



WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES?

The big new announcement at our 59th Anniversary was the 'Memory Shed Project'. To commemorate the 60th Anniversary we will be collecting an oral history of the community spanning its life from 1958 to today. It is our hope that we would be able to encourage many people to share their memories, stories, first perceptions, or lasting impact the community has had on them.

In order to make this possible we have applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund to help us with the costs of equipment and a small travel budget which would allow us to go and meet people who cannot make it to Pilsdon this year such as past Wardens or long term members. We will also be capturing the stories of many of our wayfarers throughout the year on their weekend visits to the community.

Pilsdon Community is in partnership with the Dorset Archives, located at the Dorset History Centre. All of the gathered recordings will be transcribed and indexed and will reside both at Pilsdon Community and with Dorset Archives.

Please visit our website www.pilsdon.org.uk and find the new link to stories. pilsdon.org.uk to discover more about this exciting project and how you can share your stories with Pilsdon!

RECLAIMING THE BARN

In addition to the Memory Shed Project we are also working on a building project for the 60th Anniversary: Reclaiming the Barn. In 2000, with all the changes to the community to upgrade our accommodations we have lost much of our flexible space for large gatherings. Remember Barn Dances?



Perhaps you would like to assist us in raising funds to create a 60th Anniversary gift to the Pilsdon Community for generations to come, a multi-functional and flexible space for community life!

Over the next year we are planning to build a new structure behind the barn for hay and straw storage, empty the barn and mildly renovate the space. Our goal is that the barn will continue to be a working building but will also be accessible for large gatherings of the greater community and provide opportunity for the community to have alternative space for celebrations, worship, projects, and events.



59 AND COUNTING... THE ANNIVERSARY

The day was bright and clear for the celebration of the 59th Anniversary of the Pilsdon Community. After coffee and biscuits all were invited to the church for a brief meeting with the Warden and the Trustees. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Successful move on for a several guests into permanent accommodation. This is made



possible through Pilsdon working with the Housing Office directly.

- Although our financial situation remains solvent, we will again experience a decrease in funds from Dorset County due to cuts in the budgets.
- We are creating a 5 year plan to continue the renewal of the community buildings. The first will be the East Wing (Men's Accommodations). Although opened in 2011, it has deteriorated quickly due to poor contractor practices. The Dairy Block (Women's Accommodations) will closely follow.
- Plans for the 60th Anniversary were discussed to include the Memory Shed Project and the renewal of the North Barn.

The meeting was adjourned, we took a short break and then all participated in the Eucharist to pray for the community. Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne, joined as the guest preacher. Using John's gospel of feeding the 5,000, Bishop Karen reminded us of our role in caring for others and to trust that God will use our skills as well as our faults in his work to bless and feed all people!

After a luncheon of cottage pie, home grown green beans followed by apple crumble with all the cream you could eat, Hilary, Chair of the Trustees cut the anniversary cake.

In her comments she thanked everyone for celebrating with us as well as the members, volunteers, and guests for all their hard work and the Trustees for their continued support of the community!



THE NEW FRONT GARDEN BORDER!

Just prior to the Anniversary, our Front Garden was given quite a boost. From all of your generous gifts and prayers, the border in front of the manor house has been planted up with quite a variety of plants, flowers, and shrubs and given a fresh coat of mulch. It looks fantastic!

We received a lot of help from Zac, a professional gardener, from Sherborne who managed to negotiate great prices from various nurseries and also spent the gift of time supervising a group of Pilsdonites to dig, plant, and mulch. This community has received such great gifts from so many. The results will last for many years of enjoyment and reflection.



GRATITUDE FOR THE HARVEST!



The season of Harvest was filled with creativity from so many around us; schools, churches, and food shops! In addition to being included in Waitrose Bridport Green Token Scheme for the month of October, we also received many gifts of produce, canned goods, and staples for our pantry, biscuits and chocolate.

We also received donations of clothing, toiletries, and gifts for children. All of this is always welcome at Pilsdon, especially as we approach the cooler months and higher numbers of visitors. Thank you to all involved!

SUPPORT

The Pilsdon Community is in great need of your financial support. With cuts to government funding, the rising costs of running and operating the community and farm, while being mindful that our guests and wayfarers can only support us with what they have, we continue to try and bridge a growing gap that only generosity can fill.

It is important to remember that most of the organisations that provide grants or funding to charities such as Pilsdon Community do not support ongoing operating expenses. This is where we need your help! The following are ways:

- **Donate Button**

Through our website we make it easy to set up continuous giving or one off.



- **The 2018 Calendar is here!**

The new Pilsdon desk calendar is now available to buy. At just £5 plus £1.50 p&p each, they make excellent Christmas gifts and it is a great way to support the community. To purchase calendars please fill in and return the form that is enclosed with this newsletter. Alternately, if you go to our website at www.pilsdon.org.uk you can place an order for calendars by using the DONATE button.



- **Easy Giving**

Let's say you want to buy a pair of shoes on line and support the Pilsdon Community. Instead of going to the retailer directly, you first go to easyfundraising.org.uk, select the Pilsdon Community Dorset. From the Easyfundraising website, click through to your favourite retailer to make your purchase. This tells the retail store you came from Easyfundraising. The price of the shoes is exactly the same however the retailer pays a small percentage as a donation to the Pilsdon Community. www.easyfundraising.org.uk

THE BOILER

On 1 September the boiler in the Manor House packed up for the last time. Although this was expected, we were never sure about when it would happen. So here we are. As we write this we are still awaiting a response from a charity that may be able to fund all or part of this project. According to the estimates we have received, the replacement is in the vicinity of £30,000.00!

WARDEN



The Advent season is upon us! In the community we seem to flow from the Anniversary to Bonfire Night and into the Advent season with only small breaks in between; just enough time to catch our breaths.

What is very evident at Pilsdon is the recognition of Advent as a season. It is a time for preparation and focus on what is to come. And, that 'thing' that is coming will arrive with more work right alongside all the added joy of the next season, Christmas.

In our waiting and preparation during Advent we anticipate the Light coming into the world; a light that darkness cannot overcome. And, we also anticipate all the people we will be serving during these winter months both at the celebration and day to day. We prepare not for ourselves, but for others both in service and in gratitude for the many who make our work possible.

You see, the work of Pilsdon is the work of Christmas; to find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry, and bring peace among people. This is what this community holds at its heart, a welcome for all and rest for the weary. We pray that the music of the season will fill your hearts!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9 December 2017 – Pilsdon Christmas Stall in Bridport Market
- 17 December 2017 – 6:30 pm Carols and Lessons
- 24 December 2017 – 9:00 pm Sunday Eucharist
- 25 December 2017 – 11:00 am Christmas Morning Eucharist Barn Service
- 31 December 2017 – 10:00 am Sunday Eucharist

