

Pillaton Village News

Issue 177 May 2015

Village web site at www.pillaton.org.uk

NEW SOLAR FARM



The new solar farm at Newton Ferrers (image courtesy Dave Dolley)

In recent months it would be impossible for anyone living in Pillaton not to have noticed the effect the construction of the new solar farm at Newton Ferrers has had on our local lanes. The solar farm, situated adjacent to the road running between Amy Tree and Clapper Bridge, is the largest such installation in the South West, covering 80 acres and consisting of about 80,000 solar panels. During its construction phase heavy lorries bringing materials down our narrow country lanes caused damage to hedgerows and road signs along with some traffic disruption. The solar farm is in St Mellion parish and the need to link it to the National Grid sub-station at Ellbridge necessitated the digging of trenches across our parish for new underground cabling. This resulted in very muddy conditions on the roads particularly during the early Spring when it was wet. Fortunately most of the disruption is now at an end, but the issue of compensation for the damage caused by the solar farm contractors is still being pursued by the Parish Council in conjunction with Cornwall County Council.



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Pillaton Village News

No. 177 May 2015



The last few weeks have encompassed two very significant national anniversaries, the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli Landings on 25 April and more recently on 8 May the 75th Anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day).

Squeezed in between the two we had the first General Election to be held since 2010 on 7 May. I suspect for some people General Elections are tiresome and to be avoided at all cost, whilst for others they can arouse high passions. As usual in Pillaton the Village Hall was brought into action as the local polling station with the polls being open 7.00 am and 10.00 pm.

Fortunately the day was dry and across the South East Cornwall constituency some 50,498 votes were cast; a healthy 71.1% turnout compared to 68.7% five years ago, resulting in the sitting Conservative MP Sheryll Murray being re-elected with an increased majority.

Just in case anyone is worried that the Village News is about to become some kind of strident, campaigning journal, my purpose in mentioning the election in this editorial is not to make any particular political point, but to ensure the event is included as a matter of record.

The next copy date is 6 July 2015 - full details page 27.

Robin Dwane, Editor



Based in Pillaton, near Saltash, Cornwall, PL12 6QS

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PILLATON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 18 March 2015

ATTENDANCE Cllrs. Dolley, Heap, Martin and Warne.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None.

PUBLIC FORUM

There was one member of the public present. Mr Warwick questioned if the Parish Council had acted correctly in approving the new building in the Row. Mr Warwick and his neighbours believe that the new building is out of proportion to the neighbouring buildings and that the parking is inadequate. The Parish Council responded by stating they believe the parking to be satisfactory when the builders vehicles and equipment were removed but noted that in their response to Cornwall Council in respect of the planning application they had stated that the plans were inadequate. Accordingly the Parish Council agreed to write to Cornwall Council planning department seeking a reply to the Parish Council's concerns regarding the inadequacy of the plans. Mr Warwick thanked the Parish Council for their efforts.

MINUTES

The Minutes of 18 February 2015 Council meeting were accepted unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING None.

PLANNING PERMISSION

The Clerk was asked to contact Cornwall Council requesting that the Parish Council be informed when a recommendation for approval or objection by the Parish Council was overturned by Cornwall Council.

SOLAR FARM

Cllr Martin explained that he had been in regular contact with Cornwall Council commenting on the damage, mud and obstruction to local roads caused by the Contractors vehicles. Cllr Martin provided copies of e-mails and photographs indicating the extent of the problem and responses from Cornwall Council's enforcement team. The Clerk was asked to contact Cornwall Council to seek assurance that monies were obtained from the Contractor to remedy the damage prior to the Contractor leaving the site.

FINANCE

The Council approved payments of £720 as Clerk's salary and £180 to the Inland Revenue.

The Bank position of current account £468 and deposit £1,833 was noted.

STANDARDS TRAINING

The Council received in house training from the Clerk in respect of Standards.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk was asked to organise a safety check on the playground equipment and to seek advice on signage.

Cllr Martin agreed to continue as the representative on the Village Hall Committee.

It was noted that the owners of the field bordering the road at the top of the Village had undertaken to trim the hedges. Cllr Martin pointed out the existence of the facility on Cornwall Council's web site to report problems such as pot holes or uncut hedges.

Chairman D Dolley

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PILLATON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 15 April 2015

ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Cllr Warne and County Councillor D. Pugh.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES

The Minutes of 18th March 2015 Council meeting were accepted unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING

The Parish Council noted the response from Cornwall Council regarding the damage caused by the solar farm contractors with the statement that they were monitoring the situation. However no action had been taken by Cornwall Council to remedy the problems including the continued closure of roads in the area in excess of the closure orders. The Clerk was asked to make complaints to Cornwall Council and Cllr Harris volunteered to report the damage as criminal damage to the Police.

PLANNING PERMISSION

The Parish noted that Cornwall Council had not responded regarding the system for informing the Parish Council if an application was approved or rejected. It was observed that Cornwall Council planning authority had taken action in accordance with the Parish Council's comments in respect of the planning application for the new build at the Row.

FINANCE

The Council approved the accounts and Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2015.

The Bank position of current account £748 and deposit £833 was noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Martin recommended the removal of the damaged barbeque at the Hall and the Chairman said he would seek approval from the Village Hall Committee.

It was hoped that the owners of the field bordering the road at the top of the Village would complete the trimming of the hedges.

The Council regretted the amount of dog mess in the Village and trusted that dog owners would be more considerate in removing the faeces.

Chairman D Dolley



BARBEQUE

At

RICK PARK FARM

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On

SUNDAY 26 JULY

1.00 P.M.

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Summer Solstice Soirée

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Village Hall 7pm for 7.30pm



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Served with new potatoes and a selection of salads

Desserts: *Summer Berries *Lemon Mousse

***Cheeses**

Please bring your own drink

Cost will be £15 per head.

Reserve your ticket now from either Ann (351289) or Sue (350065)

Chill factor guaranteed, straw hats and boaters optional!

Profits will go towards the maintenance of Pillaton Village Hall

NEWS FROM THE PILLATON WORLD WAR ONE COMMEMORATION GROUP

It is just over a year since this group was formed, with two events organised in 2014 by the Management Committee – the Plant a Million Poppies in May and the Vigil in St Odulph's on 4 August commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Great Britain's Declaration of War.

For 2015, to support the group's aim of providing a lasting commemoration of the impact of World War One on Pillaton and wider society, two fund raising events are in the initial stages of planning. These will be a Cream Tea and a charity Clay Pigeon Shoot both probably in September. Full details of both events will be announced as soon as the events and their dates are confirmed.

The local fund raising, together with submission of grant applications to local and national funding sources, is in support of the Group's objective of providing a lasting commemoration legacy. This is to purchase for the parish, in perpetuity, the playing field adjacent to Pillaton Village Hall. This facility is currently leased to the local community (unlike the Village Hall which is owned outright), but the owners have kindly and generously agreed in principle to sell this crucial, much loved and well used resource. Whilst details remain commercially confidential, the Group's Management Committee feels that raising sufficient funds, both locally from within the community, and from grant applications, is achievable, and can be completed before the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War in November 2018.

The Group also hopes to publish more information and historical background to the First World War, and especially its impact on Pillaton over the course of the next three years.

Please do support these fund raising events. If you have any ideas or would like to assist or contribute to the above events, please contact either the Group's Chairman, Peter Johnson (01579 351409) or Secretary, Chris Ley (01579 351033).

"Pretty Things", please!

Bangles, beads, belts, brooches, buckles, gloves, handbags, hats, scarves 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 12 July. Thank You!

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

PILLATON AND THE GREAT WAR

An evening of words and music on Saturday 17 October
at 7.30 pm in Pillaton Village Hall.

The small group working on this evening are putting together a programme that promises to be really different. It will include words and music, projected images and sound effects and will take you back in time to the years between 1914 and 1918. It tells the story of a rural village and its young men enduring the war years.

Tickets for this evening will be limited, so please think about reserving your tickets well in advance for what will be a truly special and unique event. Ticket price will be £6 per head, to include a glass of wine and light refreshments.

Profits will be shared between the Village Hall (where some of our Village Heroes spent their school days) and Help for Heroes.

Please contact Ann (351289) or Sue (350065) to reserve your seat.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SPAM E-MAILS PRETENDING TO BE FROM APPLE ITUNES

Action Fraud and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) have been made aware that there are currently a number of e-mails being sent out that appear to be coming from Apple iTunes, detailing a recent purchase.

The email states that if customers did not purchase the item they should click on the link provided to obtain a refund. Once redirected to a web page they are asked to fill out their card and other personal details. This is a spam email with links to a malicious web page that is being used to harvest personal details, possibly in order to access victim's bank accounts.

Protect yourself:

Double check where the e-mail has come from before clicking on the link.

Check your iTunes account for recent activity.

Consider contacting iTunes separately to double check your account activity.

Remember iTunes will not request your personal details via email or through attached links.

If you have filled in one of the forms, do not use online banking until you have had your computer checked out by an expert. Also consider contacting your bank to make them aware of the situation – money held in your account may be at risk.

This information has been sent on behalf of Action Fraud (National Fraud Intelligence Bureau). Tel: 0300 123 2040. Web: www.actionfraudalert.co.uk



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Are You a Patient or Carer of Callington/Gunnislake Health Centres?



The 'Patients Group' exists

to improve your overall experience of a visit to the surgery and get answers to your questions. The Group is recruiting new members to promote their ongoing work.

Can You Spare some time to help with publicity, distribute information, use your expertise to further this great cause. Or have you first hand knowledge of our Health System, how it works and possible improvements to assist the Group.

This is a Great Opportunity to be part of the 'Health Community' for anyone who has an interest in the functioning of the NHS, especially in a Practice that recently received very good reports from the Care Quality Commission which included two outstanding commendation, one for the employment of primary care pharmacists, who manage patients' annual medication reviews, the other for the TicTac drop-in service the practice runs at Callington Community College.

So please come and be a part of the Group. Either email tvhppg@outlook.com, visit the www.tamarvalleyhealth.co.uk, pick up a form when you visit the surgery or come to the next Open Meeting at Gunnislake Surgery on 10 June 2015 at 7.00pm.

St. Mellion School News

The Summer term is now well under way! The children continue to work hard to ensure that they make as much progress in their learning as is possible. At the end of last term Class 1 thoroughly enjoyed their trip with St Dominic School to the Theatre Royal to see a performance of *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*. They all came back wiggling their 'tails' to a new tune that they had learnt! In April our oldest pupils spent a day at Callington College being taught by the modern foreign languages department. It is important that children are aware of the possible dangers of the internet and in April our Class 3 pupils were briefed by PCSOs on cyberbullying. As a result of this teaching we very much hope that are pupils will be able to keep themselves safe from attack, and know what to do should they be bullied on the internet. Children in Class 2 have recently taken a trip to Looe fish market and Pengelley's fish shop to see the local catch and learn about the fishing industry. On return to school the children prepared and cooked smoked mackerel pate and fish pie. Prospective MP Phil Hutton came to school to talk to the children about the election and the parliamentary process, (he of course, did not promote any political agenda). As well as the basics in mathematics, English, science and computing, by the end of this term the children will have enjoyed a wide variety of additional learning opportunities. There are plans for our children to take their learning out into the local environment, for example Class 1 will go to the beach to study animal habitats. Our youngest children are currently enjoying weekly football coaching from a Cornwall FA coach. Our Y6 pupils are looking forward to their three day trip to London. Mrs Copson and I will be whizzing the children around London catching many of the famous landmarks as well as taking a short tour of the National Gallery, a workshop and visit to the newly refurbished imperial War Museum, and much more. We will stay on board a ship moored in Canary Wharf with the most spectacular night time views of the nearby skyscrapers! Also underway is the planning for Y5 adventurous activities at Siblyback Lake. Later in the term we will be holding a Sports day, swimming gala, attending Area Sports and so much more. The diary is, as usual, packed full!

We love to celebrate success and our pupils enjoy Celebration Assembly each week. We celebrate how many house points or 'smilies' have been collected by each of our four teams as they work hard and behave demonstrating respect and empathy for others, we celebrate good attendance, birthdays, we celebrate individual academic and sporting achievements both in and out of school. We recently recognised Annelie's achievements in coming 6th in a county wide Y6 girl Biathlon. She is an amazing athlete and we are so proud of her dedication to a whole range of sports. One weekend in April an intrepid group of 13 cyclists, some parents, some friends of the school, including my husband, cycled from Penzance to St Mellion. They were raising money for the planned community/school hall. A second group of 3



ladies completed an arduous 90 mile cycle on Dartmoor, in one day. Sponsorship money is being collected and is likely to be in excess of £1000. Well Done!

Staff and governors recently nominated me for an award! I am Pirate Radio's Local Hero Award Employer of the Year 2015! Bren Welch (Assistant Headteacher), Hayley Christopher (Class 2 teacher), Pam Lowther (Chair of Governors) and I went to a glittering award ceremony in St Ives and I was lucky enough to be presented with the award. I felt very humbled as we listened to stories of real bravery and people who have battled through adversity.

I have decided to take early retirement at the end of the summer term. I have had a fantastic time over the 13 years that I have been at St Mellion School, and latterly St Dominic School. I could not have wished for more from headship. I count myself very fortunate. I know I will miss hugely all the adults and children who I have grown to love over all those years. However I am determined that this term will not be a sad time, but a joyous celebration of who we are and what we are. Watch out for the party invitations!

Since my announcement, Governors have been in discussion with the Local Authority and the Diocese of Truro, and an opportunity to explore an exciting partnership with Sir Robert Geffery's School, Landrake has arisen. As a result, from September 2015, St Mellion, St Dominic and Sir Robert Geffery Schools, which are all strong and successful primary schools, will start a trial period in which to collaborate and develop a cluster of excellence in learning and teaching, benefiting pupils and staff and strengthening the role the schools play within their local communities. Miss Bren Welch was recently appointed Head of Schools and will take up the post in September, managing and running both St Mellion and St Dominic Schools on a day to day basis under the overarching leadership of Mrs Julie Curtis. I feel very happy that I am leaving the schools in good hands and look forward to reading of future successes.

Angela Palin, Head Teacher

CALLINGTON U3A

Our speaker for March was Helen Dowdall, the Callington Town Clerk. She gave us an update on how the Cornwall Council and Callington council budgets are spent on local services. Helen is a local resident herself and keen to see that the budget is well spent in the community. She managed to put what could have been a very dry topic over in an interesting way and provoked several questions from the floor. She encouraged residents to bring any concerns to the One Stop Shop in the Town hall, where they can be brought to the attention of the appropriate department.

Why not come along and join us, have a look at our website www.callingtonU3A.co.uk to see all the activities that are available, not to mention the friendly people.

Contact Gillian Brown Tel. 01822 832533 Mob. 07719360406 for further details.

March Meeting

March is our annual meeting. This is when all the Officers are re-elected. How different this is from the country's general election. Mr Cameron et al take note! Our process is very gentle and considerate and we always end up with a very good result. This year was no different as we re-elected Lesley Allibone as our President. (Thank you Lesley)

At this meeting we do not have a speaker because of needing to do the "business". Instead we had a quiz, a slightly different one in that we did this as individuals than in teams. At first it seemed simple but it was soon very evident that it was quite testing for our brains.

So, I'm going to give you the opportunity to see how much cleverer you are than the ladies of the WI. Oh I can hear you saying well that won't be difficult but let's see shall we?

Parts of the body.

Name 12 different parts of the body that contain only three letters of the alphabet. No slang abbreviations or rudies! Sounds easy? Well there's leg, arm and no I'm not going to give you all the answers, it's now up to you! How are you getting on? If I speak nicely to Robin he may put the list towards the back of this issue. If not, you may never know!

(Editor's note: answers placed nicely at the bottom of page 20)

April Meeting

Following the annual meeting in March we have the resolutions meeting in April. This is where we vote to agree or not with a topic identified by the national WI and that every WI from across the land has the opportunity to comment on and vote for or against. It is then passed upwards through a process to reach those that make policy decisions for the Country.

This year's resolution was:

Failing to care – Assessment of need in the long term. We call on HM Government to remove the distinction between nursing care and social care.

Our WI after some discussion, voted unanimously to agree.

Following this we had a chance to see some of the items submitted as possible entries in the WI competition at the Royal Cornwall Show in June. As this year is the centenary of the WI the theme is very much "how it was then". So the completion asks for a card, a piece of delicate knitting, a flower arrangement and a Victoria sponge all to be of top quality and to be arranged in a box. We decided that a colour scheme and how it all fits together needs to be agreed by a subcommittee. This will be done!

Don't forget that we meet on the second Monday of the month, 7.30 in the Village Hall and new members are always welcome.

Pam Lowther

PILLATON WI

PILLATON WI OPEN MEETING

On Monday 13 July, Helen Wilson will give her acclaimed talk about Violet Pinwill, an Edwardian woodcarver whose carvings can be seen in our local churches.



This meeting is open to everyone, so ladies and gents are welcome to join us for Helen's talk at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Please pay at the door; cost £3 to include a cuppa and biscuits.

FORTHCOMING PILLATON WI DATES

- 8 June 2015 **Ed Buckingham 'The thrill of mountaineering.'** Duty: Jenny Francis, Trish Bobbin, Joyce Moore
- 13 July 2015 *Open Meeting* **Dr Helen Wilson '19th century wood carver Violet Pinwill.'** Duty: Alison Downing, Sue White, Noreen Symons
- 14 September 2015 **Craft Evening.** Duty: Alison Downing, Elizabeth Barton, Chris Barnwell
- 12 October 2015 **Harvest Supper.** Please bring a contribution of food.
- 9 November 2015 **Making Hats with Penny from The Hat Studio,** Tavistock. Duty: Jo King, Anne Bartlett, Greta Jope
- 14 December 2015 **Christmas Party.** Please bring a gift for Secret Santa.
- 11 January 2016 **Liz Llewellyn-Jones Cookery Demonstration.** Duty: Ann Barnicoat and Linda Mavin
- 8 February 2016 **Bob Stockhouse 'The birds in your garden.'** Duty: Mary Beeson, Linda Mavin, Eileen Renfree
- 14 March 2016 **Annual Meeting and Resolution Meeting.** Duty: Sandra Beal, June Hutfield, Sue Lucas
- 11 April 2016 **Alison Gribble Caribbean Cookery.** Duty: Chris Barnwell, Linda Mavin
- Other Dates to remember:**
May 2015 - Kernock Nursery visit; 4-6 June 2015 - Royal Cornwall Show;
August 2015 - Starts Theatre show; 5 September 2015 - Gardening Club Show;
December - Carol Singing; 19 March 2016 - Birthday Party; April 2016 - Group meeting

The WI celebrates 100 years of Inspiring Women!

The Women's Institute, or WI; I can visualize you glazing over! But please, read on! The WI has been inspiring women for 100 years and for any organization to last that long it has to have something going for it.

The first ever WI meeting was on 16 September 1915 in Anglesey, Wales. The WI had high ideals. Hoping to ease women's pain of separation from loved ones away fighting in the First World War, it aimed to revitalize rural communities and to encourage those same women to become more involved in producing the food the country needed during the War. When, at the end of the War, the Board of Agriculture withdrew its sponsorship, the Development Commission financially supported the work of the forming of new WIs and gave core funding to the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) until it could become financially independent. However, by 1926 WIs were fully independent and rapidly became an essential part of rural life.

Since then the organization's aims have broadened and it is now the largest women's voluntary organization in the UK with some 212,000 members in around 6,600 WIs. The WI remains independent of political parties, institutions, church and chapel, helping to explain why the WI has been extremely reluctant to support anything that can be construed as war work, despite their wartime formation. During the Second World War, they limited their contribution to such activities as looking after evacuees, and running the Government-sponsored Preservation Centres where volunteers canned or made jam of excess produce. All this produce was sent to depots to be added to the rations.

The ITV drama series, "Home Fires", currently showing on Sunday evenings, highlights the extent and importance of the role played by the WI during WW11, not only in regard to its activities supporting the Home Front, but also in terms of the friendship it offered to often isolated women who badly needed the companionship of other women, even if only for a few hours a month.

In 1948 NFWI bought Marcham Park in Berkshire and converted it into a short-stay residential adult education college, called Denman College in honour of Lady Gertrude Denman. Now referred to as Denman, it has grown and developed over the years and is a well-appointed adult education centre attended by approximately 6,000 students each year. It is open to non-members as well as members.

The WI plays a unique role in providing women with social and educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities.

Pillaton WI was founded in 1947, and is celebrating 68 years of fun and friendship during this Centenary Year. The first meeting was on 14 February 1947. Their President was local farmer Mrs. A. Renfree and the newly formed Institute had 26 members. This number has remained fairly constant and as I write, our WI has 28 members who meet on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

So what is the WI all about? And just who is a WI sort of person?

Well, take a look at our programme for the coming year to get an idea of our range of speakers and activities: our June speaker's topic is Mountaineering; in July, Helen

Wilson is giving her acclaimed talk about Edwardian woodcarver Violet Pinwill, samples of whose carvings are in our churches at Landulph and Pillaton; in August, we hope to enjoy a play at Sterts; in September, members will have a chance to get crafting; October will see us enjoy a social evening with a Harvest Supper; in November, Penny from The Hat Studio will help us create a hat; in December it's Christmas Party time; in January 2016, Liz Llewellyn Jones is giving a cookery demo; in February, it will be Garden Birds by Bob Stockhouse; March is our Annual Meeting; and in April, Alison Gribble will demonstrate Caribbean Cookery.

As our meetings finish with refreshments and a chance to socialise, there's no better way to meet new people, make friends and get to know each other. Pillaton WI is the best friendship club in the village! Any ladies may come along as a guest to any of our meetings for a guest fee of £3.00 and our July meeting will be open to anyone, male or female, for the same nominal charge.

Of course, this is only what happens in the Village Hall. As a member of Pillaton WI, you have access to all the activities arranged by Cornwall Federation of Women's Institutes (CFWI), including art and music days, study days on digital photography, river trips, coach trips and visits to vineyards, lunches, abseiling, horse riding, surfing, (I tried the surfing at Harlyn Sands a few years ago and thoroughly enjoyed the experience despite the water being a glacial 7 degrees), archery (I had a go at that too!), and fishing. The choice is endless. In fact, there's something for everyone and as with anything, you get out of it what you put in.

As this is the WI Centenary Year, we hope to organise some extra events to mark the occasion. Look out for posters on the Village Notice Boards and check the Village website to make sure you don't miss out.

Do try WI for yourself. You'll make lots of friends.

Ann Henderson

theWI
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1915 FOR 100 YEARS 2015



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The last month has put all previous Springs to shame, for the variety and range of blossoms over the past two months have been heavenly. My garden has been a visual delight, a living canvas of wave on wave successive blooming species and now the blossom is making way for those lemony-lime greens of new foliage just unfurling after the rain. So much to take in, and I do not take credit, for rain wind and fate, when all I do is plant the specimens and try to keep the weeds down.

When we first moved into this bungalow 11 years ago, there were several large camellias, taller than me. Many had never been pruned, some were shallow planted pushing up from the soil, many were lopsided with broken branches. All of these camellias had to withstand radical haircuts, replanting and be moved to better positions once the soil had been generously enriched with the help of Jenny's horse. We were delighted to find a tree peony buried at the back of a bed that had been seriously overshadowed by tall leylandii. The poor specimen was lying prostrate along the ground in an effort to find light, and despite being told that tree peonies do not transplant, we moved it to a sunnier position with good soil and with careful watering it now waves its many near buttercup blooms, like flags at a regatta every Spring. It also seeds prolifically and I have potted many seedlings for friends. Grateful thanks from a saved treasure.

The latest to bloom is my clematis Montana, both the white and pink; the white like a foaming waterfall along the back fence, and the pink, foaming all over the arbour that the blackbirds have nested in again. The shape is reminiscent of a '60s rubber bathing hat covered in flowers (there were a lot of odd fashions at that time).

My garden is well-fenced and it abuts five neighbours' gardens and a lane; that is a lot of fence. The hedgehog manages to get through a series of holes left for him at various points, so that he is free to use the hedgehog house beneath one of the big camellias and do his neighbourhood slug watch over several gardens. Mabel has on occasions dug beneath the fence in pursuit of rodent quarry, this year it has happened several times always at the same spot. I came to realise that it was not only Mabel, but a young badger who was easing her escape. He excavated a hole under the wire by my 'Cornish hedge', which I filled with rocks, bashed in 2 stakes and finally defeated him with chilli powder.

He was resourceful and made other holes from Heather's garden and at the back of Pete's garage. Now I like to support wildlife, I have a bat box, and an owl box, the hedgehog house and a frog pond but there are limits. I am too old hump large rocks and paving stones to block up holes. I know badgers are keen on a varied diet but guinea pig, frog and hedgehog are off menu in my garden.

Whilst dog walking I noticed a new badger sett, in the hedge just up from the church, and I assume that my nuisance was a youngster checking out the area. More seriously I have heard of ducks disappearing and chickens being decapitated, it is easier to stop up holes in gardens, or get an electronic scanner, as Heather has

FRUIT CASE

done, but badger-proof fencing to protect chickens, sounds a costly business, and using chilli powder by the ton is hardly feasible.

I will stop stressing about the brutality of Brock, and soak up the beauty of my yellow magnolia, a bursting mass of lemon stars amid soft unfurling leaves, food for the soul.

Jan Simms

CHURCH TRACTOR HOUSE

This is a begging letter for support to build a new stone and slate tractor-house at the north of the new churchyard behind the replanted Millennium yews. At long last I have three planning permissions for it: one from the Diocese by Faculty, one from the English Heritage and one from Cornwall Council. We are building it at the end of May. It will be breeze-block built, stone faced at the front facing the churchyard and rendered the other three walls. The doors will be as good as we can manage - if someone donated oak, that would be wonderful.

The stone facing will have deep holes to allow the tits and sparrows to nest, bat boxes will be incorporated in the building of the structure; bird boxes under the eaves will be made of wooden organ pipes from the old organ (a block of horizontal single homes); the back will be given to ivy for the invertebrates.

I raised some money from a grant for the Living Churchyard project last year which is available to fund about half the labour bill and I am looking for help with the remainder and the building materials. I am hoping that quite a lot of people will have just a few breeze-blocks laying about from past projects (I certainly have) and perhaps some spare slates and some timber for the roof; or you may know of some firm which has a community fund to support.

The following basic building materials are needed, 15 bags cement (£5.50 per bag), 210 blocks (about £1 each), 3 ton sand (3 x £40), 3 metre square membrane, 2 sq metre mesh and 100 wall ties (£24).

If you are able to help contact me on 01579-350669.

Tony Rowe

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This isn't an advert for Brittany Ferries, but they often have some good offers on their cross channel Plymouth-Roscoff route! Look out for money-saving coupons in the local newspapers.

Just over an hour's drive east from the charming port of Roscoff is one of Brittany's loveliest little islands situated off the Pink Granite coastline, north of Paimpol in the Côtes d'Armor region...

Gem No. 3 – Île de Bréhat, Brittany, France

Commonly known as 'paradise island', Bréhat is renowned for its mild climate, and as a sanctuary for rare species of wild flowers and birds of many kinds. Its symbol is the agapanthus which can be seen flowering all over the island in the summer, and other sub-tropical flora also thrive here. Only 10 minutes away from the mainland, accessible by a regular ferry service at Pointe de l'Arcouest, you can also take a 45-minute boat trip around the island which is in fact in the middle of an archipelago of islets. The island has two distinct halves, joined by a tiny solid bridge, and one main village – Le Bourg – which has shops, bars and restaurants around a pretty little square.

This delightful car-free island is approximately 3.5 km long and 1.5 km wide. With some 30km of paths, it is a delight to explore either by walking or cycling (there are cycles for hire). Bréhat was the first place in France to be classified as a site of outstanding natural beauty, and you can get a wonderful view from the highest point and landmark chapel of St Michel, and also splendid views from the Phare du Paon (lighthouse) at the northernmost end of the island. There are some fascinating buildings, including a citadel which is also home to a glassworks producing high-quality jewellery, vases etc. You can also see France's last remaining tidal mill, built in the 17th century, which was a working flour mill until 1920.

For accommodation – there is a hotel, furnished rental properties, B&Bs and a campsite. But for a bit of luxury at sensible prices, the Best Western hotel 'Les Terrasses de Bréhat' (situated near the ferry on the mainland) has a first-class restaurant, great service, individually styled rooms and breathtaking views!

If you want to explore inland, about 15 minutes' drive away is the historic coastal town of Paimpol, famous for its 'Icelanders' – fishermen who went on long trips to Iceland to fish for cod, often away for as much as eight months at a time, between the 15th and 19th centuries. For steam train enthusiasts, the Trieux Steam Railway links Paimpol to Pontrieux and travels through a beautiful valley. The Mallet steam locomotive has six period carriages, is over 100 years old and is listed as a French Historical Monument. About an hour's drive west from Bréhat you can enjoy some lovely walks around one of Brittany's most beautiful stretches of coastline at Perros-Guirec, where huge pink granite boulders form the most incredible shapes.

Linda Harris

TRAVEL TIPS AND TALES

WI Parts of the Body Quiz

The answers are: Eye, toe, leg, arm, ear, gut, rib, gum, fat, lip, lid and any other answers people can think of!

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THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ST. DOMINIC, LANDULPH
AND ST. MELLION-WITH-PILLATON

DIARY FOR THE BENEFICE

DATE	DAY	SERVICE/EVENT	CHURCH
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. Dominic
31 May	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	Landulph
03 Jun	Wednesday	0930 Weekday Communion, Lady Chapel	St. Mellion
07 Jun	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	St. Dominic
		1800 Evensong	Halton Quay
14 Jun	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	Pillaton
17 Jun	Wednesday	1200 Pasty Lunch The Rectory Room	Cargreen
21 Jun	Sunday	1000 Fathers Day Family Service	Pillaton
		1000 Benefice Eucharist	Landulph
28 Jun	Sunday	1000 Benefice Eucharist	St Mellion
12 Jul	Sunday	1300-1700 Cherry Feast, The School Playground	St. Mellion
		1700 Cherry Feast Closing Service	St. Mellion
15 Jul	Wednesday	1200 Pasty lunch The Rectory Room	Cargreen

Dates for services in July still to be announced

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.

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Pillaton Village Diary

Wed 20 May	Pillaton Parish Council Meeting, Pillaton Village Hall
Sun 31 May	Pentillie Gardens Open to Public & Squashbox Theatre (see advert)
Mon 8 Jun	Pillaton WI, Mountaineering talk by Ed Buckingham, Pillaton Village Hall
Wed 10 Jun	Open Meeting Tamar Valley Health Patient Participation Group, Gunnislake
Wed 17 Jun	Pillaton Parish Council Meeting, Pillaton Village Hall
Sat 20 Jun	Summer Solstice Soiree, Pillaton Village Hall
Sun 12 Jul	Cherry Feast, St Mellion School
Mon 13 Jul	Pillaton WI Open Evening, 'Violet Penwill, an Edwardian Woodcarver,' Talk by Helen Wilson, Pillaton Village Hall
Wed 15 Jul	Pillaton Parish Council Meeting, Pillaton Village Hall
Sun 26 Jul	Summer Barbeque, Rick Park Farm, Pillaton
Sat 5 Sep	Pillaton Gardening Club Annual Summer Show, Pillaton Village Hall
Mon 14 Sep	Pillaton WI Craft Evening, Pillaton Village Hall
Mon 12 Oct	Pillaton WI Harvest Supper, Pillaton Village Hall
Sat 17 Oct	Pillaton and the Great War Evening, Pillaton Village Hall
Mon 9 Nov	Pillaton WI, Hat Making, Pillaton Village Hall
Mon 14 Dec	Pillaton WI, Christmas Party, Pillaton Village Hall

RECYCLING DATES

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

Tue 19 May	Recycling
Tue 26 May	Garden Waste
Tue 2 Jun	Recycling
Tue 9 Jun	Garden Waste
Tue 16 Jun	Recycling
Tue 23 Jun	Garden Waste
Tue 30 Jun	Recycling
Tue 7 Jul	Garden Waste
Tue 14 Jul	Recycling
Tue 21 Jul	Garden Waste
Tue 28 Jul	Recycling

Village News

DISTRIBUTION & COPY DATES 2015/16

Issue No.	Copy Date	Dist. Date
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
183	2 May	20 May

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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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 6th July 2015
Publication date: Friday 24th July 2015

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

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor.
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Gardens Open with Squashbox Theatre Performing

In aid of Children's Hospice South West

Sunday 31st May, 12pm-1pm £6pp

(Children under 12 free). Friends of Pentillie members 1/2 price.

Wedding Preview Afternoon

Sunday 7th June, 1pm-4pm Free entry

An opportunity to view the Castle set up as a wedding venue, meet Pentillie's Wedding Team and gain expert advice from local wedding suppliers over a glass of bubbles!

To register your interest please email regan@pentillie.co.uk.

Keep your eyes peeled on our website for more 2015 events including Outdoor Cinema & Theatre, Garden Open Days, Guided Garden Tours AND the Pentillie Festival of Motorsport!

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