

The Village Voice

Issue N° 08

Pill, Easton-in-Gordano & Ham Green

October 2020



Sow A Tree This Autumn

Plant a tree seed this autumn and watch a small action grow into something really BIG! As well as Oak acorns, which seem to be in abundance this year, you could try other native trees such as Hawthorn, Hazel or Field Maple.

- Oak - acorns should be collected whilst green, and sown immediately.
- Hawthorn - strip away the red flesh of the Hawthorn berry to reveal the seed and check if it sinks in a glass of water, and is therefore viable, before planting.
- Hazelnuts - sow immediately before they dry out, there's a good source at the bottom end of Watchhouse Hill that the squirrels do not seem to have found yet.
- Field Maple - to improve the germination success of its seeds, collect when green, mature but still on the tree.

There is lots of advice online about different native species you can try.



The basic method for growing your seed:

1. Fill a labelled plant pot with compost
2. Plant seed 2cm deep
3. Water thoroughly
4. Leave in a shady corner outside
5. Check regularly to see that soil has not dried out
6. Re-pot when it outgrows its existing pot
7. Plant out when seedling reaches 40cm

If you've no room in your garden we hope to find locations around the village to plant them in the coming years.

If you want a bit of help, Hannah and Lucy will be in the Precinct on Monday 19 October from 2.45pm (school pick up time) to give out pots, seeds and advice.

The Village Voice

Covering Pill, Easton-in-Gordano & Ham Green

pillandeastoninordano.org

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Editorial

Despite the forced slowdown for many of us, the Parish Council and other associated groups have obviously been working tirelessly throughout recent months, judging by the extent of key issues, proposals and consultations on the table to consider and progress. Please do take time to look and make your views known, or contact the Parish Council if you are unclear or have questions. It is all our responsibility and there's no defence later ...

I had hoped by now that we'd have a little more confidence in future activities, but as I write this, we are just 24 hours away from the 'Rule of Six' and group meetings which had been planned have now been removed from this paper.

One thing we can all still do, however, is keep planting and generally caring for our village. Great and interesting tips on tree planting from Hannah. (Who'da thought you had to test whether a seed would sink ...!?) We've all got to find new and imaginative ways to entertain ourselves and feel 'productive' so what better than something which benefits everyone?

I'm pleased too, to see the Christmas lights draw back – it's so worthwhile supporting this amazing local cause, just to know that during what will inevitably be a 'darker than normal' winter we can look forward to having our village lit up and looking warm and inviting over the festive season.

Advertising deadline for November's paper is Wednesday 14 October (but earlier is always better if you can!). Copy deadline is the Friday, 16 October.

Jo Smith
Editor

TOP TIP

Buy local and seasonal foods!
Support our local shops and producers and let them know what you want to buy. Save excess carbon emissions and our local shops, which, as we've all learnt during these strange times, are a vital support to our community.

Neighbourhood Plan

Did you comment?

Consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan ended on Saturday 12 September and, with a big rush in the last week, the total number of comments submitted came to 205. Respondents fell into two categories. One (with 26 responses) came from national bodies such as Historic England, Homes England or Environment Agency, or from organisations with some local presence - the police, fire and health services. Others were particular to the Neighbourhood Area - our churches and voluntary organisations, for example. There were also comments from developers expressing their interest in major schemes of up to 1000 dwellings in the area.

This 'organisational' set in general welcomed the Plan and made corrections or offered suggestions for clarification but did not comment at any length on the substance of the Plan.

Individual responses came both by e-mail (130) and by responses made at the Drop-Ins held on successive Saturday mornings in late August/September (49 responses). Responses varied widely in length and focus. Some addressed a single issue - traffic, environment, climate change, housing - and were only of a few lines. Others had clearly actually read the Plan fully and offered comments both on the Plan as a whole and on one or more specific issues.

A number of responses came from couples or families who sent in comments either signed jointly or as separate individuals. These responses can be broken down into the number of households affected, enabling the results to be looked at in terms of dwellings and households affected. A first estimate (made quickly in order to meet copy deadline) is that comments were made by 124 households.

Different parts of our Neighbourhood Area engaged to differing degrees. Responses from Abbots Leigh numbered 40, from Pill, 31, from Easton-in Gordano 13. Perhaps it is no surprise that those responding from Ham Green numbered 41. As noted above whilst some comments made only a single point and no plan-wide contributions, there were other sets of comments which ran to four or five pages reflecting insightful and worthwhile thought.

What happens next?

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will bring together the many comments and will prepare the Consultation Statement required by government legislation which will accompany any submission of a Plan to North Somerset Council. All this would go to the independent Examiner, who will assess the Plan. She might require changes to the Plan and/or approve/reject it. If approved, it has to be endorsed by North Somerset Council and will then go to a local referendum here in Pill. Individual proposals for Orchard View or Chapel Pill Lane will of course require a separate planning application which would offer a further opportunity for public involvement.

The Christmas Lights Draw

The Christmas lights volunteer group draw was held on Saturday 5 September and congratulations go to Maurice and Anne Brain, winning first prize of £75 and to Tom Marsh who won second prize of £25.

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.

Yoga and Shibashi Tai Chi-Qigong

Would you like to strengthen the body whilst calming the mind and relieving stress? Local teacher Suzie Delve is starting two new classes focussing on movement and wellbeing for all levels. Yoga at St George's Church Hall, Easton in Gordano on a Sunday morning 10-11am, £8, and Shibashi Tai Chi Qigong at Pill Community Centre 9.30-10.30am, £6, on a Tuesday morning.

Shibashi is a gentle form of 18 movements suitable for all levels, which can be performed seated or standing.

Please do visit my website for more information and contact me to make a booking www.suziedelve.com or email me at suziedelve@gmail.com (All classes will comply with government social distancing guidelines and spaces will be limited, so booking is essential.)

Parish Council News

By the time you read this we shall have become accustomed to the "Rule of Six" as we face the coming weeks with new restrictions on our behaviour. This will be demanding for all of us as we make sure that our village continues to face any difficulties in the same way that we lived through lockdown.

Whilst this is happening, it is important not to lose sight of a number of key issues that are approaching decision or action time, and these are listed below that so that you can find them easily online, or on the Parish Council website www.pillandeastoningordano.org.

1. The Neighbourhood Plan

Consultation on this has now closed and the Steering Group is meeting in October to make final changes before the document is published. You can see everything on the Neighbourhood Plan website at www.pillanddistrictplan.org.

2. North Somerset Council Local Plan Consultation

The Parish Council has sent the Neighbourhood Plan to North Somerset Council to indicate our position on future plans for the area. This has the advantage of showing that we are sending the same information to all bodies so that they receive a coherent and consistent message for the village. You can see everything on this consultation on the website www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/planning-building-control/challenges-policy/our-local-plan/local-plan-2038/challenges-consultation-summer-2020.

3. Proposal from L&Q Estates (formerly Gallagher Estates)

If you are not aware of this, you really should look at the proposals that are being suggested. The central idea is that a new development of up to 1000 houses - with the suggested name of Pill Green - should be built on fields in Martcombe alongside the A369. Please look at the website www.pillandeastoningordano.org, so that you can form your own views and make them known. The Parish Council will be looking at our response, which will be based on the key principles in The Neighbourhood Plan and we obviously want to make sure we are reflecting your views.

4. Changes to the Current Planning System

This is a series of documents from the government outlining the easing of planning restrictions so the pledge to "build, build, build" can be fast tracked. It is again very important to look at the implications of such plans as the character and composition of our village could change dramatically. These documents can be found at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-currentplanning-system.

5. Consultation on the Brookside Play Area

Detailed plans for the improvement of the play area and exciting rewilding proposals can be found on the website at www.pillandeastoningordano.org. Brookside neighbours have already been made aware of these proposals but please pass your comments on to any member of the group.

6. Support for Crockerne School

The Parish Council has helped Crockerne



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School to install additional portals for the children's return, with up to £10,000 coming from the Parish Council contingency budget. This provision will allow all children to return full time by ensuring there is appropriate hygiene support.

Volunteers will also be helping with individual reading and with marshalling pedestrian movement in the morning and afternoon. Please keep the roads to school as clear as possible during these times and do not drop off your children by car as this causes additional and unnecessary problems for the staff and creates time-wasting congestion.

7. Lost Ways

A list of the footpaths which need to be protected and maintained has been sent to North Somerset Council so that they will continue to appear on all future maps. Without such identification they would be "lost" and walkers would no longer be able to use them. As there has been a significant rise in the number of walkers in the areas because of lockdown this is very important work and thanks go to all of you who have helped the Parish Council gather the information, which can be found at the website on www.pillandeastoningordano.org.

8. Traffic Calming and Restrictions

We have sent strong requests to North Somerset regarding the need for a coherent approach to traffic calming on the roads into the village. Of particular note are requests to:

- rationalise the A369 to 40mph from the M5 roundabout to Abbots Leigh;
- reduce the speed limit to 20mph for the three entrances to the village at St George's Hill, Pill Road, adjacent to St Katherine's, and Marsh Lane;
- implement a 20mph restriction throughout the village.

In view of the additional traffic movements anticipated as the railway preparations intensify, the Parish Council believes the case for such measures is now beyond dispute. We are awaiting a reply from North Somerset Council.

This is an extensive list of village matters so please ask if you are concerned about anything.

We are always happy to hear from you.

*With best wishes from all of us.
Paul Kent on behalf of The Parish Council*

Mind Space Ballet Academy Opening

Mind Space Ballet Academy has recently opened its doors in Pill offering ballet and conditioning and strengthening classes for all ages and levels, including yoga and Pilates exercises too. These classes are great for children to have fun, push their creativity and discover the ballet world. Also, they are good for adults to increase their flexibility, strength and self-confidence - and it is never too late to start ballet!

Private classes are also available with price depending on location. The first class will be free once I get a small group of students to start with, and after that it will be £6 per class. If you have any questions or would like some further information, you can contact me, Melania, on 07470980114 or you can send a message on WhatsApp.

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Are you looking to find your true self and expand your knowledge and skills? Do you feel demotivated and lack ideas on what to do with your life? Would you like to be successful, feel happier, healthier and more productive in your life? If your answer is yes then Life Branches MC is the right site for you!

This site will be offering unique and engaging content where people have free access to learning new skills (jobs), life changing tips, health, ballet, fitness, life issues, pet care, finance issues, ways to make money, interior décor and so much more!

My dream is to grow a lovely community where I can help people to find themselves by expanding their knowledge, skills and giving useful tips about life in general. If you're interested please visit www.lifebranches.net and you can also subscribe for free to keep updated and never miss a post! You can also contact me directly at lifebranchesmc@outlook.com and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Christmas Craft And Gift Fayre 2020

In order to support small local businesses during this difficult economic climate, and to raise some funds for Pill Christmas Lights, I have organised a Christmas Gift and Craft Fayre for 2020. The event will take place at Pill Community Centre, on Sunday 15 November, from 2-5pm.

We have a range of stalls signed up, including gifts, home decor, wrapping and cards, garden gifts, and a few volunteer

organisations from the local community too. There will also be tea, coffee, and a selection of home-baked goodies available. If you would like to volunteer your baking services, please do let me know, as all profit from the kitchen will be going to support Pill Christmas Lights. I would also please ask that all stall holders and customers be kind and adhere to government guidelines with regard to Covid-19.

Look forward to seeing you all, at a distance, and hope you find some great goodies for your loved ones. Thanks, Sam sam.grows@mail.com 07943639461

History Society

The History Society's autumn programme has unfortunately been cancelled due to Covid-19 but we very much look forward to meeting again on Thursday, 18 March 2021.

The launch of the Society's final book on the research into the names on the Pill and Easton-in-Gordano war memorials has been very well received and copies, priced £4, are still available in Pill Post Office and the Resource Centre.

Resource Centre Update

One or two adjustments have been made to the opening hours from the beginning of October. They are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30am-3pm, Thursday 9.30am-1pm, Friday and Saturday 10am to 12 noon.

Covid compliance remains the same regarding the need for a face covering, use of hand sanitiser and social distancing etc. More detailed instructions are on the door.

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For details of other news and events around the parish, visit

pillandeastoninordano.org

Citizens Advice appointments are still not available, but a request for a telephone appointment can be made through the volunteer on duty.

We still have to limit book donations to a maximum of eight at a time. Only books in good condition, please, and no sets of books.

Craftea and Cake

F.r.i.e.n.D.S Together Social Group for all living with invisible illnesses in North Somerset will be meeting at the King's Arms, Easton in Gordano from 1.30-4pm on Tuesdays, £2. There will be a variety of craft activities. Refreshments are available from the bar.

Contact Louanne Gibbons on 07584060297 or email her at invisible2visibleteam@gmail.com.

Thank You, Paul!

I think the Parish Council and village should say a big thank you to Paul Kent who, on one of the hottest days of the year, single-handedly cleared the children's play area at Hardwick Road. It enabled very many children to enjoy the facility, whatever the weather, following the unfortunate lengthy closure.

Arnold Mason

Do Something Amazing...

I gave my 101st donation of blood in August. It's a commitment I have taken seriously all my life since I was able to start, and I'm only telling you here in the hope it may encourage some of you to do it too.

Blood is made up of a number of components, including red blood cells, platelets and plasma. Each of these can be used to treat many different conditions. This makes the most of every blood donation, as the components in one unit of blood (or one donation) can be used to treat different patients, for such things as:

- medical conditions including anaemia, cancer and blood disorders
- surgery, including cardiac surgery and emergency surgery
- to treat blood loss after childbirth

Blood transfusions can also improve the quality of life for people whose illness has no cure.

Knowing you may have helped save, or at least improve, someone's life in this way is quite some payback for something which is easy, painless and only happens three times a year.

So go on... do something amazing. Visit www.blood.co.uk for more information and to book an appointment.

Jo Smith

Dear Editor

Would you please convey through the pages of The Village Voice my grateful thanks to Sally, my Good Samaritan who did my weekly shopping every Friday at Portishead during the whole of lockdown, plus collecting medicines from Pill Pharmacy when needed, and all done with a cheerful attitude. I shall forever be thankful to a very caring lady.

Thank you Sally!

Ivor King

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News From The Salvation Army

Over the last weeks and months life has continued to change for us all, even when we think we have got used to the new norm! For some this has been a positive experience, a chance to take stock and look at what we value. For others it has been frustrating not being able to go about our routines, let alone the holidays and important life events we have missed or have had to change. I think if we are honest, we have all experienced elements of all these emotions on different days, along with many other thoughts, I'm sure.

When 'normal' goes out of the window, it is important to find other ways to stay connected with friends, family, and people in our community, but also to find ways to celebrate those major life events. I know this has been the case for us at Pill Salvation Army. During this time of not being able to gather for our weekly Sunday services at our hall, we have 'met' virtually via Zoom and shared it on our Facebook page each week for people to watch live or at their leisure. Also sharing a weekly worship sheet of prayers, and reading for people without internet

access. Messy Church has been packaged in a bag for families to collect and do at home. Taking this a step further for the Churches Together Holiday Club, it saw us venture into video-making, alongside activity bags.

It has been great to stay connected with many people in these different ways, but I know not everyone who would normally be a part of these and other events at the Salvation Army has been able to connect, and we miss you. Government and organisational guidelines are continually changing; my hope is that we will be able to welcome you back to the Salvation Army sometime soon.

In the meantime, feel free to take a look at our Facebook page or contact me to be added to our weekly mailing list for worship. If you want anything, need a chat, or have a prayer request, please contact me on 01275 813907 / 07827032219.

God Bless.

*James Addis,
Lieutenant Corps Officer/Church Leader
The Salvation Army*

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Donald Davies, Pill Ward Councillor, N Somerset Council

The next few months will continue to be difficult for us all with the new regulations and restrictions, but the hope must be that acting more quickly will save jobs and, much more importantly, lives. I'd like to thank all who have worked extremely hard to get our schools reopened 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.

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Pill & District Gardening Club

There will be no club meetings for the remainder of the year, but you are encouraged to visit our website, where you will find all the up-to-date information regarding future meetings and events going forward.

On Wednesday 22 July, a walking Treasure Hunt took place around the village in lovely sunshine. It started and finished at the Pill Memorial Club. Ten teams took part, with a total of 31 members and guests. It was won by the Herzog/White team with score of 100% 56/56 points, 'WELL DONE'

Grateful thanks for all those who took part, thank you to Pete at the PMC for allowing use of the car park and to Max Gardiner for marking the papers. For any further club information please contact Mike James on either 01275 568605 - 07771887331 - mike.jayms@icloud.com or visit our website at pillanddistrictgardeningclub.co.uk 'WATCH THIS SPACE'

OvenGleamers

It's been double celebration time at OvenGleamers. Matt Reilly has just celebrated ten years as an OvenGleamer and Fiona Buck two years as one of the Bookings Team.

Matt joined OvenGleamers as a fresh-faced youngster. Over the last ten years he has cleaned over 6000 appliances including 589 Aga Cookers, over 2000 double ovens and

over 2600 single ovens. Along the way he has lost count of the number of BBQs, fridges, freezers and dishwasher cleans he's done too!

Whilst Matt cleans the ovens, Fiona spends her days booking customers' ovens in to the OvenGleamers diaries. Company boss Graham Rogers says "Fiona has the loveliest, calm, friendly, helpful manner when booking our customers in for appointments. Nothing is too much trouble for her and customers enjoy her empathic manner. We feel very lucky to have her as our employee."

Tree Mulching Volunteers Wanted

Come along on Sunday 18 October at 2pm to join the Friends of Watchhouse Hill and the Parish Council's climate action volunteers to help look after the new trees planted by North Somerset Council (NSC) on Watchhouse Hill (by the old oak). Due to Covid NSC have been unable to organise their larger volunteer work parties. At the time of writing volunteer work parties can be up to 30 outside - luckily all trees have been planted 2m apart! Bring own tools for weeding, and shovels/wheelbarrows to distribute the wood chippings. Contact Lucy for more information 07929 655141.




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Community Story 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; to find out more visit www.thecommunitystoryshed.com

The community story shed is once again fully stocked with adult and children's books and I am accepting donations again.

Kelly Challis

Abbots Leigh WI

We had a lovely meeting on 8 September. Eighteen members attended wearing masks and staying one metre apart. We had a quiz followed by an hilarious game of Bingo. Everyone enjoyed catching up with WI news and also hearing how members are coping. It was lovely to see two members who had had serious falls during the lockdown period.

Plans were made for a meeting in October, but now with the new 'Six' rule it will not be happening. We just hope we will have another meeting soon. FFI call Donna 01275 375378.

Stay safe everyone.

TV Licensing

Around 1.5 million households with residents aged over 75 will be eligible for a free TV Licence funded by the BBC if they receive Pension Credit. TV Licensing is operating a self-verification system where individuals simply need to demonstrate their receipt of Pension Credit in order to qualify and 450,000 have already applied for a free licence. Customers who have made a successful application for a free TV Licence may already have received their licence in the post.

Those not in receipt of Pension Credit who need to buy a licence do not need to take any action until they receive their letter from TV Licensing and they will be given plenty of time to set up their new licence. The implementation of the new scheme is

also Covid-19 safe. No one will need to leave their home to claim a free TV licence or pay for one; they can apply online or talk to an adviser who will take the customer through the verbal declaration process. Details will be provided in the letter.

The new 75+ Plan will allow people over 75s switching from a free licence to a licence they pay for, to spread the cost in weekly, fortnightly, or monthly payments to make it easier to manage. However, no one will be expected to pay for a new licence until they have received their letter.

If you are uncertain or have any questions, Age UK have some helpful information at www.ageuk.org.uk

Community Allotment Group

Chillie's community allotment group are welcoming new volunteers (complying with latest Government guidelines). If you'd like to learn about growing your own or feel a plot all of your own is too much to manage, get in touch to join our WhatsApp group - please contact Jill Coleman: 07813 927416 or join us on alternate Tuesday mornings beginning on Tuesday 13 October. We are also offering our services to pick and distribute/make use of any surplus fruit and vegetable harvests, so if you have runner bean, marrow and apple overload we can help!



Great Support for St George's Flower Bank

The St George's Flower Bank Local Nature Reserve continues to receive tremendous support from far and wide and compliments are frequently received.

Besides that, there have been considerable grants from several organisations. The Owls of Pill,

Portishead Lions Club, Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Community Forum have all been most helpful and Wessex Water have also made a grant.

"It's so encouraging that so many people are prepared to help" enthused Bob Buck, chairman and founder, "without such generosity we just could not continue."

With the workforce showing signs of the passage of time new volunteers are always welcome. "This site has been running for 30 years but it takes a lot of work to achieve what we have." says Bob "We have a few younger helpers but many of us are showing signs of use!"

Contact Bob to find out how you can help on admin@flowerbank.org.uk or 0788 4400221.

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 is not charity – just a



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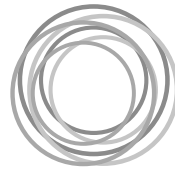
neighbourly helping hand in times of stress.

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

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, be sure to keep an eye on the Facebook page or the website www.suziedelve.com for regular updates and more information.



EMMA GREEN
 PILATES

AT
 THE OLD BREWERY
 IN PILL

MAT CLASSES
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emmagreenpilates.com

Or call 07943 830184

Yoga Tips

You may think that Yoga is a complicated and challenging practice that is only for the very flexible but it's actually a simple process of getting to know your body and focussing on your breathing to release stress and tension. Here are a few exercises you can try at home to get you started!

1. **Belly breathing.** Lying on your back with your knees bent, relax the shoulders and upper back. Place both hands on your chest and start to notice the chest rise as you breathe in, fall as you breathe out. Move the hands to your belly and see if you can let the belly rise as you breathe in and fall as you breathe out. Breathe in and out through the nose.
2. **Tadasana (mountain pose)** seated or standing pull in through the belly, lengthen the spine, lift the chest, relax the shoulders and turn your palms forward. Check you have equal weight through both feet. Hold and breathe.
3. **Cat Cow spine release.** On all fours, arch the back, lift the head and the tail bone as you breathe in. As you breathe out round the back, pull in through the belly and press the ground away. Repeat with the breath. Add your own movement to this to work into tight spots in the shoulders and back this is a great one if you spend a lot of time sitting!

If you'd like to learn more feel free to get in touch or view some of the free Chair & Flow Yoga classes at www.facebook.com/suziedelve

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.

For the latest information about click and collect and the various other library services available visit 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. These online services can be accessed any time at 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!

Friends of Watchhouse Hill Apple Day

Another Covid and health and safety casualty I'm afraid. We normally have Apple Day in October but this year we will not be able to go ahead because of restrictions and we want to keep everyone safe. There are currently plenty of fallen apples in the Orchard so please do go along, enjoy the Orchard and make good use of them. Do remember to wash them well before eating or cooking!

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 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.