

Winter 2020/21 **SIX VILLAGES NEWS** Issue 2

Covering POVY villages Parkend and Whitecroft

Dear Everyone. Welcome to our second issue which covers forthcoming fixtures for Christmas and 2021. Thank you to Yorkley Newsletter who have kindly financed us this time. Thanks also go to Pat who is building up our Facebook account, to Edward who helps with editing, all our contributors and to you, our readers, who make everything worthwhile. The next issue will be ready for March 2021. Please may I have contributions by 15th February. Before 2nd lockdown the churches were able to organise spaced Harvest Festivals. The congregations donated quantities of tins which went to the grateful Food Bank. Although there were no indoor Remembrance services due to 2nd lockdown restrictions the churches were beautifully decorated with poppies, wooden crosses and standards. There were Covid compliant wreath laying ceremonies at all the war memorials in the 6 villages with the Last Post and Reveille ringing through the air at Yorkley, Parkend (3 times!) and Whitecroft. Pillowell Rec had poppies painted on rocks and discarded logs from a birch which had to be felled.

Christopher Gibbons who conducted the Pillowell Singers for several years, has recorded a **Christmas CD** with his friend, Welsh baritone Ben to raise funds for Cerebral Palsy Wales. They performed at the 2019 Summer concert in Pillowell Chapel which was a success. The CD will cost £5 out of which £1 will go straight to the charity. The tracks are:-Away in a manger, Carol of the bells, In the bleak midwinter, O holy night, Silent night with instrumental tracks in between – I believe these will feature clarinet and saxophone. If you would like a copy please ring **Deborah on 563633** or email deborahgibbons@yahoo.co.uk.

Christmas Journey Saturday 19th – Thursday 24th December. Jonathan Kear, leader of Forest New Life Church has been organising this Covid compliant event with Stroath Church, Tidenham Parish and the Salvation Army for the Forest Community. It will be a drive through event with 2 or 3 loops around the Forest to keep travel distance short. Each loop will have 7/8 churches/stations. Churches involved will each have a part of the Christmas story to display in their chosen way with activities. There will be a social media connection for those who are unable to go out. For further information nearer the time please **contact Jonathan Kear** at jonathankear@togetherforyouth.co.uk. Edward and Pat join me in wishing you all the best for Christmas and a brighter 2021. Julia **560522**

PILLOWELL

Village Hall

Since lockdown on 23rd March the Village Hall has been closed for all events. The alternate Thursday coffee mornings, in particular, are really missed. Keep a look out on Facebook or the sign at the bottom of Pete and Sara's drive for new start dates! During the period of closure the downstairs insulated plaster boarding has been completed and the painters are in now. Improved electrical work upstairs is due to be carried out. On a sunny day a small group of villagers had a lovely distanced Village Picnic on the Rec.

The Committee gives a big 'thank you' to all who made donations for the much needed fencing for the 'Rec'. Two Village Hall representatives are now working with 'The Rec' charity's Communications Committee on the location/style of a plaque and centenary event planning. The aim is to purchase a plaque to record all the good people who donated to our 'sponsor a post' scheme. Many people wanted to donate 'in memory of' so there will be a section on the plaque 'In memoriam'. The plan is to hold a **HUGE gathering on Saturday, 29th May** to celebrate the centenary of when the miners dug the Rec by hand during the strike. It is befitting that we pay homage to these heroes and a new centenary photo will be taken. We hope to promote this event and involve the local press as well as BBC Points West.

Our new treasurer, Lou Elliott has applied for online banking which will make financial affairs easier. If you need further information please ring **Peter Dunford the Chair of the Village Hall Committee on 562170** or email pillowellvillage@yahoo.co.uk or peterndunford@gmail.com or contact via Facebook.

Recreation Ground

The registered charity, "The Recreation Ground (War Memorial) at Pillowell", founded in 1923, was successfully reinstated in September. The new trustees have been preparing for new fencing at the 'Rec' –

hopefully, this will be erected before Christmas. We are grateful to the Village Hall Committee for its fundraising campaign and to all those who contributed.

Contact – phone: 564328 email: pillowellrec.info@btinternet.com .

On a perfect sunny day a group of villagers enjoyed a cheerful, socially distanced Village Picnic. It was good to catch up with each other and relax. Many thanks to the Village Hall Committee for organising it.

Pillowell Silver Band

The band room is tucked away behind Captains Green. Up until ‘lockdown’ the band practised on Tuesday and Friday evenings but at the moment they are unable to resume.. Contacts are:- **Musical Director Ian Whitburn** on **07894998225** and **Chair Alison Hennessey** on **07805 351 411**.

or email info@pillowellsilverband.com . **Check the website and Facebook for updates.**

Pillowell Primary School

For information please either refer to the school’s websites or contact:-

Lisa Newport – Office Administrator on **562244** or visit www.pillowellschool.co.uk

VINEY HILL

St Swithin’s Sports and Social Club

Situated at St Swithin’s Rd Viney Hill.Home of Viney St Swithin’s FC Hiring of the club hall for weddings, parties etc has been suspended at the moment due to lockdown. For further information **Contact 510658**

YORKLEY

Community Centre serving the POVY Villages

Before coronavirus there were many activities but lockdown restrictions have affected what is available.

Visit www.communitycentreyorkley.co.uk . For booking, visit info@communitycentreyorkley.co.uk or call **560190** answering system which is checked regularly.

Yorkley Art Group

Yorkley Art Group, affectionately known as Y.A.G. has been meeting in the Yorkley Community Centre since January 2018. We have a wide range of ages in the group and challenge ourselves with still life, portraiture, life drawing and, weather permitting, landscape. With the arrival of Covid we have stayed connected by phone and email, maintaining support, encouragement and friendship within the group. During this time 17 online projects have been completed. We are planning to hold a ‘Lockdown Exhibition’ at the Y.C.C. next year so please come and see our efforts for yourself. At the same time, support the centre which provides for us, and many others, the perfect setting for creative endeavours. In the New Year we plan to re-establish our weekly group, Thursday 1pm start. If you wish to join us come and have a chat. We will be pleased to see you. Until then, stay well and keep your pencils sharp!

Heather on behalf of Y.A.G. members

Yorkley Phone Box

Canopy, the creative arts network for artists in the Forest of Dean is supporting, through WDPC, the creative development of 8 phone boxes across the local area. Carol Laidler, the artist, whose focus is Yorkley phone box is keen to make contact with residents about their lockdown stories. Elements of these will contribute to the final work. Please contact Carol at carollaidler@rocketmail.com or **0773 332 5513**.

More information about this project can be found on the Canopy web-site.

Yorkley Rainbows and Brownies

Since lockdown Yorkley Rainbows and Brownies have continued to be busy but are unable to make personal contact yet. They hope to return to the Community Centre as soon as it is feasible. For further information contact **Emma** by email yorkleycoleford@gmail.com .

Forest of Dean Brass- Onward Hall, Stag Hill, Yorkley

At the moment there are no practises due to lockdown. For information check the website forestofdeanbrass.org or contact **Marion Dobbs, the Band Manager** on **07977 359 961** or check if there are notices on the **band hut door**. **There is no Bingo taking place at the band hut for the time being due to lockdown rules.**

Yorkley Primary School

A mainstream state funded mixed Junior school for children aged from 4 to 11years.

It is situated on Lydney Road, Yorkley GL15 4RR **Contact 562201**.

WHITECROFT

Whitecroft Memorial Hall

The Hall is still undergoing interior decoration and are hoping that the outside lights will be operated by sensors in time for the winter. We hope that the exercise groups and twice weekly dog training groups will return after lockdown. There will be no Christmas carols this year but hope to put the Xmas tree in the Village to light it up! Next year we are hoping to run coffee mornings on the first and third Thursdays of the month starting in March. We are also hoping to organise an over 60's meal/gathering in April/June time depending re lockdowns/weather etc. The village had a visit recently from TV programme makers of 'Find it, Fix it, Flog it' when they appeared at Knick Knax which hopefully, will be shown in **February** so should be a bit of a treat! dorothy.maskrey294@btinternet.com.

Whitecroft AFC

There are 3 adult teams and a youth team. Lockdown ruling applies at the moment. When everything is back to normal all the home matches are played at the Recreation Ground and the bar is open most Saturdays. The Club House has been refurbished and the ground is pristine.

Whitecroft Service of Remembrance

The Memorial Hall was decorated with poppies and the Union standard and the proceedings were organised by Barry Jessop. The fully Covid compliant service, supported by the WDPC and local Parish Councillors, was much shorter than usual and there were just 6 people attending outside the hall in the Garden of Remembrance. Rebecca Ashton of Pillowell Silver Band sounded the 'Last Post', standard bearer Mr Ian Howells was in attendance and Richard Shingles read John McCrae's poem, 'In Flanders' Fields' The Clerk of the WDPC, David Kent laid a wreath. Poppy wreaths were laid in the Garden of Remembrance by Mrs Jenny Barnett on behalf of Whitecroft Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Trust Committee and Barry Jessop on behalf of the Village and Football Club. Mrs Jayne O'Nions, whose uncle was one of the Whitecroft men killed in Second World War placed a wreath in memory of the men who died in that conflict. Wooden crosses were also planted in the Garden of Remembrance. Meanwhile, Barry Jessop's granddaughter played the Last Post at the Lydney Ceremony.

Dean Forest Railway

Following current guidance, DFR are assuming lockdown will be lifted on 2nd December and intends to run all Santa Specials as published in the timetable ie **5th/6th, 12th/13th and 19th/20th December**. Some of these trains are already fully booked. **Whitecroft will not be used as a boarding or alighting stop for the foreseeable future**. All customers should travel to Norchard station in where there is plenty of parking space. All bookings are done online. **Brian Mannion** at bwmannion@gmail.com.

PARKEND

Parkend Primary School

At Yorkley Road, Parkend, Lydney GL15 4HL. It is a mixed gender Community School With 4-11 years age range. For further information visit the school websites or ring **562407**.

Parkend Silver Band

Since lockdown, practises are on hold. For further information or if you are a player and wish to join in a **Zoom** session please **contact Sharon Pensom Thomas** on **563069** or **07964 417 495** or via Facebook.

Parkend Village Hall

Up to the pandemic meetings were held by **A1 Dance** (contact **Bonita 07747 444 795** or Facebook), **Ladies Group** (contact **Margaret Yates 562175**) and the **Forest Flute Choir** (contact **Fiona Cawley 563079**) as well as the band. At the moment all activities are on hold due to coronavirus. The hall will need to be deep cleaned before it can be used again. **Contact Meryl Teague 562137**.

Parkend Memorial Hall

All activities are on hold for the time being due to lockdown regulations. **Contact Meryl Teague 562137**.

Parkend Club

To book facility contact **Mike** on **562566**. **Bingo and Skittles TBA**.

Dean Garden Room (part of Dean Field Study Centre). To book, ring **Ian Healy** on **562444**.

NCT Baby & Toddler Group meetings TBA.

Beaver Lodge

1st Royal Forest Scout Group – Main Contact **Gareth Ovens**. Visit our **website** or **Facebook**.

Sportsfield **Parkend Cricket Club** - All teams. Visit our **website** or **Facebook** for info.

PLACES OF WORSHIP in and near the 6 Villages

Pillowell Methodist Church– Minister – Rev'd Denise Hargreaves Tel: 825662 dkah26@gmail.com

Although the Chapel has been closed over lockdown there have been emailed services and 'Thought for the Day'. Zoom coffee mornings take place among Forest Churches on a weekly basis and there is also a weekly Zoom Bible Study session. The Chapel is planning to restart **11am services from Sunday December 6th** subject to lockdown restrictions. **Please check the Church noticeboard for further developments.** Owing to lockdown restrictions, plans for the Coffee and Craft group, Wednesday Group and the Pillowell Singers are on hold at the moment. Everyone will be notified as to when the groups will start up again as soon as it is known. **Contact Chapel Steward Lynne Kear on 564101.**

All Saints Viney Hill and St Paul's Parkend – Vicar – Rev'd Sam Norton

Visit www.parkendandvineyhillchurches.org.uk for information on regular services and meetings.

The first Service since lockdown 2 will take place at **Viney Hill on Sunday 6th December at 10am**

The first service at Parkend will be on **Sunday 13th December at 10am** then alternate. Please check notices until restrictions are made clear for when lockdown is lifted; no plans can be made for Christmas services. **Please look for notices & posters nearer the time.**

We hope to continue with Zoom services as they have benefitted the housebound during lockdown.

For details of the forthcoming Discussion Group please contact Rev'd Sam on revsamnorton@gmail.com.

Baptisms Hazel Maisey 562429 Weddings Trish Ducker 563074 Funerals Rev'd Sam Norton 730311

Roman Catholic Churches

The 3 closest churches are situated in **Cinderford, Lydney and Coleford**. For details of services visit www.forestrc.co.uk, or Forest of Dean RC Churches on Facebook.

Forest New Life Church/ Parkend Baptist Church

The Church is situated next to the Village Hall in Folly Road, Parkend.

Baptist Church. Contact Nigel Jeffery 834024

Forest New Life Church Contact Jonathan Kear 07580 141074 Visit www.forestnewlife.org.uk

20th December 10.30am – Carol Service – numbers restricted to 40

25th December 10.30am - Christmas Day Service – numbers restricted to 40.

27th December 10.30am - Informal Communion and Chat – numbers restricted to 40.

Into 2021

Alpha Course – Starting in the spring, date tbc (either Zoom or in person depending on regulations)

Lent Course starting on **Wednesday 17th February – Explore the BIG story** (either Zoom or in person)

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

All council meetings are held via online 'zoom' facilities due to Covid restrictions. We are hoping to get back together ASAP once restrictions are lifted. If you have a Parish issue do contact your Parish Councillor for advice. WDPC newsletter is due out in early December.

Peter Dunford Pillowell Parish Councillor 562170 email peterndunford@gmail.com.

FOREST MOBILE MEALS

Forest Mobile Meals thanks everyone who donated the much appreciated produce over the past months.

Covid has made fundraising hard but with the help of generous donations and the successful takeaway service is going some way to paying huge overheads. Hot meals are provided 4 days a week and hope to add Thursdays once there are enough drivers to deliver them.

Christmas Goodies Tracey and the team are making the following mouth- watering goodies:-

Mince pies – 30p each or 4 for a £1! 6-inch decorated rich Christmas Cakes £15! Orders taken now!

Special Takeaway Forest Festive Bap only £5! filled with turkey breast, 2 pigs in blankets, homemade stuffing, and cranberry sauce. A pot of golden gravy can be added for an extra **50p!**

Meal Service clients will receive an **enhanced 3 course Christmas Lunch** which will include Stilton & broccoli soup, turkey & all the trimmings, Christmas pudding + brandy sauce and the team's popular homemade mince pies. This has been made possible by a donation of £180 from Helping Hands Caring Hearts. **Contact info@forestmeals.org.uk or ring 01594 827927 for information and to give your orders.**