

# The Village Voice

Issue N° 07

Pill, Easton-in-Gordano & Ham Green

August/September 2020



## And Life Goes On...

- The Parish council is keen to support residents who wish to make small ponds in their gardens to help our local wildlife. Pond liner and underlay are available to purchase at cost price from the Parish Council at just £4 per square metre. Call Lucy on 07929 655141 for more details.
- Climate Action high viz vests have been printed for volunteers to borrow or buy (£8) for any activities that are related to caring for our natural environment, from litter picking to the great work to encourage more meadow flowers at Bridge Road. If you have a local environmental project and need high viz jackets get in touch. Call Lucy on 07929 655141.
- Gratitude Rainbows. It has been heartening to see all the rainbows in windows around the village for the NHS. The Parish council is inviting residents to share all the things they are most grateful for during these difficult times, from a new appreciation of our local walks to new skills learnt or simply to thank a kind neighbour. You can post a note through the door of the Resource Centre or into one of the rainbow post boxes in the Co-ops or Post Office.
- If you're looking for positive uplifting stories or have one to share yourself you can follow the Happy Pill on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/happypillstories>. Set up by the Parish council to capture stories that inspire us so we can develop new positive initiatives in our community.
- Re-homing trees: Sometimes tree saplings come up where they're not wanted in our gardens, or we plant acorns then have nowhere to plant out the oak tree. Others might want trees in their gardens or to plant native hedges instead of having fences between gardens to provide habitats, shelter and food sources **(continues on page 2)**



# The Village Voice

Covering Pill, Easton-in-Gordano & Ham Green

[pillandeastingordano.org](http://pillandeastingordano.org)

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

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## TOP TIP

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[www.bluecampaignhub.com](http://www.bluecampaignhub.com)

**(continued from front page)** for wildlife.

Some may not have a place to plant a tree but are keen to get involved in planting/'re-homing' trees. The Parish council's climate action group have put together a database which can be used to marry these elements together. You can go to [www.pillandeastingordano.org/pill-trees](http://www.pillandeastingordano.org/pill-trees) and submit your details to be part of the project. (Trees from 20cm up to 1.5m are most suitable - ideally leave them in the ground where they are marked with some coloured ribbon until a new home is found. Sadly, with the virus affecting our horse chestnuts 'conker trees' will not be suitable. All data will be held securely and not shared without your permission.)

To sign up to the parish council's mailing list go to: [mailchi.mp/3afcfee2ade7/pilleignewsletter](mailto:mailchi.mp/3afcfee2ade7/pilleignewsletter)

## Editorial Dare We Hope ...?

When I wrote April's paper, mid-March, little did I know what was coming. The paper was printed but not delivered, though some of you may have picked up a copy locally. Most of what was included didn't actually happen, but I have repeated some items this month if they are still relevant.

I'm hopeful that this paper will lead us back into our regular monthly publication, and that by the next issue we'll be able to plan with some degree of certainty for forthcoming events, albeit it with the usual caveats and conditions.

I must just use this opportunity to say a huge WELL DONE to all those who have done such a magnificent job on clearing up Bridge Road. Led by Sara Button and involving local residents and children as well as other volunteers from the village, the work was co-ordinated with input

on local wildlife and wildflowers, ensuring the project did no harm, whilst doing a lot of good. Thank you – it was a big job, done well.

Advertising deadline for October's paper is Wednesday 9 September (but earlier is always better if you can!). Copy deadline is the Friday, 11 September.

*Jo Smith (Editor)*

## History Society Book Release

We are very pleased to announce that the Society's third book "WW1 & WW2: In Conclusion. The Memorials of Pill & Easton-in-Gordano 2020" will be released to mark Victory in Japan Day on 15 August.

Because of Covid-19 we are unable to hold our normal launch but the book will be available, price £4, from Pill Post Office on Monday, 17 August.

The book incorporates an amount of information that has come to light since the publication of the 2014 WW1 and 2015 WW2 books. It also contains new stories of the two servicemen who were added to the Pill memorial in 2016, three servicemen who were not named on the memorials and three who were awarded the Military Medal, together with details of national and local fundraising campaigns and the Welcome Home fund and dinner. Definitely worth a read!

Copies of the 2014 and 2015 books are also still available by contacting Maggi on 373887.

## Community Storage Shed

The little free library has had a rebrand and will now be known as the Community Story Shed. This was partly due to Facebook taking umbrage and closing the page for their own reasons, unknown or shared with me!

It prompted me to want the word 'community' in the new name, because of this time in lockdown and how valuable our community has been. It now has a new website and blog and to find out more go to [www.thecommunitystoryshed.com](http://www.thecommunitystoryshed.com).

In addition to this, I was kindly donated some money from J19 who support local charities every year. A big thank you to them for the money as this kick started a JustGiving fund to buy some books about race and racism.

Many in the community expressed an interest in learning more about racism and society. Visit the website to find out the titles I currently have and get in touch! They are there to be shared.

The community story shed is once again fully stocked with adult and children's books and by the time this is published, I will be accepting donations again.

*Kelly Challis*

## Brookside Proposal

Dear Community

The Parish Council would really appreciate your feedback on proposals for Brookside. They hope to make changes to the site that will encourage more use by families and young people and also increase its value for wildlife.

Plans include replanting of a hedgerow, creation of a wildflower meadow, planting of a small wooded area and marking of a permanent 5-a-side football pitch with goals. You can find a copy of the Plan on the Parish Council website at [pillandeastoningordano.org/2020/07/16/brookside](http://pillandeastoningordano.org/2020/07/16/brookside).

Please fill out the survey online at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SKFPV7M](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SKFPV7M) or contact me (Email: [hannahprice3011@gmail.com](mailto:hannahprice3011@gmail.com)) or 01275 218376 for a paper copy.

Also, if you would like to get involved with the project in whatever capacity, and offering as much or as little time as you have, then please also get in touch.

*Many thanks, Hannah*

## Donald Davies, Pill Ward Councillor, N Somerset Council

The past few months have been very difficult for us all and will continue to be so for many months more. First I'd like to thank all those wonderful people who have worked extremely hard in this village to look after our neighbours during the pandemic and, second, to urge you all to continue to have regard for the social distancing measures we need to keep in place to avoid another peak of infection. 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](mailto:donald.davies@n-somerset.gov.uk).



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Hello. It's great to be back working and supporting the Village Voice!

For many of you the past few months have been extremely difficult both emotionally and physically and this may have left you feeling overwhelmed in your own home. Happy Balance, Claire and SJ, are declutterers who work with you enabling you to reclaim space and order in your home. Wherever possible we recycle, reuse and rehouse all your unwanted items. We have excellent links with charities, shelters (homeless/women's refuge/pet) and many local organisations. We take away all of your unwanted items leaving you feeling re-energised and restored.

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## Could Your Child Join The Silly Squad?

Children in North Somerset are invited to join the Silly Squad for this year's Summer Reading Challenge!

The annual Summer Reading Challenge, produced by the Reading Agency and delivered by Libraries, is back to encourage 4 to 11-year-olds to keep reading books over the summer.

This year The Reading Agency has created a new online platform to help children keep

track of the books they've read and collect rewards along the way; children can sign-up for the Challenge at [sillysquad.org.uk](http://sillysquad.org.uk).

North Somerset Libraries have online collections of eBooks, eAudiobooks, online comics and magazines for children to read as part of the challenge; more information is available at: [n-somerset.gov.uk/onlinelibrary](http://n-somerset.gov.uk/onlinelibrary). (See below for click and collect.)

## Click and Collect Service Launched at Pill Library

While library buildings remain closed, a number of libraries including Portishead and Pill Library are now offering 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](http://www.librarieswest.org.uk/join).

For the latest information about click and connect and the various other library services available visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries).

Digital services, extended during the lockdown, continue to be on offer, including e-books, audiobooks, magazines and even the popular rhymetime sessions and this year's Summer Reading Challenge. These online services can be accessed any time at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/onlinelibrary](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/onlinelibrary). 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!

## News From The Resource Centre

At the moment the Resource Centre is open on reduced hours: Monday and Tuesday 9.30am-1pm, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am-3.30pm, Saturday 10am-12 noon. These hours may be increased from September, and will be notified on the door and on The Daily Pill Facebook page. The main factors will be changing Covid restrictions and the availability of volunteers, who actually run the Centre.

**Covid compliance** - Until conditions change it is necessary for visitors to wear a face mask or covering, and it would be unfair to put volunteers in the position of having to refuse entry. Hand sanitiser is provided and must be used on entry, and gloves must be worn for computer use. Strict social distancing must be observed, with numbers limited as noted on the door. Only the volunteer on duty is able to use the photocopier. While current restrictions are in place it will not be possible to provide tea or coffee, or for visitors to use the toilet or telephone.

**Sales and services** - We can provide internet access, computer use, printing, photocopying, fax and laminating. We also sell dog poo bags, nets for covering recycling boxes, cotton shopping bags and local walk leaflets. Paintings by local artists are on view and for sale.

**Citizens Advice** - At the moment we cannot offer personal appointments, but we are able to pass on telephone numbers to Citizens Advice so that personal contact can be made.

**Books** - Our main source of income in order to remain open is the sale of second-hand books. We are always grateful to receive

donations of books in good condition (but no encyclopaedias or sets of books, please). Until further notice we can only accept up to eight books at a time. We are not able to put the usual paperback fiction trolleys outside, and these books are now inside. There is a box provided for books that have been browsed but not bought to be quarantined for two days.

We are pleased that we have been able to reopen, albeit in a restricted way, after a few months of closure, and are happy to welcome visitors back in these difficult times.

## Superstars in Our Midst

We would like to thank Julie Lee and Sue Sharp who, during lockdown, worked as a team and shopped for six households in Brookside. And despite the queuing, shortages and distancing managed, without fail, to deliver to the door with a cheery word and a smile.

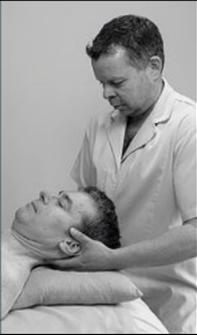
Precious people. Thank you both.

*Patricia and Peter Grindon*

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## Parish Council Update

The Parish Council is delighted to see the return of The Village Voice, which feels like a small step towards the resumption of normal service. Recent local lockdowns in various parts of the country give us all the motivation to continue with our socially responsible behaviour so that we do our best to avoid COVID directly affecting anyone in the village. It has been encouraging and inspiring to see how different members in the community have maintained our morale by undertaking all sorts of unsung work on our behalf.

The Parish Council has been supporting work to reopen the play areas and identifying those pieces of equipment which need replacing. At the same time environmental groups have been planning the rewinding of various areas in the village (see especially the plans for Brookside on the Parish website, and information in this paper); ensuring that all paths, which have seen increased walking traffic during lockdown, stay open and that all attempts to reduce access are prevented; and pressing for a 40mph limit on the A369 following the increased popularity

of the Failand walk circuit through The Bottoms. A hardy group of volunteers have done a wonderful tidying job on Bridge Road so that we can now pick our blackberries more easily. You can see their efforts for yourselves or by looking on the Parish Council website.

We have also had some very constructive meetings with Crockerne School and have listened carefully to their needs for September. We have decided to use our contingency fund from this year's budget to pay for the temporary installation on the school site of some portable toilets (properly plumbed into the mains sewerage system) and the refurbishment of some dangerous decking. Additionally, you will find a volunteer's application form on the Parish Council website where you can offer to help the school when it reopens in September either by listening to children reading or by helping to marshall parents and children at the start and end of the school day. If you are able to help in any of these ways - even once a week - it will help everyone during what will be a critical time in children's education. Like all front line workers, school staff have been at full stretch during 2020 and the Parish Council is



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very happy to support any measures - budget permitting - which make it easier for our children's education to resume smoothly.

The most important issue for your consideration this month relates to The Neighbourhood Plan. This is the plan to which several villagers contributed and which looks ahead at the type of community we want in the future. It is not just an academic exercise and your opinions about it really matter. It has been very skilfully edited by Murray Stewart of Abbots Leigh who is most concerned that everyone knows that **CONSULTATION ENDS ON 2 SEPTEMBER**. The more respondents to the plan there are the more likely it is that it will be taken seriously so please make a date to send in your contribution.

We are awaiting information about the railway and in particular the ways in which certain areas of the village are likely to be affected when the works start. At the moment Metro West is compiling a statement of common ground (SCG) which should show those areas of agreement between all parties and those areas yet to be resolved. Several groups have been formed to keep an eye on developments which could adversely affect certain

parts of the village - eg the Lodway Farm compound - and we will keep you informed of the major developments. You can look for the full details of the construction online at [travelwest.info/metrowest](http://travelwest.info/metrowest).

Finally, a special mention to our Parish Clerk, Julie Smart, who has managed to keep all Parish business going during the lockdown ensuring that we have the most up-to-date information available. We are used to her efficiency and comprehensive local knowledge, but she has now added new skills in virtual conferencing to her repertoire. We are all most grateful to her for her problem solving and rapid communications. Thank you, Julie.

In the meantime, please keep your ideas and suggestions coming and we will do our best to look at them in our monthly Zoom meetings. (The next meeting is on 17 August.)

*With best wishes to all of you from  
Paul Kent on behalf of The Parish Council*

## Yoga at the Community Centre

Are you looking to build strength and flexibility whilst calming the mind? Why not try a Yoga class with local instructor Suzie Delve.

Suzie has been running classes for all ages at the Community Centre and Chair Yoga classes at St George's Hall Since 2014 and is hoping to be back to a regular timetable ASAP. In the meantime if you would like to book a group class or a 1:1 session you can contact her at [yogawithsuzie@gmail.com](mailto:yogawithsuzie@gmail.com), be sure to keep an eye on the Facebook page or the website [www.suziedelve.com](http://www.suziedelve.com) for regular updates and more information.

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# ABBOTS LEIGH, HAM GREEN, PILL AND EASTON-IN-GORDANO Neighbourhood Plan 2020-2026

## **A REMINDER: WHAT IS THIS PLAN?**

For two years the two Parish Councils of Abbots Leigh and Pill/Easton-in-Gordano have been working with local community groups to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the period from 2020 to 2026. This will provide a framework for how much – or how little – development we might have over the next few years. Before submitting the Plan to North Somerset Council, however, there must be extensive local consultation.

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## **WHY IS CONSULTATION IMPORTANT?**

Consultation is important both because the Plan carries more weight if lots of local residents and businesses comment and also because local consultation brings good ideas about what should be done.

It is also important because North Somerset Council has begun to make suggestions about a new longer-term Local Plan involving a further 20,500 houses in North Somerset up to 2038. Our Neighbourhood Plan will have more impact on NSC thinking and better prevent unwelcome major development if it receives strong support from the local community.

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## **WHERE CAN YOU SEE THE PLAN?**

The Plan is on [www.pillanddistrictplan.org](http://www.pillanddistrictplan.org) but also on the parish website.

There will also be several copies to look at (but not take away) in the Resource Centre, together with a **'Here's My Comment'** form to drop into a Neighbourhood Plan Comments Box.

If you want to discuss the Plan, ask questions, or make comments there will also be drop-in sessions in the Resource Centre on Saturdays 29th August and 5th September from 10.00 to 12.30.

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## **WHAT IS ACTUALLY IN THE PLAN?**

The draft Neighbourhood Plan contains a wide range of local planning policies and community actions. In addition to existing North Somerset Council policies, which the Plan seeks to reinforce, there are proposals relating to:

**Housing**

**Transport and Movement**

**Environment**

**Heritage**

**Economy**

**Climate Change**

**Community Assets**

Some of the key proposals are set out on the opposite page.

## KEY PROPOSALS

- Allocation of a derelict site in Ham Green (Orchard View/Somerset Lodge) for redevelopment as a new care home with some mixed tenure housing.
- Provision of affordable housing (16 dwellings) at Chapel Pill Lane (Ham Green).
- Avoidance of new housing development (other than infill) elsewhere in the Neighbourhood Area.
- Maintenance and Protection of the Green Belt.
- Minimisation of the impact of road traffic (A 369 and Pill Loop) on congestion, parking, safety, and pollution.
- Encouragement of active travel with promotion of accessible, convenient, and safe cycling and walking routes.
- Safeguarding, maintenance and enhancement of Open Spaces, Rights of Way and pathways for walking and cycling.
- Protection and enhancement of landscape, ecology and environmental bio-diversity.
- Recognition of the distinctiveness and setting of the historic environment.
- Support for the provision of local jobs for local people and encouragement of home working.
- A positive response to climate change with moves to a carbon neutral neighbourhood.
- Development of initiatives to improve the attractiveness and vitality of the Pill Precinct.
- Provision of support to community organisations to reinforce the cohesion and inclusion of diverse communities across the area.

## HOW TO COMMENT

Are these proposals clear and sensible?

Do you object to any of the proposals? If so why?

Do you want to add anything else?

Comments, by September 12th latest, should be sent to

**nhoodplan@btinternet.com**

or dropped in the Resource Centre Comments Box

## 1st Crockerne Scouts

1st Crockerne Scout group has continued during the COVID19 lockdown, with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts meeting weekly on Zoom. They've been playing games, learning new skills and most importantly keeping in touch with their friends. The leaders have worked hard to continue with a varied remote programme of activities, with the young people taking part in a virtual Hike to the Moon, with over 100,000 other Scouts from around the world.

They had a drumming workshop and have earned lots of badges by trying new things at home. They have attended several virtual camps, either camping in their garden, or sleeping in a den inside, learning to cook, tie knots, identifying trees, making sundials, and lots of other activities.

We've also used the down-time to employ some local tradesmen to refurbish the Scout HQ. C&A Carpentry and Building Services has started re-cladding the outside, and Jon Crane has replaced lots of the wiring, ensuring the HQ will be here for years to come.

The Leaders and our Executive Committee

are now busy planning for a return to face-to-face Scouting in September, ensuring our young people and adults are kept safe, while creating engaging social distanced activities. If you're interested in joining us, please contact us at [crockernescouts@hotmail.com](mailto:crockernescouts@hotmail.com).

## Mental Health Awareness Portishead (MHAP) (Rethink mental illness)

We are currently meeting up online, or at the Lake grounds on beautiful evenings (socially distanced, of course).

We are a small, confidential group, who support the CARERS/PARENTS of the young, who are suffering from mental health problems. Your mental health is as important as your child's.

It often can be reassuring, speaking to others who are, or have been, in a similar situation. We are not medically trained, but between us we are able to offer advice and support from our own experiences!

Reach out and join our friendly online sessions on Wednesdays on Messenger. We are very



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much hoping to be able to meet face to face again soon at the Queens Road Methodist Church, Portishead.

Have a look at our Facebook page, "Rethink Mental Health Awareness Portishead" for more details or you can contact Catherine on 07568967933 or mhap@rethink.org.

## A Big Thank You...

...to our neighbours Ruth and Rob Case who did our shopping for 12 weeks during lockdown. We could not have managed without their help. Very much appreciated. Also to Ver0 at number 4.

Thank you to both, perfect neighbours.

*Rosemarie James*

## Spad News - Local XR Actions

Do join us for local actions on August Bank holiday weekend in Portishead to remind people in a friendly, eye-catching way that we are facing a climate and ecological emergency

and need our government to act now! We will be in Portishead Precinct on Saturday morning 29 August showing the height of the sea level if global warming continues unchecked. This is the local action to prepare for the next UK XR rebellion "We want to Live" in London and Cardiff starting 1 September. Go to [www.extinctionrebellion.uk](http://www.extinctionrebellion.uk) to find out more.

Quick reminder of the three demands of XR:- for the government to Tell the Truth (and alert the public to the urgency and scale of the emergency like they've done with Covid19) Act Now (to halt biodiversity loss and reduce GHG emissions to net zero by 2025 - like we've actually been seeing during lockdown) create a Citizen's Assembly (citizens without party political affiliations to lead government policy on actions we need to take based on expert opinions - listening to experts has been happening in the pandemic). Our demands are completely possible as demonstrated when we are faced with a world crisis like Covid19 to act speedily and decisively following the science!

If you'd like to watch a short video of why we need to do this have a look at this. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJbN1jW0nPs#action=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJbN1jW0nPs#action=share)



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## The American Professor

Imagine getting your first book published, then a fortnight later have the country put into lock-down and all the book shops closed! Oo-err!! The Resource Centre has copies now, and I had hoped to have a stand at the Community Market but that may have to wait. I'm still around and still hoping to sell a few copies, indeed I'm trying to get my next book into print, *The Professor's Wife*, which is, (rather obviously) a sequel. If you found the Prof a bit frisky for your taste, his wife is somewhat less so, so give me another chance if that's how you felt! Living in hopes of a good outcome in the end. Keep well, and blessings.

*Chloe Clarke*

## Choir on Zoom With Wendy Sergeant

All my choirs have stopped at the moment because, sadly, the current guidelines on Coronavirus do not allow groups of people to sing together. All my singers are really missing singing together so I have set up online choir sessions on Zoom.

It is great fun to see each other and have a catch up and everyone is loving the chance to stretch their vocal cords again. The group has to stay on mute for singing because the technology doesn't manage to synchronise the sound but despite that everyone has a good sing and a laugh and a chance to exercise their voices. I am teaching with the assistance of my two daughters, so we are able to demonstrate the harmonies and with the addition of a mixture of backing tracks, piano and occasional ukeleles we all feel supported by the sound. It's not the same as normal choir but it's good fun and a way to keep your singing voice active.

If you would like to have a free taster session please email me on [sergeant.wendy@gmail.com](mailto:sergeant.wendy@gmail.com)

## Morgan's Trust

This historic 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 trouble

due to some unexpected emergency. Records from the early 1900's show grants of thirty shillings (£1.50) being awarded to help after the death of a child and 6/8d (33p) 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. We were particularly pleased recently to substantially contribute towards purchasing beneficial equipment to improve the lot of little Edith and her loving parents.

These past months have thrown many families and individuals into financial difficulties, not of their own making. Yet the word 'charity' deters many proud would-be worthy recipients from asking for help and it is left to others to apply on their behalf, but with their knowledge. This not charity – just a neighbourly helping hand in times of stress.

If you feel that the Trust could help you or someone you know, please contact one of the trustees. Only residents of Pill and Easton in Gordano parish are eligible, and confidentiality is assured, if required. The trustees are Revd Astrid Tiesema-Samson, 372804, Roger Collins, 372761. Pat Derrick, 372326, [patderrick@btinternet.com](mailto:patderrick@btinternet.com).

## Pill on Camera

An opportunity for local nostalgia has been generously provided through the lens of Liz Milner's camera, archiving past events in the village.

Liz is a prolific and talented amateur photographer who has recorded village events such as May Days, Regattas, pantomimes, musical events, animal wildlife, Christmas lights, Rags, Wassails, Apple Days and much more.

Local people can now access this village resource of nearly 3,000 archive photos going back to 2007, on her Flickr site online. Free for you to download and use for non-commercial purposes. Attribution required (ie her name) if reproduced but should only be used 'like for like'.

Check out her link to the page that shows all the different albums. [www.flickr.com/photos/liz-milner\\_pill-village/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/liz-milner_pill-village/albums).

A walk down Memory Lane awaits you.