**Autumn 2020** Six Villages News **Issue** **1**

**Covering POVY villages Parkend and Whitecroft**

Dear Everyone! Welcome to our first Village News Sheet which I hope will enable all people in the Community to know what is going on in the villages for the next 3 months at a glance. It will be hard to get back into circulation after ‘lockdown’ which is why I wanted to help in some way as, sadly, we no longer have the excellent Yorkley Newsletter to keep us connected. If it is successful, another issue of this news sheet could be produced in December to cover Christmas and up to the end of February, after which it could run regularly as a quarterly issue. I am grateful to the people who are supporting me in this venture, particularly Pat Turner who will provide Facebook back up for events and my son, Edward, who helps with the editing. Hanley Court Printers are initially providing 500 copies until we have more of an idea as to how many are needed in the future –or not... To begin with 200 will be put in the box opposite the Village Hall in Pillowell, 200 at Yorkley Post Office and a few at Parkend Post Office until there is further easing of ‘lockdown’.

I expect many of you would like to join me in thanking all who have looked after us over ‘lockdown’ whether it is people keeping services and survival shops going to all the volunteers who have made themselves available to help the needy. Neighbourhood Watch has been a big help in keeping us ‘in the loop’ for which we thank all who help to keep members of the community updated. It was good to know that the **75th Anniversary of VJ day** was remembered in the Forest although lockdown restrictions had to be followed. Parkend had a ceremony on the Cricket Field which was organised by the Rudges and Meryl Teagues’ family. Sharon Stratford played ‘The Last Post’ on the Cornet. Barry Jessop put up the Union standard and laid a wreath of poppies at Whitecroft Memorial Hall before laying a wreath on behalf of Geoffrey Aldridge’s family at the Lydney Ceremony. Mr Aldridge was the last brave Burma Star veteran from the Forest who had sadly, died recently; he lived in Whitecroft. If you wish to contact me with some information regarding classes, clubs, births, deaths, marriages etc or news from Village Halls and Churches please ring me on the number below. I look forward to hearing from you and in the meantime, take care, **Julia. 560522**

**PILLOWELL**

**Village Hall**

The Village Hall is small, comprises of 2 rooms and can hold 60 people. It is available for the use of the local Community for assorted gatherings and events. It now has an excellent kitchen thanks to funding from the National Lottery. We have also received a West Dean Parish Council grant which will enable us to install insulated plaster boarding in the downstairs room which will then be painted and new blinds will be fitted to the windows – start date for work 3rd August. **Committee meetings are held every 2nd Monday** in the month and the AGM was held on 10th August. We are keen to restart our popular coffee mornings on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. Look out on Facebook and the sign at the bottom of Peter and Sara’s house, (The Willows, opposite the Village Hall), for our start date. It is with regret that Steve Fagan has stepped down from his position as Treasurer and we thank him for his enthusiasm and input over many years. We have appointed Louise Elliott from Greygates as our new Treasurer. If you need further information about hiring the hall or wish to take part in anything or everything please ring **Peter Dunford** **the Chair of the Village Hall Committee on 562170** or email pillowellvillage@yahoo.co.uk or peterdunford@gmail.com or contact via Facebook.

**Recreation Ground**

The Village Hall committee has taken responsibility for the Rec for many years although there is a separate charity number lodged with the Charity Commission. I have spent hours trying to re-establish the charity with local help from Bill and Jean Norton. When this charity is ‘up and running’ I can then authorise the fencing of the Rec. I will take up the lead role as Trustee and appoint 2 new Trustees and enable this charity to operate separately from the Village Hall Committee. We have also managed to obtain monies from Foresters Forest and WDPC (£2,000 each respectively) so there are now enough funds for the erection of fencing around the original 1921 boundary and the erection of a plaque with all the donors’ names on. We are really sorry for the delay, but, Covid 19 and red tape have hindered progress. All this work will be completed in good time for next May’s Centenary celebration when we will remember how out of work Forest miners dug out the Rec ground for our community. **Peter Dunford 562170**

**Pillowell Picnic Event Saturday 5th September**

Sadly, our annual Village Fete which was planned for Saturday, 5th September has been cancelled due to Covid 19, We hope to hold a Picnic Event, (weather permitting) to replace it which would be a great opportunity for a village ‘get together’. The idea is that everyone brings their own picnic and favourite tipple to the Rec. **Peter Dunford** **562170**

**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. The band does not know what will happen for Remembrance Sunday at Whitecroft yet and await instructions. 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](http://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 which hopes to play league games in September.

Hiring of the club hall for weddings, parties etc has been suspended at the moment due to lockdown. For further information **Contact 510658**

**Viney Hall Physiotherapy Clinic**

**Pilates classes** will remain virtual for the foreseeable future. Although physiotherapy appointments have been virtual some are now face to face. **Contact** **01594 516810** or [www.vineyhallphysio.co.uk/news](http://www.vineyhallphysio.co.uk/news) .

**YORKLEY**

**Community Centre serving the POVY Villages**

There is a choice of room options suitable for a whole range of leisure and community activities. All rooms have free wifi. The Main Hall and Meeting place have a hearing loop. The hall has music and alcohol licences. The Main Hall is suitable for 140 people or 120 sitting at tables. It includes a serving hatch to the bar through which the kitchen can be accessed. The kitchen is large and maintained to a high standard.

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

 Visit [www.communitycentreyorkley.co.uk](http://www.communitycentreyorkley.co.uk) . For booking, visit info@communitycentreyorkley.co.uk or call **560190 answering system** which is checked regularly.

**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**

The current band is the result of a 25 year amalgamation of Yorkley Onward Band and Coleford Town Band and is based at Onward Hall, Stag Hill, Yorkley GL15 4TA.

At the moment there are no practises due to lockdown. For information check the website forestofdean.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**.

**Friendship and Silver Lining Clubs**

These clubs have been postponed until further notice. We are looking forward, hopefully, to our Christmas Dinner in December which is already booked.

**WHITECROFT**

**Whitecroft Memorial Hall**

We are hoping to open the hall in September and are already approaching groups so they can advertise to their people. Thursday coffee mornings on alternate weeks to Pillowell are being planned for October. The grant we received to cover loss of revenue has also enabled us to refurbish the hall. Bev has moved the Slimming World group up to Yorkley but we hope to retain Akido and dog training (closed groups) and Zumba. Each group has 2 sessions a week so we are looking for one more on Wednesday. dorothy.maskrey294@btinternet.com .

**Whitecroft AFC**

There are 3 adult teams and a youth team. All the home matches are played at the Recreation Ground and the bar is open most Saturdays. We hope to start playing league games in September under lockdown restrictions. The Club House has been refurbished and the ground is pristine.

**Whitecroft Service of Remembrance**

At the moment it is not known what will happen and no details will be available until October if it is able to take place. Check online and for notices.

**Dean Forest Railway**

The railway has been operating for a few weeks now with safety precautions in line with COVID regulations being implemented throughout journeys. With this in mind please be aware that **Whitecroft will not be used as a boarding or alighting stop for the foreseeable future**. All customers should travel to Norchard station in order to use our services. New volunteers are welcome with a variety of different roles available from maintenance to train operation. Please **Contact Brian** on bwmannion@gmail.com for further information with regarding to station, current work vacancies and membership.

**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**

Band practises at the Village Hall took place on Tuesday’s at 7pm, preceded by the training band at 6.15pm. Since lockdown this has been put 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**

The hall has a stage and backroom with seating for 100 people, a small kitchen and facilities. All activities are on hold for the time being due to lockdown regulations. **Contact Meryl Teague 562137.**

**Parkend Over 65’s Christmas Dinner**

This normally takes place on the 1st Saturday in December but looks unlikely to happen at the moment 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**

**1st and 2nd Teams, Juniors Under 13s and Under 15s.** **Contact website & Facebook.**

**Parkend Carnival** had to be cancelled for 2020 but should take place on **August Bank Holiday 2021.**

**Car Boot Sales** should start again in **April 2021.**

**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’ which could be printed out for those without technology. **Zoom** coffee mornings took place among Forest Churches on a weekly basis.

The Chapel is planning to restart **11am services from Sunday 23rd August** subject to lockdown restrictions. **Please check the Church noticeboard in case changes have had to be made.**

 **Harvest Festival** **will be on 27th September** which may need a few alterations but sadly, it is doubtful that there will be a Harvest Supper this year.

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.

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

Visit [www.parkendandvineyhillchurches.org.uk](http://www.parkendandvineyhillchurches.org.uk) for information on regular services and meetings.

**The first Service** since lockdown will take place at **St Paul’s Parkend on Sunday 6th September at 10am**

**The first service at All Saints** will be on **Sunday 13th September at 10am**

and then both Churches will alternate each Sunday at the same time.

**Harvest Festival will be at All Saints** on **Sunday 27th September**.

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

 **Contacts** for **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](http://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** Services are at Summer time 6pm until the end of October. Contact **Nigel Jeffrey 834024**

**Forest New Life** Visit [www.forestnewlife.org.uk](http://www.forestnewlife.org.uk) for information.

**WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL**

**The next 3 council meetings will be held at the West Dean Centre in** Bream on the last Wednesday of each month which will be **September 30th**, **October 28th and November 25th.** They all start at 7pm for public issues followed by the full Council Meeting for which members of the public are welcomed to stay.

**FOREST MOBILE MEALS**

The Forest’s wonderful Meals on Wheels team are now called Forest Mobile Meals which has been trading since 16th March 2020, straight into the Covid 19 crisis! Their benefactor has supported them with start- up capital and continues to provide them with financial support until they can manage unaided. They are trying their best to become independent by selling takeaway food as they currently have no core funding. Their van is not being used to save costs. More funding is sought for the renewal of kitchen equipment which needs replacing. More volunteer drivers are needed. If you can help please contact **Amy on 01594 827927** or **amy@forestmeals.org.uk** If you have a special occasion and would like a celebratory cake call **Tracey** on **01594 827927** or email **tracey@forestmeals.org.uk**. Prices start from £8 for cakes and 50p for cupcakes. If you have any surplus produce it would be gratefully received at the kitchens which are open 8.15am-2.30pm Monday to Friday at **Cinderford Industrial Estate in unit 22D, Foxes Bridge Road.** If you have problems with delivering please let me know.  **Julia 560522.** You can find **FMM on Google and Facebook.**

**Breaking News…** From September hot meal home delivery service will cover Tuesdays + 3 normal days.

**CANOPY CREATIVE NETWORK**

This network in the Forest of Dean supports a wide range of cultural activities to thrive. This is done by developing effective networks and meaningful engagement between artists, communities and businesses.

The objective is to ensure that the arts are accessible to all. This year, with funding from Arts Council England, 4 micro contracts and ten bursaries of varying amounts were awarded to artists from across the board. To find out more, visit [www.canopycreativenetwork.wordpress.com](http://www.canopycreativenetwork.wordpress.com) .