

# The Village Voice

Issue N° 02

Pill, Easton-in-Gordano & Ham Green

December 2019



## The Owls of Pill – Centenary Christmas

Thank you to all those who joined us by the railway arches to see Don Davies unveil our centenary plaque. We're very grateful to all organisations and people who helped us have this striking plaque and boulder located at the heart of the village.

The celebrations of our first 100 years continue and we're now into our programme of charity carol singing at around 80 venues. We're especially looking forward to the centenary carol concerts at St George's Church, Easton-in-Gordano on Friday 6 December at 7.30pm and at Christ Church, Pill, on Saturday 14 December at 6pm. Tickets, if there are any still available, are from the Resource Centre, at £5 for adults and £3 for children.

We should finish our Christmas programme at about midnight on Christmas eve, where you might find us under our favourite railway arch.

If you're still looking for a local-themed Christmas present, then why not buy a DVD of the



Photo courtesy of Liz Milner

centenary film we commissioned? It comes with a CD recording of the Owls from a few years ago and costs only £5. The local history book about Pill and the Owls by Alan Vowles is also still available, priced at £10. The book and DVD were both produced with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and can be bought at the Resource Centre.

We never cease to be amazed by, and truly appreciate, the support we have consistently received from the village over these 100 years. Without this generosity we would not be able to raise such significant amounts for our charities (about £350,000 since 1919; over £150,000 of this in the last ten years). Here's to the next 100 years!

# The Village Voice

Covering Pill, Easton-in-Gordano & Ham Green

pillandeastoningordano.org

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Front cover photo courtesy of Peter Milner.

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## Editorial

What a wonderful reception the Owls are having this memorable, centenary year. Book sales have been fantastic – and rightly so – and the unveiling of the plaque on the boulder under the arches was a great celebration, with all the Owls in their full regalia bringing early Christmas spirit to the village. This magnificent memento was inspired, and is a beautiful work of art, in a prominent, pertinent and permanent place for the whole village to enjoy for many years to come. Congratulations to all those involved (and I understand there were many) in making it happen.

I can't believe this is the Christmas paper! It's lovely to be able to continue our tradition of 'Christmas wishes', to know that people are supporting their charities and 'going green' at the same time.

It seems we hit the right note with the paper as feedback has been really positive. On that note, I'd like to express my sincere thanks to Barry Winsley for his indomitable efforts getting advertisers on board The Village Voice. Due to other commitments Barry has decided to step down, but he's left a very solid base of contacts and information for us to work with in future, for which we are very grateful.

Plenty more news and events this month I'm relieved to say (would have been awful to be a 'one hit wonder', wouldn't it?!), even some I've had to hold over for January so I'll keep this brief and finish with just my wishes to you all for a very Merry Christmas and all good things in 2020!

Deadline for January's paper is early – 6 December. Look forward to hearing from you.

*Jo Smith (Editor)*

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Jo,

The Village Voice is great - well done to everyone involved. I love the front picture and the layout and colour is very attractive and easy to read. So good to have our local paper back.

*Jill Coleman*

## Parish Council Update

We hope you managed to get to one of the exhibitions during November concerning the Neighbourhood Plan but, if not, you can visit the web-site at Neighbourhood Plan Exhibition on [www.pillanddistrictplan.org](http://www.pillanddistrictplan.org). The Parish Council would urge you strongly to make your views known on the plan, as well as letting us have any suggestions. If we want to retain the identity of our village it is very important to speak out. We have been working closely with our neighbouring Parish Council in Abbots Leigh so that we can present a co-ordinated view and there may be something which could be raised with our MP or any prospective candidates if you meet them during the coming election weeks.

I am sorry to tell you that Barry Winsley has decided to resign from the Parish Council so that he can attend to a mounting backlog of personal work. Barry has been a vital member of the Village Voice team and has worked tirelessly on securing advertisements for the first and subsequent editions. His work has ensured that the paper is financially viable for the immediate future and he has kindly offered to keep things going until we have found someone to take over his work.

We are now nearing the final push to change

all the village streetlights to LEDs and to replace the concrete posts wherever they have been classed as defective. This has been a long and painstaking task for those involved - especially Bob Langton and Julie Smart who have been counting lights in their sleep over the last few years. This move is clearly in line with wider concerns about energy and light pollution and we are always open to further suggestions about similar long-term projects which you think could be of benefit to us all.

The centre pages of this paper illustrate so many regular activities, which shows us all how fortunate we are to live in such a vibrant and supportive village. Feel free to let any of us on the Parish Council know about anything that you feel could be improved - or started - as we are keen for everyone to feel they belong here.

The Parish Council wishes you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

*Paul Kent (Chair of the Parish Council)*

## Community Allotment, Cross Lanes

A friendly group looks after a community allotment and bring fruit and veg to share on the SPAD (Sustainable Pill and District) stall at the monthly Community Market. We meet fortnightly on Tuesday mornings from 9.30-11am and are planning monthly working parties next year on the first Saturday of the month from 10am-12 noon. If you would like to join us email me on [jill.penelope.coleman@gmail.com](mailto:jill.penelope.coleman@gmail.com) or phone/text 07813 927416. If you are a gardener or have an allotment and want to share any surplus produce with the village, please let me know or you can join our WhatsApp group by messaging Lucy on 07929 655141.



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Dec 14 Jane Cullinane  
Dec 19 Quiz (*In Aid Of Owls - who  
will appear*)  
Dec 28 Landlord's Birthday  
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## Pill Methodist Church

### “The Church on the Green”

We will be holding an informal carol service with a difference, where you choose the carols. Join us on Sunday 22 December at 10.30am and listen to ‘The Mudlarks’. Sing yours and your friends’ favourite carols, enjoy a cuppa and a mince pie. Simply pop into the Resource Centre or the Methodist Church and put your request into the ‘carol box’ by 14 December. We will choose the top ten carols for the service.

Other Christmas events - Saturday 21 December, join us for a Family Craft Morning 10.30am-noon. Admission free.

## Meet The Author Of Pill Owls’ Publication ‘T’aint Christmas’

100 years of carol singing with the Owls of Pill are being celebrated with the publication of a new book called ‘T’aint Christmas’. This true story unveils the hilarious local history of how,

when and why this 100-year-old tradition was formed and still continues today. Local author Alan Vowles and the Pill Owls will be at Portishead Library on Wednesday 4 December at 7pm for a free meet and greet and carol singing. Copies of the book will be available to buy on the night for £10. All proceeds go to local charities.

## Crockerne Primary School Christmas Fayre

Friends of Crockerne have organised a great Christmas Fayre for all the family on Friday 6 December 4.30-6.30pm in the KS2 (top) hall of the school. The Owls will be opening the fayre singing beside the Christmas tree. We will have all the usual stalls and games, food and drink, craft and good cheer. Father Christmas (the real one) will be meeting children who have pre-booked through the school. All money raised will go towards updating and replacing the computers the children use. Please come along to support your local school.



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Friday

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Saturday & Sunday

12pm - 12:30AM

## The Climate Emergency What We Are Doing to Help

There are now over 30 people in addition to Parish Councillors who are working to help reduce our community's carbon emissions, improve biodiversity and make our lives more sustainable. We all know that our actions are tiny in the great scheme of things, but also that we are part of a huge and growing movement in very many countries that is dedicated to ensuring that the world's children will be able to grow up on a planet that will sustain their lives as it has sustained ours.

The Council has set up a working group that consists of both Councillors and other interested people to plan and deliver activities. The group has now created several subgroups, some of which have representatives from Abbots Leigh, to think about different aspects of the challenge:

### Carbon Capture and Biodiversity Group:

Lots of enthusiastic local volunteers who are working to:

- Identify sites for planting of native and fruit trees, and to allow rewilding.
- Promote the wonderful 'blue heart' campaign to encourage and highlight areas managed for wildlife.
- Offer advice to local individuals and groups, including our churches, on how to encourage wildlife.

### Food: Lots going on! We are:

- Engaging with village shops to make local shopping a better and greener experience.

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. 2

If you have food-to-go much, then carry a reusable cup for tea and coffee, and bamboo cutlery to avoid using plastic ones. You can get collapsible cups if that helps.

- Working to share locally grown food more effectively – there is a lot!
- Offering 120 cheap fruit and hazel trees for people to plant. Come to the January Community Market but look out for posters and posts online to find out more.

**Energy:** The Energy group is working with Wiltshire-based solar energy company IDDEA to offer householders cheap solar electricity systems, along with a lot of energy efficiency advice. The scheme will launch early in 2020, so look out for leaflets and public meetings to find out more.

**Transport:** We need more members so we can get on with promoting walking, cycling and public transport and help people think about the transport revolution that is coming – it's not just electric cars!

**Public Engagement:** The group aims to ensure all the climate emergency activities work together, and to help everyone in our community understand what is going on and why – and join in when they can.

Above all our hope is to engage the many people in our community who are worried about climate change and the destruction of the natural world in this fight. The more who come forward to help, the more we will be able to achieve. Contact Bob Langton (vovlangton@hotmail.com) and he will put you in touch with the right person for your interest.



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## Pill & District Gardening Club

We have no meeting in December, however, on behalf of the club chairman, Annie Morris, I would like to thank all of you who came along and supported the club at our meetings, various shows and visits to some amazing gardens throughout 2019. Without such support the club would not exist.

Why not start 2020 with a new venture, and come along to our next meeting on Wednesday 15 January? Meet new friends and enjoy learning about many aspects of gardening which you may otherwise not be aware of. You will also have the chance to impart your knowledge to others and so education in this vast subject goes on through the generations.

We truly are a friendly club, with many very interesting speakers on a variety of gardening subjects. This club has evolved over the years, so if you were a member but no longer attend meetings, give us another shot, come and renew friendships.

FFI please contact Mike James on 01275 568605/07771887331 or mike.ofd@sky.com

You can also visit our web site at [www.pilland-districtgardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.pilland-districtgardeningclub.co.uk)

On behalf of the P&DGC, we wish all of our amazing community a Happy Christmas and a healthy 2020.

## Abbots Leigh WI

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm in Abbots Leigh Village Hall. Join us on 10 December when Mike Britton will present "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!" All welcome, contact Donna 375378.

## Do You Love To Sing?

Pill Community Choir is a warm and friendly group who meet on Tuesday evenings 7.45–9.15pm in the Community Centre. We sing songs in 4-part unaccompanied harmony which we learn by ear, so no music reading is needed, and there are no auditions.

Recent songs include The Bare Necessities from Jungle Book, Waterloo Sunset by The Kinks, Nobody's Fault but Mine – a spiritual by Blind Willie Nelson and a variety of exciting world music.

Singing in a group is very uplifting and really good for you – it helps relieve stress, improves your breathing and boosts your immune system.

The Christmas term runs until 10 December and on our last evening we will perform our songs in the Community Centre and share mulled wine and mince pies with our audience. The new year term starts on Tuesday 7 January. To book a free taster or for more information email [sergeant.wendy@gmail.com](mailto:sergeant.wendy@gmail.com) or visit [www.wendysergeant.com](http://www.wendysergeant.com)



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## Bold Brass At Portbury

Bold Brass will be performing their Annual Christmas Concert in St Mary's Church, Portbury with a selection of Christmas music and carols on Thursday 19 December at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 (on the door) which include mulled wine, mince pies and tea/coffee. Accompanied children free. Everyone is welcome to join in this festive evening.

## Thank You

The Pill Christmas Lights Committee would like to thank Sally Brookes for her kind donation, in memory of her Dad, Jim.

## Neighbourhood Plan

Thanks to all those who made a visit to the Neighbourhood Plan exhibitions in November. Lots of people feel more informed about what we are trying to do. If you missed the exhibition then you can view it on the website as Neighbourhood Plan Exhibition on [www.pillanddistrictplan.org](http://www.pillanddistrictplan.org)



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**@ NO. 4**

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## We Need You At The Lunch Club!

The Lunch Club would like to say a big thank you to The Owls of Pill, The Grateful Society and Lodway Garage for their support. Your donations have made a big difference and we are very appreciative.

We offer a lovely hot lunch, together with a warm welcome on Thursdays at the Community Centre. Why not come along and make some new friends? This is a very sociable and welcoming group and it's a lovely way to spend a couple of hours, enjoying good food, nice company and a good chin wag! If you're reluctant to come on your own, don't worry - we'll look after you!

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.

## Easton In Gordano WI

Following our AGM, Mrs Lynne Watkins has agreed to continue as our President. On 4 December our Committee is planning a party, so we hope to see all our members enjoying the festivities. Diary dates: "Carols and Chocolate" with the Owls at The Lodge, 1 Priory Road on 10 December; Christmas lunch at the Failand Inn on 11 December; Group Carol Service at Abbots Leigh on 14 December and County Carol Service at St Mary Redcliffe on 16 December. Craft date is 10 December.

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# Things to do, places to

**Pill Community Choir** Is a warm and friendly group who meet on Tuesday evenings 7.45–9.15pm in the Community Centre. We sing songs in four-part unaccompanied harmony which we learn by ear, so no music reading is needed and there are no auditions. To book a free taster or for more information email [sergeant.wendy@gmail.com](mailto:sergeant.wendy@gmail.com) or visit [www.wendysergeant.com](http://www.wendysergeant.com).

**Pill Walkers** Tuesdays, leaving St George's Church Hall car park at 10am. Open to all ages and abilities: FFI Ann Brain 01275 374867 [annembrain@gmail.com](mailto:annembrain@gmail.com)

**Spanish Lessons** in the Community Centre. All courses are six weeks and cost £48, including course materials. For more information, email [hollye.kirkcaldy@gmail.com](mailto:hollye.kirkcaldy@gmail.com) or call 07969 760462.

**Stitch Away Stress** Knit/Crochet & Natter Group for those affected by or supporting someone with an invisible illness or disability. Tuesday evenings, 7.30-9.30pm. Please come along and join us - just for a natter, or to learn a new skill - we have plenty of wool and needles. FFI Luanne Gibbons 07584 060297.

**Short Mat Bowls** at The Community Centre, Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm and Wednesdays 2.30-4.30pm, September to April. A friendly, mixed and informal group, where tuition is available if required. All equipment supplied but flat-bottomed footwear must be worn. Annual subscription is £5 and £2 per session green fees, including refreshments. Come along and have a go!

**Art Group** meet at the Community Centre every Tuesday evening 7-9pm. FFI Steve Crossley 376935 or 07733055091 [steve@crossley34.plus.com](mailto:steve@crossley34.plus.com)

**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.

**Easton In Gordano Wi** first Wednesday of each month in St George's Church Hall, 7.30pm.

**Crockerne Men's Group** - second Thursday of every month in the Community Centre, from 9.45am. FFI David Billington 372329.

**Little Apples Pre-School Group** 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 outdoor play, creative activities using natural materials and lots of fun. Wednesday mornings, 10–11.15am. FFI Hannah, 01275 218376 or [littleapplespill@gmail.com](mailto:littleapplespill@gmail.com)

**F.r.i.e.n.D.S Together** A group for those with invisible illnesses/disabilities and their family/friends. First and third Wednesdays each month at The Methodist Church, 10am-12 noon. Cost, £2, which includes tea/coffee/cake. 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.

**Parkinson's Support Group** 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, and all those with Parkinson's, those who are caring for them and their families and friends are welcome. Transport (free or subsidised) can usually be provided for those who would otherwise be unable to attend. Enquiries: Pat Kington 01934 834060.

**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.

**Crafted & Coffee** every Friday at The Methodist Church on The Green, 10am-12 noon. Cost £2. It's OK to take time out! Bring along your craft, have a cuppa and cake and meet new friends in the community. This gathering is for everyone. Funds raised will go to supporting adults and children in our community living with invisible illnesses. FFI Luanne Gibbons 07584060297.

**Join Us At Christ Church** on the second and fourth Monday each month for open house, with soup and a roll, followed by tea and cake, 12 noon to 1.30pm. Prayer meeting at 9am on the first Monday of each month and an Ecumenical prayer meeting on the last Saturday, at 9.30am.

**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** for more info visit [www.flowerbank.org.uk](http://www.flowerbank.org.uk), email [admin@flowerbank.org.uk](mailto:admin@flowerbank.org.uk) or contact Bob on 373750.

**Baptist Ladies Fellowship** meets at Millers Close every Monday at 2.30pm to enjoy an interesting talk, a cup of tea and a chat. A warm welcome awaits anyone wishing to join them.

**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 Lunch Club** Thursdays, Community Centre. A lovely hot lunch and 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 Emma Shepherd email [pill.community.market@gmail.com](mailto:pill.community.market@gmail.com)

**Pill Goldies** at Miller's 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 or email [hiho@golden-oldies.org.uk](mailto:hiho@golden-oldies.org.uk). See [www.golden-oldies.org.uk](http://www.golden-oldies.org.uk)

**Pill Festival Band** every Monday night during school term time at Pill Memorial Club. 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](mailto: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 [williamsb@skdrive.org](mailto:williamsb@skdrive.org) or telephone 373737.

**Ageing Well** Age UK Somerset offers an EXTEND class, suitable for both men and women, Wednesdays, 10.30am at the Community Centre. FFI, contact Nikki Smith 07530 777895, email [nikki.smith@ageuksomerset](mailto:nikki.smith@ageuksomerset) or visit [www.ageuksomerset.org.uk](http://www.ageuksomerset.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](mailto:steve@crossley34.plus.com)

**Pill Gardening Club** Third Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm at St George's Church Hall. FFI Mike James, 01275 568605 [mike.ofd@sky.com](mailto:mike.ofd@sky.com) or visit the club's site [www.pillanddistrictgardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.pillanddistrictgardeningclub.co.uk)

**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, [yogawithsuzie@gmail.com](mailto:yogawithsuzie@gmail.com), [www.facebook.com/suziedelve](http://www.facebook.com/suziedelve)

**Zumba** dance fitness to great music from all over the world. Tuesdays 6.30pm, Pill Community Centre. £5. Just turn up with water and a sense of humour! FFI Marie 0117 963 4104, [bristoldancezumba.co.uk](http://bristoldancezumba.co.uk)

**Portbury WI** third Tuesday each month at 7.30pm at Portbury Village Hall. FFI Daphne Vise - 01275 372644.

**Gordano Footpath Group** Walks of different distances for a range of abilities each month. FFI Ian Donovan (01275 848024) or Christine Scruby (01275 817139), or by visiting our website at [www.gordano-footpath-group.org.uk](http://www.gordano-footpath-group.org.uk).

**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, from 7.30pm for 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. Rooms to suit any kind of meeting or activity, and excellent kitchen facilities. FFI Lesley on 372745 or email [info.pillcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:info.pillcommunitycentre@gmail.com).

## The Pill Christmas Lights Switch-On

Hopefully by the time you read this all the lights and Christmas trees will be up and ready for the switch on night 7 December in the precinct, starting at 5pm, with Father Christmas due to arrive at 5.15pm. The Crockerne school choir will sing at 5.30pm, joined by the Owls of Pill at 5.45pm and followed by the Pill Ladies Morris dancers and other singing groups until 6.30pm. There is also a board showing the times on the green opposite the Kings Head.

The Big Prize Draw for the Christmas club, 1st prize £500, 2nd prize £100, will take place at 6.20pm. Make sure you're there in case you are a winner! At 6.30pm the lights are switched on. We will have mulled wine, Bar-b-que, and other stalls in the precinct.

Free memorial ribbon tags, to remember loved ones lost to us over the years, will be available to collect in the Resource Centre and on switch-on night. They will be hung on the trees on the main Green and Pump Square.

The Pill Christmas lights volunteer group would like to thank everyone for their continued support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stuck for a Christmas present for the person who has everything? Why not buy them a membership to the Pill Christmas Lights Club draw? It's £24 for the year, ensuring entry into the monthly draw for 12 consecutive months, commencing from January 2020 to December 2020. Lucky winners will receive a first prize of £75 or second prize of £25 in the monthly draw, with the additional chance of hitting the jackpot in the Christmas 2020 draw for first prize of £500 or second prize of £100.

Congratulations go to Maurice and Anne Brain for winning first prize of £75 and to Wade (Fehr) Jaequt for winning second prize of £25 in November's draw.

## Parkinson's Group Activities

The next regular monthly meeting of The North West Somerset Branch of Parkinson's UK will be on Saturday 14 December (also at St Francis Church Hall), with festive refreshments as well as musical entertainment by the ensemble formerly known as The Magpies. (See 'Things to do...' section for further details about the group.)

## Have Your Say On Transport

The Neighbourhood Plan team is collecting people's views on transport issues with an online survey. It only takes a few minutes, so take the chance to get your views heard. Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/S362TYR> to find the survey, but hurry - it closes at midnight on Saturday 7 December.

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## Christmas Holiday Fun at Pill Library

Come along to Pill Library for free drop in crafts over the Christmas holidays. Crafts will be available Saturdays 9.30am-1pm, Tuesday 31 December 9.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-5pm and Friday 3 January 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-5pm.

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

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](http://www.northsomersetlibraryvolunteers.wordpress.com). Alternatively, contact the Library Volunteering Team on 01934 426657 or 01275 884315 or email [library.volunteers@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:library.volunteers@n-somerset.gov.uk)

Love Lego? Come along to Lego Club at Pill Library on Saturdays 11am-12pm. 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.

## Pill Ward Councillor

**Donald Davies, North Somerset Council**

May I wish all residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I shall be holding my surgeries this month for residents at Abbots Leigh Village Hall on Saturday 7 December from 10-11am and at Pill Resource Centre on Monday 23 December from 1.30-2.30pm, 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](mailto:donald.davies@n-somerset.gov.uk).



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## Short Mat Bowls

The new season of short mat bowls is now in session at Pill Community Centre on Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30pm and Wednesdays 2.30-4.30pm. We need new members for each session, and tuition is available if required. All equipment is supplied, but flat-bottomed footwear must be worn. Costs are £5 annual subscription and £2 per session green fees, including refreshments. Come along and have a go! We are a very friendly group of men and women and are quite informal.

## Pill Festival Band Christmas Concert

**Monday 9 December 7-9.30pm, Pill Memorial Club**

Rehearsals are well underway now for our annual Christmas concert. Forty of us are playing this year and we'll be joined by Crockerne School singing choir, so we're really looking forward to hearing their voices.

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 and we hope the village will support us again for what is always a very festive occasion. No set charge on the door but a suggested donation of £3 per adult towards our youth work would be much appreciated. Free entry for children. 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!

## Spanish For Beginners – Pill Community Centre

We've now come to the end of the first Spanish for Beginners course, which ran at the Community Centre on a Monday night. We've covered a variety of topics over the six-week course, including ordering in a restaurant, using public transport and expressing likes and dislikes. The classes are very focused on conversational Spanish so there's plenty of useful vocabulary and phrases to get people chatting. It's been a pleasure to watch the group progress from not knowing more than a couple of basic words to now being able to string together complete sentences! One student said, "I think your lessons and teaching are superb...thank you...full, relevant, fun, engaging...highly recommended!".

The next courses will run as follows in the Community Centre in the New Year:

- **Spanish for Beginners:** Wednesdays 1.30-2.30pm, starting 22 January.
- **Spanish for Beginners:** Thursdays 7-8pm, starting 23 January.

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- **Spanish Beginners Plus:** Mondays 7–8pm, starting 20 January. A follow on from the beginners' course, for anyone with a basic understanding or who has previously done a beginner's course elsewhere.

All courses are six weeks and cost £48, including course materials. For more information, email [hollye.kirkcaldy@gmail.com](mailto:hollye.kirkcaldy@gmail.com) or call 07969 760462.

## Helping Hands Needed for Blue Hearts

The Community Forum has granted money to the Parish Council's Carbon Capture and Biodiversity working group for a fun tree planting and wildlife event at the Community Market on 25 January. (Look out for posters and an article in the January Village Voice.)

We will be promoting the national 'Blue Campaign' [www.BLUEcampaignhub.com](http://www.BLUEcampaignhub.com) about using blue hearts to signify designated 'wild' areas.

To prepare for the event we would welcome volunteers who could cut out some plywood hearts, or paint some blue, or root around for re-claimed plywood to make them from before the event, as well as volunteers to put up posters

to advertise the event or to help on the day.

Also, if anyone has areas of private land where more trees could be planted please get in touch.

If you can help, or would like to get involved in any way, please contact Lucy Byrne on 07929 655141.

## Christmas At The Leaf

The students and staff at St Katherine's School have produced a cracker of a menu for you to celebrate the run up to Christmas in style! Our Christmas menu dates are Thursdays 28 November, 5, 12 and 19 December and are very popular, so be an early bird and don't miss out!

To book, please contact Bev Williams on 01275 373737 or email [williamsb@skdrive.org](mailto:williamsb@skdrive.org) We look forward to seeing you soon!

The students and staff at The Leaf would like to thank all our customers for their continued support this year. Your custom means the students are able to experience industry working conditions, which is invaluable, not only to their learning in hospitality but also life skills.



**Graham Rogers**

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## Help Others to have a Better Christmas

Pill Food Bank expects to support around 60 families over Christmas. If you can help, this is what we need please: long life milk, tea or coffee, cream crackers, biscuits, tinned vegetables, meat or fish, jam or peanut butter. Please give your donations in to any church in Pill or Easton or to Pill Resource Centre. We would also welcome cash donations.

The Salvation Army is looking to support families with gifts. If you can help please take a gift tag from the tree in the Resource Centre, which has on it the age and gender of a child we have been asked to support. We would ask you to purchase a new gift that would be suitable for that child or, for some of the teenagers we support, a gift card might be more appreciated.

There will be a Toy Service at the Salvation Army on Sunday 8 December at 10.30am, when you will be able to give your **unwrapped** new gift, or you can leave it under the tree in the Resource Centre.

## Defibrillators In Pill Update!

Have you noticed the life-saving green boxes popping up around our village? We currently have four publicly accessible defibrillators:

- On the end of Pill Street (opposite the Kings Head)
- Outside Crockerne Primary School
- Outside Lodway Cricket Club
- Outside St George’s Church Hall

Please take note of the locations, so you know for an emergency.

These have been organised by the ‘Lions Club of Portishead’ but supported by our own Parish Council, Resource Centre, Pill Community Forum, and our own village donations, as well as the generosity of local businesses.

If you need access dial 999 and they will give you the code to access the box and retrieve the unit for YOU to use, it’s all automated.

## Fairtrade News



The 25th birthday of the Fairtrade Mark was celebrated in October with posters all around the village, and by adults and children putting their finger and hand marks on a new wooden Fairtrade sign which will be appearing at events in the village from now on.

2020 marks the tenth year of us being a Fairtrade Village and we will be welcoming a coffee farmer from Nicaragua to the village on 26/7 February to help us celebrate. Watch out for more details in the January Village Voice!



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## Christmas Services 2019

Sunday 1 December	11am-1pm	Christmas Messy Church	Salvation Army
		<i>A family event which includes crafts and activities, a celebration time with songs and all-age story, followed by a shared meal.</i>	
Sunday 8 December	10.30am	Toy Appeal Service	Salvation Army
		<i>Join us for a special festive service to mark the start of The Salvation Army's Toy Appeal (see separate article).</i>	
Monday 9 December	2.30pm	Bright Hour meeting	Baptist (Miller's Close)
Sunday 15 December	9.30am	Holy Communion	Christ Church
	4pm	Carol Service	Christ Church
	6pm	Carol Service	St George
	6pm	Carol Service	St Mary
Saturday 21 December	3pm	Christingle Service	St George
Sunday 22 December	9.30am	Family Holy Communion	St Mary
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Christ Church
	10.30am	Carol Service	Baptist (Miller's Close)
	10.30am	Carol Service	Methodist
	4pm	Christmas Carol Service	St Joseph's (Portishead)
	6pm	Evening Service	St George
	10.30am	Family Carol Service	Salvation Army
		<i>Opportunity to come and be a part of the action, dressed as a nativity character if you like and celebrating Christmas with impromptu nativity and carols</i>	
Christmas Eve	4pm	Crib Service	St Mary
	5pm	Crib Service	Christ Church
	6.30pm	Vigil Mass	St Joseph's (Portishead)
	10pm	Mass (with Carols from 9.30pm)	St Joseph's
	10pm	Christmas Eve Communion	Methodist
	10pm	Benefice Bethlehem Midnight	Christ Church
Christmas Day	10am	Family Service	St George
	10am	Morning Worship	St Mary
	10.30am	Christmas Family Service	Methodist
	11am	Christmas Day Mass	St Joseph's (Portishead)
	10am	Informal Christmas Day Service	Salvation Army
Sunday 29 December	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	St Mary

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## Christmas Wishes (Charities in brackets will benefit in lieu of cards)

To my many friends, family, colleagues and neighbours. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. (Pill Christmas Lights)  
Ivor King

Anthony, Claire, Zack, Harvey and Ruby (Webber) send their good wishes to all friends and family for Christmas 2019 and wish you a happy, healthy 2020 xx. (St Mungo's and Terrence Higgins Trust)

Wishing our family, friends and fellow villagers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Laura, James, Evie and Charlie Dexter. (RNLI)

Margaret Furlong would like to wish all friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. (Alzheimer's Research)

Joy Thomas wishes all friends and neighbours a blessed Christmas and good health and happiness through 2020. (Local charities)

Brenda and Alan Hodge would like to wish all friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. (Cancer Research and the Heart Foundation)

Wishing all our family, friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2020. Sue and Ray Sharp xx (St Peter's Hospice.)

Maggie (Robbins), Andrew and Kayla wish all their friends a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Season's greetings and a peaceful New Year to my family and friends. Please accept this as the only greetings this year. Jean Thomas

Dawn Lynn sends Christmas Greetings and wishes for a happy healthy New Year to all her friends and neighbours. (Children's Hospice South West)

Bill and Ann Sharp wish all their family, friends and everyone in the village a very Happy Christmas and every good wish for 2020. (Above and Beyond at the BRI/The Village Voice)

To our relatives and friends, have a wonderful and peaceful Christmas and 2020. Happy walking for our dog pals! Josie and Brian Connor. (NSPCC and animal charities)

Cynthia and Bernard Allsopp would like to wish all friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. (Cancer Research)

Jenny and Terry Ross wish all friends and family a very Happy Christmas and all good things in 2020. (St Peter's Hospice)

Ann Bush would like to wish all her friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and sends her best wishes for the coming New Year (St Peter's Hospice)

Wishing a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of our wonderful family and friends in Pill and Bristol. We didn't get a chance to see you all this year but hoping to visit very soon in the New Year. Lots of love Dan, Sandra and Bodhi from the land down under. XXX

Marcus, Helen and Phoebe Sherborne wish all our lovely friends in Pill and Easton a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, buzzing New Year. x x x (Bees via Oxfam Unwrapped)

We wish all our family and friends around the village a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Nick, Jo, Emily and Chloe Marshall. (Prostate Cancer Research)

Wishing all my friends, family and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Thanking you all for your support and offers of help during the recent loss of my wife Liz. Robert Williams.

Richard and Claire of Pill Hardware wish all our customers a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Happy Christmas and Happy New year to our family, friends and neighbours. Audrey and John Webber. (Children's Heart Circle (Southwest))

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to my family, friends and neighbours. Ernie Harvey. (St Peter's Hospice)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our family, friends and neighbours. Lisa, Lewis, Jay and Kyle Webber. (Bristol Children's Heart Circle (South West))

Lesley and Jim Sharp wish all our friends and neighbours a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the coming year. (Kisumu Children)

Bob Cunningham would like to wish all his family, friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. (The Village Voice)