



Paganhill & Farmhill

Including Jack Russell Close and Graces Field

SUMMER
2022

NEWS

Neighbours helping neighbours

See What's On this
Summer on pages 3 &
5 and NEW from
September on p7

Growing for GOLD!

Our fabulous Community Garden at The Octagon off Farmhill Lane, won **Gold** in a recent event to find the best wildlife garden, organised by Wild Stroud! This is a true testament to the thoughtful work done over the years to plan and provide food, water and habitat for wildlife. It's also a credit to our regular ongoing practices like organic growing, permaculture principles, and careful weed management, all of which enable so many species thrive, including humans!



PCG Community Garden,
The Octagon, GL5 4BX
Gold Award

We were also glad to have participated in Wild Stroud's Open Gardens event in June, which saw 20 wildlife-friendly gardens open to the public across the Stroud district. Visitors to Paganhill Community Group enjoyed tea and home-made cakes kindly donated by some of our fab community members and reported positively on our wildlife-friendly garden.

The Community Garden holds regular gardening meetups on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, and the 1st Saturday of the month. All are welcome!

Our next sessions will take place on Wednesdays 3 August and 17 August, 2.00pm to 4.00pm, and Saturdays 6 August, 3 September, from 9.30am to 11.30am.

Come and water, weed, tend and chat, and at least for the next little while at least, bring a sun hat!



"Harvest, Cook and Eat"

PCG will be holding a family-friendly activity on **Friday 26 August**. The event will include harvesting produce from the garden, making and enjoying a tasty lunch together, and some fun garden-related activities! Space is limited, so booking is essential: hello@paganhill.org.uk 07828 168857.

You better bee-lieve it!



Our top-bar beehive, like this one, renovated by the Community Workshop team, has been a great source of interest for visitors!

We're glad to have a super spot for the hive, where it can be viewed but from a distance. It means that people can enjoy it safely, and the bees can still do their thing undisturbed.

- **If you'd like to get involved in our community garden, text 07828 168**

THANK-YOU SALLY-ANNE!



Sally-Anne Wherry has been a Director of the Paganhill Community Group CIC for over 2 years. Starting at the beginnings of Covid in 2020, she quickly took an IT role by creating a new

website for our work during covid and then became Secretary/Director soon afterwards.

She has worked in the back office quietly, and sometimes not so quietly (!), as well as working a full-time job as Nurse Lecturer.

Some of you will not know her as she has not been involved directly in the community aspects of what we do but her work in the back office has been valued and appreciated by those who do know her. Especially during this last year when we have taken on a licence for The Octagon and seen major growth in what we offer our community.

Big Thank you Sally-Anne. We wish you well for the future and hope you find some time to take a well-earned break.

- Jaqui Smith (Director Chairperson)



**The home of Paganhill Community Group
at The Octagon, Farmhill Lane
GL5 4BX**
Contact us: 07828 168 857
hello@paganhill.org.uk

And hello Adrian...

Stroud Town Councillor Adrian Oldman is the Paganhill Community Group Community Interest Company's new Director.

Adrian has lived and worked in and around Stroud for 40+ years, and now lives in Whiteshill with his partner, Becky, and their dog, Luca. He is one of the three town councillors for Farmhill and Paganhill Ward.



He says: "I'm passionate about helping communities help themselves and have been volunteering with a number of the community hubs around town, including PCG, during the pandemic."

"When Jacqi asked me to consider becoming a director of PCG, I jumped at the chance, as I see a huge cross-over between the work of PCG and my work as a local Town Councillor in helping improve the community and life for local people."

Community Café offers a warm welcome to ALL!

The community cafe on Wednesday afternoons from 1-5.30 serving delicious home-made hot and cold snacks and proper coffee (and tea!) has become one of our most popular sessions. We love the hustle and bustle of the day welcoming so many of you. We couldn't do it without our amazing community chef Shannon and our fantastic volunteers who help with cooking, cleaning and serving every session. Thirty volunteer hours go into each cafe session each week. We always want it to be on a 'pay as you can afford' basis so those who need can have food for free or at a very low price. We estimate that each cafe session costs around £390 to run, including food, staff costs and additional bills such as electric etc.

- **We rely on donations - they vary from £5 to £80 so please donate when you can so we can keep doing what we do.**

Can't afford WiFi?
Use our online PCs FREE!
 Every Wednesday 1pm-3pm
Use our printer too!
 Help is available.

@ The Octagon
 Community Hub
 Farmhill Lane
 GL5 4BX



Paganhill Community Group
 We're here for you
 Text or call 07828 168 857
 or message us on Facebook
 Neighbours helping neighbours

Bacon Baps & Bingo with Bill!



Every Monday

12-2pm

At The Octagon
 Community Hub
 Farmhill Lane, GL5 4BX

12 prizes a session, £1 for five games

Bacon baps: suggested donation £2

B I N G O				
1	17	31	47	61
3	19	33	49	63
5	21	35	51	65
7	23	37	53	67
9	25	39	55	69

Paganhill Community Group. Find out more, call or text 07828 168 857

Lots of ways to get involved, make friends and have fun in Farmhill and Paganhill!

Community Summer Party
Saturday 6th August
6pm -10pm
 The Octagon, Farmhill Lane, Paganhill,
 GL5 4BX

Live Music
Summer Buffet
Soft drinks
All ages welcome
Dancing
Raffle

All on a pay as you can afford
 donation basis

citizens advice

Stroud
 & Cotswold
 Districts



Stroud Citizens Advice @
 Paganhill Community Group

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each
 month, 1-3pm

CAB can help with a range of issues
 including debt, benefits, energy issues,
 homelessness and housing.

To book an appointment please talk to
 Laurie or email/call her on
 laurie@paganhill.org.uk - 07828168857

The Octagon, Farmhill Lane, Paganhill, GL5 4BX

Adult Education Sessions - 10am - 2pm Tuesdays

From September we will be offering FREE short courses starting with wellbeing, photography and first aid. Dates and times to be confirmed. If there are any topics you are interested in learning more about, let us know. Keep an eye on Facebook for more info.

07828 168 857

hello@paganhill.org.uk

Stroud Yard trail 29th August 10am - 2pm

If you would like to have a table to sell some jumble, let us know. We provided some refreshments on the day and it worked well last year! **07828 168 857**
hello@paganhill.org.uk

Please support us!

If you can't spare some time to volunteer with Paganhill Community Group, but can spare a few £, please support our work by scanning this QR code to take you straight to our fundraising page!
<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/paganhill-community-group>



What a lovely day for a VERY special Royal ma'am!

Just a few photos taken at our fabulous Jubilee Party which, despite the cooler weather, turned out to be a successful day.

We raised £533.54 in donations which will go towards community projects like Bill's Bingo, summer activities for families, and the Community Cafe.

Big thank you to the many volunteers who helped planning the whole party, set up, organised the tea and cake stall, the BBQ, plant stall and crafts tent. It took a lot of planning and well worth it to see people enjoying themselves and all the activities.

The Jubilee Craft project is ongoing and flowers are still being made at the Wednesday afternoon craft group at the Cafe. We hope to have a grand showing of the project so look out for details.

Lastly but not least it was a big surprise to have the Paganhill's very own 'Queen' show up and graciously spend time with us. Didn't they look great.

Do write in and tell us if you enjoyed the event and would like to help with the next event.

- Jaqui Smith. PCG Director





Summer Holidays @ Paganhill Community Group

1st - 26th August

The Octagon, Farmhill Lane, Paganhill, GL5 4BX



Children must be accompanied by an adult for all activities



Mondays

Breakfast Club - 10am - 11.30am

A variety of cereal, fruit and toast. No need to book just turn up. Let us feed you and the children. lots to play with in our lovely centre. Donations welcome but not essential.

Tuesdays

Family Pizza Party - 12.30pm-2.30pm - Come along and dance to some funky tunes, play some fun board games or get crafty whilst enjoying some excellent homemade pizza from our speciality pizza oven. Booking essential by emailing laurie@paganhill.org.uk or text/call 07828168857



Wednesdays

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. Our food hub will also be open with a variety of cupboard essentials.



Thursdays - Closed





Fridays -

Mini Cafe and Food Hub - 10-12pm

Mini cafe of hot and cold drinks, toast, fruit and cakes. Lots of lovely toys and a beautiful garden to enjoy. Food hub will also be open with a variety of cupboard essentials.



One off special events at PCG - Booking Essential



Build a Bird Box - Friday 5th August - 12.30-2.30pm

Learn how to make your own bird box from scratch, all materials are provided as well as a small snack and drink. **Limited spaces**

Make your own silver ring or leather purse - for ages 12-16 years - 12.30 - 2.30pm

Friday 19th August

Learn how to make your own silver ring or leather wallet with all the specialist tools and take it home at the end. Small snack and drink also provided. **Limited spaces**

Harvest, cook and eat! - Friday 26th August 11.30 - 1.30pm

Perfect activity for all ages of the family. Come and help us harvest our potatoes and salad from our community garden and help make a lovely lunch for us all to enjoy. We also have other nature inspired activities to keep us busy and happy too.

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.

Big, big thanks to Olly:

Olly Edwards and the local Veterans group who have recently provided a lot of hard work and advice with new projects around the community hub, including new fencing and a new shed. We really couldn't do what we do without the help of people from the local community, and we are very thankful.



...and Sam

Sam from Rough Hands Coffee in Stroud Five Valleys Centre is a star! **He provided excellent barista training for staff and volunteers so that we can now make excellent coffee at our community cafe.**

If anyone would like barista training or would like to volunteer at our community cafe, then please get in touch.

07828 168 857
hello@paganhill.org.uk

Exciting times ahead for our community workshop!

A 20ft shipping container has arrived at The Octagon to be converted into our new workshop over the summer.



- We are looking for volunteers to help us. Email workshop@paganhill.org.uk if you would like to get involved!

The workshop sessions we held in Spring were very successful and the cold-frame we built for the garden is producing a bounty of salad greens, and the beehive we repaired is now home to a new swarm!

In May, we organised some ground maintenance at The Octagon Hub and we have been busy buying (and receiving donations of) tools, materials etc.

Spoon carving club is now running on Sunday afternoons and is already fully-booked! We hope to make more spaces available soon. If you would like join our waiting list, please email workshop@paganhill.org.uk

Keep an eye on Facebook for more information on **special workshop sessions** for kids during the Summer Holidays!

Finally, as she prepares to step away from her Director role, we'd like to say how much we've appreciated Sally-Anne's help with our project. Her enthusiasm and dedication to the idea of having workshop/shed galvanised us into taking action to make our dream a reality.

Whenever we stalled or were unsure of direction; she was always there to push us forward and remind us of what's possible, working hard in the background with fundraising, organisation etc. Thank you, Sally-Anne, from the bottom of our hearts. You will be missed!

- Kam Longia, on behalf of The Workshop Project

Beekeepers...



Would you like to bee involved in our bees? Learn about their 'bee-haviour'? **Contact Jaqui 07971 819097** if you are interested. Initially for adults but will consider young people at a later stage..

...and bookkeepers

Can you spare a couple of hours a month to help our growing community group? We're looking for a bookkeeper. This is your chance to help a busy grass-roots organisation working hard to support local people at a time of food and fuel poverty.

Initially a volunteer role which could lead to a reasonable remuneration, you would be asked to:

- Process payments, invoices, income and receipts and entering data using Xero accounting software
- Prepare a monthly financial statement for Members and Directors of Paganhill Community Group
- Track bank account balances
- Verify the accuracy of PCG's business accounts and alert PCG's Accountants of any errors
- Preparing Employee wages (currently only two employees though this growing)
- Prepare annual accounts for PCG's Accountants

If you would like to talk about the post or know more about Paganhill Community Group please contact Jacqui Smith on 07971819097. Please provide three references if interested in this position and send to jsmith@paganhill.org.uk

Fantastic activities and events for ALL local residents starting in September!

Saturday Social starting on the 10th September. Alternate Saturdays 2-4pm.

- This is a community-led event that will be held every other week initially to gauge how well it is used. Shayamala and Anthan are bringing a variety of Asian dishes and will be happy to talk to people about the recipes and style of cooking. Also giving an opportunity to discuss what else our community would like to have or to offer recipes or style of cooking, nutrition, etc.
- For example, using surplus vegetables and produce, talks, speakers etc on topics people may be interested in. Let us know if you are interested in coming along. Donations towards costs are very welcome.

Young People - Future leaders aged 14-16 starting on 23rd September 22. Fridays 6-8pm

- Our first youth programme at PCG after receiving funding from the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner's Fund and Stroud Town Council. For 14-16 year olds - and completely free - to enable young people to identify local issues they think need tackling and create their own social action projects. Each project will have a small budget the young people will be in charge of, building their skills in budget management while understanding the importance of doing positive things within their community.
- **We are looking for a qualified youth worker to lead these sessions - please keep an eye on our Facebook page for the details.**

Afterschool Homework Club - 3.30 - 5.30pm Tuesdays

- From the 15th September we will be hosting afterschool homework club. Parents and carers can use The Octagon to do homework with their children. Refreshments will be available, and we hope to have volunteers to give support in maths and English
- If you have skills in any subjects and are interested at helping parents and students with their homework please do get in touch

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in ANY of the projects, please contact Laurie on 07928 168857 or Jaqui on 07971 819097

Short update on our future at The Octagon...

PCG Directors are working hard to either keep The Octagon for our Community hub or to use Wyatt House. It is so difficult to plan when we do not know where we will be, but we are continuing to build up our activities whilst lobbying about both buildings. Can you think of anyone who we should appeal to? Initially we are sending our business plan to the West of England Baptist Church trustees (owners of The Octagon) & District Councillors.

Keep in touch!

Paganhill Community Group is active on Facebook, Twitter and What's App groups too. We also deliver printed newsletters, put up posters and flyers and write press releases and occasional news by email – but we need your email address to do that!

The Octagon Community Hub, off Farmhill Lane, GL5 4BX on Wednesday afternoons or Friday mornings.

Contact us: 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

Weekly events timetable Sept - Dec 2022

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 -

Adult Education Sessions - 10am -2pm

From September we will be offering free short course for adults on a range of subjects including wellbeing, photography and first aid. Dates and times to be confirmed.

Afterschool Homework Club - 3.30 - 5.30pm

From the 15th September we will be hosting afterschool homework club. Parents can use our space to do homework with their children. Refreshments will be available and we hope to have volunteers that can give support in maths and English too.

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.

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.

Saturday -

Saturday Social - 2pm - 4pm

This is a community led event starting 10th September that will be held every other week initially. Centred around cooking and talking, the idea is for community members to feel able to decide how they would like to come together and use the space.

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

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.