

# Pillaton Village News

Issue 176 March 2015

Village web site at [www.pillaton.org.uk](http://www.pillaton.org.uk)



*St Odulph's Church in early spring*



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## Pillaton Village News

No. 176 March 2015



What is it about that modern life that makes everything so stressful? I'm convinced it's down to having too much choice and call centres.

For example paying for electricity was once a simple matter. We might have moaned about Electricity Board bills being too high, but now we spend hours consulting meerkats about the right tariff and which provider to use.

Today even relatively simple transactions are complicated. Instead of a quick trip to a hardware shop to buy light bulbs, I now confuse myself online with the choice between warm light and daylight bulbs, variations in bulb life and different energy efficiency ratings. Then there are reviews to see whether the bulbs fully satisfied the customer's needs and that's all before calculating whether delivery is included. Once you've made your purchase there are the inevitable e-mails pursuing you for a review. I'm sure I never spent time in the past monitoring light bulbs.

And that's just a simple transaction; anything more complex can take days out of your life. For historical reasons that go back to the days of dial-up, the Dwane household has had two phone lines with one dedicated to the internet. Now I knew this was expensive, but it worked. Finally in late November last year, despite many misgivings, I finally plucked up the courage to amalgamate the lines. BT informed me this would take 10 days. Come the day of the change the phone still worked, but no superfast broadband. I rang the helpdesk and connected to a call centre in India where I was assured the internet connection would be working after midnight! Ringing BT again the following morning to complain, an automated female voice with a Scottish accent assured me my call was important. I was then asked to state what was wrong. After three attempts to explain my lack of an internet connection, I was starting to wish last year's referendum result had gone very differently (even though I was born in Glasgow). In the end my call automatically diverted to an assistant called Becky. Now Becky seemed to understand my problem, she felt my pain and would do everything to help, but would I mind being put on hold for a moment.... I then heard the soothing strains of "Morning Mood" from the Peer Gynt Suite by Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg and my difficulties seemed to be melting away.... By the fourth rendition my anxiety levels were starting to rise and I was harbouring dark thoughts about Norwegian trolls.

Finally Becky got back to me to say that a colleague named Ian from the Technical department could help and it would just take a few moments to connect me.....

To cut a very long story short it took three weeks to have a fully functioning broadband connection. The ramifications for my bill are a different matter and are only now finally being resolved. That's modern living!!!!

The next copy date is 4 May 2015 - full details page 23.

*Robin Dwane, Editor*

## PILLATON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 21 January 2015

ATTENDANCE Cllrs. Dolley, Martin, Heap, Harris, D. Floyd, S. Floyd and Warne.

APOLOGIES County Councillor D. Pugh.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Warne declared an interest in the planning application for Stonivan.

PUBLIC FORUM There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES The minutes of 10 December 2014 meeting were accepted unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING None.

PLANNING PERMISSION

The Council approved the following applications; a two storey extension to the rear of Stonivan and the erection of Poly tunnels on land at Kernock Hill.

FINANCE

The Bank position of current account £656 and deposit £1,833 was noted.

The Council approved payment of £20 to Mr A. Bridgman for hedge cutting at the playing field.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk reported that Mr Edwards had kindly made a temporary repair to the damaged door at the well at the Old Post Office and had promised to build a fixed structure should County Highways fail to take action.

Thanks were recorded to Cllr D. Floyd for his efforts in ensuring that the milestone at Pillaton Mill was replaced.

The Clerk was asked to report damage to the roads caused by water at Darky Lane and Tiddlers Well.

*Chairman D Dolley*

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## PILLATON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 18 February 2015

ATTENDANCE Cllrs. Dolley, Heap, Harris, D. Floyd, and S. Floyd.

APOLOGIES Cllrs Martin, Warne and County Councillor D. Pugh.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were four members of the public present.

MINUTES

The Minutes of 21 January 2015 Council meeting were accepted unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING None.

PLANNING PERMISSION

The Council approved the following applications;

Conversion of former shippoon to dwelling at North Sillaton.

Lawn tractor house at Pillaton Churchyard.

FINANCE

The Bank position of current account £656 and deposit £1,833 was noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting with the Contractor responsible for the building of the solar farm at Newton Ferrers. The Contractor's vehicles had caused damage and obstruction to local roads and Mr Dolley advised the introduction of a marshal to direct traffic and obtained confirmation that the Contractor would pay for replacement of broken signs.

*Chairman D Dolley*

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## PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH – SATURDAY 7 MARCH

The day finally dawned and after much preparation our efforts were rewarded with some 58 people turning up for lunch.

The stall holders doing a brisk trade on the bottle stall, bric a brac and cards. The demonstrations of Kumihomo and Mosaics were very well received and enjoyed by all who participated.

We would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to the people who gave very generous donations, donated raffle prizes and to who all gave up their time and energy to help on the day. The amount raised was a fantastic **£800** and we couldn't have wished for a better result.

Thank you all for your support for this very worthy cause – The Chestnut Appeal at Derriford Hospital (an appeal for men with prostate cancer).

*June Hutfield & Sue White*

## VALENTINE'S DINNER

The Valentine's Dinner held on Saturday 14 February raised £285 for the Village Hall Fund. Thirty-one people attended the event and as ever the highlight was the wonderful food cooked by Shirley Floyd, assisted by husband Dave. Special thanks are also due to all those who so generously provided raffle prizes.

*Sue White*



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## February Report

It was a crisp clear evening on 9 February, just perfect weather for stargazing when we welcomed members of the Callington Amateur Astronomy Group to talk to us about Astronomy. John Durston did a sterling job of making a scientific subject comprehensible to ladies of a certain age – as well as the 3 gentlemen guests who took advantage of the Open Event offer to join us for the presentation.

John talked us through the history of the science, from the genius of Galileo and Newton through the problems of light pollution and on to the delights and mysteries of the solar system itself. His enthusiasm was evident as he described to us – with some stunning images – the different types of Planet; Rocky, Gas Giants and Dwarf. He talked about solar eclipses. (I remember standing on the footpath in the middle of the field above Barton Meadows and feeling the skin on the nape of my neck prickle as I watched the 1999 eclipse. The birds were so confused by the sudden “nightfall” that they were colliding with each other in their anxiety to roost) It seems there will come a time when solar eclipses will no longer be visible as the moon imperceptibly but steadily moves away from us...

And then, those so called “Harvest Moons” when the moon turns blood red! That’s the effect of pollution during a lunar eclipse – that’s not so romantic, is it? Bringing us bang up to date, John talked about exploration with the Rosetta and Philae probes, and also the New Horizons probe, launched in 2006, which will reach Pluto this July. How exciting is that?

As to telescopes, Galileo would have been amazed by today’s technology. We think the Hubble is brilliant, but the next generation of telescopes make that look like old hat. First we have the ELT – Extra Large Telescope – and next to come will be the OWL – Overwhelmingly Large Telescope. Says it all in the name!

A brief presentation from fellow Astronomy Group member Louise gave hints on stargazing with binoculars – amazing!

Inspired? The Group extended an invitation to come along to their meetings at St Dominic Village Hall on the 1st Friday of each month, apart from Good Friday in April, when the meeting will move to the following week.

June Hutfield gave the Vote of Thanks, after which several members braved the cold to stargaze outside with John and the other 2 Group members giving guidance. As for myself, well, I shall view the Milky Way with new eyes in future.

(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.)

*Ann Henderson*

## PILLATON WI



### **ST. MELLION WITH PILLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

#### **HON TREASURER'S SPONSORSHIP EVENT - BATH HALF MARATHON**

£3000 and rising, Great Support and we thank you all. We could not survive financially without all the help you give us, from St. Mellion and Pillaton villages.

Whether you are ‘Church’ or not, it demonstrates the affection of all people for ‘The Church’ in our communities.

To mention the actual event on 1 March is really quite boring, but the salient features are that 15000 took part, and several hundred were somewhere in arrears. Having said that I performed a PW(personal worst) time for the run, but I have stopped caring. You inspire me to keep going for as long as I can.

The forecast was awful, but the rain held off, the sun shone, and when the breeze was on the nose I hid behind others along the way. All in all, it was a good day out, with no injury or discomfort, and not least the Choral Evensong in the Abbey was quite amazing.

If you would still like to donate towards the FABRIC FUND please use the form below. Cheques payable to “St. Mellion with Pillaton P.C.C.” and tick the “Gift Aid” box if you pay tax, which enhances your donation by 28%.

*Jim Bennet (Honorary Treasurer)  
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<i>Full Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>(tick) Please treat as Gift Aid</i>	<i>Amount (Paid)</i>

# PILLATON GARDENING CLUB

## Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 11 February 2015

PRESENT Richard and Jan Harnett, Ken and Sandra Beal, Carole Hoskin, Ian Edwards, Richard and Maire Warwick, John Hubbard, Julie Bazley, Pam Aggett, Linda Mavin

APOLOGIES Kathryn Bunkum, Sue Archer

LAST YEARS MINUTES These were agreed with no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Ken thanked the committee for their continued running of the Club and it was good to see a small profit had been made.

SECRETARY'S REPORT The pumpkin/Halloween evening was deemed a success and attracted 14 local children to carve pumpkins and try pumpkin foods. Thanks to Maire for photographs of the evening and Ian for growing such good pumpkins. The village hall committee is to be asked to drop the charge of the hall for this year's event as it is for village children.

TREASURER'S REPORT Dick Woodley will continue auditing the books. Pam Aggett will help record the exhibit scores and distribute the winnings at the Summer Show this year.

SHOW SECRETARY'S REPORT Once again, two very good shows and thanks given to the committee for their help setting up and running the shows and also to President Mr. R. Harnett for printing the schedules.

Spring Show 2013: 162 entries, 16 exhibitors, no children. 2014: 193 exhibits, 13 adults and 4 children exhibited.

Sadly before the Summer Show our Chairperson Rose Peter passed away and is greatly missed. Summer Show 2013: 363 entries, 41 exhibitors of whom 9 were children. 2014: 473 entries, 43 exhibitors of whom 11 children.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS The present committee was voted en bloc with Ian proposing and John seconding. Ken has served 2 years as Chairperson and Ian was voted by Richard Warwick and seconded by Carole. Vice Chairperson was voted by Ian and seconded by Julie. The new committee is therefore:

Chairperson -	Ian Edwards
Vice Chairperson -	Ken Beal
Secretary -	Linda Mavin
Show Secretary -	Carole Hoskin
Treasurer -	Linda Mavin
Village Hall Rep -	Carole Hoskin

Committee members: Pam Aggett, Sue Archer, Julie Bazley, Kathryn Bunkum, John Hubbard, Richard Warwick.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS Richard Harnett reminded us of last year's gales which fortunately were not indicative of last Spring in terms of weather. He then spoke about developments at Kernock Park Plants including the use of LED lighting.

Richard and Maire Warwick finished the meeting with a slide show of native plants growing in South Africa showing their suitability to growing in their gardens on St Mary's (Isles of Scilly) and in Pillaton.

*Linda Mavin, Secretary*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### How To Create Strong Passwords To Prevent Your Accounts Being Hacked

Fraudsters regularly hack into personal online accounts to obtain details which will allow them to defraud you. To prevent fraudsters, it's very important to use strong passwords when setting up and accessing online accounts and online banking.

Passwords should be memorable enough not to have to write them down and long enough to be unique and hard to guess, which will ensure they are less vulnerable to being stolen. If it is not possible to remember passwords a password manager could be used to store them securely.

To protect yourself; Make sure passwords are memorable so that you don't have to write them down. Make sure they are unique. Think about how you could change the letters in your normal passwords to make them more difficult to guess! Use long, non-dictionary words and use different ones for each of your personal accounts and online banking. Make sure you change them regularly.

Make sure passwords are not stored on devices that have shared access by other people, for example in internet cafes and when using other public Wi-Fi.

If you believe you have become a victim of account hacking, change your passwords immediately and report to Action Fraud at

[www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud)



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## FRUIT CASE

Spring seems to have fought its way through the weather! I have seen the buzzards do their courtship dance over the valley. I have been greeted by a frog on the doorstep, when I opened the front door in the morning to feed the birds. I have been serenaded by baritone frog songs at night. I have been dive bombed by eager sparrows busy nest building in my nest boxes and the robins, not to be outdone, have new courtship jackets of red to sing their songs of love from the top of the camellia bushes.

The blooms of spring are all around, everything thriving bursting with fecundity except my lawn which still sadly resembles a swamp, more mud than grass blades. My guinea pigs are looking forward to roaming in their grass runs, when there is enough to support their voracious appetites; meanwhile they sunbathe in their pens, in the lap of luxury in the conservatory. I would love to regain this beloved space but the pigs win.

I have hardly started planting in the veg beds, spending more time during this erratic weather, concentrating on weed clearing, pruning, tidying, repairing paths and raised beds. The garden is better looking but rather bare, so now the fun of planting can begin.

My greenhouse has some broad beans coming on, and all my iris that I overwinter out of the rain, are sprouting well. My poor iris collection has been decimated by wet, in the 11 years I have lived in Cornwall. Eventually I potted my favourite varieties and put them in the greenhouse to save them. Tall bearded rhizome iris are prone to rot when over wet, their natural habitat is more arid. I have seen them growing happily in a scorched Moroccan graveyard in the middle of nowhere.

Iris Siberica are more grass-like and they tolerate greater wet, though not as much as Japanese and water iris. Tiny bulb iris reticulata, out in flower at the moment, like moisture, but like many bulbs need good drainage to prevent rotting. It can be so disheartening to plant these tiny bulbs for them never to reach flowering in the Spring.

During the Christmas holiday, routines were exploded and village dogs were more frequently walked by younger family members, this meant a noticeable increase in canine yule logs. Christmas has long gone, but with the increased numbers of dogs in the village we must all try to keep it clean and pleasant for all.

Please note that frogs and toads are still joyfully 'at it' so we must help these useful gardeners' friends by helping them to cross roads on wet nights when they desperately look for their birth ponds. I heard that even path puddles were full of spawn at Kit Hill!

Remember 'HELP A TOAD ACROSS THE ROAD' if you want less slugs in your garden.

*Jan Simms*

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## ANNUAL MEDICATION REVIEW

- Have you received a letter requesting you to have a medication review?
- Are you concerned when seeing the Pharmacist or a Specialist Nurse instead of your GP? Please don't be.

Medication Reviews are to discuss your medication and not to be confused with Medical Reviews which address your physical condition.

Your GP is the appropriate person to prescribe medication however the Pharmacists or Specialist Nurses within the practice are often better able to discuss and advise on how the medication works and particularly how medications interact with others that you may be taking.

Although Doctors have a specified time to see each patient and whenever possible this time is adhered to, the Pharmacist and Specialist Nurses are likely to have the time to talk through with you and address any concerns you have

with regard to your treatment or side effects you may be experiencing.

If you are not comfortable with this option you always have the right to insist on seeing your GP and the practice receptionists will always help you if you're unsure which is the best option for you.

The Tamar Valley Health Patient Participation Group are here to help patients and liaise with both Gunnislake and Callington Surgeries.

If you have any questions about who we are and how we work then please come to our next Open Meeting in Callington on Thursday 9 April 2015 at 7pm. Further details will appear on the notice boards in each surgery.

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## TRAVEL TIPS AND TALES

Anyone thinking of holidaying in France this year, with no particular place in mind yet, might consider travelling south-west towards Bordeaux. The historic and charming village of St Émilion with its cobbled streets and beautiful buildings is a UNESCO World Heritage site, surrounded by vineyards originally planted by the Romans. It's one of the principal red wine areas of Bordeaux, producing some of the most prestigious and expensive wines in the world. But don't be put off by that, you don't have to go there just to buy wine! Something very special happens there each autumn when visitors flock to witness an age-old ceremony – the Jurade.

### Gem No. 2 – The Jurade, St Émilion, France

One weekend in late September, clusters of black balloons (tied to resemble bunches of grapes) are released into the sky proclaiming the start of the 'vendage' (the grape harvest). A group of Jurats (elected winemakers and wine industry ambassadors), attired in ceremonial red cloaks, watch from the top of a tower overlooking rows of immaculately tended vines stretching as far as the eye can see.

Later in the evening, Jurats form a torch-lit procession through the narrow streets to the accompaniment of a piped band. When Andrew and I were there, Bordeaux Celtic Pipers thrilled the crowds with their rendition of Queen's 'We Will Rock You'. It's great fun, and the atmosphere is electric! The town buzzes during the celebratory weekend – musical venues are dotted all around, with music ranging from classical to jazz. Restaurants and cafés fill with visitors, and the firework display is spectacular. New Jurats are inaugurated at the Collegiate Church, entering membership to a unique organization with its origins in the 12th century.

This is France showcasing itself at its best, a wonderful event dedicated to St Émilion's world-renowned wines. Book early to secure accommodation in the area, to avoid being disappointed. Book even earlier for the Jurade Spring Festival held each year in June.

St Émilion is approximately 30 miles north-east of Bordeaux. Travel directly west and you'll find the beautiful long sandy beaches of Aquitaine stretching for some 150 miles – Europe's biggest beach of fine sand backed by pine forests, where you'll also find the tallest sand dune in Europe, the Pyla.

Next time we travel back north for Gem No. 3 in this series on France, to a very special little island on the north coast of Brittany...

*Linda Harris*



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**DIARY FOR THE BENEFICE**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>SERVICE/EVENT</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>
15 Mar	Mothering Sunday	1000 Family Service with Simnel Cake and Coffee	St Dominic
		1000 Family Service with Simnel Cake and Coffee	Pillaton
17 Mar	Tuesday	1200-1400 Lent Lunch	St Mellion
22 Mar	Passion Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	St Mellion
29 Mar	Palm Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist with Gathering for blessing of Palms Procession into Church & Passion Reading	St Dominic
01 Apr	Holy Wednesday	0930 Weekday Communion Lady Chapel	St Mellion
02 Apr	Maundy Thursday	1930 Mass	St Dominic
03 Apr	GOOD FRIDAY	1200-1300 Stations of the Cross	St Dominic
05 Apr	EASTER DAY	1000 Benefice Eucharist	Landulph
		1000 Benefice Eucharist	St Mellion
12 Apr	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	Pillaton
15 Apr	Wednesday	1200 Pasty Lunch Rectory Room	Cargreen
19 Apr	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	St Dominic
26 Apr	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	St Mellion
03 May	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	Landulph
		1800 Evensong	Halton Quay
06 May	Wednesday	0930 Weekday Communion Lady Chapel	St Mellion
07 May	Thursday	1100-1800 St Dominic Craft Fair }	
08 May	Friday	1100-1800 St Dominic Craft Fair }	St Dominic
09 May	Saturday	1100-1800 St Dominic Craft Fair }	
10 May	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	St Dominic
17 May	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	Pillaton
		1000 Morning Service	St Dominic
20 May	Wednesday	1200 Pasty Lunch Rectory Room	Cargreen
24 May	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist (Pentecost)	St Mellion
31 May	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	Landulph

**BENEFICE CONTACT DETAILS**

For all enquiries regarding Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and any other Parish business contact your Churchwarden or a Reader - full details on notice boards.

Messages: Betty Reynolds (Secretary) 01579 351069

E-mail: bettyreynolds232@btinternet.com

The Benefice Office in St Mellion Church Hall is open on Fridays from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm, or by arrangement with the Secretary.

**Pillaton Village Diary**

Wed 18 Mar	Pillaton Parish Council Meeting, Pillaton Village Hall
Mon 6 Apr	Pentillie Gardens Open to Public (see advert)
Sat 11 Apr	Skittles Presentation Night (provisional date) Pillaton Village Hall
Mon 13 Apr	Pillaton WI Members Meeting, Pillaton Village Hall
Sat 18 Apr	Mamma Mia Sing Along, Pentillie Castle (see advert)
Wed 20 May	Pillaton Parish Council Meeting, Pillaton Village Hall
Sun 31 May	Pentillie Gardens Open to Public & Squashbox Theatre (see advert)
Wed 17 Jun	Pillaton Parish Council Meeting, Pillaton Village Hall
Wed 15 Jul	Pillaton Parish Council Meeting, Pillaton Village Hall
Sun 26 Jul	Summer Barbeque, Rick Park Farm, Pillaton
Sat 17 Oct	Pillaton and the Great War Evening, Pillaton Village Hall

**RECYCLING DATES**

Along with the normal rubbish collections on Tuesdays, recycling and garden waste will be collected as follows:

Tue 17 Mar	Garden Waste
Tue 24 Mar	Recycling
Tue 31 Mar	Garden Waste
Tue 7 Apr	Recycling
Tue 14 Apr	Garden Waste
Tue 21 Apr	Recycling
Tue 28 Apr	Garden Waste
Tue 5 May	Recycling
Tue 12 May	Garden Waste
Tue 19 May	Recycling
Tue 26 May	Garden Waste

**Village News  
DISTRIBUTION & COPY DATES  
2015/16**

Issue No.	Copy Date	Dist. Date
177	4 May	22 May
178	6 Jul	24 Jul
179	7 Sep	25 Sep
180	2 Nov	20 Nov
181	4 Jan	22 Jan
182	8 Mar	25 Mar

As the Village News is produced and distributed by volunteers, the distribution date is only a guideline, but the Village News will be usually be available the week before.



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LEGACIES

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Contact: Jim Bennet ACIB.MLIA (dip)
Honorary Treasurer, St. Mellion with Pillaton P.C.C.
16, Barton Meadows, Pillaton, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 6SE
Tel: 01579 350067 Mobile: 07979 644990
Email: jim@pillaton.com

Copy For Village News

Deadline for copy: Monday 4th May 2015
Publication date: Friday 22nd May 2015

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.

VILLAGE NEWS ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page advert: £12 per issue; Discounted price for six issues: £60
Half page advert: £6 per issue; Discounted price for six issues: £30
Third page advert: £4 per issue; Discounted price for six issues: £20
Quarter page advert £3 per issue; Discounted price for six issues: £15
Small Classified Adverts: Free to village residents.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor.
The Editor reserves the right to alter or omit any articles submitted.

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**Pentillie**  
CASTLE & ESTATE

## Gardens Open for Easter

**Easter Mon. 6<sup>th</sup> April, 12pm-4pm, £6 pp (children under 12 free)**

Refreshments & Plant Sales. Afternoon Teas Available (pre booking essential)

## Gardens Open with Squashbox Theatre Performing

**In aid of Children's Hospice South West**

Sun. 31<sup>st</sup> May 12pm-4pm £6pp (Children under 12 free)

## Mamma Mia Sing-along

**18<sup>th</sup> April, Gardens Open from 6pm for an 8pm Screening**

£10 Adults, Children Under 12 £7.50, Homemade Food & Bar

**01579 350044 [www.pentillie.co.uk/events](http://www.pentillie.co.uk/events)  
Pentillie Castle, St Mellion, Cornwall, PL12 6QD.**



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