

Report from the Pewsey Community Area Partnership to Parish Councils & the Pewsey Area Board

I cannot believe that another year has gone by. It hardly seems like five minutes since I was writing to you asking for support to raise funds for the Raizor Chair for our volunteer Community First Responders. Thanks to funds from our parishes, the Health and Wellbeing group via Pewsey Area Board and the Friends of Savernake Hospital Trust, by January we had secured funding for **two** Raizor chairs for the South West Ambulance Trust Charity (the part of the Ambulance Trust that trains the first responders). We are going to have an update on their use at the next Pewsey Area Board in Burbage on Monday 11th November along with a demonstration for those who haven't seen this equipment in action.

Pewsey Community Area Partnership continues to work for our wider community and I am once again asking that parish councils consider giving us financial support for another year. I am aware that some are in the midst of large projects with a commensurate financial burden. All I ask is that you consider giving us a contribution that you can afford or that you feel reflects what we do for your parish.

We continue to administer the Health and Wellbeing Group and its funds with Cllr Stuart Wheeler as our chairman. There are funds still available for projects which should benefit the elderly if you wish to apply. We are currently collating a bid for chairs with arms for village halls where the elderly or infirm might struggle to rise without the support of chair arms. If you are interested in having one or two of these chairs for your hall and haven't already done so, please [contact Susie](#) before **Monday 11th November** when the order will be consolidated. We will apply for the funds so the chairs will be free to the halls but you will need to collect them from the delivery point.

We run the Pewsey Vale Memory Café which takes place on the third Monday of the month at the room at Pewsey Fire Station. This is a friendly, relaxed group where we have many activities, talks and so on throughout the year, as well as a summer outing, which this year was a canal boat trip with The Bruce Trust. Attendees come from every corner of the Pewsey Community Area so this is something that benefits many villages. The latest poster is attached for you to publicise this group but do [get in touch](#) if you know someone who might benefit from joining us.

PCAP is piloting a new music and movement together group which runs every two weeks. This has been very successful and has the support of the local surgery and uses social prescribing. Each candidate is assessed for the suitability of the sessions which can be seated or standing exercises. Sylvie Clayden has led this to success and hopes to build on it in the new year.

Colin Gale and a small group of supporters including a representative of CPRE and Pewsey Parish Council continue to scrutinise Wiltshire Councils consultation methodology, with some success.

Colin also supports us to run the Pewsey Vale Rail User Group and the recent meeting with Great Western Railway representatives in Pewsey talking about the new timetable to be launched on December 16th, was attended by around sixty people. This is the biggest change nationally since 1976, so don't be caught out!

Both Susie and I, along with Kerry Pycroft of Pewsey Parish Council, will be conducting another footfall survey in Pewsey this week. This will add to the data we collected in May and will hopefully help to guide the economic growth locally.

The Local Youth Network hasn't met for a while but we have succeeded in booking the Blue Youth Bus to work in Burbage and Upavon. This was no mean feat. Whilst the work to secure a wheeled sports facility for Pewsey continues with the support of Pewsey Parish Council, the LYN will also try



to arrange fun days for local families in the half term. The ice rink may yet make a comeback for Valentines if it can be arranged.

PCAP has also just successfully arranged for Wiltshire Mind to deliver a mental health course for the staff at Pewsey Vale School. We are now working with them to look at how we might offer a level two qualification in Youth Mental Health.

Susie continues to work wonders with the Tourism Partnership. The latest newsletter is chock full of stuff and [can be found here](#) - please share. The walking leaflets have been an outstanding success and are also [available for download online](#). The videos promoting the Vale as a place to visit and stay are also showing success - the [Imagine video](#) which promotes our accommodation partners and [the Vale of Pewsey promotional film](#). We await the outcome of a bid for funds to print large quantities of the walking and cycling leaflets and to develop an app to compliment them. I would like to thank the Co-op for the funding for this community group, as well as the North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust, Tescos and the Pewsey Area Board - all of whom have made an enormous difference to its viability through the creation of assets that benefit everyone. If you, as a parish council, would like a page on the website, then [contact Susie to find out more details](#).

Those are the highlights from the past twelve months - and I am sure there are some I have overlooked! I am looking forward to a quiet Christmas.

The Memory Cafe will be singing carols in the Bouverie Hall on the third Monday in December from 2pm. I might persuade Susie and Sylvie to join me as a trio in an old classic carol. I must remind Susie to secure a pianist or we will be singing without accompaniment!

Whatever you are doing, please accept my heartfelt thanks for your support and for the work you do for your communities. Parish councils might be small in the democratic scale but collectively we can be mighty, or is that just more efficient? If you would like to get involved or support any of our projects please contact Susie. We are always looking for reliable help.

Dawn Wilson
Chair of PCAP, PVRUG and PVTP