

Pillaton Village News

Issue 171 May 2014

Village web site at www.pillaton.org.uk

HANDBELL SUCCESS



The Pillaton and St Mellion Handbell Ringers had a successful day on Saturday 15 March when they won the handbell class at the Cornwall Music Festival in Truro. The adjudicator praised their playing of 'Bali Ha'i' and 'The Streets of London', saying that they were always rhythmic and the dynamic range was very colourful. She called them an admirable group and awarded them a distinction with 88 marks.

The group, which has been in existence since the late 70s, continues to enjoy their weekly practices and travels around the local area performing for various organisations and in venues ranging from stately homes and churches to residential homes and village halls.

SPRING SHOW



The Pillaton Gardening Club held their Spring Show in the Village Hall on 29 March. More details on page 9.



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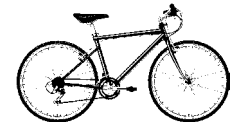
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Pillaton Village News

No. 171 May 2014

Listening to the news the other week I understand the latest smart phone technology will allow people to pay or receive money using a phone number.



I immediately thought how useful that could be. Recently many of our friends, including people from the village, have got into trouble when they've been on holiday abroad. We've had e-mails from countries as far apart as the Philippines, Paraguay and Ukraine where they have all had the misfortune of being arrested or held hostage. Now, I'm always keen to help, although strangely I've never known about these holidays in advance. Also, despite no money and losing their wallets and credit cards, our friends always seem to have perfect internet connections even when hijacked at sea by Somali pirates.

There was also a lovely message from a kind priest in Burkina Faso who had been led to my e-mail in-box by some divine power. He had received the last dying confession from the Head of the Finance Ministry. It appears only my bank details could liberate the contents of a secret Swiss bank account for the benefit of this small West African country and for this small service I would be reimbursed.

It's going to be so much easier now to help, all I will need is a phone number!

Next copy date is 7 July 2014 - full details page 31.

Robin Dwane, Editor

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References
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Angela Greenhough ^{MICB}
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Web: www.angelagreenhough.co.uk

ICB Practice No 4083

PILLATON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 19 March 2014

ATTENDANCE Cllrs. Dolley, Warne, Heap, Martin and Harris.

APOLOGIES Cllrs. D. Floyd and S. Floyd and County Councillor D. Pugh.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None.

PUBLIC FORUM There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES The Minutes of 19 February 2014 meeting were accepted unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman explained that the Playing field had been professionally valued at £7,500 but that the owners of the field would only accept £20,000. The Council decided that the asking price was prohibitive and could not proceed, noting that there were 30 years unexpired on the lease at an annual rental of £20.

PLANNING PERMISSION None.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Council decided to await further information from County Councillor D. Pugh and the Network Panel before taking action regarding a Neighbourhood Plan.

FINANCE

The Bank position of current account £319 and deposit £2,788 was noted.

The Council approved payments of £180 HMRC and Clerks salary £720.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Council expressed concern about continued dog fouling in the Village surrounds and dogs in outside kennels barking at night. The Council urged dog owners to show responsibility for their animals.

Chairman D Dolley

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 16 April 2014

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

APOLOGIES County Councillor D. Pugh.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None.

PUBLIC FORUM There were no members of the public present.

The visiting PCSO said there had been no problems in the Parish apart from the report of a dog attack which had been dealt with by the Police and dog warden. The Council were advised that reasonable force could be used to deal with an attacking dog. Concern was expressed about dog mess in the Village and Cllr Harris agreed to prepare an article for the Village News aimed at reducing the problem.

MINUTES The Minutes of 19 March 2014 meeting were accepted unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Harris gave feedback on the recent meeting involving Neighbourhood Plans and it was decided to continue requesting the help of County Councillor D. Pugh and to contact the Cornwall Council senior development officer regarding a grant to fund any plan.

PLANNING PERMISSION None.

PLAY PARK

The Chairman reported that a safety inspection had been made of the play park and a faulty shackle and loose train carriage repaired by Cllr Martin.

FINANCE

The Bank position of current account £449 and deposit £2,788 was noted.

The Council approved payments of Clerks expenses £15, Chairman's expenses £3, Village News £7.98 and Kernock Park Plants £75.

The Council approved the accounts and Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2014.

WIND FARM AT QUETHIOCK

The Council agreed that they did not support the creation of any further wind farms in the area.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Thanks were recorded to Robin Dwane for his work on the Village News.

It was noted that Village Hall hire charges would be increased in order to meet the costs of running the Hall. The significant contribution by Shirley Floyd towards fund raising was noted.

The Clerk was asked to request Highways to repair pot holes in the area.

Chairman D Dolley

NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS

We have been receiving many complaints from parishioners about the amount of dog poo which is appearing on the lanes leading out of the Village.

Dog owners, you have a duty to pick up after your dog/dogs. Failure to do so can lead to fixed penalty fines or Court action. We would say that the majority of dog owners are considerate. It is the minority this notice is intended for; the inconsiderate minority.

Pillaton Parish Council

PILLATON WI

Annual Meeting - 10 March 2014

Traditionally the WI meeting in March is the Annual Meeting where the past year is reviewed and the forthcoming year considered. It is also the meeting where the committee and officers are re-elected.

The run up to this year had been a bit nail biting as the President Liz Llewellyn-Jones, the Treasurer Sue Archer and all the committee bar one, had decided to retire. The lonely person remaining was Carole Hoskins. Now wonderful though Carole is she couldn't be asked to be President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and hold office as a committee member all by herself! So as the weeks ticked by and the annual meeting was getting closer it began to look as if the Pillaton WI might have to close. However in true trooper style people gradually began to offer their services and a list of potential committee members emerged. This was to everyone's relief and delight.

The first part of the meeting allowed Liz to give her report highlighting events that had happened through the year. She also thanked everyone for their hard work and contributions. Sue as Treasurer gave an account of the financial situation and asked for the accounts to be adopted.

We then moved on to the process of electing the committee and we had to do this correctly as there was a WI Advisor present! The first round of voting was to elect the committee with the result being that Lesley Allibone, Janet Willcocks, Alison Downing, Ann Henderson, Carole Hoskins and Linda Mavin were duly elected. The next round was to find a President from the committee. In order to do this each WI member was asked to write on a slip of paper the person that they would like to nominate for President. These were then collated and those named were then asked (not in public!) if they were willing to stand. Those willing were named to the floor and then everyone was asked to vote for President. The outcome being that Lesley was elected for 2014 – 15. A very good choice I believe.

Finally thanks were given to the outgoing committee. Liz for her presidency for three years, Sue for being in charge of all the money for lots of years, Jo for organising the programme for several years and to Jan and Heather for their support as committee members.

Following this WI members were able to go home knowing that Pillaton WI is in safe hands for another year.

April Meeting

Our speaker for the meeting on 14 April was Bob Harrison-Daniels a Tai Chi expert. He started by telling us a bit about the background of Tai Chi and said that there is no real proof when and where it came from. One story is that a Buddhist monk saw a snake in a cage moving slowly and carefully so he replicated its movements and discovered that this was a positive thing to do.

Bob also told us that Tai Chi is a martial art and then went onto demonstrate this. So people of Pillaton beware as all the WI members present that night learnt what to do if pushed! Linda kindly volunteered to be the guinea pig and let him demonstrate this on her. Bob asked Linda to resist him pushing her hand away. When she did this it was easy to see that by resisting she quickly lost balance. When asked not to resist by being relaxed and allowing her body to be soft she was less likely to be pushed over. The theory being that the more relaxed the body is the more force it can withstand.

Bob explained that there are five major branches of Tai Chi with the most popular being the slow Yang style. His view is that the slow movements are good for joints. He also said that all movements come from the ground therefore strength starts in the feet and goes upwards so it is important to have feet to head in a straight line as this equals strength. This posture and alignment leads to calmness, lowered blood pressure and muscle tone. In the long term it can equal better health by building up the immune system.

He demonstrated a ten movement form using slow, graceful movements. His lines were flowing and never straight as straight lines equal vulnerability.

He ended by saying that Tai Chi takes: 7 years to learn, 7 years to refine and 7 to really put it all together. Sounds like a long time to me but what do you think?

Pam Lowther

BARBEQUE

At

RICK PARK FARM, PILLATON

SUNDAY 27 JULY at 1.00 pm

Please note this will be a lunch time barbeque

Tickets £10.00 obtainable from

Shirley on (01579) 350683 or Val on (01579) 350600

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DRINK



PILLATON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 9 April at 7.30 pm. The Chairman thanked the Committee for their support over the past year. He thanked Mrs S White, Mrs A Henderson, with particular thanks to Mrs S Floyd, for their hard work and effort in fund raising during the social events organized by them.

Unfortunately the floor, laid in 2001, remains an issue. We have to have it re-laid due to the floor breaking up (water having got through the membrane) in the near future. Our windows have been replaced with double glazed ones and are a great improvement. The Bell Tower has been letting in water for some time. There was wood that had rotted over the years. This has now been replaced by Mr Roger Warne and should be good for a number of years ahead.

Upon review of the Hire Charges for the hall, a small increase for a number of hiring's will be made; the last increase being in June 2010. Election of Officers followed:

Chairman	Mr. D. Dolley
Vice-Chairman	Mrs S White
Treasurer	Mr C Ley
Secretary	Mrs R G Long
Social Secretary	Mrs A Henderson
Assist. Social Secretary	Mrs S White

Representing:	Pillaton Parish Council	Mr G Martin
	Pillaton Gardening Club	Mrs C Hoskin
	Pillaton Gymkhana	Mr S Renfree
	Parochial Church Council	Mr B Henderson
	Pillaton Players	Mr C Ley
	Pillaton Womens Institute	Mrs R G Long
	Pillaton Parishioners	Mr D Dolley & Mrs S Floyd

Rosemary G. Long (Hon Sec)

HIRING THE VILLAGE HALL

Are you planning a birthday party, anniversary, christening or in fact any celebration? Have you thought about hiring Pillaton Village Hall for your function?

The village hall is well equipped, has seating for 100 people, a stage and a separate committee room.

Hiring rates are competitive and the venue is also ideal for meeting purposes.

Please telephone Rosemary Long (Secretary Pillaton Village Hall) on (01579) 350466 who will be happy to discuss rates and dates with you. Catering can also be arranged for an extra charge. Check out the village website on pillaton.org.uk for pictures on how the hall can look for your function.

PILLATON GARDENING CLUB SPRING SHOW

On Saturday 29th March we held our annual Spring Show in the Village Hall. We had 13 adult exhibitors and 4 child exhibitors, with a total of 104 entries which was up on last year.

Prize winners were as follows:

Horticultural Society Shield – most points in the show: Christine Dunn

The Dunloe Shield – most points for shrubs: Richard Warwick

The Angove Trophy – most points floral art: Carole Hoskin

The Dan DuPlessis Trophy – most points for daffodil classes: Christine Dunn

The Dan DuPlessis Memorial Trophy – most points in the daffodil section for a Pillaton parishioner: Richard Warwick

The J & V Tucker Trophy – most points in children's sections: Sophie Evans

We would like to thank everyone who entered or came to look around in the afternoon for their support, and also the judges Mrs M Murray, Mr R Harnett and Mr R Hosking.

Unfortunately our chairperson, Rose Peter, could not be present at the show due to illness, and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Carole Hoskin, Show Secretary



Some of the exhibits at the Pillaton Gardening Club Spring Show



PILLATON ARTS AND CRAFTS VILLAGE EXHIBITION

Our Arts and Crafts group held their first show on Saturday 5 April and it was a resounding success with a wide range of exhibits. My favourite was tucked away in a corner where a cleverly modified, double sided, printer was producing perfect £20 notes which were selling for £1. Unfortunately, shortly after opening, two family members arrived and persuaded her to pack up and accompany them, protests of “but it is only what the banks do” fell on deaf ears. Later visitors still had plenty to see; the range and talent displayed was truly astounding including different styles of painting, photography, mosaics, lace work, straw work, model boats and spinning and weaving. The organisers should be congratulated, their success in the future is assured particularly if they can persuade the lady with the printer to return (and she is free to do so).

see; the range and talent displayed was truly astounding including different styles of painting, photography, mosaics, lace work, straw work, model boats and spinning and weaving. The organisers should be congratulated, their success in the future is assured particularly if they can persuade the lady with the printer to return (and she is free to do so).

Fan Tasy (reporter)



Admiring some of the exhibits at the recent Arts and Crafts Exhibition

HEATING OIL THEFT

Devon and Cornwall Police would like to make people aware of the recent increased in heating oil thefts from outside tanks.

Homeowners are urged to make sure your tanks are secured with a padlock, the use of motion detected lighting can help to deter this type of crime. Up to now these incidents have mainly occurred in the Looe and Liskeard areas.

If you see any suspicious activity then please contact the police promptly by dialling 999, using the 101 number for any other information or alternatively contact the crime stoppers number on 0800 555 111. Thank you.

Devon and Cornwall Community Police



PILLATON AND THE GREAT WAR

How many times have you walked past the war memorial in the churchyard? There are the names, read out aloud every year on Remembrance Sunday –

“A J Chubb, G T C Collins, P G F Collins, E T Elliott, W Hocking, C A Pearce”.

But do you ever think of them as real people, living their daily lives in and around the village? Working as labourers on the local farms? Do you reflect on the families they left behind – mothers, brothers or sisters, friends?

A small group of us are trying to put together a narrative to bring these names from 100 years ago back to life for you. We hope to present an evening of words and music in Pillaton Village Hall on **Saturday 7 March 2015**, when we hope to leave you feeling that you know these young men.

To help us, please – if any readers of the Village News can share memories, anecdotes, photos of life in the village at the time of the Great War, would they get in touch with us? You can contact any of the team, who are Alison Downing, Ann Henderson, Don and Jo King, Chris Ley, Liz Llewellyn Jones, Jan White and Sue White. And of course, save the date! We hope to see you all there.

Ann Henderson

Save the Date — 20 June 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

St Odulph's Church Pillaton

An evening of musical entertainment

by the Chamber Choir and Canzonetta Choir

of

St Joseph's School, Launceston

Tickets £5 on the door



OPENING YOUR GARDEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ten years ago, when I came home from a tour of duty at sea, for a long summer leave, our neighbour, Sue Archer said that Pillaton WI were organizing their first village "garden safari". The idea was that villagers would open their gardens for public viewing for a small charge, to raise funds for the village hall and WI. She asked if Viv and I would be willing to add our plot to the dozen or so others who were going to take the plunge. As we were already in the process of making some substantial changes to our garden planting, the idea appealed and we agreed. There followed a frenzied couple of months of digging and weeding and scarifying and mowing and – well, I guess you get the idea !! There is nothing like having a deadline, to motivate one to finish off all those tasks that were never quite completed: to clear away that unsightly pile of garden debris that had never quite made it to the tip, to finish painting that old shed, to reseed that patch of lawn (a posh name for grass !) where the children's climbing frame used to be, etc. etc.

Eventually the scheduled June Sunday dawned, fine and clear – how many people could would turn up, and would they be critical and dismissive of our efforts ? We had no idea what to expect. In the event, more than a hundred visitors toured the village - locals who were just being "nosey" (aren't we all ??), and many who were serial garden visitors from further afield. Feedback was universally positive – what a relief. A lot of behind the scenes work must have gone into organizing the event, but because it was so successful this garden safari format was repeated twice more at three year intervals. However, last year those who had previously taken on the daunting task of doing the organizing, decided not to continue. Then, during last year's glorious summer Viv and I realized that we actually missed having the enforced deadlines of a public opening – could we do it under the umbrella of some other fundraising charity. We had already visited a couple of gardens opened under the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) so, after quite some procrastination and a lot of self doubt ("Oh, we are not big enough" and "We don't know enough about plants and names" ??) we decided there was only one way to find out – ASK them !!

A couple of the local representative duly visited us in July to carry out an assessment. The result appeared to be a tentative "Yes", but when they were told about the history of the village openings they enthusiastically suggested that NGS open days were always much more successful with small gardens if there were a group presented at the same time. Sue Archer suggested a few names of those who might like the challenge, and John and Anne Soul and Linda Mavin duly agreed to join us.

So now that the winter deluge has finally eased the work to prepare for a national opening has begun. The NGS arranges all the necessary administration – marketing, insurance, leaflet printing, etc. All we have to do is prepare the garden, put up the supplied direction signs, collect the entrance fees and, of course, show visitors around. We have co-opted Suzy and Stuart and our grandchildren to help, but other assistance would be welcome. Many NSG gardeners provide tea and cakes and

this we are all doing as well – after all looking at a garden is not to be rushed. It is a place to sit and stare and relax in a tranquil setting.

If you have not come across it before, the NGS was started in 1927 to raise funds for district nurses – twenty years before the NHS was formed. In its more modern reincarnation it raises money - £2.2 million last year – for distribution amongst the caring charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie Cancer Care. Whether you are and avid plantsman or just an interested local, please come along and support us all in a months time on Sunday 29th June between 12.00 and 5.00 pm.

*Viv and Tony Laurillard - South Lea
John and Anne Soul - Stonecroft
Linda Mavin - North Sillaton Farmhouse*

ngs gardens open
for charity

Gardens Open Pillaton Parish Gardens

Pillaton, Saltash PL12 6QS

North Sillaton Farmhouse • South Lea •
Stonecroft

**Sun 29 June
12 - 5pm**

Combined Adm: £5
Children: free

Plants for Sale



The National Gardens Scheme. Registered Charity No. 111264

www.ngs.org.uk

SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER

PILLATON VILLAGE HALL

**COME ALONG AND BE ENTERTAINED BY
'GIRLS OUT LOUD'**

(not to be confused with Girls' Aloud)

**THE TICKET PRICE WILL INCLUDE A TWO COURSE
MEAL DURING THE EVENING.**

**FURTHER DETAILS OF THE ABOVE WILL BE IN THE
NEXT EDITION OF THE PILLATON NEWS.**

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.

St. Mellion School News

The summer term is here, and as usual the diary is filled with so many plans! There will be trips out, sporting festivals and competitions in school and against other schools, transition to secondary school for our twelve Y6 pupils, transition in to St Mellion School for our Reception children who will be joining us in September, end of year exams, the Cherry Feast and so much more!

We are delighted that nine families have chosen St Mellion School for the education of their young children. Throughout this term we will be getting to know these children and the new families through liaison with pre-schools and our Learning Together programme of afternoons spent in school. By September we hope that school will seem a very exciting prospect and there will be few first day nerves (for children or parents!).

Final details are being made for the forthcoming three day trip to London for all of our Y6 pupils from St Mellion and St Dominic Schools. We have an action packed three days planned. Highlights include a tour of the Houses of Parliament and a meeting with Sheryll Murray, an evening performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at Drury Lane Theatre, visits to the National Gallery, The Olympic Park and the Tower of London, a trip on the London Eye and the river. Twenty-two children and five adults will be staying on board a ship in Canary Wharf and travelling there and back by train. Everyone is really looking forward to it.

Our number of pupils on roll now, and in September will be around 60 enabling us to maintain our three classes of approximately 20 children. Governors, staff parents and pupils are able to enjoy the many benefits of being in smaller than average classes. St Mellion is a very happy school where we believe children really do have a very good education. Ofsted agrees (July 2013)!

We do have some spaces in some year groups and if you are moving into the area, or considering a change for your children, we would love to meet you and show you round. Please just call Mrs Jo Knight in the office on 01579-350567 to make an appointment.

Angela Palin
Head Teacher

**Mobile
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07578539431 or
01579-384435

PILLATON SKITTLES LEAGUE 2013/2014

The Skittles Presentation Night was held on Saturday 12 April and was attended by 41 people. As usual a delicious meal was cooked and served by Shirley Floyd ably assisted by Dave.

After a nail biting finish in March the Knackered Monks were pipped at the post by one skittle to the Hill Billies who took second place in the 10th Season of the League.

The Dare Devils took an early lead when they played their two games in October and finished with a total of 59 points. Bottom place was shared at some stage during the season by the four remaining teams, the Knackered Monks, the Mavericks, the Hill Billies and the Wild Indians but the wooden spoon finally went to the Wild Indians.

The Knackered Monks welcomed two new players this season - Chris and Cathy Bowyer from Rose Cottage. The remaining teams had no problem in rallying their players to attend.

PILLATON VILLAGE HALL SKITTLES LEAGUE 2013/2014									
Team	Matches Played	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Game Points	Match Points	Total Skittles	Total Points
Dare Devils	12	36	24	1	11	49	10	1926	59
Hillbillies	12	36	17	1	18	35	6	1689	41
Knackered Monks	12	36	16	2	18	34	6	1729	40
Mavericks	12	36	15	0	21	30	4	1729	34
Wild Indians	12	36	15	0	21	30	2	1446	32

Len provided a picture quiz through the evening which was won by The Wild Indians.

Two additional prizes were given apart from the team prizes, this was to the highest scoring man in one game and this went to Dave Dolley with 53 skittles and for the ladies this prize went to Evelyn Brewer with 41 skittles.

Len and I have decided to call it a day organising the League and would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Team Captains for their help and support throughout the ten years they have been involved and to the players – without them there would be no League! We would like to thank everybody for the John Lewis voucher and we very much appreciated this kind gesture.

Len & Sue White

"Pretty Things", please!

Bangles, beads, belts, brooches, buckles, scarves, handbags, hats, gloves, shoes...

Please turn out your wardrobes and trinket boxes and bring any unwanted new or nearly new accessories in good, saleable condition, to Alison Downing (tel. 01579 351241) or Ann Henderson (tel. 01579 351289) for their "Pretty Things" stall at this year's Cherry Feast on 13 July. Thank You!

Proceeds from the Cherry Feast support our churches at St. Mellion and Pillaton.

Back to Tanzania (again!)

Completing a promise to my husband I visited Magu just south of Lake Victoria last May with two retired teachers from Polperro, Stuart and Bidy Bishop.

We were seeing the school that started six years ago and of which David, my husband, helped to dig the foundations.

Biddy and Stuart had followed him out to be there at the inception of the school and had visited regularly since to give moral support and build on their relationship with the staff and pupils.

When Stuart talked about returning this year I wasn't so sure but nevertheless off we went, this time with Lucy, an 18 year student from Looe, (Biddy and Stuart's granddaughter) and armed with waterproofs, as we always seem to hit the rainy season.

This is a school that reaches some of the poorest people in the area and when David returned from Magu to support it, it was always on the understanding that it would be financially viable.

In its first years, the Methodist Church of Liskeard and Looe, Liskeard Rotary, and friends from this village and around gave generously to support teachers' salaries, put in fresh water and solar panels.

The school aims to teach all lessons in English, the only way pupils have a chance to go on to secondary school. We are amazed at how well



Lucy, Bidy, myself, the headmistress and Stuart



One of the classes at the school

they are doing, coming regularly top of their district in the regular exams they have to take.

The school is able to support itself, just, but there is always need.

Many families live with HIV and Judith, the wonderful Kenyan head mistress has opened her 'home' to several needy children.

We were able to take out a little money and buy a photocopier for the school to prevent them having to pay every month for the copious tests and exams. We are also hoping it will be able to help them build up a resource bank of materials. A generous gift also went to help pupils struggling to pay their fees this term.

We left Tanzania with an emotional farewell; the songs and speeches of the pupils ringing in our ears.

We have come back to England determined to raise some money for a much needed replacement school bus (second hand of course) that ferries about a third of their pupils in from remote areas. The present one seems to be held together by a wing and a prayer. We have made no promises but hopefully before the end of this academic year (December) we shall be able to send something towards this essential item.

With this in mind I shall be opening my house for a coffee and scones morning on Friday 6 June 10.00 am-12.00 noon. All are welcome.

Anita Nicholson (Pillaton Cottage, the Row, Pillaton)

1970s and 80s Quiz

A great time was had by all at the 1970s and 1980s quiz night held in Pillaton Village Hall on the 25 April. The event was organised by Kev Edwards and Jeremy Barker to raise money for their charities Moorfields Eye Hospital and Guide Dogs.

Kev and Jeremy are both taking part in the 'Ride London' cycling event. This is a 100 mile cycle ride taking place on the 10 August 2014, starting at the Olympic Village in Stratford London. Each charity required a minimum donation of £500 so the pressure was on to find a fun way of raising this amount.

With a grand total of £800 being raised through the quiz, raffle and donations pledged, Kev and Jeremy would like to express their thanks and gratitude to everyone for their support and generosity. Thank you also to the raffle prize and food donations provided by First Great Western, Glow, Waitrose, Weary Friar Pub, Cardinals Hatt, Pizza Express, The Life Centre Plymouth, Tesco, Sainsburys and The Co-op.

It was a fantastic achievement and a brilliant night.

Kev Edwards & Jeremy Barke

LIVING CHURCHYARD SPRING UPDATE

Spring is at last in the air and the Living Churchyard project is beginning to come together; the 3000 bulbs planted by volunteers in November are coming into flower and the area is awash with daffodils and narcissi; the muscari are just beginning to show and the crocus are putting on a fine show as are many smaller flowers just peeping out.

As you walk into the churchyard, you will see a curved grass path down the middle. The area to the left of that is given over to wild flowers – the first part annual wildflowers from Emorsgate Seeds (special cornfield mixture mixed with the special meadow mix), sown today - whilst the area beyond is beginning to be established as a permanent wildflower meadow with seed gathered from Lethyep Gardens when the meadows were mown last autumn http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/news/News_pages/A_wild_tour_at_Lethyep. Primroses and primulas are adding to the natural look and it is planned that these will be supplemented by foxgloves and other wild native flowers. Loads of snowdrops have been planted which will enliven the scene next winter.

The Millenium yews have been moved to the north of the site and appear to be taking the move well so far – they have certainly been well watered in! The other trees which are beginning to spring into life are a set of Sorbus – Lemon Drop, November Pink and Olympic Flame to the west, an Acer Crimson King, a Malus Evereste and behind the seat base is a Glastonbury Thorn, all donated by parishioners. The next tree will be a Liquidamber in the next couple of weeks. The plan is to have 17 trees on the site so that they can be appreciated but so can the view from the seats which have been donated and will be positioned shortly on the prepared bases. The beginning of the hedge down the eastern side has been planted with trees donated by the Woodland Trust and will be completed as the bank is constructed using the excess soil from behind the church. A team from SR Training at Bush Farm are assisting and have already made a walkway into the old churchyard which will allow step free access.

We have purchased green mesh ground stabiliser which will be laid at the top of the gravel drive to allow car parking and a mirror established opposite the entrance to make exiting the area safe.

A bee hive from Tamar Bees will arrive in the next couple of weeks and be positioned at the far end of the site on the eastern side; a warning sign will be placed to warn people not to interfere with the hive. If there are any problems with the bees, please contact me to discuss.

We are in discussion with English Heritage as to what would be acceptable in the environs of a Grade 1 listed area for the housing of the lawn tractor, which has recently been purchased, and also provide habitats for birds, bats and bugs.

Volunteers would be much appreciated to:

Finish preparing the area of the old hedges ready for grass seed to be sown.

Level the area behind the church and move the spoil to the new eastern boundary.

Assist in laying the stabilising matting.

Tidy the eastern end of the old churchyard bank.

Plant native plants, surplus to your own garden requirements particularly single flowered for the bees or with seeds for the birds in the Living churchyard area. When you are dividing your narcissi, lily of the valley, English bluebells etc, please donate a few to the project.

Please contact me if you are able to provide any assistance, either as a one off or on a continuing basis

Tony Rowe (01579-350669)

We are blessed living in Cornwall with its acid soil that enables to have gardens full of the best bloomers at this time of year! The wet, wet winter has stimulated our camellias, magnolias and rhododendrons to perform spectacularly for us in our own gardens.

FRUIT CASE

I am overwhelmed with the quality and quantity of blooms in my garden; even transplanted shrubs seem to have made a tremendous effort. I have 3 yellow magnolias, 2 larger specimens about 8 years old and a young one, bought as a maiden stick 3 years ago which has finally flowered this year, delicious cups of yellow, deeper than the paler lemon stars of the more mature plants.

I love my garden and delight in the spring tidal waves of colours that repeatedly wash over me, now the shrubs are established, and conveniently hide the weeds beneath. I find myself breathing in the delicate beauty, rather than working on those weeds.

The fecundity of spring has filled my nest boxes to bursting, the impatient ever hungry young, demanding yet more food. My garden has produced squadrons of sparrows, blusters of blackbirds, a tumble of tits, and even a brood a precious thrushes, so far.

I have not seen any baby wrens this year but that does not mean they are not around. When walking Mabel along the lane by Bethany's Wood, I was stopped in my tracks by the repeatedly agitated call of a wren dancing on a branch overhead. He was hopping mad as I was invading his territory. The paucity of swallows is alarming, just the occasional single bird here and there, and just 4 years ago they performed aerial acrobatics in vast numbers overhead, to the imagined strains of Sir William Walton. In better times, at the end of the summer, they would line up on the wires around the Weary, close spaced flapping and grooming their wings prior to departure for warmer climes. I hope they have a successful breeding season, lets hope the wires fill up by their departure date.

I am sad to relate the passing of Auntie Jessica, she seemed to be recovering well at home, but maybe she was not cut out to be the Bear, or should I say Hog Grylls of the guinea pig world. Tania found her as if sleep in her bed. RIP Auntie Jessica.

Jan Simms



TAMAR VALLEY HEALTH CENTRES PATIENT SURVEY 2014

The tvhPPG contributed to the March 2014 annual patient survey conducted by the GP Practice operated from the Callington and Gunnislake Health Centres and also carried out a more limited survey of its own in November 2013. Several hundred patients answered the questions and many made individual comments about the quality of service provided by the Practice. Full details of the survey results and the Practice's responses are available on the Practice web-site at www.call-gunn.org.uk, but some major themes from the results are given below in this brief summary:

Clinical Care Provided By The Practice

The Practice has had a very high satisfaction rate in recent surveys. In 2014 approximately 80% of respondents considered that their clinical problems had been fully or mainly dealt with by the practice, but this very good ratio was a little lower than in 2013, with the slippage concentrated on the Callington Health Centre. The Practice reports that it has been struggling with a continuing problem with the recruitment of GPs (at one stage last year there was a shortfall of 2.5 full-time equivalent doctors with a particularly tight situation at Callington). This recruitment problem is causing concern at both national and regional level, but the Practice expects to be up to strength from April this year and this should help matters.

Appointments

Over three quarters of patients reported that they could get the appointments they wanted, but nearly a third felt that the time they had to wait to get it was unacceptable. Here again, there were fewer complaints from Gunnislake than from Callington.

Reception Issues

95% of respondents found receptionists to be helpful or reasonable, but behind this very satisfactory rate were a series of issues relating to the appointment making and receptionist service such as confidentiality of the surroundings and defensive attitudes. Receptionists are a buffer between patient and GP and are likely to be under pressure in current circumstances. The Practice plans to do more customer service training this year to see if this helps, but a more general review of this service could be desirable.

Pharmacy Services And The Annual Medication Review Process

There have been some adverse comments about the way these reviews have been conducted, with a few patients preferring to be seen by a GP than by a pharmacist. The process may need to be better explained to patients who may not understand that the medication review is not intended to be a full medical check-up. Rather, it focuses on how well the medication is working and pharmacists are experts in this area.

Parking

A continuing problem with no obvious solution without the relocation of the Centres, but there is hope that the Council car park in Gunnislake could become more user friendly if ownership were transferred to the Town council.

Don King, Chairman of TVHPPG

THE PRACTICE RESPONSE

We are enormously grateful for the help and advice of the PPG and hope that many more patients will become actively involved. It has been a very difficult period over the last few years with a number of GP retirements and other changes which have coincided with a national recruitment crisis. In addition, the practice has been struggling with computer problems which have been crippling at times and which are only now (April 2014) being resolved by the NHS providing a long-overdue upgrade to our NHS broadband (we cannot use commercial broadband for confidentiality reasons).

We are hoping that the improvements in doctor numbers - Drs Lindsay, Belam, Wisely and Rainsbury have joined us in recent months - will ease the pressures on appointments and look forward to a very health and happy 2014 for patients and practice team alike.

SEARCHING FOR THE PAST - A REQUEST FROM TERI CALLAHAN

In the mid 1800s several of the children of William Nicholls Vosper left England and settled in New York and New Jersey in the United States. My great grandfather, Charles Vosper, was one of them. My husband and I are travelling to Cornwall in June to visit Pillaton and the many surrounding parishes where the family lived in an attempt to reconnect with our family's past.

My records indicate that the Vosper family first arrived in Pillaton about 1770, when Robert Vosper, my 3rd great grandfather was baptized. He was buried in Pillaton in 1847. He married Mary Bawden of Cornwood in 1795, and they had 11 children, including William Nicholls Vosper, my 2nd great grandfather. Mary was buried in Pillaton in 1848.

William was born in Pillaton in 1821, and lived there through 1851. They moved to Plymouth by 1854. William married Elizabeth Boundy, of Quethiock and they began having children in Pillaton in 1840. Their children John (b. 1843), Eliza (b. 1859) and William relocated to New Jersey. Their son, Charles (my great grandfather) was born in Plymouth in 1863, and went to New York at the age of 19, where he married Emma Axt, the daughter of a German shoemaker. Records indicate the Vospers were shoemakers by trade, and my great grandfather continued that tradition in New York.

I would be grateful to anyone who could supply any information about where in Pillaton the Vosper family may have lived, or any other information about them. If you do have any information that you would be willing to share, please contact me at infoseeker@roadrunner.com

Teri Callahan

My Bank Holiday

So, yesterday, I was dragged from my bedroom at about 12.00 noon (pretty early if you ask me) and press-ganged into helping at the Village Hall. I was told by my parents that it was for a good cause, but was given no choice about whether I wanted to go or not! Grudgingly, I did as I was told and headed up to the Village Hall to wash plates, sell cake and smile. I didn't really understand why I was there. Quickly I discovered it was in aid of the commemoration of the start of World War 1 and everyone from Pillaton parish had been invited to plant poppy seeds around their homes. Despite not wanting to be there at the beginning it was quite enjoyable and it felt like almost everyone from the parish was there. I managed to tough it out until 3.00 pm at which point my fingers had turned white and wrinkled from the constant washing up. I decided to have a cake break and feign illness. My parents relented and I was released to go home and wrote this very article. And did some revision for my science GCSE. And completed another homework task. There is no rest for the wicked I can tell you, but it did get me thinking about the world war and I am looking forward to future events that will be held this year. As long as they don't start before 10.00 am.

Luke Taylor

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Wuthering Heights	Wed. 25 th June	7.30pm
Romeo and Juliet	Thurs. 31 st July	7.30pm
*Robin Hood	Thurs. 28 th August	6pm

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DIARY FOR THE BENEFICE

DATE	DAY	SERVICE/EVENT	CHURCH
18 May	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	St Dominic
21 May	Wednesday	1200 Pasty Lunch, Rectory Room	Cargreen
25 May	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	St Mellion
		1000 Morning Service	St Dominic
31 May	Saturday	1330 Wedding John Read/Casey Belsher	St. Mellion
01 Jun	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	Pillaton
		1800 Evensong	Halton Quay
07 Jun	Saturday	1930 South West Chamber Choir	Landulph
08 Jun	Sunday Pentecost	1000 Benefice Eucharist	Landulph
15 Jun	Sunday	1000 Father's Day	Pillaton
		1000 Benefice Eucharist	St Dominic
18 Jun	Wednesday	1200 Pasty Lunch, Rectory Room,	Cargreen
20 Jun	Friday	1930 St. Joseph's Girls School Choir	Pillaton
21 Jun	Saturday	1400 Wedding William Leslie/Susan Glover	Landulph/St. Mellion
		1200 - 1400 Pasty & Pudding	St. Dominic
		1830 Caroline Bergius Duo/Isaria Concert	Landulph
22 Jun	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	St Mellion
		1000 Matins	Landulph
26 Jun	Thursday	Deanery Synod Bishop Cornish School	Saltash
29 Jun	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	St Dominic
06 Jul	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	Pillaton
		1800 Evensong	Halton Quay
13 Jul	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	Landulph
		1300-1700 Cherry Feast	St. Mellion
16 Jul	Wednesday	1200 Pasty Lunch Rectory Room	Cargreen
20 Jul	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	St Mellion
26 Jul	Saturday	1200 Wedding Emily Watts/Simon Venner	Landulph
		1500 Wedding Chris Jukes/Stephanie Baker	St. Dominic
27 Jul	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	St Dominic
		1000 Matins	Pillaton

BENEFICE CONTACT DETAILS

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

Messages: Betty Reynolds (Secretary) 01579 351069

E-mail: springers45@aol.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 21 May	Pillaton Parish Council Meeting, Pillaton Village Hall
Thu 5 Jun	Tamar Valley Health Patient Participation Group, Gunnislake Health Centre
Fri 6 Jun	Coffee Morning, Pillaton Cottage, The Row, Pillaton
Wed 18 Jun	Pillaton Parish Council Meeting, Pillaton Village Hall
Fri 20 Jun	St Joseph's School Choir Concert, St Odulph's Church, Pillaton
Sun 29 Jun	Pillaton Garden Safari
Sun 13 Jul	Cherry Feast, St Mellion
Wed 16 Jul	Pillaton Parish Council Meeting, Pillaton Village Hall
Sun 27 Jul	Summer Barbeque, Rick Park Farm
Sat 6 Sep	Pillaton Gardening Club Summer Show, Pillaton Village Hall
Sat 29 Nov	Entertainment from 'Girls Out Loud' and meal, Pillaton Village Hall
Sat 7 Mar 2015	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 20 May	Recycling
Tue 27 May	Garden Waste
Tue 3 Jun	Recycling
Tue 10 Jun	Garden Waste
Tue 17 Jun	Recycling
Tue 24 Jun	Garden Waste
Tue 1 Jul	Recycling
Tue 8 Jul	Garden Waste
Tue 15 Jul	Recycling
Tue 22 Jul	Garden waste

Village News

**DISTRIBUTION & COPY DATES
2014/15**

Issue No.	Copy Date	Dist. Date
172	7 Jul	25 Jul
173	8 Sep	26 Sep
174	3 Nov	21 Nov
175	5 Jan	23 Jan
176	2 Mar	20 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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Publication date: Friday 25th July 2014

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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
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Any queries please call Robin Dwane on 01579-351560.

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