

The Village Voice

Issue N° 11

Pill, Easton-in-Gordano & Ham Green

February 2021



Owls of Pill Christmas 2020

The Owls were delighted to continue the unbroken 101 years of carol singing in Pill. Sadly, coronavirus meant that we had to abandon most of our normal Christmas programme, with no visits to community events, house parties or the local pubs. Instead, with appropriate social distancing, we sang around the streets of our local communities over the 5 nights leading up to Christmas. And, with another change to tradition, we delivered Christmas gifts to some nominated local people, courtesy of the generosity of the Southern Co-op.

It was with great sadness that we heard that Pat Derrick, our President passed away. Pat was our leader for many years, and it was his guidance that made the 'Owls' what they are today. With his wisdom, humour and unrivalled talents as a raconteur, Pat is so sadly missed by the Owls.



(The Owls at their Centenary unveiling of the memorial, 2019)

With many changes for us all this last Christmas, one of the things that has not changed is the incredible generosity of our community. We have collected an amazing £5,090 in donations (and Gift Aid) and we know how valuable this will be for the good causes that this allows the Owls to help.

Thank you so much for the great support.

The Village Voice

Covering Pill, Easton-in-Gordano & Ham Green

pillandeastoningordano.org

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Editorial

A very belated 'Happy New Year!' to everyone. I do hope you were able enjoy Christmas and New Year if not in the traditional lively fashion, then at least safely! May 2021 bring brighter days and green shoots of normality.

Testament, if it were needed, once again that the Owls are so loved and appreciated in this village is the phenomenal amount they have raised, despite the restrictions on their activities at Christmas. I know many, many people appreciated the street singing and particularly those who had 'special' visits in light of losing loved ones.

So, I say 'thank you' gentlemen, on behalf of this whole village. You made the absolute best of a challenging year and we all look forward to seeing you back in full action again this Christmas!!

Sadly missed of course among their number this year was my dear Dad, who we lost in November. Said it before, but I'll say it again – a gentleman and a legend.



On behalf of my family, I thank everyone who sent cards, letters and messages of condolence. Judging by the memories and anecdotes you shared, which triggered tears and laughter in equal measure, Dad obviously left a lifelong impression on many people – a legacy indeed. Also, The Owls and others who turned out in great number to bid their final farewell to him on the streets on 22 December. It was such a heart-warming tribute we shall never forget.

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Over £2000 has been raised so far in Dad's memory through the Owls, and a proportion of that will go to Heywood Surgery, in grateful thanks for their first-class care and genuine kindness to him and our whole family over many years. It is likely the money will go towards a 'refresh' for us all to benefit when the surgery is back up and running again 'as normal'.

I'm not ashamed to give a final push and say if anyone would still like to donate to boost The Owls' great efforts still further, they can do so through uk.virginmoneygiving.com and search for The Owls of Pill or send a cheque, payable to 'The Owls of Pill Carol Party' to Holly House, 2 Lodway Gardens, Pill BS20 0DL

Apologies we were unable to produce a paper in January but with very little to include, we felt it would be better to wait. For the time being we are going to bi-monthly publication, so the next paper will be out in April, all being well. (If anything changes, I'll put it on The Daily Pill FB page.)

Copy deadline for advertising, Wednesday 10 March and copy Friday 12 March.

Jo Smith
Editor

Dear Pill

A Thank You From Warwickshire

I am writing on behalf of my family and the grand and great grandchildren, not just to a village but to each and every one of you who turned out on 22 December to say their good-byes to Pat.

We knew that in different times it could, should and would have been a different homage to

a lovely gentleman, but with the restrictions that wasn't to be. But, because of you, it was better!!! Thank you all for standing out there in the drizzle and cold, showing your respect. It meant the world to us all and it would have meant the world to Dad.

As my eldest said on the way home "I have never seen anything like that.....and I know I will never see anything like it again."

I grew up in Pill, thankfully, and I am so proud to be a part of a community that has remained a true community.

Again, thank you so much for all your love towards Dad.

Sara and family

St George's Flowerbank



Sadly, because of Lockdown 3 we could not go ahead with the Christmas tree shredding. Sorry, and thank you for your understanding.

This event has become part of the village calendar and raises significant funds for the Flower Bank, however, financial loss is not as important as keeping everyone safe and we considered we couldn't protect people adequately.

If you'd like to contribute to our funds, our bank account details:

'St. George's Flower Bank', Sort code 20-68-15
Account number 33616762

Many thanks to everyone who made a donation - some were truly generous, and all are most gratefully received.

Bob Buck

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Thank You!

Pill in Bloom would like to say a big THANK YOU to Jenny Calwell, for her generous donation of £90. This will go towards one of the many projects in the pipeline to enhance our environment and bring colour to the village.

Birds and Winter

As winter temperatures drop, finding food and water can be a challenge for our wildlife. Birds require more food at this time of year, so they have enough energy to survive the short days and cold nights. There are plenty of things we can do to help.

Provide a source of fresh water, making sure to check and change it regularly. This is especially important if the water becomes frozen. A shallow dish on the ground will provide essential water for birds and other wildlife.

Fat balls and seeds can be crumbled beneath shrubs and bushes for birds that like protection when they feed. Fat mixtures can be smeared into cracks and crevices on trees

for woodpeckers, nuthatch and treecreepers.

Other food can be provided, such as mealworms for robins and thrushes. Fat balls and peanuts (including peanut crumb) are a good source of energy for a variety of species including tits, finches, robins, thrushes and jays. Other seeds can also be provided: sunflower, niger, larger grains and mixed bird seed.

You can also share leftover food with birds such as roast potatoes, fat, hard cheese, fruit, vegetables, biscuits and cake. Do not leave out salty foods and only leave out what is eaten in one day so as not to attract other visitors such as mice.

The RSPB website has further useful information as well as how to make a recycled bird feeder. www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife

There is also a fun activity on how to make a kebab for birds. www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-kids/games-and-activities/activities/make-a-bird-kebab



In Appreciation of our Christmas Lights

I think the volunteers did a wonderful job to cheer us all up in this terrible year. All the displays were amazing, and very much appreciated.

Rosemarie James

My heartfelt gratitude for the lights, which were once again beautiful this year. Thank you to all involved.

Pam Allcock

Parish Council News

2021 has brought tighter restrictions but many of us feel a sense of unity and responsibility in the village which should push us through to the summer when we will begin to feel the benefits of the vaccine. It has been wonderful to hear

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of and witness many acts of kindness and good neighbourliness - and especially of those which show particular sensitivity to the needs of people who are on their own or are frightened. There are many heroes in our village, but no-one could disagree that those who are in the eye of the storm are the frontline NHS, caring, police and emergency staff and volunteers. To all of you in our village who are on those front lines, the Parish Council is deeply grateful for your public service and commitment. We can now all do our bit by ensuring we do not make your lives more difficult by thoughtless decisions or unnecessary risks.

There was no Parish Council meeting in December, but work has started on the budget for next year and it is looking as if we will be able to cover our commitments as well as pushing ahead with a few of the more urgent priorities. First amongst these is the introduction of the speed restrictions throughout the village and further details will be available when the traffic plans and orders become live.

The Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) was accepted by North Somerset Council, with the six-week consultation starting shortly and the External Examiner has also been appointed. The Parish Council minuted their strong support for the NHP at its last PC meeting on 23 November and would urge you to make any personal submissions during the consultation period. There is still time for your voice to be heard. Further details are available on the PC website which has a link to the latest NHP news and all the relevant documents.

The rise in the number of people exercising in and around the village is clear to all of us but if on your daily rounds you see anything that needs attention, please let Julie Smart know, eigparish.council@btinternet.com as we can still use outdoor workers to deal with clearing paths, cutting back etc. It is also great to see

many of you combining your daily exercise with a crafty litter pick which all goes to make the place ready for spring.

There have been a couple of briefing and information sessions on the MetroWest railway plans and thanks go to those of you who have attended all day Teams Meeting sessions. We will be loading more information about Metro West from a link on the PC website and that should include dates of future information sessions. There has already been some encouraging feedback on specific issues raised by villagers relating to environmental concerns and traffic movement during the construction period. The mitigation measures that have been reported point to a readiness from Metro West to listen to villagers' concerns and to offer mitigation suggestions.

We are aware of concerns from some of you about the safety of some of the play equipment in Brookside. Much of the adventure equipment including the zip wire, the tyre and the climbing frame is showing signs of deterioration and we will be looking at the best ways of keeping the area adventurous and safe. More information will follow.

Paul Kent on behalf of the Parish Council



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Your Plan, Your Say

The **Abbots Leigh, Ham Green, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Neighbourhood Plan** will shortly be scrutinised by an independent Examiner.

This is the final chance to have your say. If there are any issues you'd like to raise, then now is the time so they can be passed to the Examiner for consideration.

You can **view the Plan** and **make comments online from Monday 1 February until 5pm on Monday 15 March** at:-

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/pillplan

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the two Parish Councils of Abbots Leigh and Pill & Easton-in-Gordano with help from the local community.

The plan will help shape development in the parishes up to 2026 and will be used to help make decisions on planning applications.

Policies include the improvement of Pill Precinct, support for local job opportunities, protection of the local natural and historic environment, affordable housing and a care home. The Plan promotes low energy use, walking, cycling and public transport.

Planning Policy Team



Neighbourhood Plan Update

1. North Somerset Council Executive

On 9 December NSC Executive accepted a recommendation that the submitted Neighbourhood Plan and Consultation Statement met the Basic Conditions required by government legislation. Councillor James Tonkin introduced the Plan and explained the role of the Council in agreeing that the Plan should go forward to further consultation and independent examination. He congratulated those responsible for the hard work put in to producing the Plan and noted the contribution of more than 100 members of the community who had contributed.

Also on the Executive agenda was a submission from Pill resident Mr Stuart Tarr, presented on behalf of residents. He contended that the

Neighbourhood Plan had not met the necessary criteria to go forward to consultation/examination. The Executive disagreed and recommended that any such points should be put to the independent examiner.

2. Plan Consultation Statement

Mr Tarr had also addressed the Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Parish Council on 23 November concerning a comment from one consultation respondent that he/she had concerns about the processes and procedures involved in preparation of the Plan. Mr Tarr argued that the statement referred to on page 22 of the Consultation Statement formed part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Councils remain clear that this statement did not form part of the Neighbourhood Plan but, in the



interest of transparency and open government, agreed to release the statement. This is now on the parish websites.

3. Independent Examination

The Parish Councils have been consulted on and have supported the appointment of an independent examiner for the Plan following the NSC six-week consultation period. She is likely to be available from April onwards.

Household Responses to Local Consultation 2020

	Abbots Leigh	Ham Green	Pill	Easton-in-Gordano	Not known	Total
Total residents responding	51	53	51	18	7	180
Total households responding	37	38	47	13	7	142
Chapel Pill Lane Site FOR	21	2	34	9		66
Chapel Pill Lane Site AGAINST	2	30	2	2		36
Chapel Pill Lane Site NO OPINION	14	6	11	2		33

5. Other News

Articles relating to the Community Land Trust Pre-Planning consultation at Chapel Pill Lane and the North Somerset Local Plan 2038 appear elsewhere in Village Voice

Fancy a Chat?

Are you from Pill, and have you still got family around? Do you like gardening? If you would like to call any time for a chat to pass the time, feel free. Steve 07737 315471.

SPAD – Village Litter Picks

There are some amazing and much appreciated volunteers in our village who regularly pick up litter and help to keep our environment free from plastic waste. In SPAD (Sustainable Pill and District) we have organised village litter picks a few times a year meeting in the Precinct to borrow litter pickers, gloves, bags and yellow vests and to go off in pairs to clean up the streets! It has been a very successful and satisfying family activity and well supported by the village. When Covid restrictions allow we plan to run a regular village litter pick on the third Saturday of every month meeting

4. 2020 Consultation

It has been noted that reports in the October and December Village Voice did not make clear that whilst the majority of respondents favoured development at Chapel Pill Lane, Ham Green Residents were strongly opposed. Fuller findings (below) show the number of individual and household respondents together with where they live and their views on this important Plan issue.

in the precinct at 10am. In the meantime, if anyone wants to litter pick (maybe as part of your exercise regime?!) we can lend you the equipment. Please text Lucy on 07929 655 141 to arrange to collect it.



Scrubbing down the bus shelter Pill Precinct

North Somerset Local Plan 2038: Choices for the Future

A North Somerset Local Plan 2038 Choices for the Future consultation paper was issued in November offering four strategic approaches to how and where new housing development might be located across North Somerset. The choices were Retain the Green Belt, Urban Focus, Transport Corridors and Dispersal.

Choices picked out a range of individual 'places' that could contribute to each of these approaches. They included major development of almost 10,000 houses at Ashton Vale, Nailsea, and Weston-Super-Mare. Choices also identified Portishead, Portbury, Easton-in-Gordano and Abbots Leigh as between them offering development potential from nil growth (Green Belt retention), to 500-1,500 (Urban Focus), 1,500 to 3,500 (Transport Corridors), and up to 2,000 (Dispersal).

Your Parish Councils felt it was important to consider these possibilities in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan, but at the same time recognise the scale of housing need and demand across North Somerset. The Neighbourhood Plan proposes the release of small amounts of Green Belt land for housing adjacent to existing settlements, but aims to protect open spaces, encourage cycling and walking, avoid increased traffic on the A369 and address climate change.

Parish Council meetings in November agreed in principle a submission to North Somerset Council which offered a more effective and sustainable way forward locally. This was worked up as a proposal for a 'Northern Corridor' stretching from the edge of Bristol through Leigh Woods and Abbots Leigh to Pill and Easton-in-Gordano and on to the Severn Estuary. It would

include the parishes of Abbots Leigh, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano, Portbury and Portishead.

Crucial to this proposal is that it is NOT simply a transport corridor (although it does welcome the role of the new rail link). The North Somerset 2038 Local Plan is built up from a sixteen-point sustainability assessment which includes criteria such as access to job opportunities, reduced reliance on the car, encouragement of open spaces/walking/cycling, minimisation of the impact on landscape, delivery of affordable housing, support for community cohesion, reduction of inequalities, conservation of heritage assets, and enhancement of biodiversity.

We reworked the NSC sustainability assessment and concluded that whilst Abbots Leigh, Easton-in-Gordano, Portbury and Portishead did not score highly as separate individual 'places,' when the Northern Corridor is looked at as a whole recognising the connections and interdependence of our four settlements it scores much higher on economic, social and environmental sustainability criteria.

In summary, the Northern Corridor contains nothing which is not already in the Neighbourhood Plan but sets the Plan in a wider planning context. The main features of the Corridor are:

- The growth of Portishead as an 'urban focus' – a counterweight to Bristol with potential to attract development away from rather than towards Bristol.
- The importance of Pill (not even mentioned in Choices) as a rail station town, a local service centre, and a site for modest housing growth.
- The retention of the bulk of the Green Belt and in particular avoidance of major developments in Easton-in-Gordano (at Martcombe)



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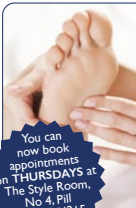
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and in Abbots Leigh (Chapel Pill).

- New market and affordable housing development across the Corridor of up to 2000 dwellings, of which up to 200 would be in the Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- Minimisation of traffic volumes on the A369 and avoidance of urban sprawl all the way to the Severn.
- Protection of the many threatened environmental areas from The Avon Gorge and Leigh Woods to the wetlands and waters of the Avon/Severn.
- Recognition of the growing significance of working at or from home and the potential to provide well planned links between home and work locations.
- Recognition of the role of Royal Portbury Dock (lying within our Neighbourhood Area) and its growth which will generate further job opportunities (with or without a Freeport).

The Northern Corridor joint submission from the Parish Councils of Abbots Leigh and Easton-in-Gordano is on the websites of both PCs.

Village Trails

I have arranged three trails around the village. The first one was at Easter, which was a scarecrow trail, then at Halloween a spooky one, and I've just done the Christmas lights one. They've been very popular with the children and I've had over 100 houses involved. I make a map and it gives people a purpose for their walks.

Someone suggested raising money for the Pill Lights, as they have lost their fundraising this year. So I started a crowdfunding page and asked people to donate what they would have spent at the big switch on event. The village raised over £1500.

Already planning the Easter scarecrow hunt!

Louise Meek Hopkins

Getting to Know You - Louise Meek Hopkins

(An interview with Kat Jury)

Louise Meek Hopkins lives in Pill with her husband and two children. She set up a scarecrow trail

around the village during Lockdown 1, followed by similar events for Halloween and Christmas, raising money for the community in the process. Prior to lockdown, Louise also ran a very successful pre-school playscheme with a local care home, which brought together the community's youngest and oldest residents. When she isn't wrangling children or scarecrows, Louise works in events.

How long have you lived in Pill?

We moved here at Christmas 2014. My parents moved in the year before from Portbury. Me and my husband were living in Bristol at the time but on a walk around the village, we decided it was the place we wanted to move to and start our family.

What do you love most about our village?

The community spirit. It's always been there but this last year it's definitely been highlighted. And also the lovely walks, some of the views are incredible. Especially from Bombers bench, it's a great place to catch up with your thoughts.

If you didn't live here, where in the world would you like to live (and why)?

Mmmmm this is a tough one. If I could just click my fingers and arrive there (I hate flying) I would say Australia. They just seem to have the work-life balance right and I wouldn't have to learn a new language!

What would you like to see in Pill (that we don't already have)?

A skate park. My son is desperate to learn some tricks on his scooter, and it would be fab to not have to travel to Clevedon or Nailsea.

What do you wish you were the best in the world at?

Ooo great question! I would say multi-tasking... would be so nice to finally cross off my 'to do' list.



Limericks in Lockdown

I am calling on all the good people of Pill, Easton-in-Gordano and Ham Green to join me in compiling a collection of Limericks and other small verses relating to our lockdown experiences with a view to creating some form of publication for all to read and enjoy.

Limericks are, by nature, humorous but they can also be reflective, emotional, expressive, appealing. In short, they can be anything you want them to be.

So, let's use the limerick format to express life as we've known it since lockdown began. The laughs we've had and the tears and every emotion imaginable one way or the other. The limericks would be original works created by the person or persons who claim to have written them. There is no age limit, all are welcome to submit a limerick or even a short verse of a different format if that comes more easily to you. Illustrations to the limerick also welcome. I'm sure there is poet in all of us. The oft used expression "You're a poet and you didn't know it" will attest to that.

Please send your name and age with your limericks to:- Pip Gale 5 Rectory Road, Easton-in-Gordano, BS20 0QB. email limericksinlockdown@hotmail.co.uk Phone 01275 372050 More info on the Daily Pill Group Facebook page.

Reflections on 2020

Well, 2020 was simply surreal;
COVID 19 brought us lockdowns and fear.

Panic buying and shortages sure took their toll;
What were we to do without toilet roll?

In March came the first lockdown, and shopping online;
We tried not to worry and just filled up our time.

As weeks became months it seemed quite extreme;
But cleaning and gardening became quite the routine.

We kept ourselves busy as shielding set in;
I cooked for our neighbours, health workers and kin.

Every cupboard was sorted and many lost

treasures found;
The garden was blooming, and we felt pretty sound.

I tried out new recipes, some a hit, some a disaster;
But then I was never considered a cookery master. (Chef)

The summer months came, and things seemed a bit brighter;
Restrictions were lifted and our hearts felt a bit lighter.

So, we packed up the car and met friends at the beach;
But hugs and handshakes were still beyond reach.

We didn't eat out to help out, or travel by plane;
We didn't visit Barnard Castle or go on a train.

We simply followed the rules and did what we were told;
A timely reflection of just getting old!

November was gloomy and our spirits were low;
So up went our decs to bring a warm Christmas glow.

Christmas was different for all that was true;
But with warm thoughts and good wishes we just made it through.

Of course, we remember all those struggling to cope;
And pray that for all, this year will bring hope.

May the vaccines bring safety in the months just ahead;
Please God they bring healing and an end to this dread.

As we face this new lockdown we feel frightened that's true;
But let's try to cherish those things precious to you.

Be thankful for friendship, for laughter and kissing;
For family, for freedom and those hugs we are missing.

For nurses, for doctors and those in health care;

For ALL frontline workers and those helping out there.

For those in our village who have stepped up to the mark;

Bringing love, help and friendship to bring light in this dark.

For the Owls who kept singing in spite of the rain;

For those who joined forces to help lighten the strain.

We wish you good health, great happiness and cheer.

But above all we wish you a BRIGHTER THIS YEAR.

Stay safe, Joan Sutcliffe

Pill Library Continues to Offer a Free Click and Collect Service

While library buildings are closed in the current lockdown, Pill Library is continuing to offer a contact-free Click and Collect service. Customers can call or email the library to say what kind of books they enjoy. Staff will then select books from the library shelves based on the person's tastes and preferences to be collected at an arranged time from the library entrance.

Customers need their library card number when using the service. If you're not a library member you can join for free at www.librarieswest.org.uk/join.

If you would like to place a Click and Collect order please email the library at pill.library@n-somerset.gov.uk or call us on 01934 426070. For the latest information about click and collect and the various other library services available visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries.

Digital services continue to be on offer,

including e-books, audiobooks, magazines and even the popular rhyme time sessions. These online services can be accessed any time at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/onlineLibrary. To keep up to date with all that is happening at Pill Library and North Somerset Libraries, like the North Somerset Libraries Facebook page.

We have also recently launched a North Somerset Libraries YouTube channel where you can find our virtual rhyme time sessions, story times and author events. Subscribe now to access all this free content!

Walter Wallace Foxwell (Walt)

23 November 1918 – 8 July 2020 (101)

In loving memory of my Dad, who was a World War Two veteran, British Expeditionary Force 1939-1942 (Dunkirk). Member of the 14th Army Kohima Burma 1942-5. All the equipment went from Portbury Docks en route to India in February 1942. Sadly missed, will never be forgotten.

Stephen Foxwell

Thank You

Ron and I would like to thank the lady who insisted on turning her car around in order to bring us home following my recent fall at Abbots Leigh. Had it not been for her kindness we really don't know how we would have travelled home. Thank you so much.

We would also like to take this opportunity of thanking all our neighbours for their offers of help during this difficult time. We really do appreciate your kindness. You are all wonderful.

Thank you all again.

Ron and Pat Broom

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Stuart Tarr
A Friend of the Lake

Vivienne Joyner

21 September 1936 – 5 December 2020



Katie and Liz and their families are sad to inform you all that Vivienne Joyner tragically passed away on 5 December in the BRL of Covid Pneumonitis. Vivienne had lived in the village since the early 1960s and played an active role in many aspects of village life. Many people would know her from working in the Doctors' surgery as one of the receptionists, or through her active role in setting up and helping run the Resource Centre. She also played an important role in the Methodist Church and volunteered for the library, delivering books to the house bound. She was an active member of the WI, the garden club and the craft group, taking great pleasure from her many interests.

Sadly, in the circumstances, we were unable to give her the send off she truly deserved. However, we would like to say a huge thank you for the many cards, letters and good wishes we have received from so many people in the village community. We have enjoyed reading so many warm, lovely memories that people have shared with us about our mum. It was heart warming to see people out as we passed through the village on our way to the crematorium. A special thank you must go to her neighbours and to the ladies of the WI who clapped as we drove past.

Thank you for the many donations to the charities of her choice (The RNLI and The British Heart Foundation) that we have received in her

Friends of the Lake

Out of the blue someone recently asked me, "Who are the Friends of the Lake?" It was one of those questions which someone often struggles to answer when you ask them to describe what they actually do. I thought for a moment before replying that it's not an organisation, just many different people – local residents, fisherfolk, walkers, joggers, cyclists, young families with children – all united in their love of Ham Green Lake and the many different species of wildlife to which it is home.

So why, when we set our sights so high on protecting the environment, would we want to build a development of 12-16 houses in designated Green Belt in a field overlooking the lake opposite the Penny Brohn Centre in Chapel Pill Lane, part of the Avon Cycleway? You might well ask, but developing this wonderful site is precisely what our Neighbourhood Plan proposes to do unless, as local residents, we speak up to stop it. And if one Green Belt exception is made, how many more might be made, to build 1000 new homes or more?

So please do make your views known when the Neighbourhood Plan is published for

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memory. Anyone else wishing to donate can do so via Mason's Independent Funeral Directors, 47 Drove Road, Weston Super Mare, BS23 3NN

Tree Re-homing

Thank you to all who have offered trees. We're still accepting offers of unwanted small tree saplings and especially offers of new homes for these trees to be planted. With luck there'll be a lift in restrictions and we hope to plant some before the end of the spring. Go to www.pillandeastoningordano.org/pill-trees and scroll down to find the form you wish to fill in.



Brookside

A BIG thank you to Hannah Price for organising the planting of over 300 native fruiting hedge-row species on 12 December. Thanks to Bob Buck and Giles Morris who kindly strimmed the area to be planted and John Foley who helped to rake the area clear and to the many volunteers who helped to plant on the day, and who were lucky to be blessed with warm sunshine.

The Parish Council will be mowing a central area for games and recreation and there will be areas managed as meadow. There is also space for a small area of trees to be planted in the far corner of the site. Anyone with a tree to be re-homed can fill out the form on the Parish council website

pillandeastoningordano.org/pill-trees We are hoping to organise a staggered 'COVID Safe' planting before the end of the spring.

Debra Cave will be helping to set up and co-ordinate a 'Friends of Brookside' group, to discuss meadow creation, mowing, signage, play equipment and other ideas. Contact Debra to get involved debracave17@gmail.com.

We wish Hannah Price and her family all the best for their move to North Wales. You will be HUGELY missed Hannah, not only for all your hard work leading the way on all things sustainable, but also as a friend and active member of our community. We wish you all the very best for the future.

Surplus Food Table & Community Fridge

Covid restrictions allowing, we intend to have our first Surplus Food Table in the Precinct on Saturday 13 March and on the second Saturday of each month after that. We hope to have the community fridge up and running by the end of March. Any surplus food from the allotments can be donated and we'll be applying to various schemes to access surplus food from local supermarkets. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with these schemes. We have 19 volunteers signed up but can always do with more. If you'd like to get involved, please fill in the volunteer form on the Parish council website: pillandeastoningordano.org/pill-community-fridge and we'll be in touch.

Donald Davies,

Pill Ward Councillor, N Somerset Council

These current months are very difficult for us all and will continue to be so for some time yet whilst the vaccine roll out continues. Thank you to all those wonderful people who are working extremely hard in this village to look after our neighbours during the pandemic and, second, I urge you all to continue to have regard for the social distancing measures we need to keep in place to avoid putting any of us at risk. For that reason I shan't be holding face-to-face surgeries, but 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.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2021!

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 22 February to 7 March. It will have as its theme "Choose the world you want".

The main focus will be on the growing challenges that climate change brings to farmers and workers in the communities Fairtrade works with. The facts are straightforward. Farmers and workers in the global south, who have done the least to contribute to climate change, are disproportionately affected. They have told us that:

- Climate change is one of their biggest challenges right now.
- Low prices for their crops mean that they are struggling to fight back.
- With more money through Fairtrade, they feel more equipped to meet their everyday needs and deal with the challenges posed by climate change.

If all goes to plan artwork produced by children in the schools will be displayed in the village, and we are hoping for some other online village events. Watch the Daily Pill and our Pill Facebook page for more details. www.facebook.com/Pill-ElG-Ham-Green-Fairtrade-Group

We are all spending a lot of time at home at present so how about going to the Fairtrade Yorkshire website for details of the Arts Festival they are hosting during Fairtrade Fortnight www.fairtradeyorkshire.org.uk

A last idea! On this website there is an idea of yarn bombing post boxes with crocheted Fairtrade marks! There's a pattern, approved by the Post Office and the Fairtrade Foundation. Wouldn't it be great to see some of our village post boxes adorned with the Fairtrade mark during the Fortnight? Please get in touch if you decide to do this. If you have other ideas or want to join in or know more do email us fairtradepill2020@gmail.com

Salvation Army News

With the start of a new year, we often think back to the previous year, our experiences both good and bad. While 2020 was filled with many challenges of not seeing and not being able to celebrate those life events with loved ones as

we would have hoped to. The community yet again raises up to support one another with shopping, daily paper deliveries, street parties, checking in on neighbours and much more. At the Salvation Army we particularly felt the support of the community in helping clear the garden waste from tidying the front of the hall. Thank you, very much appreciated.

It was good to celebrate Christmas in different ways this year with the outdoor nativity scene, Follow the Star treasure hunt and the blessings of the knitted angels (I hope you found one!). We saw an overwhelming response to our Christmas Present Toy Appeal and through your support we were able to give over 60 children gifts last Christmas. It was also great to partner with the Christian Aid group in the Christmas Bake Sale raising £534 to support the work of both Christian Aid and Salvation Army in the UK and overseas. Again, thank you.

Often, we start a new year thinking about plans we would like to make. Possibly thinking of holidays or places to visit, DIY projects, visiting loved ones. I don't know about you, but the start of 2021 has been one of frustration knowing that much of what we want to plan and look forward to continues to be on hold. The bible encourages us to give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18), it is easy to say but harder to put into practice. If this is something you are finding difficult, I would encourage you to create a 'gratitude' journal. Taking note of things we are grateful for each day, then on days when we need that encouragement because we are frustrated or just fed up we can look back and be remind ourselves of the blessings we have.

*God Bless
James*

The Christmas Lights Draw

The Christmas lights volunteer group draw for December 2020 was held on Saturday 5 December and congratulations go to Pat and Linda Foley for winning 1st prize of £500 and to Mrs Costley, winning 2nd prize of £100. On 2 January 1st prize of £75 went to Bert Sexton and 2nd prize of £25 went to Rosemarie James.

If you would like 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.

*Many thanks from the
Pill Christmas Lights Committee*

Local Food Suppliers

The Parish Council Climate Action Food Group has put together a directory of local food suppliers and producers with handy 'eco-credentials' pillandeastoningordano.org/resources/local-food-shopping-directory to help us support local businesses, reduce 'food miles' and buy food from local growers. If you know any other local suppliers, especially those with good eco-credentials you can email Lucy Byrne ljwbyrne@yahoo.com with the details.

Low Carbon Gordano Directorships

Low Carbon Gordano is a Community Energy Society based in North Somerset. We develop

renewable energy projects using money that ordinary people – our members – invest. We have existed since 2010 and currently own solar PV systems totalling about 3.5MW. Each year we make interest payments to our investors and contribute a sum to our Community Benefit Fund – to date, those contributions have totalled more than £100,000.

The Society is run by a team of unpaid directors, most of whom are elected by the membership. Recently, two directors have had to resign for personal reasons and a third is going to retire after serving since the Society was set up. We are therefore looking for new colleagues and are especially keen to improve the diversity of the team in both gender and BAME terms.

We are also keen to find directors with expertise in marketing and social media, financial management or general knowledge of renewable energy. The current team is very supportive and friendly and the director's role, whilst serious and important need not involve a huge commitment of time. If you think this might be a task you could undertake, please get in touch via contact@lowcarbongordano.co.uk




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Local Homes For Local People!

The Pill and District Community Land Trust (P&DCLT) was set up because too many of our neighbours cannot find affordable rental property to enable them to continue to live, work and be educated in their own village. After several years of search we are now poised to put in a planning application for a site for 15 one-, two- or three- bedroomed homes for affordable rental in perpetuity to only local people. It is next to the existing St Katherine's Park estate by the proposed new access road to Pill Tunnel being built by Network Rail.

There are still many hurdles to be overcome in the planning and legal process, but with support from Alliance Homes, Homes England and of course the people of the village we are very hopeful we can deliver this. The land trust members unanimously gave their support and a consultation giving far more detail began in mid-January. There are display boards in the Resource Centre and online at www.alliancehomes.org.uk/ChapelPill (both contain details on how to respond). This runs till 5 February.

The Board of P&DCLT

Thank You From The Pill Christmas Lights

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help put up and take down the lighting display over Christmas, which was especially complicated due to the dreaded Covid restrictions.

The village shone through again even though sadly the switch on event was unable to go ahead, but saying this, once again, our wonderful village came up trumps showing its appreciation, giving us tremendous support in the true spirit of old, raising enough money through donations, big and small, to ensure the lights continue to shine again next Christmas.

A huge thank you goes to Louise Meek Hopkins, for having the inspiration to set up a lighting trail and Just Giving page in aid of the lights, raising an amazing £1500 in donations towards the Xmas lighting funds. Again, thank you to everyone who donated.

Also thank you so much Mrs Lewis and family for selling mince pies and festive treats on the lighting trail evenings, raising a fabulous £75 and to Pill

Rag Committee for their very generous donation.

We would also like to thank the Post Office, the Parish Council, Portishead Cruising Club, Brackenwood Nursery for their help with the trees, King Tree Services, Craddys structural engineering, W4co the Old Brewery, the Resource Centre and The Village Voice and to anyone else who has helped in any way.

We wish you all a happy and healthy new year. Stay safe everyone.

Watch Out For Toads Crossing Our Roads

Covid can't stop the amphibian migrations locally but there are lots of hazards that really can!

Every year amphibians throughout our village make a mighty migration journey, mostly during the milder wet evenings in February and March. At this time there can be thousands of frogs, toads and newts moving very slowly and purposefully throughout the village; all heading back to the ponds to spawn.

Unfortunately, these amazing animals are small and fragile and can be very hard to spot when they cross roads; so every year 100's of them perish under the wheels of our cars and bikes. On mild, damp nights, from now until the end of April, please do take care on the roads. If you have to journey on these evenings, it would really help keep the number of deaths down if you could please stick to the well-lit main roads (as amphibians generally avoid these areas). Usual amphibian bottleneck areas to particularly watch out for are around the Breaches, Avon Road, Hardwick Road/Lodway Close, Chapel Pill Lane/Hart Close and the Bristol to Portishead cycle path, but these are not exclusive.

The good news is that you can help! If you see a frog, newt or toad on the road or against the kerb and it is safe to do so, please pick them up gently (they can't hurt you - though I would recommend washing your hands when you get home) and move them to somewhere dark and/or away from immediate danger. Just by saving one toad or frog you could be helping hundreds, even thousands of new baby amphibians to hatch out and eventually return to our back gardens.

Please contact me, Rob Harvey, on the Pill Toad Patrol Facebook site FFI or if you would like to get involved to protect our wildlife while the Metrowest project is completed.