



Sharing a common life of prayer, hospitality and work

NEWSLETTER - 2016

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE 58th ANNIVERSARY

This year we will be celebrating the 58th year of the founding of the Pilsdon Community. As in past years everyone is welcome to come and

spend the day with us; a great time to renew old friendships, make some new ones or just come and enjoy the farm and learn more about what we do and how our pattern of common life is lived out in worship, hospitality and work!

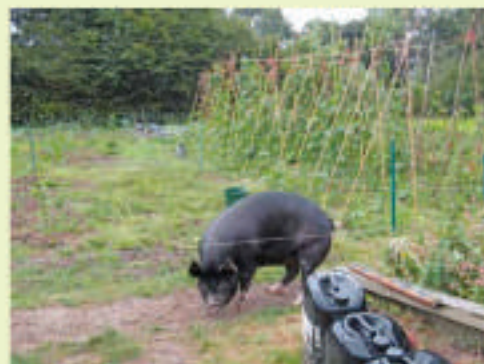
During our general meeting this year we will be discussing some of our plans for the year ahead and also reviewing some of the projects, milestones and changes we have experienced as a community within West Dorset.

Please join us. We are planning a fun day including lunch and the traditional cream tea!



THE PIG IS IN THE PEN!

Last year, after giving birth to 12 piglets our faithful sow died suddenly. We are proud to report that all 11 piglets grew into weaners. We are grateful for them and for the sustenance they have provided.



We would like to introduce you to Saffron! Saffron was purchased with 6 other weaners at market and she is growing into a fine gilt and is now living in the refurbished pen in the lower pasture near the chickens. This was her first foray onto soil and mud and she seems to be quite at home with it.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

In May we wished Anna Ruijterman adieu as she ventures back to some new responsibilities in her nursing career. Anna has a great sense of fun and adventure as well as a love of gardening. We will miss her impromptu violin serenades and her leading us in Taize chants. We hope to see Anna in the very near future!

In July we said farewell to Lyndon Webb. Lyndon was a volunteer here for 2 years and during that time he has contributed generously to our life together. We will miss his creative cooking, dedication to gardening and his great sense of humour! Lyndon promises to see us for the New Year.

Also in May we welcomed Mary Davies who joined us as a new volunteer



to the community. Mary joins us with an avid interest in vegetarian cooking, love of the outdoors, gardening and a keen parlour game player. Welcome Mary!

SMALL BITES



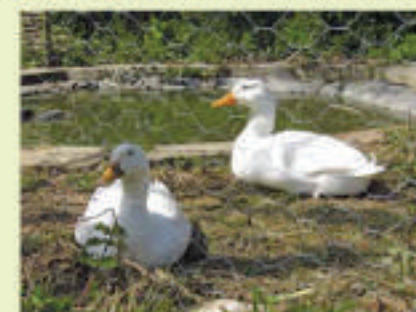
Cream Separator – Yes, we now have a brand new Cream Separator in the Dairy! Full fat milk was a great luxury for a few weeks, but now we are back at butter making.

Aylesbury – We received a gift of 2 large Aylesbury ducks! They have recently moved

from sharing the pond with the Indian Runner Ducks and moved to smaller pen in the midst of the garden. Delightful!

Ashley – Welcome to our newest member of the herd, Ashley. He was born on Ash Wednesday and is Cuckoo's first calf.

The Grapes – Yes! The experiment from a



few years ago is working. The Glass House now has vines and fruit around the edges!

Wisteria – Couldn't resist. Isn't it beautiful!



THE GARDENS

We are already into harvest season! 30 pounds of carrots cut, blanched and frozen. The same for 38 pounds of beans and untold weights of early apples have joined the soft fruits in the freezer. These days it is up to the cook to wander through the garden for each meal and choose the produce for that evening.



During the weekly Garden Meeting the team assigns each member tasks for the week to ensure watering, the closing of the polytunnels in the evenings the endless rounds of weeding and gathering that need to be done are accomplished. It is not unusual to walk near the gardens and hear laughter. Working together really does lift the soul. We are so grateful

for those in the community who have the enthusiasm and foresight to lead all these efforts through each season!

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY



Pilsdon is not a place to miss out on a party! So we celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday with great style, panache, and yes, HATS! Undaunted by the weather, we were joined by neighbours



and friends and the whole community joined in the festivities. All were treated to a proper Dorset cream tea and of course birthday cake.



MICHAEL WRITES



Planting and harvesting; birthday parties big and small; haying and calving; people coming into community and people departing from community. It is a funny thing the way we mark time in our lives and recognize the seasons as they change, or how we mark time in our relationships with each other.

A few times a year we have people who come through Pilsdon searching to see if this might be the place for them to make a change in their lives or possibly to become a volunteer or a member of a community. Some are in hopes that we might be a bit more monastic with a high focus on prayer and meditation and others come thinking it is all about very active work in the community.

What occasionally catches my attention is the sense that someone is taking a pause and watching time pass; to try and sense time moving forward. For some, in the pace of our community day, it may be the times of prayer and the church bell. For others it may be the times of gathering casually for morning coffee or afternoon tea and toast; the times of checking-in in the midst of the day.

It is at these moments of gathering that I notice the changes in the sky or the wind or the colours so generously displayed in the gardens and the trees. These give clues to the changes in God's great and renewing of creation. They also give us a way of seeing changes in ourselves and in our relationships. Sometimes it is the fact that we notice these changes that is important for us and we let nature begin to guide us rather than clocks and calendars.

As a friend once reflected with me; every time I try to do the same old tasks again this season, I find that my heart is a slightly different shape because of all that has happened in a year and I need to do the task slightly different to match my new heart.

Here's hoping you are recognizing the continuing seasons of change...

UPCOMING EVENTS

16 October 2016 – Pilsdon's 58th 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. Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun and informative time!

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

10 December 2016 – Pilsdon Christmas Stall in Bridport Market

18 December 2016 – 6:30pm Carols and Lessons

25 December 2016 – 11:00am Christmas Morning Eucharist Barn Service

