodyworks Project to offer gym-based physical activity advice and programmes to people living with cancer.

The new scheme will be based at Penny Brohn UK's National Centre at Ham Green and will include drop in clinics, one-to-one or paired training sessions and small group classes.

Research shows that being active before, during and after cancer treatment can help reduce fatigue, improve quality of life and reduce the risk of recurrence. It can also improve confidence and sense of control and reduce anxiety and depression.

The project is being run by personal trainer and co-founder of The Bodyworks Project, Alisa Burke, and is designed to establish a safe and effective physical activity programme that is tailored to the needs of individuals at any stage of the cancer care pathway. FFI about Penny Brohn UK and The Bodyworks Project visit www.pennybrohn.org.uk/services/getting-started/regular-activities/



Jamie Phillips is a new barber based in Easton-in-Gordano, working along side Hair by Sharon.

To book appointments please contact Jamie:

07734 443915

 jp barbering

Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Neighbourhood Plan Exhibitions

The Neighbourhood Plan will set out how our area – which runs from Leigh Woods right down to the Severn Estuary – might look like by 2036.

Many issues have been discussed in the community, by the Parish Councils and by local businesses, and important questions have come up;

- Should we keep the Green Belt?
- Do we want 1000 new houses at Martcombe?
- How can we get some affordable housing?
- Are there enough local jobs for local people?
- What can be done about traffic overload on the A369 and the Pill Loop?
- Can the Pill Precinct be improved?
- Will the new railway station cause problems for traffic?
- How can heritage and environmental assets be sustained?
- How do we respond to climate change and protect biodiversity?
- ...and lots more!

Thanks to significant input from community groups the Neighbourhood Plan is coming closer to completion. Come and see what's in it, what are the aims, objectives and key priorities, and how we have tried to answer these questions.

Community consultation is very important. There will be another opportunity to comment on the draft Plan but this is now the time to ask questions, make comments and offer suggestions!

Drop in to the Neighbourhood Plan Exhibitions ...and Have Your Say!!

Pill Resource Centre

Thursday 14 November, 4–8pm

Friday 15 November, 12.30–7pm

Saturday 16 November, 10am–12 noon

Easton-in-Gordano, St George's Church Hall

Wednesday 20 November, 3–6pm