



Pipes, cement and manhole covers arrived on 30 July, 60 cubic meters of cement began

arriving on 17 August and the new Kingspan/ Klargester Bio Disc system arrived on 18 August. In between all this there were many meetings and many workmen of different specialties along with heavy machinery digging trenches and laying pipes and searching for those elusive pipes and cables that no chart could ever detect.

It has all gone quite well! We are very confident that this will all work and will give the Community a sturdy infrastructure for the future, much the same as the Bio Mass pellet boiler and the Photo Voltaic system have brought to the community. These are all parts of moving the Community into the next century.

We continue to need your help with this project. The work is getting done out of need, but completing the budget for it still rests with others; individuals, groups, and enterprises who feel they can offer some support to help see this through. If you can, please get in touch with us or go the website www.pilsdon.org.uk and use the Donate Button!



TAKING SMALL BITES

Here are some of the happenings at Pilsdon over the past few months that never make it into an article. Still interesting though!



- Our bio mass boiler (pellet burning with vacuum feed system) is working beautifully heating the guest accommodations. It is already generating payments from Ofgem under their Renewable Heat Incentive plan.

- The Photo Voltaic panels were installed on the office roof to support our 14 freezers

(lots of meat, fruit and vegetables) and is saving money and generating credits with Ofgem.



- The large 20 litre mixer in the kitchen, fundamental in the making of bread and making butter, died and has been replaced with a reconditioned Hobart mixer.

- On the lighter side of life, Pilsdon now has a new bamboo hammock under the Willow Tree, a new cooker in a member's cabin, and a



new rowing machine in the sports hall. Yes, donations come in many shapes and sizes.



- We have no cricket to report this year as we were not able to field a team. But, watch out for us next year!

- Most of the hay in the barn is partly a gift and partly an exchange for helping one of our neighbours stack his barn with

hundreds of bales of hay. We are very grateful!

ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Hilary has put great thought and effort into her donation to Pilsdon. Over the past few years Hilary has grown her hair and has sold to an ethical wig company, Hair Harvest and generously donated the proceeds to Pilsdon. Hilary, is living into her title: (C) hair of the Trustees!



ANNIVERSARY

Pilsdon will celebrate its 57th Anniversary on 18 October 2015!

We are very pleased to announce that Revd. Dr Anne-Claire Thomasson-Rosingh, Programme Leader of Lifelong Learning at Sarum College Salisbury will

join us as our guest preacher. Anne-Claire's PhD had an emphasis on the gifts of the Spirit and it has been published as 'Searching for the Holy Spirit'. At present she teaches Biblical Studies at Sarum College. Anne-Claire has revived her interest in Hebrew and done some initial research into Isaiah, Romans and Matthew. She is looking into the interrelationship between



the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament and researching the laws prohibiting taking interest on loans.

Please do join us for the celebration! Come and join us for our annual Pilsdon Celebration and hear about the Community. Have a look around, and hear about our current plans and our achievements in the past year.



Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun and informative and prayerful time!

18 October 2015 – Pilsdon's 57th Anniversary Celebration

10:00 – Arrive and Coffee

10:45 – Meeting with Trustees and Warden

12:00 – Eucharist

1:00 – Luncheon and Cake Cutting

3:00 – Depart

COMINGS AND GOINGS

In past month we have bid farewell to 2 of our residential volunteers. Jimmy Holden joined us 16 months ago and in that time has become an insatiable gardener and compost expert! Jimmy always has a great sense of humour and a quiet way of getting



people involved. We will miss him greatly. Jimmy, after a rest, will move onto Ripon College Cuddesdon to pursue theological training. We wish him many blessings.



Just a few days prior to saying farewell to Jimmy, we also bade Maude Zolliker farewell. Maude joined us for 5 months during her break between her completing her BA and starting her MA in Psychology. There isn't much Maude did not try and succeed at. Without much prior experience Maude proved confident with the cows, as part of the milking team, and in the gardens as well as holding a clear presence of calm in the community. We wish Maude every blessing on her journey.

THE HARVEST CONTINUES!

Like everything in the garden, our team has been shaped by a rhythm of loss and renewal this year. We've said goodbye to some wonderful friends, and experienced green fingers. However, our weekly garden meeting is steadily filling up with keen new gardeners, and plenty of applause!



There have also been some changes in the vegetable line-up this year. The great tomato forests of 2014 have been reigned in, but we seem to be surrounded by spuds after an over-enthusiastic seed order. Kohl rabi, fennel and romanesco calabrese are among the new faces in 2015, whilst our attempt to add celeriac to the mix wasn't so successful. You can't win 'em all!

Inside, courgettes and cucumbers are launching their annual assault on our larder, and slowly, slowly the melons are starting to swell. Despite losing half of the brassica and legumes beds to the sewage work, our

freezers are also bursting with beans, and avenues of kale tower above the giant savoys.

There are, however, two stand-out crops this year. The onion bed has produced some absolute whoppers, which are threatening to bend the veg shed's rafters from their beautiful plaits. And the king of the garden has to be the good old beetroot 'boltardy'. The scruffy packet from 2010 has once again not only germinated, but produced some bowling-ball sized roots, and hundreds of thinnings for Sunday lunches.



2015 will also be remembered as the year the garden wall finally gave up. After some strong winds in Spring, it looked more like a billowing sail than a wall, so we carried out a sort-of-controlled demolition. Luckily, the espaliered fruit trees survived, and there is a brilliant bricky among us who has rebuilt everything beautifully, making a posh new pad for the compost (which has temporarily moved out) whilst he's at it.

And, to the terror of our already full freezers, the raspberries are coming...

REFLECTION OF A VOLUNTEER...

The Pilsdon volunteer has temporarily become an endangered species. In the last fortnight, Maude and Jimmy have both moved on, taking with them their extraordinary gifts, but leaving behind a wealth of blessings and great memories. After a year here, the dizzying variety of daily life continues to amaze me. This very morning, I stumbled zombie-like into

the field to bring in 'the girls' for milking, only to discover a new herd member had just been born. Quite a wake-up call! Less dramatically, the last few weeks have brought opportunities for a couple of us to start a new weaving project, and have a crack at spinning wool, not to mention learning how to prune the soft fruit trees (the biggest difficulty was learning to stop destroying things, which I found worryingly satisfying...).



The two most prevalent themes in a volunteer's life, however, are of course people and food. Between the garden and the kitchen, it feels like I'm constantly surrounded by both: it couldn't be better! Looking after the gardens without a teacher to guide us, as we had at Hilfield, has been a little daunting at times. But it's been a real joy for Jim and me to share our enthusiasm (if not expertise!) with the other gardeners here as we all learn together. I'm sure any success is down to our frequent prayers for the crops to prevail despite our ignorance! And of course, through it all God continues to throw up surprises and challenges, finding unexpected ways to share his grace in the daily round of compost, cream and dirty dishes. May you also be blessed with all three!

MICHAEL WRITES...



As I write this I can hear the diggers and the dumper outside making great progress in laying the new pipes through the garden for the long awaited new sewerage system. Just this past week I again had drain rods in my hands working on a problem on the existing sewerage plant; responding to the alarm telling the water levels were too high!

All of this reminds me of the Sunday Service, September 2012, when Adam Dickens turned over the Warden-ship from him to me. Along with a series of bid and response prayer between Adam and myself, I was handed a set of Pilsdon drain rods; a reminder of both the physical and spiritual call of the Warden to keep things flowing and moving forward.

As we approach our next anniversary, I wonder sometimes how we do keep things moving forward, sometime slowly, sometimes quicker than we had planned, but always with the faith that all will be well. There is always the sense that God is watching out for Pilsdon and placing Pilsdon on many people's kind and prayerful hearts to make sure Pilsdon will have just what it needs and all will be fine for today and for tomorrow. I guess that is what the Psalm writers meant when they wrote the words; 'Lord, be a lantern unto my feet.' A call to not worry too much about building earthly stores but to make sure that today is filled with the richness of being good stewards of all God has given us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

18 October 2015 – Pilsdon's 57th Anniversary Celebration

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



12 December 2015 – Pilsdon Christmas Stall in Bridport Market (East Street)

- 20 December 2015 – 6:30pm Carols and Lessons
- 25 December 2015 – 11:00am Christmas Morning Eucharist Barn Service