

Pride in Portbury

Portbury Parish Newsletter - December 2023

Welcome to winter! The year seems to have flown by and lots has happened in and around the village. Hopefully, some of what has been going on and some of the events coming up will be covered here for you.

Please remember that our village community is a diverse one and one where we look out for each other. Christmas can be a cold and lonely time of year so remember to check in with friends and neighbours who may be in need of a cup of tea and a chat over the festive period.

There are lots of activities over the coming weeks around the village including Santa and Carols on the Green and Christmas Eve with the Pill Owls at the Village Hall. We all hope that you have a wonderful time, however you choose to spend it!

We always approach local organisations and businesses to contribute to the newsletter. If you would like to add to the next edition, please email crisc@portburyPC.org.uk. We are keen to include stories and information relevant to all residents of the village.



Parish News

Traffic: Parish Council's Ongoing Efforts to Address Traffic Concerns

The Parish Council have been actively addressing the challenges posed by traffic volume and speed within our community. In addition to the great work of villager Rob Larder, who has engaged with our local MP Dr Liam Fox and the Avon and Somerset Police, we've also established communication channels with key Highways and Transport representatives from the North Somerset Council (NSC).

Currently, our traffic scheme request, which urges NSC to evaluate and enhance traffic in the village, is one of more than 260 similar requests. We're working hard to increase our request's priority, but even if successful, any implementation will take time. Meanwhile, we're exploring other traffic calming measures including the use of a mobile Traffic Indicator Sign to reduce average speeds at multiple locations around the village.



The Council are also actively working on concerns related to the M5 Junction 19 roundabout, and we are closely monitoring the proposed change of the 2+ lane on the A369 to a bus lane. NSC have informed us that the bus lane proposal is currently on hold but will be revisited in the future.

While improvements may take time, rest assured that the Parish Council is diligently working on traffic improvements. Any updates will be shared in the Parish newsletter and on Facebook. If you have any concerns or information related to traffic matters, please don't hesitate to reach out via email:

simonp@portburypc.org.uk

We are also keen to restart the **Community Speedwatch** in the village. Volunteers receive training and can then join the group to help report speeding drivers. The time commitment would be limited at first but with the aim of building. Please email PCSO Kylie Howard (kylie.howard@avonandsomerset.police.uk) for further detail

Parish Council meetings and vacancies: the parish council is an opportunity to help to represent the views of the village. Any member of the village community is welcome to attend Parish Council meetings (which take place on the first Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall). Please note that the agenda is published one week before meetings take place and **only items on the agenda** can be discussed at the meeting. Any member of the community is free to add an item to the agenda (as long as it is in enough time before the meeting). Full details can be found on the Parish Council website, together with information if you would like to join the council

Increasingly, North Somerset Council can no longer afford to do many of the jobs that we would traditionally expect (street cleaning, drain cleaning, general tidying of streets, verges etc.) The recent heavy rain, together with the time of year, has highlighted the need to check drains regularly.

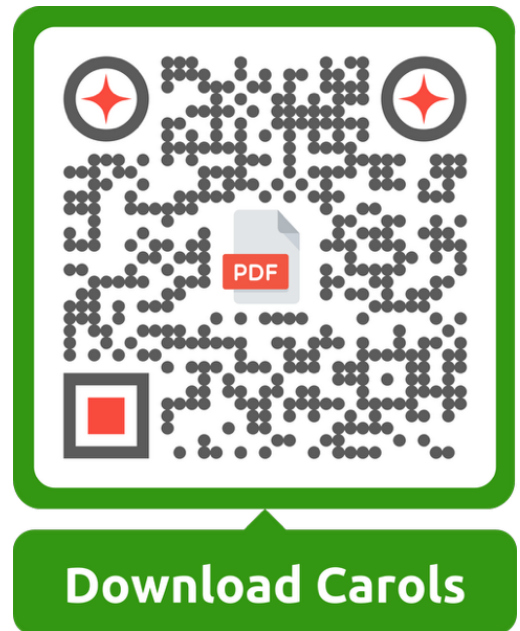
A huge thank you to everyone who has helped check and unblock drains which were clogged with leaves – if you can sweep leaves from pavements and check the drains near your home, it will help everyone, especially those that are at risk of flooding.



Santa on the Green – Christmas Eve

As you will be aware, Santa is planning to stop off on his busy travels to visit the children of Portbury on Christmas Eve. Hopefully, if everyone sings carols loudly enough from 6pm by the Christmas tree, he will arrive at around 6.20pm. Carol sheets will be provided (or you can scan the QR code here for a copy on your phone!)

In the spirit of togetherness, we would like to remind families that small, token presents (keeping in mind others' financial situations) should be provided **wrapped, clearly marked with the full name of the child** to either 10 Priory Road, BS20 7TH or 2 Forge End, BS20 7TY. The drop off boxes will be out from the 20th December with all presents needing to be in by midday on Christmas Eve so that Santa can hand them out!



St Mary's Primary School

At St Mary's we have had a busy term with lots of events to get the children, staff and parents/carers into the festive spirit with carol services, nativity plays and Christmas parties.

It was lovely to see the wider community joining us for our Christmas Fayre and to be treated to the stunning sound of the Pill Owls.

Thank you to everyone in the community, including St Mary's Church, who have supported us over the past term. We would like to wish the Portbury community a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



admin@stmarysprimaryportbury.org



Portbury Village Hall and Social Club

It has been a great year with the club going from strength to strength and more and more people coming along. From community events (Eurovision, Halloween, Rock n' Roll Bingo, Village Quizzes and crowds for both the Women's Football World Cup and the Men's Rugby World Cup) to skittles – both Summer and Winter leagues – and regular club nights, there have been lots of opportunities for everyone to come down and enjoy the facilities.

Christmas at the Club

The Christmas season in the Village Hall started on Saturday with a **Festive Family Film**; a screening of 'Elf' together with popcorn, hotdogs and waffles for audience was followed by a visit from the Pill Owls. It was a lovely event and great to see so many families in the club.

The club will be open on Christmas Eve after Santa on the Green – with children welcome – and a second visit from the Pill Owls around 10.00pm. It's always a lovely and popular evening – come early to enjoy a drink and a chat and to ensure you get a seat for the Owls when they arrive!

We open again for two hours on Christmas Day from 12-2pm. It's the perfect opportunity to get everyone out from under your feet while getting the gravy just right!

Limited tickets are available for New Year's Eve - £5 per person (including buffet) for an opportunity to see in the new year with old and new friends! Tickets are available behind the bar in the club.

Membership renewals are now due and prices have remained the same as in previous years: £10 individual, £20 family, £5 Senior. Forms can be collected (and payment taken) at the bar or you can renew by BACS or Direct Debit to Portbury Village Hall - sort code 54 30 06 account number 34334408.

The Pill Owls in full voice (16/12/2023)

The new year brings more of the same: the clubroom bar is open every Friday and Sunday from 7.30pm. We have two village teams playing in the Pill, Portishead and District Skittles league – both are always looking for new players and supporters!

Live sports events and films are shown regularly on the big screen and all are welcome to come and join in the fun!

We have a wide range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks available and all are very reasonably priced! Children and dogs are welcome and our newly replaced fire will be roaring!



The hall and clubroom are run by volunteers and we are always looking for people to join the team (full training can be given!)

Follow us on Facebook for a regular update of events which are coming up.

Hire the Hall, Club room or whole facility for your next event: www.portburyvh.org.uk or email PortburyVillageHallBookings@gmail.com



Halloween Children's Party in the main hall

St Mary's Church Events

The church has played host to some lovely events this year, including the 'Ballad of Johnny Longstaff' performed by the Young'Uns in October and the Heartbeats Christmas performance in December (which included so much local talent from all ages!) and the magical candlelit Carol Service on Sunday 17th December.

WELLBEING WEDNESDAYS

St Mary's Church is open every Wednesday from 10.30am - 4pm for you to drop in and enjoy whatever suits you. Whether it is just a cuppa and a chat or a quiet moment in our lovely Berkeley Chapel where you can light a candle or just enjoy a moment of stillness in the middle of a busy week.

HEARTBEATS

The Heartbeats is open to anyone who would like a friendly, stress-free, non judgmental, fun and co-created space to play music and develop a musical community.

If you need any more details, please drop a message to 07966 195388

HeartBeats

Making music from your heart

- **Beginners Sessions**
Wednesdays 5pm to 5.30pm
Fridays 3.30pm to 4pm
- **Orchestra Practice**
Wednesdays 6pm to 7pm
- **HeartBeats Singers**
Wednesdays 6pm to 7pm

EVERYONE WELCOME - FREE

St Mary's Church
Portbury BS20 7TR



Performers from Heartbeats at the recent Christmas Concert

Portbury Women's Institute (WI)

If you are looking for some 'me time', would like to make some new friends and try some new things, then why not come along to Portbury WI? With monthly meetings it need not be a big commitment, but if you want to there is so much more to enjoy.

Each meeting we have an interesting speaker or try a new activity. There is time to chat over a cup of tea and a chance to find out about the other events that we put on or that the Avon Federation of WIs (AFWI) organise. Portbury members enjoy monthly walks and lunches, occasional craft sessions and the odd cream tea! In 2023 we enjoyed AFWI trips and events including Steam Train rides, Birmingham Christmas market, a one-woman play about Marie Curie, ex radio Bristol presenter Emma Britton, Sea Shanties and a tour of Arnos Vale Cemetery – there's something for everyone!

In 2024 Portbury WI will be celebrating its 90th Birthday and we are kicking off the year with another great selection of speakers and topics. In January we will be discovering the history of the Bumble Bee, in February we will have part 3 of the Queen Victoria story, in March the topic is Alpacas and in April, well it might just be chocolate themed...

Portbury WI is a friendly group of 30 women from Portbury, Portishead and the surrounding area. We meet on third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, Portbury Village Hall (side entrance). To find out more please contact Helen Francis on 07503 134817.

The Women's Institute (WI) is the largest women's organisation in the UK. It offers friendship, educational and campaigning opportunities to women aged 18 and over. It is a welcoming, non discriminatory environment. For more information please see the National and Avon Federation WI websites at: www.thewi.org.uk and www.avon.thewi.org.uk

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Please let us know what you would like to see in our next issue – due out in March/April. If you would like to contribute an article or feature, please contact crisc@portburypc.org.uk