



www.paganhill.org.uk
07828 168 857

Paganhill & Farmhill

NEWS

November 2020

A quick note from Jaqui...



Paganhill Community Group was set up by residents in the spirit of 'neighbours helping neighbours'.

Our Members give their time freely and we seek to be informal and welcoming, encouraging relationships and community spirit. We are not affiliated to any political party or religion but embrace all. We wish to welcome and celebrate that.

As some of you will know, the Paganhill Community Group Community Interest Company arose from a small group of local residents who got together to organise a summer event in 2017.

We went on to set up a community café on Fridays which was very popular... **and then came Lockdown in March this year...**

Good neighbours

The role of the Group changed to meet the needs of people living in Farmhill and Paganhill during Lockdown and PCG was quickly recognised by local councils as being able to play a key role in helping residents.

Many people give their time to shop and pick up prescriptions for others who are isolating, and some supportive friendships have been forged.

Many have gone the extra mile and kept regular checks on vulnerable people in our area. A big thank you to all those people. I would name you all but would be worried I might miss someone or that you didn't want to be named.

We couldn't have given this service without you that's for sure.

Thank you all. Jaqui

JAQUI SMITH. CHAIR. PAGANHILL COMMUNITY GROUP

Nominate your neighbour for a Christmas treat!

This year we have focused our attention and efforts on food and getting it to those in need. We are decorating shoe boxes to fill with small festive treats, and we need you to **nominate a neighbour from Farmhill or Paganhill** who you think would like a little seasonal surprise.



Send your nomination to info@paganhill.org.uk
or call 07828 168857
by Friday December 11

The first 50 individuals or families nominated will receive a free hamper!

We also **need donations of treats for children and adults** - including healthy options - soaps and toiletries, small Christmas puddings, festive biscuits and crackers. Call 07828 168857 to arrange to drop off of donations, or support us here via **GoFundMe** <https://uk.gofundme.com/f/paganhill-coronavirus-help>

Buddy, can you spare some time? Or even a little cash?

We always welcome people who can give us some time to help out with what we are doing. Even if it's only an hour every other week.

If you can help, fill in a simple form on our website <https://paganhill.org.uk/contact/> ...and if you can spare a little cash, please support our work by donating via **GoFundMe** <https://uk.gofundme.com/f/paganhill-coronavirus-help>

Farewell, welcome and ...



One of PCG's founders, **Merethe Turner**, has returned to Norway with her partner. She was our Secretary and also a Director from when we started in 2017. Merethe is happy to be back home and looking forward to taking the ABCD (Asset Based Community Development) principles to her new work.



Sally-Anne Wherry came forward during our first Lockdown and proved indispensable. Her technology skills, her quick creation of a Covid community website and her willingness to step up as a Director, her quick humour and her knowledge as a Nurse and Trainer is very welcome. You came along when we needed you.

...thank you!

A great Stop for food, books and games



The Paganhill Community Group Bus Stop free shop was suggested by a member in response to how we could get food to those in need. We copied the idea from our neighbours in Whiteshill!

Stroud District Council said we could put up shelving. We cleaned it and a local member of Stroud (LRV) Veterans Group painted the inside. We had donations of surplus food from the Stroud Food Bank, FareShare, Creative Sustainability, local supermarkets and generous members of our community.

We have plans to paint murals with our local schools and the Veterans group. **Now winter is coming, we will no longer offer food from the Bus Stop – but we still welcome donations of books, puzzles and toys.** Thank you to everyone who has generously donated to the Bus Stop Free Shop.

Growing ideas in our community



During Lockdown a small team of local people brought their gardening skills to the fore and transformed an overgrown patch of land at the former Farmhill Baptist church off Farmhill Lane, into a productive community allotment, garden and pond.



Apple trees donated through Stroud Valleys Project produced their first apple this Autumn. Potatoes, chard, squash, tomatoes and lettuce were grown and shared through the Bus Stop free shop.

We'll have more news in the Spring!

Generous Archway School community donates food



Thoughtful and generous Sixth formers from Archway School and their families collected food to donate to our community larder. Head Keiron Smith is pictured helping load the supplies.

Why The Octagon?

Paganhill Community Group Members renamed the former Baptist church off Farmhill Lane at the start of 2020 when we first started using the space up there.

The building is eight-sided, hence, The Octagon! We hope that we can expand our use of the building once Covid allows. With the recent news about vaccines, we hope that it will not be too long before we can re-open, even if in a careful way initially.

Good food shared with good neighbours

Chefs at **The Long Table**, based in Brimscombe, have been busy feeding thousands of people throughout the pandemic. They make healthy, frozen ready meals from good quality ingredients which might otherwise have gone to waste. With a grant from Stroud District Council's Covid Community Resilience Fund, we have been able to offer these meals with our **Long Table 'freezer of love'** offering meals on a **pay what you can** basis. If people can pay more, it helps those who are unable to. Many meals are given free.

COMMUNITY LARDER

Tinned and packet goods are donated by local residents, supermarkets. We also collect from **FareShare South West** where supplies are available for a fraction of their cost. Bread and cakes are sometimes available along with vegetables offered by local allotments and our community gardeners.

MOVING DAY...

During the November lockdown, we moved our 'Freezer of Love' and community larder to the Maypole Hall, next to Paganhill Post Office.

On Wednesday December 2, we move back to The Octagon, the former Baptist church off Farmhill Lane.



Paganhill Community Group members at the Maypole Hall



The Maypole Hall opening times:

Mon 10-12 * Weds 2-4pm * Fri 10-12 * Sat 10-12

If you are isolating, or you know someone who is, or is having problems getting food deliveries, please call 07828 168 857 as we may be able to help.

Paganhill Community Group food hub will be back at The Octagon, off Farmhill Lane, from December 2.

Sharing good food with good neighbours in
Farmhill & Paganhill

The Paganhill Community Group food hub, including our Freezer of Love, is moving to The Octagon, off Farmhill Lane

Monday, Friday, Saturday 10-12
Wednesday 2-4

Paganhill Community Group: Keep up to date on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, check our website www.paganhill.org.uk or call 07828 168 857

If you can donate food, or some time to help us out, please call 07828 168 857



Ways to keep in touch

Paganhill Community Group is active on **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram**, thanks to the work of a small group of local people giving their time to keep everyone up to date.

We have various **What's App** groups too. But we also use traditional ways of communicating, using posters and flyers. And, of course, you can email us or call us and leave a message!



FACEBOOK

Like our Page

<https://www.facebook.com/FarmhillPaganhill/>

Join our Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/paganhillcommunitygroup>



INSTAGRAM

https://www.instagram.com/paganhill_community/



TWITTER

<https://twitter.com/paganhill>

If you can spare some time to help put up posters around Farmhill and Paganhill, please let us know!

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A few more photos...

