

The Village Voice

Issue N°21

Pill, Easton-in-Gordano & Ham Green

October 2022



HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926 – 2022

The loss of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II has, understandably, overshadowed everything of late. Whilst we all knew she couldn't last forever, the sadness of this nation and beyond is palpable but she will remain forever in our hearts, remembered for her strength, dignity, duty and commitment and, of course, her wonderful smile.

Thank you, Ma'am. Rest in peace now. We'll miss you.

The Village Voice

Covering Pill, Easton-in-Gordano & Ham Green

pillandeastoningordano.org

Editor - Jo Smith

T: 01275 374 897

E: josmith0704@gmail.com

Advertising - Jo Smith

T: 01275 374 897

E: villagevoicepill@gmail.com

To be added to our mailing list, please email villagevoicepill@gmail.com, or you can view the paper online at pillandeastoningordano.org and click on the link "Village Voice"

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Editorial

Unfortunately, the writing has been on the wall for a while that the Village Voice is no longer the way most people choose to receive their local news. The pandemic put paid to many regular group meetings, and there was so little certainty about future events that people were reluctant to commit anything to 'print' until it was imminent. With bi-monthly publication that made the problem even worse.

It is with some sadness, therefore, that I confirm December's paper will be the last one.

I know that for many of you the Christmas wishes feature every year is a good way to spread festive messages, so let's make this a bumper one and go out in style!

If you would like to include yours, or anything else, in December's paper please get in touch by the deadline, which is Friday, 17 November. (For advertising, it's Wednesday 15 November.) As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Jo Smith, Editor

A Thank You To Pill Youth Club

A few of us enjoyed a lovely meal prepared by members of the Youth Club. They had grown some of the vegetables themselves and chose to share the fruits of their labours with some local people. I just wanted to say a big thank you. It was lovely.

Liz Flanagan

Antique Vintage And Collectables Fair

Sunday 2 October 10am-3.30pm

Ashton Court Mansion, Long Ashton Bristol BS41 9JN

We will have 40 stalls inside the Mansion House, with café serving snacks, drinks and cream teas.

£2 entry (under 16s free). Car Park access: Kennel Lodge entrance via A369

FFIanniehawksley@blueyonder.co.uk



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You can now book appointments on THURSDAYS at The Style Room, No 4, Pill 01275 374215

Christian Aid Fashion Show

A fashion show will be held on Friday 7 October at 7.30pm in the Church Hall at Easton in Gordano.

Tickets, available from the Post Office, are £5 each and there will be drinks on sale and a raffle.

History Society

Crockerne Pill & District History Society will meet at Pill Memorial Club on Thursday, 20 October starting at 8pm. The speaker this month will be Richard Humphries, chief bell ringer at St George's Church, who will talk about St George's 14th century tower and its bell ringing history. Everyone welcome, visitors £3.

Apple Day

Friends of Watchhouse Hill will be holding their annual Apple Day in the Community Orchard on the hill on Sunday, 9 October from 2-4pm.

This is a free family event so come along and join in the fun. Help collect the apple harvest, see how the juice is made, help with the presses and learn about the orchard. We look forward to seeing you!

Village Repair Café

Do you have items which are broken but you don't know how, or have the skills, to repair? Perhaps some broken china or jewellery, clothes or textiles for sewing repairs, wooden items, small electricals (sorry, no microwaves), laptops/printers (subject to assessment), bikes, garden tools to repair or sharpen? As long as it's portable and capable of being repaired while you wait, someone may be able to help.

Bring them along to the Repair Café at the Community Centre on Saturdays 8 October and 12 November, 10.30am -12.30pm, where you'll have a chance to watch and learn and also catch up with friends whilst enjoying a cuppa with a bacon/egg roll.

The Sustainable Pill and District table will be

there to share more top tips on how to reduce waste and look after our environment. We have Blue Hearts that can be picked up for free to put by your wild places for nature, local fabric shopping bags just 50p, recycling box nets just £2 and we still have some pre-cut sections of pond liner to make a small pond, with free underlay, at bargain prices.

The aim of the Repair Café is to encourage people to bring their broken items to be mended, saving money and cutting down on waste. What better way to renew and re-use, and avoid excesses going to landfill?

If you have skills and would like to volunteer, please get in touch with Rachel Harvey at sustainablepill@gmail.com

The Great Big Green Week Is Back

**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK** 

24 September to 2 October

In the village the Village Food, Climate Action and Fairtrade Groups are joining forces to host a Big Green Film Show on Saturday 1 October, 2 - 4pm in the Salvation Army Hall. This is an event for all ages with light refreshments, creche and activities for children.

We will be showing some short films. One is about how a Fairtrade community in Sierra Leone is adapting positively to climate change, and the others are about the bigger picture of how global warming has happened and what steps we can take for a good future for everyone. Everyone is invited to join in the conversation about what more we can do locally, and North Somerset has compiled a whole programme of the events going on in our area.

Go to <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/green-week-events/north-somerset-big-green-week> for more details.

St George's Christmas Market 2022

Date for your diaries....

This year's Christmas Market will be held on Saturday 26 November 10.30am - 12 noon at St George's Church Hall. We look forward to seeing you all at this year's market!

Pill Food Bank

We all know that the cost of living is rising fast; fuel, and food particularly. For many local families this is a crushing burden. Even if there are two parents working, it can be very hard to put healthy food on the table.

At the Pill Food Bank we give out food bags with enough in them to feed a family of four for three days. The cost to us for supplying each bag is over £20.

Since the pandemic our income has dropped, and we are now appealing for more monetary donations. When we get money rather than food donations we can pack a healthy, balanced food bag in the knowledge that everything is in date and covers breakfast, lunch and an evening meal.

If you could consider donating to us on a one off or a regular basis that would be wonderful. We bank with the Credit Union Bank of West Country Savings. Our account name is Pill Food Bank, our sort code is 60 83 01 and our account number is 20159795. If you prefer to donate cash - please drop it into the Pill Post Office, where there is a collection box on the counter.

Your gift, however large or small, will be put to very good use and be greatly appreciated by families in our community.

Thank you.

Lunch At Penny Brohn

Penny Brohn is now serving delicious lunches again on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12.30-2pm.

Please phone 0303 3000118 to book a table.

An 80th Birthday Thank You

I would like to thank my family and friends in Oak Grove for making my 80th birthday tea party at Lodway Cricket Club such a happy occasion.

Special thanks to Elaine for her superb catering, to Grace for my wonderful cake and to Pauline and her 'pluckers' for the ukulele entertainment and singalong.

Ann Lovell

Easton In Gordano WI

On 5 October we are looking forward to a demonstration on Cartonage - gift box making - and we hope friends and visitors will join us for this evening. We meet in the Church Hall, Easton in Gordano, at 7.30pm. Craft dates for October are Tuesdays 11 and 25 at 10am till 12noon, when non-WI members will be most welcome to join us.

Donald Davies, Pill Ward Councillor, North Somerset Council

I write this as we mourn the death of our wonderful Queen Elizabeth, proclaim as King Charles and have a new Prime Minister.

Within the village there is a palpable sense of concern, not only about these changes, but those that affect our everyday lives, particularly the cost of living. I shall be working with NSC, the Parish Council and community groups to deliver what we can to help our community through this difficult winter.

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.

Bernard John Newton

Bern sadly passed away on 21 July, peacefully at home after a long illness.

Bern was born in Pill in 1938 and after doing National Service he spent most of his life in the construction industry. In retirement he enjoyed walking in Pill and district, meeting and talking to people.

Bern was kind, considerate and thoughtful and will be sadly missed by his family.

Pill & District Gardening Club

The 38th Pill & District Gardening Club Summer Show was another very successful event put together and organised by Donna Butcher and her very dedicated club volunteers. There were 15 categories, with a

total of 202 exhibits containing a variety of flowers, plants, fruit and vegetables.

The judging was carried out by two very well qualified people, namely Bernard and Sheila Fletcher from Coalpit Heath, whose own speciality is growing Dahlias. They were very meticulous with their judging and commented that the standard of exhibits at this year's show was very high, which made their job more difficult. However, they did come to decisions on winners of the various classes and the President Derek Robertson, presented the trophies as follows:

- **Flower section The Rose Bowl:** Sheila Shute
- **Fuchsias section John McKenzie Memorial Cup:** Gerald Westwood (see photo)
- **Pot Plant section:** Wendy Moncrieff
- **Hanging Basket section Frank & Mable Young Cup:** Elaine Williams
- **Root Vegetable section:** Jim Sharp
- **Other Vegetable section Silver Anniversary Cup:** Jim Sharp
- **Vegetable Collection Silver Anniversary Plate:** Jim Sharp
- **Fruit section:** Jim Sharp
- **Vase of Mixed Flowers the Joyce Wallis Trophy:** Rosemarie James
- **New Entrants Cup:** Janet Gardiner
- **Most Points in Show Shield:** Jim Sharp
- **Best in Show the Millennium Cup:** Annette Knowles (see photo)
- **Most Prize Money Banksian Medal:** Jim Sharp
- **President's Choice the Glass Bowl:** Gerald Westwood
- **Potato Competition 'Fun Trophy':** Noel Ayling

Our congratulations go to all the winners - there was some tough competition! To those who didn't win anything this year, please keep trying. It comes down to the smallest attention to detail to make a difference between winning or second place.

The next meeting of the Pill & District Gardening Club is on 19 October, when the guest speaker is Victoria Logue, on the subject of 'Extending the Season in your Garden'.

This is a very warm and friendly club, so why not come along and look us over? You will be made most welcome.

Mike James, 01275 373225



Annette Knowles



Gerald Westwood

Local Walkers Raise £6500 For Charity

Ian Lewis and Martin Berry have recently completed walking the South West Coast Path in aid of charity. Starting in Minehead and finishing near Poole, they covered the 630 miles in just over six weeks throughout May and June, climbing the equivalent of Mount Everest four times in the process.

Ian and Martin first discussed the idea three years ago but, like many things, the plan was put on hold until after the pandemic. They both decided that they would use their adventure to support the charities SENSE and Prostate Cancer UK, between which the raised monies would be equally divided.

A big thank you to all the customers at the Kings Arms in Easton in Gordano, who kindly supported them throughout their journey, and very generously made such a significant contribution to the total amount raised. Also, thanks to Ian and Caroline Wilcox at the Kings Arms who facilitated the collection at the pub putting up posters in support.

Finally, thanks go out to all the people of Pill and Easton in Gordano and the many others who made their own individual contributions. Further details can be found on the link below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/TeamShire2>

Celebrating Pill

Hello Everyone,

As we all know Pill is a great place, with a fascinating history, and sometimes that needs properly celebrating.

On 12 December 2022 it will be one hundred years since the last working pilot skiff handed over to the steam service, thus ending hundreds of years of tradition in Pill.

It's a really important landmark in our maritime history - a farewell to sails and the end of an era.

When helping clean gravestones at St George's Church I was amazed by the number of pilots who lay at peace in the churchyard and the tragedies that are written in stone down there. So, thinking about the handover date and the lives of all these men, including apprentices and Westernmen, I decided an exhibition might be of interest.

For those who don't know, our lovely church of St George's is very much in need of repair and, in order to apply for Heritage funding, the church has to evidence all sorts of things including community involvement. So, this exhibition will be held at St George's over four days and hopefully we can all continue another great Pill tradition, fundraising and showing support for local endeavours.

There will also be a concert on 10 December with a concluding act of remembrance, conducted by our Vicar, Astrid. This will be by ticket only and on 12 December, at Pill the dedication of a plaque in an open-air service at Pump Square taken by Revd Hellier of the Mission to Seafarers.

So, the rough timetable is this: (the dates won't change, timing is yet to be decided and will be put out on posters nearer the time):

Friday 9 December - Exhibition at St George's times to be confirmed, but probably late afternoon until about eight. Entry free; donations welcome.

Saturday 10 December - Exhibition open 10am until 3pm. Free entry; donations welcome.

Concert - probably an early start, 6.30/7pm, as the lovely Owls are already booked elsewhere, and we wouldn't even contemplate a concert without them. Times and programme etc to follow when all confirmed. Ticket only.

Sunday 11 December - Exhibition times will fit around church services on that date, however, not open after 4pm.

Monday 12 December - 10:30am until 4pm. Dedication at Pump Square, time to be confirmed, 7pm if possible. Open, of course to everyone.

Please support this "one off" event. I promise to make it as interesting and informative as possible. Tea and coffee will be available while the exhibition is open.



I am hoping to buy a good quality plaque to be fixed in the Pill "Seafarers wall" and will be making efforts to raise the money to do this. So, if you see me in the precinct with my begging bowl please consider a contribution.

Personally, I am amazed by the treasure trove of information and tales about the dangerous and challenging lives the pilots and their crews lived, which lays hidden in newspaper archives, so this occasion is an ideal opportunity to share some of that with all of you.

Always hoping for your support - our history is unique and was not easily earned so please help me show some recognition and respect for these pilots of the past, and the men and boys who sailed with them.

Thank you, Lou Dixey

Welcome Back Fund Resources To Borrow

If you are a local group or charity or market trader wishing to have a stall in the precinct or elsewhere on parish land you can borrow 2 x large gazebos, 4 x table and chairs 'bistro sets', 2 x chalk sandwich boards, a heavy duty trolley, a sound system, and other items such as high viz vests and litter pickers for FREE from the Resource Centre.

Call 01275 375670 or pop in when open to book.

All items must be returned in good condition by the agreed dates.

Litter, Litter Everywhere

What a fantastic job our dedicated band of litter pickers do every month. Within an hour, many of the worst areas look spick and span again.

So why, oh why do they get so dirty again so quickly afterwards?

The precinct and surrounding area is particularly bad, with the area under 'Glyn's clock' by the Chinese being absolutely disgusting sometimes. (I hate to blame children all the time, but sadly, we do know this area is a gathering spot – so parents, please remind your children that with a bin not two metres away, there really is no excuse!)

We also know sometimes the bins overflow and recycling blows out of the boxes, but seriously? It's not always someone else's job to clear up. If everyone took a bit of personal responsibility things would look, and stay looking, so much better all the time.

Children's Nature Corner Word Search

Can you find the words below in the box?

W	T	R	E	E	S	X
A	L	Y	P	O	N	D
T	O	B	G	M	A	V
E	M	I	H	E	K	N
R	O	R	C	A	E	B
M	U	D	A	I	S	Y
U	S	S	L	U	G	Q
P	E	N	K	L	W	S

BIRDS
SNAKE
HORSE
SLUG
MUD

TREE
POND
DAISY
WATER

How to make an animal footprint trap



1. Fill an old baking tray with damp sand and smooth out the surface with a ruler
2. Place meaty pet food in a low sided dish in the middle of the tray
3. Leave the trap overnight in a garden and check in the morning for footprints left by curious visitors (see picture below to identify them).

The Storymongers Present

The StoryMongers present a selection of Shakespeare sonnets. Eddy Martin will narrate the sonnets, while Dave Merrick adds atmospheric guitar music. Each sonnet will be followed by Eddy's contemporary interpretation.

Friday 14 October at Abbots Leigh Village Hall. Doors open 7.45pm for performance at 8pm.

Further details contact Eddy 07794944572

Parish Council News

August is always a quiet month for Parish Council business and 2022 has been no exception. The new PC officers - details on the PC website - have been looking at ways of streamlining the meetings and expanding the use of social media so that we can get more reaction from villagers about what you would like to see happening in the village.

We have also been looking at some issues to do with parking and seeing how we can improve the play facilities. It was very disappointing that our application for play equipment funding went astray and I wish to repeat my apology on behalf of The Parish Council for this mistake. (See my letter on the PC website.)

You will notice that the beautification of the precinct has now been completed and has continued to receive many compliments.

We are waiting for the precise traffic details of the 20 mph restrictions following the consultation in July and hope that work will be able to start soon.

September has been a different month altogether with the death of Queen Elizabeth being the focus for many people's thoughts and actions. It may be that you have ideas you think would be suitable for the village

to consider. Please feel free to contact any member of the Parish Council if you would like to discuss them further.

Finally, the next edition of The Village Voice will be the last. Let's all make it a bumper success and something which our long-standing editor, Jo Smith, can look upon with pride.

With best wishes.

Trevor Wraith on behalf of The Parish Council.

The Not-So-Secret Garden

I'm Sam, and I'm back, bringing you updates on everything garden! What to plant each month, wildlife you may see, things you can create, and recipes to suit the things that will be ready to harvest from your garden.

What to Sow and Grow in October

October is the perfect time for putting in onion and garlic sets, to produce an early harvest next year, but there are also some autumnal and winter hardy plants that can go in too.

Winter lettuce such as 'Arctic King' will provide you with salad throughout the colder months. Or alternatively, try sowing Crimson Clover or Phacelia for a cheap green manure, to improve your soil quality.

Garden Tasks

Harvest the last of your autumn raspberries and blackberries, and cut the fruited stems down to the ground.

Don't forget to fleece your more delicate plants and shrubs, to protect them from frost damage over winter.

Bonfire Reminder



Now is the time that many of our garden wildlife, including hedgehogs, are starting to hibernate. If you're planning a bonfire at all over winter, please double check your piles for wildlife, before lighting. Also, wildlife find fallen

leaves, sticks, and branches to be the best comfort and cover from frost. If you can, why not hold off on burning your garden waste?

Looking for something to do with the kids?

Build a hedgehog house. It doesn't need to

be fancy, hedgehogs just want somewhere to keep warm and dry. Use an old patio slab, and 4 bricks. Find a sturdy level area, and place the patio slab on top of the bricks. Cover in sticks, twigs, leaves, grass clippings, but keep an entry way free. Keep your eyes peeled, and see if you can spot one!

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What to Harvest and How to Cook it

There's one thing that springs to my mind for an October harvest. Pumpkin! Pumpkin has a deliciously sweet taste, and makes a well appreciated winter warmer. It can be frozen too, if you find yourself with any left!

I find that roasting the pumpkin first with a little salt, adds the best flavour, but it's not a necessity.

Homegrown Pumpkin Soup



- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 1kg pumpkin
- 700ml vegetable stock or chicken stock
- 150ml double cream or soy alternative

- If you're roasting your pumpkin, cut into chunks, and cook in a 200c preheated oven, for around 25-30 minutes, until browning. You can add the stringy bits too, but watch these don't burn.
- Heat 2 tbsp olive oil in a large pan, then gently cook 2 finely chopped onions for 5 mins, until soft but not coloured.
- Add 1kg pumpkin, cut into chunks, to the pan, then carry on cooking for 8-10 mins, stirring occasionally until it starts to soften and turn golden. (If you've roasted your

pumpkin, you do not need to cook for 8-10 mins.)

- Pour 700ml vegetable or chicken stock into the pan and season with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil, then simmer for 10 mins until the squash is very soft.
- Pour 150ml double cream or soy alternative, into the pan, bring back to the boil, then purée with a hand blender. For an extra-velvety consistency you can pour the soup through a fine sieve.
- This recipe is so versatile, and can be added to or adapted to suit your own tastes and dietary requirements.

You can also toast the pumpkin seeds to top off your soup. Simply wash, pat dry with kitchen roll, pop in a frying pan with a little oil and salt, and toast until lightly brown.

Enjoy!

If you have any comments, suggestions, or would like to contact me for any reason, you can find me at sam.grows@mail.com.

The Christmas Lights Draw

The Christmas lights volunteer group draw took place on 6 August. Congratulations go to Rebecca Williams winning first prize of £75 and to Jacqui Fear, winning second prize of £25. In September's draw Rich & Val Marshall won first prize, and Jim Bolton won second.

If you wish to join the club you can register electronically by emailing pillchristmaslights@gmail.com, and you will be provided with all the necessary information to do this. Alternatively, please see the poster in the window of the Resource Centre, with joining details (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 will be first prize of £500 and second prize of £100.

Community Minded?



Do you have general maintenance skills, decorating, electrical etc? Perhaps you have IT knowledge you could offer?

If so, we would really appreciate the odd hour of your time every once in

a while to help at the Community Centre.

As with all old buildings, there is upkeep involved but as with many similar community assets we don't have an evergreen money tree so we are appealing for local community minded people who might be willing to give a little towards keeping this valuable local resource functioning and appealing for the many activities which take place there.

If the idea of dreary meetings puts you off, don't worry, we don't need people to join our Committee (though you would be very welcome, and they're never dreary!) but we'd



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really appreciate a group of skilled people we might call on occasionally to help. If you can, please contact Jo Smith on 07866047463, or email info.pillcommunitycentre@gmail.com

Reading Friends Group

When I moved to Pill, I was looking for opportunities to break up my day and to meet people in the village who liked reading. Stretching my legs one morning, I called in to Pill Library and spotted that they were starting a Reading Friends group.

Set up for people who love books and like to talk about them, it's a way to make connections with other people through reading. It's not a book group and you don't need to prepare anything. Just bring yourself! We chat about books we've read and many other things, with one of us usually sharing a short passage or poem to get the conversation going. Recent topics have included books we read as children, the perfect novel to read in the garden and which book we'd cheerfully throw across the room!

Through Pill's Reading Friends, I've met a fellow reader of crime novels ("the more gruesome the better!") and if you come into the library on a Tuesday morning, you might have heard a group of us catching up on what we've read, and laughing in the meeting room. Occasionally we play word games, and we've even organised a trip to Bristol Central library.

We would love to welcome anyone who wants to come along to this special group. No commitment necessary and it's absolutely free.

Tuesdays 10am-11am from 30th September. You can just turn up, or phone 01934 426070 pill.library@n-somerset.gov.uk

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



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