



Paganhill & Farmhill

Including Jack Russell Close and Graces Field

NEWS

Neighbours helping neighbours



Looking forward to a bright future with SO much going on in our community!

Over the summer and autumn, our community hub at The Octagon off Farmhill Lane was busy with events and activities – and now even more is planned for local residents!

Jaqui Smith, Chair of the Directors of Paganhill Community Group Community Interest Company said: "Once we had finally negotiated a one-year lease with the owners of the building, the West of England Baptist Network, and recruited our new **Manager Laurie Davies** we were truly up and running!"



Laurie (centre) with Jaqui Smith (left) and fellow Director Sally-Anne Wherry (right)

Laurie is based at The Octagon. Call or text her on **07828 168 857** for any information or check out our Facebook page!

**See What's On at
Christmas & into
2022!**

Thank you, Haydn!



After 30 years as one of our Stroud Town Councillors, Haydn Sutton has stepped down to concentrate on his work as a Director of Paganhill Community Group and as Stroud District Councillor for Farmhill and Paganhill. We thank him for his dedication to our community - **and we are really pleased he will have even more time to do DIY around The Octagon!**

Our Big Survey

It's important that we know what local people want to happen in our community, which is why we are doing our Big Survey.

Have you seen our volunteers out and about with our clip boards, asking people important questions, so we can plan the future of the community group? We're here for you! **If you would like to tell us what you think**, pop up to The Octagon on Wednesdays 1pm-6pm or Fridays 10am-12 noon. Thanks to Stroud Town Council and the University of Gloucestershire for their help with the Big Survey.

Have you got any ideas of what you want to see in Farmhill, Paganhill, Jack Russell Close and Graces Field? Call or text Laurie on 07828 168 857.

Community café every Wednesday 1-5.30pm. All welcome.



We are very grateful to The Long Table for supporting us with the opening of our café and funding our amazing community chef Shannon Carter (below).



We also have a great core team of volunteers that help with the running of the café but we are always looking for more people so do get in touch if you would like to get involved.

The café is going from strength to strength with lots of tasty treats always on the menu; we always have Shannon's famous homemade scotch eggs, toasted sandwiches, jacket potatoes and a variety of delicious homemade cake.

After Christmas we will have the support of different organisations to offer help and advice to local people:

- 1st Wednesday of the month - **Independence Trust (mental health advice and support)** 1.30 - 4.40pm
- 2nd Wednesday of the month - **NHS Community Wellbeing** 1-3pm
- 3rd Wednesday of the month - **Social Prescribers** who can connect people to local community groups and voluntary organisations and to statutory services for practical and emotional support. Times to be confirmed.
- 4th Wednesday month – **Stroud Citizens Advice** - advice on benefits, housing and energy. Times to be confirmed.

The food hub is also open during café times with a variety of fresh and tinned food.

Gary checks out the café

Our former PCSO Gary Lynch, who was always very supportive of the Paganhill Community Group, paid us a visit recently to check out the community café. Since he retired, he and his wife Sue have been travelling, relaxing and winding down. Gary always said he would come and visit us and stay in touch and it was great to see them; still keeping a watchful eye on us! We have missed him in the community but have welcomed PCSO Amy Webb and she is a wonderful replacement, working hard for our community and we are thankful for all she and the other PCSOs do.



Thank you Krys and family!



In the summer, Krys and his family came to help clear some particularly rough ground with brambles and ancient weeds using his tractor and flail mower. They cleared a large area in a relatively short time. It would have taken us much longer to clear this ground around The Octagon as it hadn't been worked for many years, so huge thanks to Krys and family.



CHRISTMAS



**OPENING TIMES AND ACTIVITIES AT
PAGANHILL COMMUNITY GROUP CIC**

The Octagon, Farmhill Lane, Paganhill, GL5 4BX



Monday 20th December - 10am - 12pm - **Festive Breakfast Club**
Come and enjoy a festive breakfast, listen to some cheerful Christmas songs
and do some easy festive crafts



Tuesday 21st December - **Festive Craft and a Snack**



Morning session 10.30am - 12.30pm

Afternoon session 2pm-4pm



Booking is essential (email laurie@paganhill.org.uk) Suggested £2 donation
We will be making Christmas wreaths from festive material which you take
home. Festive food will also be provided.



Wednesday 22nd December - **Christmas Community Cafe**

1pm - 3.30pm We will be having our very own PCG Christmas dinner with
all the trimmings and a vegetarian option. Booking is essential as we will
only have a certain amount of meals. Suggested donation of £5 but
always on a pay as you can afford basis



Friday 24th December - **Food Hub open 10am- 11am**

25th December - 30th December CLOSED

Friday 31st December - **Food Hub open 10am - 11am**

1st - 4th January - CLOSED

5th January - Back open as normal with our Community Cafe 1-5.30pm



For any enquiries please call 07828168857
or email laurie@paganhill.org.uk



We want to make Friends!



We would like to invite you to become a Friend of The Octagon - the community hub for Farmhill and Paganhill, Farmhill Lane GL5 4BX.

We love being at The Octagon and have had very positive feedback from those who use the space. Our wonderful volunteers give their time freely to help organise projects and events and apply for grants, promoting a spirit of community in Farmhill and Paganhill, Jack Russell Close and Graces Field.

One of the grants pays our Hub Manager, Laurie Davies, who will be with us for at least two years, if not more with additional grant funding.

Our volunteers helped many people in the pandemic and continue to provide a welcoming, friendly space where we can get together, receive help and have fun through the activities we provide.

However The Octagon is not a permanent home to PCG and our year lease runs out in July. We will be applying for an extension and are also looking at Wyatt House as a possible alternative Community Hub.



Seven ways to become a Friend:

1. Send us an email info@paganhill.org.uk to receive regular e-newsletters
2. Phone/text **07828 168 857** or email any suggestions you have or help you can give to support The Octagon
3. Phone/text **07828 168 857** a few lines if you have enjoyed any of our activities
4. Hire the hall for your party or occasion.
5. Donate tins or packets of food to our Food Hub
6. Donate seasonal fruit or vegetables from your garden or allotment
7. Make a donation by scanning this code



or go to

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/paganhill-community-group>

– *Jaqui Smith, Haydn Sutton, Sally-Anne Wherry - Paganhill Community Group Directors*

Keep an eye on the boards...

Members of our local community are planning to keep you informed of events by using the new notice boards. Here, Sarah Bray checks out her local board.



Long Table frozen meals back on the menu...

Many local residents enjoyed the frozen meals supplied by The Long Table for our Freezer of Love over the past year.

And a limited supply of seasonal warming meals, both meat-based and vegetarian, will again be on offer at The Octagon this winter. **Wednesdays 1-6, Fridays 10-12. As always, on a 'pay what you can' basis.**

Garden group update



Our friendly garden group meetups at The Octagon continue to give people a chance to help and learn about growing their own veg and more about our natural environment.

- In collaboration with Wild Stroud, we're using wildlife cameras to learn more about the birds and mammals we share the site with
- We share what we've grown in the café and food hub including four fine pumpkins!
- We've ordered lots of daffodil bulbs to help brighten the grounds around The Octagon

Keep an eye on the PCG e-news, WhatsApp Group and Facebook Page for details of when we'll get growing (and planting) again and how you can get involved!



Community Workshop

This Autumn, the Paganhill Community Workshop project stalled a little as lack of funds prevented us from building our own workshop on The Octagon grounds.

However, donations of tools have been coming in thick and fast and we now have an extremely healthy stock – so, not to be disheartened, we will use the tools and funds we've received so far and get things started.

Plans are underway to host an event at The Octagon in the new year where we will have a go at:

- Building/finishing a kitchen worktop for the Community Café
- Repairing items for local people (if you have any broken items you would like repaired, please send us details)
- Making and selling some small wares to raise funds to PCG

Donate to the project – money or materials: We have enough tools for now (thank you to everyone who donated!) but we still need funds and materials

(especially timber offcuts or items that could be used to reclaim timber). Please also consider donating to our project:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/PCG-Community-Workshop>

- Email workshop@paganhill.org.uk to find out more about the event in the new year or if you have materials to donate.



Before...



during...



...and after



Thanks to everyone who helped transform the wall by the bus stop, especially the students and teachers at Archway School.

Get crafty! Every Wednesday 3.30-5.30pm

Learn a new craft each week, for all ages – great for an after-school activity. Have a tasty snack while you craft!



Fabulous funders

Paganhill Community Group Directors Jaqui Smith and Sally Anne Wherry literally spend hours and hours filling in complicated application forms to get the funding we need to keep The Octagon and all our activities for local people, going. As a result of all their hard work, we are delighted to publicly thank the following organisations for their funding, donations of equipment and other support:

- Gloucestershire County Council
- Stroud District Council
- Stroud Town Council
- The Grace Network
- Gloucestershire Community Foundation
- Barnwood
- The Long Table
- Magic Little Grants
- Renishaw
- IT Schools Africa
- National Benevolent Society
- Places Called Home (IKEA)
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The High Sheriff of Gloucestershire's Grants Programme
- Persimmon

And of course, the countless hours donated to our community by our wonderful volunteers are PRICELESS!

Become a Barista!



You'll soon be able to order a cappuccino, flat white, latte or even an espresso at our community café thanks to funding from the National Benevolent Society and a private donation, so we can buy a professional espresso machine. And coffee expert Sam Humphris from **Rough Hands Café** in Stroud has offered to teach people how to become baristas! **Keep an eye on our Facebook page and e-news for more info.**

THE OCTAGON OPENING TIMES OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR:

December 25th – 30th **CLOSED**

December 31st – Food Hub 10am-11am

January 1st – 4th **CLOSED**

January 5th re-opening with Community Café 1-5.30pm



Paganhill Community Group

Weekly events timetable - Autumn 2021

All our activities are open to all unless otherwise stated. Our community library and play area is open at all sessions
The Octagon, Farmhill Lane, Paganhill, GL5 4BX

Mondays -

Bacon baps and bingo with Bill - 12-2pm

Open to all members of the community. Enjoy some bacon baps whilst playing bingo. Great prizes and company. Suggested £2 for baps, £1 per book for bingo.

Tuesdays -

4.30pm - **Pumas** (4-7 year olds)

5pm - 6pm - **Taekwondo** (8-16 year olds)

Suggested £3 donation for each session



Wednesdays -

Tiddlywinks too - 9.30am - 11.30am

A drop-in and cafe for parents and carers with babies and pre-school children.

Community Cafe and Food Hub 1 - 5.30pm

A cafe for all the community on a pay as you can afford basis. Baked potatoes, toasted sandwiches and cake. We will have board games and other activities available.

Craft Sessions - 3.30pm - 5pm

Crafting with the community. Come along and learn how to make a variety of things. All resources supplied and tutoring given. Suggested donation of £1 in our pot to support what we do.

Community Gardening open sessions - 2 - 4pm, every other week. See our Facebook page or website for upcoming dates.



Thursday -

Bridge - 2pm - 5pm

Please email nigelpitel@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

Fridays -

Food Hub - 10-12pm

Pay as you can afford food hub, available to all, donations always welcome

Kids Stuff's Beautiful Brunch - 10-12pm

Breakfast snacks, messy play, kids crafts and a chance to access kids stuff referral service and Cleanslate 'money matter' advice service.



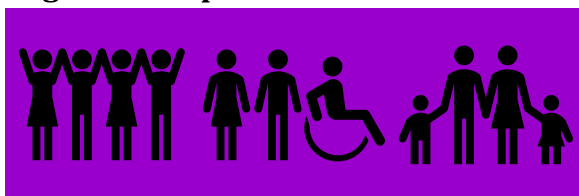
For any further information about any of the activities or enquiries about anything else please email hello@paganhill.org.uk or call 07828168857

The Octagon is also available to hire for regular and one off events, please get in touch for more info.

Join our Community Chat: Saturday January 22nd 11-3

We want to celebrate what Paganhill Community Group has achieved over the last year and look to the future - how we can grow and what local people would like us to do in the coming year.

So we would like to invite all residents of Farmhill, Paganhill, Jack Russell Close and Graces Field who are interested in what we do or want to find out more to come along and take part.



We will spend the first part of the visioning session talking about what has gone well over the last year and how it could be improved for the future.

The Directors will each give a report on what they have been up to as well as the new manager Laurie. The second part of the session will be focusing on the future of PCG and The Octagon.

We want to hear from members of the community about what they would like to see happening at the centre as well as discussing future plans for funding and whether we will be able to stay at The Octagon long term.

Refreshments will be provided and there will be plenty of time to talk with everyone that attends and perhaps meet new people and make new connections. We are run by the community and for the community, so we really want to hear your thoughts and hopes for the future.

FREE bike check December 15th 1-3.30pm



The lovely people from The Bike Drop will be at The Octagon on December 15th offering a **FREE** full safety check including gears and brakes and even replacing small basic parts for free too. Ideal for anyone giving a bike for Christmas!

Keep in touch!

Paganhill Community Group is active on Facebook and Twitter thanks to local people giving their time to keep everyone up to date. We have various What's App groups too.

We also use traditional ways of keeping in touch, using posters and flyers and occasional articles in the local paper, or pop in and see us at **The Octagon Community Hub, off Farmhill Lane, GL5 4BX on Wednesday afternoons or Friday mornings.**

We also send out occasional news by email – but we need your email address to do that! Let us know on **hello@paganhill.org.uk** or text or call us on **07828 168 857 or 07971 819 097.**

FACEBOOK: FB Page FarmhillPaganhill

FB Group paganhillcommunitygroup

TWITTER @paganhill

Paganhill Community Group was set up by local people in Farmhill and Paganhill in the spirit of neighbours helping neighbours. Our Members give their time freely. We are not affiliated to the Council or any political party or religion. Apart from Laurie, we are all volunteers. Why not join us? Or, if we can help you or a neighbour, let us know. Find out more at www.paganhill.org.uk or text or call Jaqui or Laurie on 07828 168 857 or 07971 819 097 or email hello@paganhill.org.uk for more info.