



### MICHAEL WRITES....

The summer season at Pilsdon is always one that brings out a great amount of work and creativity in people. Whether it is expressed in planting and tending the gardens, or much needed repairs and construction projects or in cleaning up and re-organizing grounds and things for the future of the community, it is all done with a sense of making something new.

With the completion of the new Looseboxes and our learning how to use a food prep room or activity room, and welcoming wayfarers into their new accommodations, we also get a chance to see the whole farm anew! We have a chance to clear away the remnants of construction, develop ways of using the surplus stock and in doing so, revitalise our own sense of pride in Pilsdon and in its durability for the future.

In recent years we have spent much time talking about and fretting about some of the larger projects undertaken to renew and repurpose the buildings and facilities of the community. What we do not spend enough time talking about is the work and ingenuity and vision that people have given to the community.

In just the past several months we have seen new fencing built in the pastures, hard standings from the construction used to make for easier hay deliveries, the front of the tool shed rebuilt with spare timber, the back of the East Wing cleared and made usable for projects, and rooms are being redecorated! All important and all taken on by guests and member of the community.

As a community, there is always a sense of renewal in the gardens, and in the buildings. Whether we personally work on a project or watch its progress, we get a sense of the possibilities for change and

for renewal within ourselves. We gain a new perspective of seeing things with new eyes and connect with those creative and visionary parts of ourself. It is a great summer! And, we thank you for your support and continued prayers for the continuous renewal of the whole community!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### 12 October 2014 -- Pilsdon's 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Come and join us for our annual Pilsdon Celebration! We are using a different format this year, beginning with coffee at 10:00. Come and see our newly refurbished Looseboxes and West Wing.

- 10:00 Arrive and Coffee
- 10:45 Meeting with Trustees and Warden
- 12:00 Eucharist
- 1:00 Luncheon and Cake Cutting
- 3:00 Depart

#### 13 December 2014 – Pilsdon Christmas Stall in Bridport Market

#### 21 December 2014 – 6:30pm Carols and Lessons



Sharing a common life of prayer, hospitality and work

NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2014

### GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW LOOSEBOXES



At the beginning of May we celebrated the completion and opening of the new Looseboxes! On the day of the event we actually used the new Food Prep Room to prepare sandwiches while the main kitchen was busily preparing scones and salads for the

guests. That same week we also welcomed our first wayfarers into the new accommodations. The activity room has been a great success for watching the World Cup and Wimbledon! During the morning we heard from many of the people and companies who have supported and worked on the project, particularly BAM Construction, building charity CRASH and consultants EC Harris.

After the official opening 60 people sat down to lunch getting reacquainted and making new friends the Pilsdon way; over fresh bread and butter! From us all at Pilsdon a HUGE thank you.



## AWARD FOR DILYS!

The building industry charity CRASH has awarded Dilys Hunt, a past community member and current Pilsdon volunteer a prestigious accolade. Dilys was awarded the Tony Denison Award 2014 for displaying 'many of the same characteristics and gifts that Tony did when he created and developed CRASH'. Francesca Roberts CEO of CRASH said in her comments: 'it is my pleasure to present this award on behalf of CRASH and the industry to a person who shows integrity, vision, tenacity, and compassion, all delivered with a large measure of humour and modesty.'

We add our thanks and gratitude for all the work and dedication Dilys has demonstrated in all that she does for Pilsdon and upholding our ethos of worship, work, and radical hospitality!



## COMINGS AND GOINGS...



Pilsdon continues to be a place of change and renewal for all. At mid-July we said a Pilsdon good-bye to the Ileys; Catherine Scott and River. During their three years as members they brought a great sense of joy and compassionate commitment to Pilsdon! It is hard to believe that in just two years River has become such a bright and intuitive little boy! We are grateful to Scott and Catherine and River for generously sharing their lives with us. They will be missed. In Pilsdon style, they were waved off down the road with the traditional tea towel ceremony.

On August 11 we welcomed the newlyweds, Matt and Mary Rink. They each lived at Pilsdon a few years ago and are now returning; Matt as a member and Mary as a volunteer. As some of you may remember, Mary is masterful with cooking and pottery while Matt has a great love for gardening and woodworking. It is great to welcome them back into our common life.



Also in August we welcome Lyndon Webb as a residential volunteer. Prior to Pilsdon, Lyndon lived and volunteered at Hilfield Friary. And in November Matt Swan will again join us for a 6 month stay overwintering with us before returning to his small holding in Wales in the spring. We also have a healthy number of other people exploring Member/Volunteer opportunities and would appreciate your continued prayers as we go through various discernment processes.

## OTHER NEWS...

Welcome two of our newest residents: Cuckoo, a Jersey milk cow born 13 May and Julian, an Angus beef cross born 6 July.



Our gardens, poly-tunnel and glass houses are doing extraordinarily well! See for yourself...

## A GUEST OF THE COMMUNITY REFLECTS...

I arrived here homeless after my marriage broke down. For years I'd lived in a large house where I raised three sons. My friends were all like me; middle class, educated, comfortably off. A hot topic at book group might be whether to change the colour of the Aga. Suddenly I found myself living with people who were all very different, each of us having reached a point where our lives had become a bit too difficult. I'd had two years of good psychotherapy. When that ended, my therapist agreed that a couple of months here would be good for me. I've been here nearly a year.

At first I was disorientated, knowing nothing about drug and alcohol abuse, nor about mental illness. I thought I was 'just a bit sad', that I'd get over it fast. Gradually I settled into the rhythm of Pilsdon, where days pass in ordered calm and peacefulness, in kindness and in care. And I realised that I was maybe sadder than I'd thought. And also, delightfully, that I was living with some of the funniest, kindest, bravest, most interesting and honest people I'd ever known. Suddenly I was laughing again. I made good friends. And wept on some of them, who held me while I cried. They helped me learn about myself. I had difficult days when my mind created problems that didn't exist. The care and acceptance I received then made me feel understood. I learned about gardening, and loved it. In winter I walked miles, alone in Dorset's beautiful landscape. I cooked huge meals in pans I could barely lift. Some of my meals went wrong. No one minded. I went to Church. And slowly as the months went by, I started to feel like 'me' again. One day while peeling potatoes I was overcome by an unexpected feeling of lightness. When I told Michael about this, he described it as a 'moment of joy'. Something miraculous seemed to be happening.

Carolyn