

Pilsdon Cricket Team....nearly wins a match!

Once again Pilsdon Community competed in the annual Crosby Cup, a local cricket competition for the not-so-professional teams in the area. Our consistency is admirable, in so much that we have lost virtually every game in living memory. However this does not dampen enthusiasm and this year's cohort of members, guests, volunteers, ex-Wardens (see picture of Adam Dickens playing a text book shot!) and invitees who made up the team acquitted themselves fantastically well, even coming within 4 runs of winning a match. Thanks to everyone who participated and special mention to our loyal and vocal supporters who never lost heart, or indeed hope, that we might just pull off something special. We look forward to next season with anticipation of a win, safe in the knowledge it probably won't happen....but we will have fun!



Community Member & Community Volunteers Opportunities

The Pilsdon Community is seeking a new Community Member and volunteers to join the existing team, based on our 12 acre farm in West Dorset. Community Members and volunteers are drawn from a variety of backgrounds and professions; the key requirements being a demonstrable sense of calling to the role, being a good team player, flexibility in work patterns, strong relational qualities and an ability to work in an emotionally and physically challenging environment.

If you would like more information about the Pilsdon Community please visit our website at www.pilsdon.org.uk.

If you would like to be considered for either of the above posts please write to the Warden outlining your suitability for the post and enclose a cv. Postal and email address are outlined below.

Website: www.pilsdon.org.uk Twitter: [@pilsdoncomm](https://twitter.com/pilsdoncomm)

Reg. Charity 261139
www.pilsdon.org.uk
pilsdon@btconnect.com
Pilsdon Manor,
Pilsdon
BRIDPORT
DT6 5NZ

The Pilsdon Community

Sharing a common life of prayer, hospitality and work



Summer NEWSLETTER 2013

Pilsdon Community Anniversary
Sunday 13th October 2013

We will soon be celebrating the **55th Anniversary** of our founding and we warmly invite you to join us in marking this occasion on **Sunday 13th October**, at The Pilsdon Community. This year's guest speaker will be **Rev. Dr. Tim Naish**, Dean of the Oxford Ministry Course and Lecturer in Missiology at Ripon College Cuddesdon. The day will look something like this:

11 am	Arrivals
12 noon	Eucharist
1.30pm	Lunch
3.30 p.m.	Meet the Trustees —in the church.
4.30 p.m.	Tea and cake
6.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer and depart

Biography: Rev. Dr. Tim Naish

Immediately prior to joining the staff of Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford in 2006 Tim was Rector of Hanborough and Freeland in Oxford Diocese. Before that, with Hilary and their three children, he spent ten years in theological education with the Anglican Church in Africa (Zaire and Uganda), working through CMS. He has also spent a year in the Church of South India. His primary area of teaching and research is the theology and history of mission.

Supporting Pilsdon

There are many ways in which people can support the Pilsdon Community. Our foundation in mission and ministry is to be a place of prayer, hospitality and work.

We hope that you will join with us in prayer for our community, for our life and work in serving and living alongside one another.

If you would like to explore the opportunity to support The Pilsdon Community in a practical or financial way please do get in touch with the community office on 01308 868308 or email pilsdon@btconnect.com.

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“Wonderful exhibition — very moving stories of the Pilsdon Community...”
Lorraine L, London

The art show was not only an opportunity to showcase Pilsdon as a creative community, and a place that, as Percy Smith said, helps people ‘return to self’ - but it was also an opportunity to re-connect Pilsdon with the wider community in West Dorset. Many visitors to the show had previously lost contact with us, or misunderstood the ethos and life we share, and some were not aware of Pilsdon at all. The exhibition was a perfect platform for building and re-building our profile and this was also helped by local media— print, broadcast and online— who advertised and supported our efforts. These included Visit Dorset, Dorset Local News, Bridport News, Bridport Radio, Wessex FM, Marshwood Vale Magazine and the Salisbury Diocese. Our intention is to build on this opportunity and to maintain and further develop our links in the local area, and beyond.



“This is a wonderful, emotive exhibition, good for people to see what wonderful creative things go on at Pilsdon...”

Rebecca H, Bridport

Pilsdon Warden, Michael Deegan, reflected on the show:

‘The art show has been a wonderful opportunity to showcase Pilsdon as a creative community. Many of the exhibitors have experienced a crisis point in their lives and community life has helped to give them space for recovery and a chance for reconciliation. The art works themselves were highly skilled, interesting, varied and passionate and I know that visitors to the exhibition were inspired by the experience – a huge thank you to all who were involved in making it such a success.’

THE PILSDON ART SHOW

The Pilsdon Community held its inaugural art show on 24-28th July, at The Chapel in the Garden, Bridport. On display were a wide variety of exhibits, from paintings to tapestry, photography to wood carvings, pottery and basket weaving. There was even archive footage from the early years of the community, as well as a contemporary film too.



"Some of the most powerful and moving art I have ever seen..."

Mike P, Bridport

"A remarkable exhibition..."

Caroline L, Beaminster

The exhibition was largely put together and organised by current guests from the community, with a range of others, including volunteers, former guests, wayfarers, trustees and members making contributions to the show.

Over the course of the exhibition hundreds of people passed through to look at the exhibits, some buying art work, others making donations and virtually everyone commenting how impressed they were with the collection.



"Very beautifully done, so many things to take in, lots of care and love gone into the staging and some brilliant art work..."

Lorna J

MICHAEL WRITES

I am not sure any two summers are ever the same at Pilsdon. If memory serves, we had flooding last June and July and this year we have had more sunshine and heat than most can remember. This summer has proved to be mixed with different blessings. We have just experienced our first Pilsdon Art Exhibition at the Chapel in the Garden in Bridport. During the same period of time of preparing for the art show we experienced periods of water shortages due to the heat and the demand on our spring fed reservoir.



A water shortage at Pilsdon means a couple of things; water is transported for drinking from the one mains water feed we have, fewer showers are taken, laundry is suspended and gardens are watered just a bit less. It is an amazing sense of cooperation from everyone who lives at Pilsdon. We just get on with what needs to be done.

When thinking about these events; the art show and water shortage, and the community cooperation involved, I was struck by our ability to continue to be hospitable to all that visited Pilsdon. During the same period we welcomed wayfarers and visitors and guests. We included people in the work around exhibits and in the work that needed to be done in the community.

People were energized by creating things of beauty and interest, providing for the day-to-day of others, and giving support to each others' efforts. It called each person to bring to the fore their own skills and their own generosity in giving toward the efforts.

What all of this holds in common is the invitation to others to join us in our abundance and also into our scarcity. We cannot apologize for what we cannot control, but we can be hospitable in what we are offering, as what we are offering is what we have to give.

We have demonstrated both in the art and in our welcome an honest look into our humanity. We work through our hardship whether it is in art, in the gardens or at other tasks, and we offer others to work along side us, to help and to support.

All water levels are back to normal and we are all back to our regular routines. The Pilsdon Art Exhibition was a great success and welcomed some 1,000 people over the 5 days. The show served to re-introduce people to a very dynamic aspect of the community and showed that it is not a 'black & white' life we are living on the farm. It welcomed old friends and first time visitors alike and opened a dialogue with many about what Pilsdon is and what Pilsdon tries to do. It is an ever changing place of seasons and people, of work and efforts. No two seasons are ever the same.

Thank you for your continued interest and support, it is very much appreciated by us all.

PILSDON NEWS.....

On the first Sunday in July we said *au revoir* to Dilys, our longstanding community member. The sky was blue and the sun shone brightly; a mini sports day was followed by a sumptuous tea (with meringues, Dilys' favourite!), which was followed by cake, gifts and speeches, finishing with a Eucharist service and then the traditional tea-towel waving goodbye. It was a very fitting conclusion to Dilys' fantastic service of the community.

We are delighted to report the gift of a car to the community. Concern had been growing about one of our older cars and the decision to purchase a replacement was getting ever closer. Out of the blue an incredibly generous offer of a gleaming, low mileage Peugeot was made and it has now joined the fleet in support of our ever busy community life.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for the start of works on the loose boxes and animal winter quarters. We plan to be underway by the first week in September and will be reporting on progress in the next edition of the newsletter.

CATHERINE REPORTS ON THE GARDENS



These past few weeks have seen much scurrying/ sedate wistful wandering to and from garden to kitchen to freezer room with arm loads and basketfuls of produce. Our veg and fruit freezers are fast filling up with succulent berries and rhubarb, broad beans and beetroots. The vegetable shed smells of home grown onions and garlic hanging above brown bag loads of earthy potatoes and freshly lifted carrots. Luscious salads of lettuce, cucumbers and some of Dorset's finest tasting tomatoes frequently grace our luncheon tables. Evening meals regularly consist solely of Pilsdon produce with our fresh herbs to garnish. Courgette loathers begin to tire of

the abundance and those not so partial to cabbage survey the hearty brassica patch in dismay! But with the array of the abundance and the range of chefs bringing it to the table, there is something to suit everyone's taste.

This process of course involves much sweat and a few tears; as well as joy and satisfaction in seeing seeds reaching harvest and labouring together in the wonder of creation.



OUT WITH THE OLD.....

One of our major fundraising efforts this year has been targeted at securing a replacement cooker and extractor unit for the kitchen. Cooking was becoming a bit of a lottery, with no guarantees the gas rings would light, or indeed whether the oven door would stay attached. Our extraction system had fallen behind the relevant health and safety requirements. So, in June, the old cooker left the kitchen for the last time — the only way out was through the window— and then the new one was installed, entering via the same route!

...AND IN WITH THE NEW

Within just a few hours the new cooker was whirring and chocolate brownies and shortbread were being produced. It was a great community effort to manage the complicated logistics of window removal and replacement, re-tiling, heavy lifting and maneuvering, cleaning and painting. Huge thanks to everyone involved and to those who support Pilsdon who kindly made donations towards this vital piece of new equipment (for which the fundraising effort still continues.....).



ENJOYING THE SUN....AND PLANNING AHEAD



The newest arrival to our livestock cohort this year is Jasmine, a lovely heifer calf born to Snowdrop on a balmy evening in early August. As a first time mother she did very well, especially considering she was being watched by nearly the whole community who had gathered in support. We said a sad farewell to two of our Jersey cows, Hyacinth and Violet, who after years of sterling service and thousands of litres of milk retired to a family farm in Devon.

The fact that hardly a drop of rain fell during the month of July was both a blessing and a challenge. Lack of rain has meant little growth of grass, which in turn has meant a very careful rotation of our cattle and sheep around the limited pasture land. However the gathering and stacking of hay bales was a relatively stress free activity with the endless

days of blue sky—we now have a satisfyingly full barn of hay. We also took delivery of 20 tons of logs, in readiness for sawing and splitting to feed the boiler for the east wing. So, whilst we are enjoying the warmest and driest summer in many years, we are also busy preparing for the change in season which lies just around the corner.