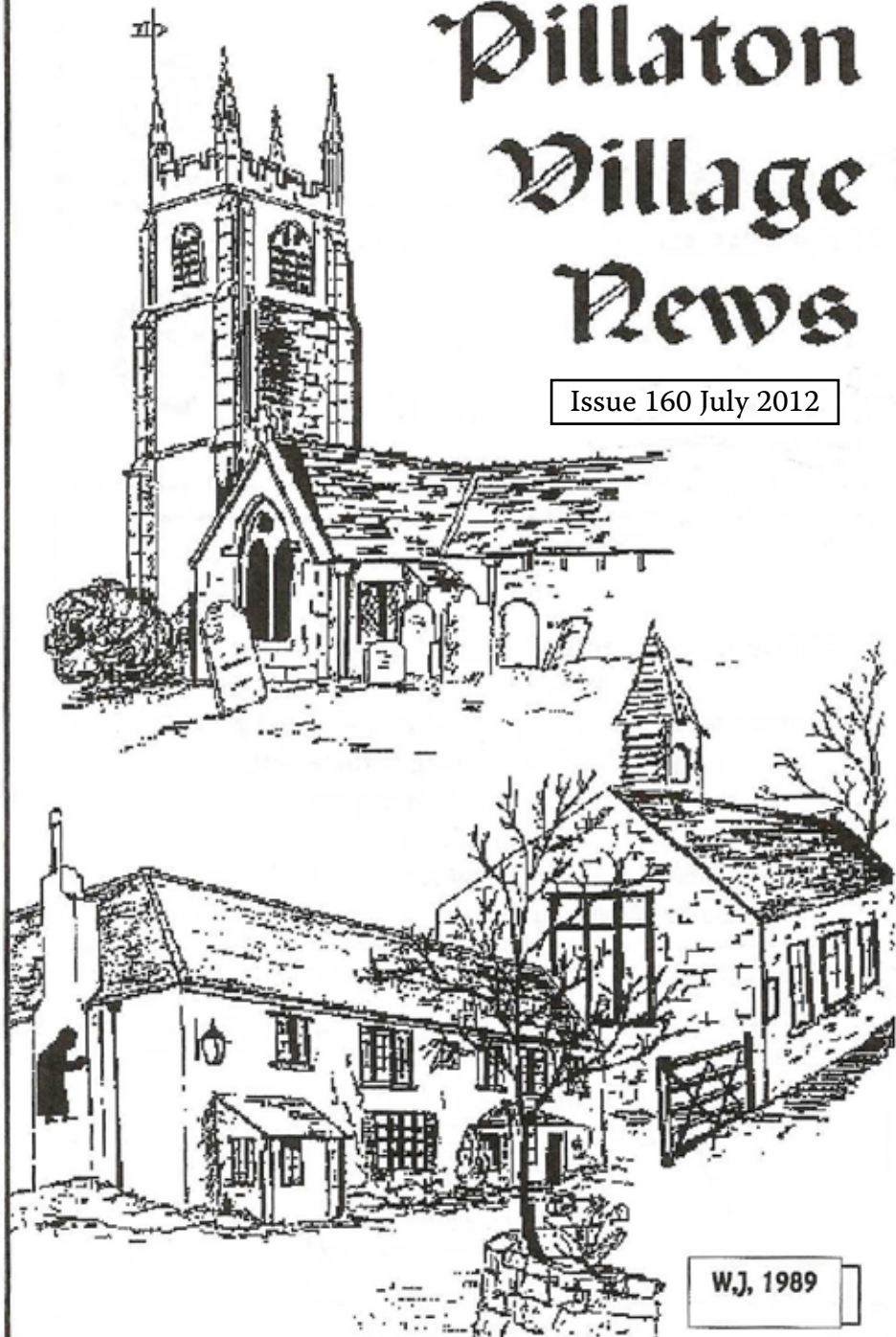


Pillaton Village News

Issue 160 July 2012



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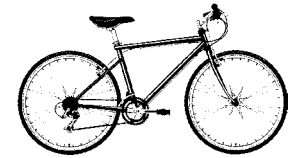
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Pillaton Village News

No. 160 July 2012



It probably won't have escaped the notice of most readers that this summer has been a trifle damp. Fortunately the weather didn't quite manage to scupper Pillaton's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. Happily, Pillaton managed to escape the worst of the weather allowing all the organisers and volunteers' hard efforts to come to fruition to be enjoyed by everyone. Personally, I don't subscribe to the greenhouse gas theory, but instead attribute all this wet weather to that other well known meteorological phenomenon - the 'Auntie Pat' effect. Her final words to my wife just before jetting away to enjoy some guaranteed sun in Ibiza were, "Its going to be a blazing July." My heart sank. Historically, Auntie Pat's predictions have all the accuracy of a Met Office barbeque summer. As soon as I heard Auntie Pat's words I knew that sitting out on the patio, sipping a chilled Chenin Blanc, enjoying crisp salads and summer fruits with cream, was going to be an unlikely prospect. Instead, for those of us not in the Balearics, the order of the day is going to be hearty stews and steamed puddings.

My only hope is that David Cameron will do everyone a favour and appoint a Minister for Flooding as a matter of urgency. The first piece of new legislation is bound to be compulsory flotation aids for all households in accordance with some obscure piece of EU legislation, prompting internet searches for high visibility water wings.

Talking of online shopping leads me to think how media savvy and in touch with their customers those clever people at Amazon must be to name their company after a wide muddy river that floods every year in the rainy season. If they had wanted to resonate more with the British public there are lots of names they could have chosen from such as Severn, or Thames, or Trent, or even that most aptly named Dorset river, the Piddle that runs through Puddletown.

Next copy date 10th September 2012 - full details on page 27.

Robin Dwane

PILLATON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 16 May 2012

ATTENDANCE Cllrs. Dolley, Hoskin, D. Floyd, S. Floyd, Martin and Harris.

APOLOGIES Cllr Edwards and District Councillor Egglestone.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Cllr Dolley and Cllr Harris were elected unanimously as chair and vice chair respectively.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None.

PUBLIC FORUM There was one member of the public present.

MINUTES

The minutes of 25 April 2012 meeting were accepted unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING None.

PLANNING PERMISSION None.

FINANCE

The Bank position of current account £858 and deposit £3,746 was noted.

The following payments were authorised; H. Dowdall audit £30, hall hire £24 and insurance £374.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY AREA NETWORK

No meeting had been held in the period.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman said that he had reported the tyres abandoned at the bottom of the hill and they would be removed.

Cllr Harris explained that he had placed an entry on the web site and Village News pointing out those persons letting their dog foul in the village could be prosecuted.

The Chairman undertook to arrange grass cutting prior to the Jubilee celebrations.

Cllr Hoskin kindly offered to relocate the outside light at the hall to allow the installation of a canopy.

The Council hoped that the Horticultural Society could weed the flower beds and replace plants that had died.

Chairman Mr Dolley

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PILLATON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 20 June 2012

ATTENDANCE Cllrs. Dolley, Hoskin, D. Floyd, S. Floyd, Martin, Edwards and Harris.

APOLOGIES District Councillor Egglestone

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Martin declared a personal interest in the matters of cars parked on pavements and notices in boards.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were five members of the public present. Mrs K. Martin said that she had obtained confirmation from Highways that they did not control cars on pavements. Mrs Martin also said that her notices had been removed from the notice boards.

MINUTES The minutes of 16 May 2012 meeting were accepted unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that a reply was awaited from the Horticultural Society regarding maintenance of the plants in the playing field.

CARS ON PAVEMENTS

The Council resolved, with one abstention, to accept Cllr Harris's offer to investigate the possibility of applying for a restricted area definition for parking in the village and refer back to the Council for a decision.

NOTICE BOARDS

The Council resolved, with one abstention and one against, the following:

- The notice boards in the Village would be under the control of Pillaton Parish Council with the same rules for both boards.
- No notices should be removed unless they were out of date.
- Notices would be removed by only the Chair, Vice Chair or Clerk.
- Keys to the boards should be held by the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk.
- The priority of notices will be as follows: Council notices legally required, Pillaton Parish events, community events outside the Parish and business advertisements. No political notices would be accepted.

GATES TO FIELD

The Council resolved, with two against, to donate the existing gates to the field to the Church on arrival of the new gates.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Council resolved unanimously to adopt the new code of conduct.

PLANNING PERMISSION

The following applications were approved:

- Extension to dwelling Perrancombe farm.
- Extension of time for construction of 2 dwellings at Greenacres.
- Conversion of barn into cottage Tremoan.

FINANCE

The Bank position of current account £1 and deposit £3,355 was noted. The following payments were authorised:

- PPP celebratory event £993.03, payments from capital grant £2,985.23, hall hire £24 and paint for telephone box £75.69.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY AREA NETWORK

No meeting had been held in the period.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk was asked to enquire into funds for leaflets outlining Village walks, the possibility of granite blocks to control access of heavy vehicles over Clapper bridge and a new sign by the telephone box for Landrake.

Chairman Mr Dolley

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ICB Practice No 4083

PILLATON WI

Gosh, is it really a whole year since the “Resolutions” meeting? It seems so, and we duly devoted our May meeting to debating this year’s Resolution to go forward to the National Annual General Meeting, namely:

“Employment of More Midwives:

There are chronic shortages of midwives. The NFWI calls on the Government to increase investment in the training, employment and retention of midwives in England and Wales to ensure services are adequately resourced and are able to deliver a high standard of care.”

To be honest, there didn’t seem too much to actually debate on this issue, as arguments against are fairly difficult to come up with, so the Resolution was passed unanimously and in double quick time. (I suspect the recent television series “Midwives” may have had an influence on the choice of subject this year, but it certainly seems a worthwhile argument to support.)

The remaining business was dispatched just as quickly and efficiently, with a brief discussion on how members could better promote Pillaton WI to encourage new members. There was also some soul searching on the reasons why we have just lost some valued members and what we should do to ensure our meetings are inclusive and attractive to everyone.

Looking forward to summer – let’s hope we get one this year! – several options for summer outings were discussed, with the favourite coming out as a “behind the scenes” visit to Alice Brown’s antique chairs museum and business in Launceston. Dates for diaries include a village wide collection for Operation Sunshine on 15 July and lists were circulated for members to sign up for the County events on 13 July to “Come and Sing” with the WI choir, and on 8 August for a trip to the Minack Theatre.

A fun quiz rounded off the evening, with members competing in teams of four for a naughty but nice chocolate treat as prizes. And guess what? Yours truly was in the winning team – diet starts after I’ve eaten the choccie biscuit!

Anne Henderson

Our speaker for June was Val Budgen-Causey and her topic was The Life and Times of a Professional Caterer. Val was a lovely lively person whose presence filled the room. She described her childhood in Kent and how originally she planned to become a teacher but one A level eluded her. So, as she had always enjoyed cooking, describing having helping her grandmother, from an early age, to put jam into jam tarts, she decided that catering was for her.

This wasn’t an easy path to take because back in the early 70s catering was a very much male dominated profession. However Val was not put off by this. As she said, the more she was told this was not a job for a woman, the more she was determined to do it. So she applied for a place at Thanet College, in Kent, where Jamie Oliver also trained. Life certainly was different in the 70s as not only was she interviewed but so were her parents to check her suitability. She was awarded a place and studied there for three years obtaining a degree in hotel and catering management.

On completion of her degree, she found a job with the BBC outside catering. At the same time as this, Princess Anne was just about to marry Captain Mark Phillips and to move into a house in the grounds of Sandhurst Military Academy. Princess Anne had appointed a cook/housekeeper. However this lady rather blotted her copybook by being indiscrete to the press so she was sacked. This meant that there was a vacancy for this job. Princess Anne’s secretary, the rather formidable Brenda contacted the College to see if there was someone who could step in for a month. The Principal replied that he had “just the person” and yes, you’ve guessed it, this was Val who after feeling miffed that she was being diverted from the BBC, agreed to give the job a trial.

She packed her bags, trundled along the A25 (no M25 in those days) in her two toned car to Sandhurst where a handsome cadet met her at the gate. Ah, she thought, perhaps this wasn’t so bad after all! She was then handed over to Jim Beaton, Princess Anne’s Royal Protection Officer (he was the one that had saved the Princess from an attempt to kidnap her) who explained how to address the Princess and how to curtsy. However, we all know what can happen to the best of plans! Val’s first meeting with the Princess didn’t quite go to plan. She suddenly came across a stranger in the house, who said,

“ You must be Val” who replied, “Yes I am, who are you?” The reply was, yes you’ve guessed it “I’m Princess Anne”. This caused great confusion as Val went to curtsy, tripped up and fell over. As Val is six foot plus tall, there were legs and arms flying everywhere. However this was a good icebreaker. (If any of you reading this run any type of training courses, I do not recommend this as an icebreaker on your course!) But going back to Val, she attributed this lack of recognition to the fact that when “off duty” Princess Anne always wears her hair down making her look completely different and very attractive.

This first meeting did not seem to have any adverse effects, as after only two weeks Val was offered the job permanently.

We heard a number of amusing stories of life in the Royal household. These varied from forgetting to turn the alarm off when letting the Royal dogs out early in the mornings and having the royal protectors – Gurkha soldiers – come rushing around to not only preparing a meal for Princess Anne’s parents, grandmother and brother i.e. the Queen, Prince Phillip, the Queen Mother and Prince Charles, but having to serve it as well. Val’s mother’s advice over this was to have plenty of gin during the day to give Dutch courage.

It appeared though, that there had been something missing during the three year catering course. This was how to use kitchen gadgets such as a blender – very frowned upon apparently. So, when faced with making chicken liver pate for the Royal family, Val decided to use a blender without knowing how it worked. This was disastrous as the top shot off and pate went all over the kitchen. Val screamed and Princess Anne plus Labradors came rushing in to see what was wrong. She sized up the situation and decided it could be rectified so between them, they scraped up the pate from wherever it had landed, sieved out the dog hairs and served it to the Queen for dinner. Her response? Lovely!

Val stayed with the Royal Household for three years before moving on to pastures new by going to work for the Sutcliffe Catering Co in London and eventually becoming Director of this company. After twelve years she left to buy her own coaching house. Life moved on and she now lives in Launceston spending a chunk of her time giving talks such as the one she gave us. A very interesting person indeed.

One of her other titles is “ Growing Old Disgracefully”. Can Pillaton WI tell her a thing or two about this do you think? Answers on a postcard!!

Pam Lowther

Pillaton WI is a friendly group and welcomes new members. Come along and meet us! If you would like to know more about Pillaton WI, please contact Ann Henderson on 01579 351289.

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On: SATURDAY 8th September 2012



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Donations would be very gratefully received

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Entry £3.50 to include a cup of coffee/tea and a piece of cake

DIAMOND JUBILEE 1950s MEMORABILIA EXHIBITION

Isn't it amazing what people have hoarded away over the years? And thank goodness they have, or we wouldn't have been able to put on such an interesting display of "stuff" epitomising the 1950s.

We didn't quite have the kitchen sink, but we did have an old school desk, complete with school reports and photos of the owner's school days, as well as lots of kitchenalia, some wonderful clothes – the wedding frock with accompanying photo was a gem – a record player and discs, lots of books, toys, stamps, and some fascinating papers, photos and other ephemera. As some things had a village connection, that made them doubly interesting. Impossible to itemise each and every wonderful artefact, but a quick look at the photos on the village website will give you an idea of the range of items on display.

Brian did a sterling job of pulling it all together, with the help of a very select team who stepped in when it became obvious that I had to (sadly) bow out following my hip op. It seems about 100 people enjoyed the exhibition, so a big "Thank You" to all those who kindly trusted us with their very precious memories. In no particular order, and apologies if I have left anyone out, items were loaned by:

David Arnold, Ann & Brian Henderson, Angela Kingdon, Sue Harris, Heather Troup, Val & Colin Phillips, Linda Mavin, Sheila Bridle, Sue & Len White, Alison Downing, Jan Simms, David & Shirley Floyd, Carol Hoskin, Dave & Carolyn Dolley, Margaret & Graham Palmer, Peter Johnson, Pam & Richard Lowther, John & Val Tucker, Irene Saunders, Richard & Maire Warwick, Helen & Ian Edwards.

Thank you all!

Ann and Brian Henderson



Admiring the exhibits



"Hooray for the Parish Council for buying the red telephone kiosk for the village to enjoy for the future. It comes in jolly handy if one gets caught in a shower of rain halfway through the village!"

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

With over 150 cream teas and 200 plus hog roasts served over the Jubilee weekend, the celebrations were a great success.

Our first meeting which took place in November 2011 was attended by five people and we decided to hold another meeting after Christmas to see if more people came forward to help, this we did in late

January and we were then joined by more volunteers. The Jubilee Committee grew to 21 with each person giving their ideas, time and energy to put together a programme of events which would be spread over three days.

In preparation two bunting making sessions were organised, sewing machines in all shapes and sizes were brought to the Village Hall and before your very eyes the flags were machined and handmade in all fabrics and colours.

On the Thursday the hall was decorated – the men did outside and the ladies inside. Preparation was well underway and the weather forecast didn't look too bad either.

Saturday loomed and the Village was a hive of activity both in the Church and the Village Hall. The Hall was set up very well to display all the Arts/Crafts and Photography each person having their own display area and what a wealth of creative arts – Pillaton certainly has got talent!

As well as the above display there was also two demonstrations taking place in the Committee Room – Corn Dolly making and a Spinning Wheel demonstration. Both were very popular and the ladies demonstrating were kept busy all afternoon.

In conjunction with the above an Anniversary Card Competition was also held and the cards (60 in total) mainly from St. Mellion School plus two adult cards were put on display. The judging had taken place the day before and the



winning cards were going to be sent to Her Majesty the Queen from the village of Pillaton. (Full details of the winners can be found on the village website). We would like to thank everybody who took the time and trouble to submit an entry for this competition.

In the Church memorabilia came in, in all shapes and sizes from kitchen gadgets, books, newspapers, coins, mugs, school reports to a complete wedding outfit worn in the 1950s. People went to a lot of trouble to bring in items of interest which made for a memorable afternoon's browsing.

In readiness for Sunday's activities a marquee had been erected in the grounds of the Village Hall and although the forecast was for light showers Dave and his group 'The Band with no Name' decided they would set up their equipment under the marquee and play outside. This group is very popular and has a local

JUBILEE EVENTS - VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS

Income		Expenditure	
Donation from WI	£90.20	Duck Race/Car Boot adverts	£42.50
Duck sales	£494.00	Duck race Insurance	£21.10
Valentines Party by VHC	£243.50	Duck race tickets	£50.70
Quiz by Ian Edwards	£85.00	Duck Race first prize	£100.00
Car boot entries	£25.00	Ice creams etc	£24.95
Ice creams, Tea & Coffee sales	£32.00	Bunting costs	£46.43
Donation	£ 5.00	Kids events costs	£92.45
Total Income	£974.70	Picture Stands Materials	£18.02
		Planters paint & Stands	£27.00
		Local Group 'The Band With No Name'	£200.00
		Barn Dance Group	£160.0
		Cream Teas ingredients	£90.03
		Kids games prizes	£12.00
		Total Expenditure	£ 885.15

following. By 1.00 pm everybody started to arrive for the Big Lunch. Some people braved the wind and rain and had their picnic outside, others preferred not to get wet and set up their own mini banquets in the Committee Room and main Hall.

At 3.00 pm the band stopped playing and the Church bells were rung, this coincided with a peel of bells being rung throughout the country.

A Service of Thanksgiving conducted by Roger Desborough followed at 3.30 pm. Hymns were sung, readings were given and we were lucky to have members of the Church choir present to help up along with the singing.

Monday was the 'Big Day' for the celebrations with the unveiling of the Mural and the Pillaton Play Park. The ceremony took place by local MP Sheryll Murray who cut the ribbon and declared the park open and the Mural was then unveiled by Sheryll and Julie. The artist who designed the Mural (David Whittley) was invited to join us accompanied by his wife.

Children's games followed, there was also a fancy dress competition judged by Sheryll Murray, crown making in the hall and finally a tug of war competition, thanks to Mark and Stuart. During the afternoon cream teas were served. Our resident Photographer took a Village Photograph which would be placed in the Hall to commemorate this special occasion.

The evening's events kicked off with a hog roast followed by the Barn Dance. Some people were reluctant, at first, to join in and then enjoyed it so much didn't want to leave. Gill kept us all going until 11.00 pm and I think a good time was had by all. I am not sure whether it is more fun to participate or just to watch but there was a lot of fun, laughter and enjoyment during this event.

We would like to thank everybody who helped in any way to make this weekend such a success. I think residents in the Village attended at some time over the three days and we did hope that when we put the programme together it would have something for everybody to enjoy.

This was an occasion for Villagers to get together meet new people and renew old acquaintances – WELL DONE PILLATON.

Sue White



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THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE JUNE 2012

One day, not long ago, I got invited to partake in the 3 Peaks Challenge. That's a good idea I thought, I could raise money for Moorfields Eye Hospital where Pearce, my son (your Saltash Journal Newspaper boy), is treated for Congenital Glaucoma, a rare eye condition that has affected him since birth. I do a lot of walking, how hard can it be?

So on Friday 15th June, 17 people (15 men & two women) piled in a minibus and left Plymouth at 1 pm for the journey to Fort William, for our first climb, Ben Nevis.

With a few stops along the way, we arrived at Glasgow at 1.15 am to stay the night in a Travelodge; the last decent sleep before our challenge began.

After a hearty breakfast and lunch, we arrived at Fort William ready to climb at 4 pm (Saturday). The weather was wet and looking at the incline that we had to walk, I felt sick. What was I doing? The team took off at a rate of knots and I wasn't able to keep up; getting too hot and not having time to refuel; it didn't feel good. I knew it was going to be hard and I wasn't disappointed. Gradually the ones in front slowed down and we walked together to the summit where we were greeted with snow and freezing fog. The change in temperature was extraordinary and your fingers froze if you took your gloves off to take a photo. After a quick photo shoot, we made our way down the slippery slopes of the mountain and finished in just under five hours. We were still on time.

We arrived at Scafell Pike and began climbing at 4am (Sunday), one hour behind schedule. We began the ascent in rain, gradually climbing up into thick fog. It was a very steep climb but I was holding my own and not feeling too bad, unaware of the situation we were just about to get ourselves in to. Gradually we started climbing a slope which was made of loose rock, which tumbled down on you as the person in front climbed up before you. At this stage it wasn't scary, just inconvenient. It didn't feel right and I was sure that this wasn't the correct way to go. Nevertheless, we continued to the top where we were met with a two foot wide ridge with a very large drop the other side – this definitely wasn't right! By this stage there was no going back so we inched our way along the ridge, not daring to look to the left where the drop was and



At the start near Ben Nevis

came to a crevasse which we were going to have to climb. It was only wide enough for one person so, one behind the other, we began. It was awful! There was nothing stable to hold on to and the rock and boulders (some 1ft wide) were tumbling down as the people in front disturbed them. Kev had warned me of the dangers and this was exactly what he was talking about. The further we climbed the harder it was. We had to navigate ourselves over smooth rock, at least 4ft high, with nothing to hold on to. Even the mountain to either side of us was crumbling away in our hands. Eventually, after much climbing we reached the top. I cannot tell you how frightened I was, or how relieved, and even some of the men cried on reaching safety.

After a few tears, we pulled ourselves together and continued to the summit, which was thick with fog, before making a swift return down the mountain. None of us felt like hanging around. It took us at least five hours when it should have only been four, but we had made it and that felt good.

We reached Snowdon at 3 pm. We were now way behind schedule and knew that we wouldn't make the 24 hours but I didn't care. The sun was shining and I was just glad to be alive! We climbed as fast as we could but my knee had started hurting and by the time I reached the summit (24 hours 50 mins) it was agony. However, it felt really good to finish on a high; the sun was shining, the views along the way were beautiful and we had all made it; a great end to a very exhilarating and tiring weekend. It was the hardest thing that I had ever done, but then, it was a challenge!

Thank you to everyone who sponsored me. I am hoping to have raised (including gift aid) in excess of £1000, which is an amazing achievement for a very worthy cause. I am overwhelmed by your generosity and support, thank you so much. Photos of the challenge can be viewed at pillaton.org.uk

Karen Edwards

A business card for Robin Dwane Design. The card has a yellow and teal color scheme. The name 'Robin Dwane Design' is written in a stylized, bold font. To the right, it lists services: 'Typesetting of Books & Brochures, Calendars & Cards, Family History Research'. Below the name, it provides contact information: 'E-mail: robin.dwane@btinternet.com' and 'Telephone: 01579-351560'. At the bottom, the website 'www.dwanedesign.co.uk' is listed in a white box with a blue border.

Our five grandchildren aged

THE THINGS THEY SAY AND DO

from three to seven years are a continual source of joy, and sometimes we have a really good chuckle over the things they say and do. In these days of doom and gloom I hope the following anecdotes will make you smile too.

Xavier, excited and impatient for his fourth birthday to come, said to his dad, "Daddy, take me to October where it is my birthday and I will be four."

When introduced to a relative as a second cousin, six year old Xavier, who is very competitive, retorted, "I may be a second cousin but I am the fastest."

One evening before bedtime Jasmina was having a bath with her two brothers. All of a sudden she climbed out, burst into tears, and exclaimed fiercely, "It's not fair, I want a willy ...!"

With her vivid imagination Jasmina described the process of a caterpillar turning into a chrysalis as, "The caterpillar puts on its sleeping bag."

When Henry, aged three, was accused of doing something naughty his indignant retort was, "I didn't done it !!"

When told off for hitting daddy, Henry exclaimed, "I'm not hitting you, I'm patting you hard."

After watching a calf being born at their cousins' family farm, the conversation turned to how children get out of their mummy's tummy. Jasmina gave a graphic, gory account of how she arrived by emergency caesarean section. Daddy then turned to Henry and asked "How do you think you got out of mummy's tummy, Henry ?". Without hesitation he replied, "A ladder."

Have you ever been caught out when telling your young grandchildren a piece of fiction in order to persuade them to do something they are reluctant to do ? This was the case with toilet training. Sophie had been told she must not do poohs in her nappy. Her baby pooh must go straight into the toilet so it would find its mummy and daddy pooh, otherwise it would be sad. Everything was fine and understood until she came to grandma's house. I found it necessary to remind her that baby pooh must go straight into the toilet to find its mummy and daddy. Sophie looked puzzled for a second and then said, "But mummy and daddy pooh are at my house."

Rosy and Sophie were sitting on the floor playing with some toys. Sophie (the younger sister) kept bossing Rosy about trying to have her own way all the time. Every now and then I would hear a resigned "Okay" from Rosy. I decided to intervene. "Sophie," I said, "stop being so bossy, and Rosy, you must stand up for yourself." Rosy immediately got to her feet and stood up !!

Then there is the "aaaah!" factor.....

Sophie had made two cards for mummy's birthday. One had some flowers on it, the other just a great big 'X'. "The flowers are very pretty," said mummy, "but what is the 'X' ?" "It's the biggest kiss in the world," came the reply.

Perhaps you might have similar little gems to give us all a chuckle ?

Viv Laurillard

LEOPARD MISSING IN PILLATON!

This is a picture of a hand stitched leopard rug. It was hand embroidered in wool on cotton in Kashmir – a homage to Rousseau's imagined animals and part of the Fair Trade scheme to help impoverished countries. Apart from the fact that it has no head it is the image of a real fur leopard skin which once graced our home. My husband bought it from the sale of an African missionaries effects in the late 1950s. Shortly before his death I asked him where he had stored it as we had to take it up from the floor so as not to trip over him. He simply replied "I know where it is," and said no more. It is no longer in this house and I am anxious to know it's whereabouts I suspect he gave it to a friend and I am not looking to retrieve it but curious to know its whereabouts, If anyone has any information please let me know – anonymously if you wish. We always intended it for the Royal Marine Band as he was once a Colour Sergeant in their cadets. Any information to Delcia Miles, The Mews, Pillaton.



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FRUIT CASE

The promise of earlier in the year has let us down badly, and far from enjoying blissful warm days

we are paddling through these early summer days cursing and grumbling about the inability to perform every day tasks like ...mowing the lawn.

My grass is verdant and lush, full of weeds, which keeps the guinea pigs, Chip and Pin very happy, they perform an excellent mowing service as their 'run' is moved daily. A polythene cover keeps them dry and the lushness of the lawn is now peppered with rectangular patches, where the run has been and the boys have munched the grass to bowling green shortness! If you could take this idea further, you could extend the run and quantity of piggies, to the shape of the lawn and save an awful lot of time and effort in mowing. Bliss. Guinea pigs breed horrendously fast, much faster than rabbits, so you would have to get a same sex community or the run would overflow with piggies!!! The idea is mad, but the thought of these delightful little chaps helping with the gardening, is rather fun.

My boys are entertaining, the minute I open the garden door in the morning they sing to me. I am not an morning person but their friendly chortle always makes me smile, I greet them with a few friendly words and give them their treat a carrot and a small wedge of apple, which they argue over before picking them up and charging back to their den. If the carrot is long it can take two or three attempts to get it the correct way through the entrance!

The fish have settled into their new pond well, many have begun to change colour from dark immature tones to pattered gold. I have far too many of them and would gladly give some away providing the recipient made a small donation to the village hall fund. I have had no further trouble from the heron since installing the floating net, but I am ever wary... that is not a way I wish to reduce my fish stock.

The continued wet spell has made it difficult to keep verges and lawn short, and with the increased use of strimmers, which are always a hazard to wildlife. I always worry for slowworms as they are so often macerated with strimmers, when the stubble has been cut too short. Charities have asked us to look out for young hedgehogs, as many have been killed or had limbs amputated by strimmers. Injured animals are destined to spend their lives in animal sanctuaries rather than in our gardens where they are sorely needed in the fight against the dreaded slug! I have had to order more Nemaslug as the little blighters are having such fun at my vegetables expense, one side of my runner beans is doing well whilst the other side is Nottingham lace. I only apply the anti-slug nematode to my vegetable patch, as I do not want to upset the visiting

hedgehogs that I have had the pleasure of seeing by my front door and noisily mating amongst the bushes.

The wet does keep the soil temperature down and plants are not growing as fast as they should. It is all a bit depressing. The rain did help to swell the blackcurrants and I have started gathering them. It seems a better crop than last year although soft fruit always has to run the gauntlet of blackbirds, but I am prepared to share with them in exchange for their lovely song.

The torrential downpours of last week caused a few tragedies amongst the broods that have been stacked in my shrubbery.

All my nest boxes produced crops of sparrows, one second brood had trouble when learning to fly as they did not have a complement of oiled feathers to keep them warm from the wet, and they were having trouble getting up. A few bedraggled, tiny goldfinch babies were running around as small as mice, totally helpless, soaked, with few feathers to keep them warm despite their full tummies. I believe they had been washed out of the nest. Mabel caught one and dropped it on the lawn, looking guilty as she knows birds are forbidden (squirrels, rats and mice are fair game) but birds are a punishable offence. I chased one of the babies from the middle of the drive to the bushes where its mother would find it.

I do hope we have a proper summer, to allow the flooded to dry out, and the paddling pool that is now a rather tragic shade of green to be refreshed for my grandson, to practice his surfing pose, and that the sun shines enough to merit sitting under the sunshade with a suitably cooling drink.

Jan Simms

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THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ST. MELLION-WITH-PILLATON, ST. DOMINICK,
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DIARY FOR THE BENEFICE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>
22 Jul	Sunday	1000	Matins
		1115	Sung Mass
24 Jul	Tuesday	0915	Said Mass
29 Jul	Sunday	1000	Benefice Mass
31 Jul	Tuesday	0915	Said Mass
04 Aug	Saturday	1000	Coffee Clack The Rectory Room
05 Aug	Sunday	1000	Benefice Mass
		1800	Benefice Evensong
12 Aug	Sunday	1000	Benefice Mass
18 Aug	Saturday	1300	Wedding Stephens/Miller
19 Aug	Sunday	1000	Benefice Mass
26 Aug	Sunday	1000	Benefice Mass
01 Sep	Saturday	All Day	Gardening Club Using Church
02 Sep	Sunday	1000	Benefice Mass
		1800	Benefice Evensong
04 Sep	Tuesday	0915	Said Mass
06 Sep	Thursday	1930	Deanery Synod
08 Sep	Saturday	All Day	Benefice Bellringers Outing
09 Sep	Sunday	0930	Sung Mass
		1115	Sung Mass
11 Sep	Tuesday	0915	Said Mass
14 Sep	Friday	1900	Harvest Service & Supper (Rectory Rooms, Cargreen)
16 Sep	Sunday	0930	Matins
		0930	Sung Mass
		1115	Harvest Eucharist
18 Sep	Tuesday	0915	Said Mass
19 Sep	Wednesday	1200	Pasty Lunch Rectory Room
21 Sep	Friday	Ttbc	Wedding Tibman/Wyatt
23 Sep	Sunday	0930	Sung Mass
		1115	Matins
		1115	Sung Mass
24 Sep	Monday	1900	Harvest Praise & Auction
25 Sep	Tuesday	0915	Said Mass
29 Sep	Saturday	1300	Wedding Harris/Collier
30 Sep	Sunday	0930	Matins
		1115	Sung Mass

**FUNDING OF PILLATON
TOWER-BELL PROJECT**

Unfortunately the notion still seems to persist that the refurbishment and augmentation of the tower bells at Pillaton, at a cost of some £50,000, was a drain on the Church's financial resources from which it is still trying to recover. To avoid any further misunderstanding, the ringers would like to make it clear that not a penny of Church funds was either sought or given for this project, and the entire sum was raised through external grants and personal donations from the ringers. Indeed, before the project started it was agreed that, to avoid competition with the Church, no local fund-raising activities would be undertaken. Furthermore, the project was completed in 2009 and so it is difficult to understand why in 2012 it is still being invoked as responsible for the Church's financial difficulties. In addition to the work on the bells, funds raised by the ringers have also been used to install electric lighting up the spiral staircase to the top of the tower, and to put in purpose-made doors to the intermediate and bell chambers of the tower for health and safety reasons, expenses that would otherwise have fallen on the Church.

**PEAL ATTEMPT ON
PILLATON BELLS**

The first attempt of a full peal on the new(ish) eight tower bells at Pillaton will be made on Saturday 21 July, commencing at 3.00 pm. A full peal consists of more than 5000 different changes, none of which are repeated, and can last up to 3 hours. The method attempted will be Cornwall Surprise Major, and the band will comprise ringers from Pillaton, St Dominick, Callington, Truro, Kenwyn, St Kea and Gulval. Visitors are welcome to enter the church while the peal is in progress but please remember that the success of this venture requires intense concentration on the part of the ringers so they would appreciate minimal disturbance. Thank you.

Richard Warwick (Tower Captain) and the Pillaton Ringers

BENEFICE CONTACT DETAILS

For all enquiries regarding Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals or any other Parish Business please contact:

Canon Wilson on 01822 832518

Messages: Betty Reynolds (Secretary) 01579 351069

E-mail: stmellionwithpillatonpcc@btconnect.com

The Benefice Office in St Mellion Church Hall is open on Thursdays from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon, or by arrangement with the Secretary.

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Contact: Jim Bennet ACIB.MLIA (Dip)

Honorary Treasurer, St. Mellion with Pillaton P.C.C.

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Tel. and Fax: Liskeard 01579 350067 Mobile: 07979 644990

Email: jim.bennet@foxhollows.co.uk

COPY FOR VILLAGE NEWS

Deadline for copy: Monday 10th September 2012

Publication date: Friday 28th September 2012

Copy should preferably be sent to my office e-mail address at dwane.design@btinternet.com in the form of a Word document or simply text in an e-mail. If you do not have access to the internet, hard copy is perfectly acceptable (typed or handwritten) and should be delivered to me at 9 Barton Meadows. Images for the Village News can be in virtually any digital format or as hard copy for scanning.

Any queries please call Robin Dwane on 01579-351560.

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