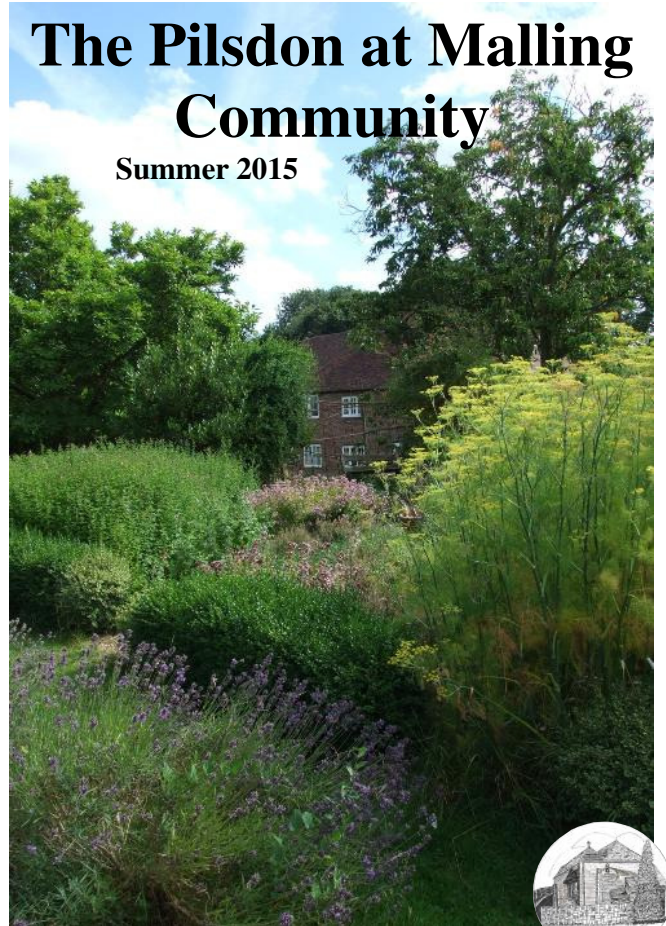


The Pilsdon at Malling Community

Summer 2015



A word from the Guardian

We are very pleased to announce that the new Guardian of Pilsdon at Malling will be the Revd Viv Ashworth. She and her husband, the Revd Tim, will be moving here towards the end of September and will spend a month working with us all before Dennis and I leave at the end of October. There will be an opportunity to meet them both at our Celebration on Saturday 19 September. I do hope that many of you will be able to join us – please see the invitation and details on [Page 8](#).

You'll also be able to see the log cabins, which are well on their way and are looking really good. We're looking forward to being able to start using them. We will finally have proper disabled facilities, although the site as a whole remains a challenge due to the different levels as it rises up the hill. There will be a disabled toilet for

use by visitors and accommodation including a disabled-friendly shower room.

Wayfarers will be able to sleep in a four-bed dormitory with shower room, we will have a recreation room where the pool table can live and perhaps it won't be long before we can celebrate the first Pilsdon at Malling Pool Champion! The freezers, food bank and other items needing storage will be housed in a large room next to the recreation room. There will also be drying racks in there for laundry because we lost a big drying space in the large greenhouse and struggled last winter to find enough space to dry bedding and other large items.

In the smaller cabin are four bedrooms and two shower rooms, one being the disabled room and wet room. It's very exciting and we are looking forward to showing them off to you all.

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In an attempt to save money—and the environment—we try to send newsletters by email to as many readers as possible. If you have email and do not already receive a digital copy of the newsletter, please drop a line to pilsdon@pilsdonatmalling.org.uk

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How bizarre ... there are many interesting and beautiful things at the Bazaar

We thoroughly enjoyed having Bazaar back in June with their wonderful clothes, hangings, throws, jewellery and many other interesting and beautiful things. It's always good to welcome Jo, Alex and the team here. Alex sold fabulous curries at lunch time and we had a small stall selling jams, bread, eggs and fruit crumbles, as well as our usual cakes and teas. Bazaar has been coming here twice a year for five years now and seems to have become a part of Pilsdon at Malling. We expect them to come back for the pre-Christmas show in December— watch the website for details.

We have enjoyed several concerts here over the past few months. Notable were the New Foxtrot Serenaders, who played songs and music from the Second World

War, and Gary Briley and friends, who played a mix of contemporary music and worship songs and helped to raise money towards our building fund – thank you so much Gary.

Another great fundraiser was Clive Bennett. Clive ran the London Marathon and raised in the region of £1,000 for us. It was a marvelous effort and we can't thank Clive and his family enough for all the wonderful support they have given us. The [JustGiving](#) site is still available for donations if you'd like to donate in retrospect.

Thank you to all of you for your support and prayers. Please continue to pray for us as we move forward into a new chapter in the life of Pilsdon at Malling.

Pam Rink
Guardian

Introducing Viv and Tim Ashworth

Tim and I are very much looking forward to joining the community at Pilsdon at Malling. We are currently living in Bolton where I have been Priest in Charge of two parishes for the past six years and Tim has been Prison Chaplain at HMP Forest Bank. It feels like we are coming full circle returning to the Rochester Diocese because we did our first curacy here at St. Stephen's Church, Tonbridge, some thirty years ago. Since then we have had experience of different kinds of ministry in several places including some very fulfilling years as part of the Scargill Community in the Yorkshire Dales.

We have two adult daughters. Lydia, who is married to Marcus, lives in the small market town of Chipping Sodbury near Bristol. She works at the Bristol Royal Infirmary as an

occupational therapist. Our younger daughter Lizzy lives in Wrexham in north Wales, where she is currently working for a furniture-making company developing her skills as a carver and cabinet maker.

We are both northerners, Tim grew up in Feniscowles, near Blackburn, and I was born in Preston but lived in Leyland from the age of three. We both went to Worcester College of Education to train for teaching and that is where we met. Married life began in Worcester where we both taught for several years before going to study theology at Trinity College Bristol.

We both love walking and getting out into the more remote places in the countryside. Our favourite place for holidays has been Austria though we have enjoyed many breaks in the Lake District, the

Our other new arrivals ...

It sounded like a good plan "Toby Jones has piglets for sale," said Pam. "Why don't we get some? It'll give us a chance to meet Toby and his community." And so, on a blustery July day, we arrived at Windsor Hill Wood to a warm welcome and a lovely cold lunch. The community there is far more rustic than the Pilsdons, and very laid back too. And very spread out, as



Yorkshire Dales and the north west of Scotland. Tim enjoys badminton and table tennis and hopes to make good use of the table tennis table at Pilsdon. He is also a keen Blackburn Rovers fan though he has had to sacrifice being a

season ticket holder to move to Kent. I am looking forward to spending more time in the gardens at Pilsdon and learning from other community members about how to grow things, which is something they seem to do very well.

Throughout our lives we have tried to follow God's leading, we are not sure whether we have always got it right, but our decision to move to Pilsdon has been with much prayer and heart searching and the desire to serve God together in this peaceful place. We'd value

your prayers for us and the community as we settle in and begin to get to know everyone and to learn as much as we can from Pam and Dennis before they move on.

Viv Ashworth

we discovered when we wanted to load up the pigs. The problem wasn't just the hill. Or the mud. Or the narrow, overgrown track that you have to reverse along to reach the pigs. Fortunately there were many willing hands to push the trailer along the track, up the hill, through the mud, so we got there, in the end.

And that was when the fun began. Oxford sandy and blacks are a rare breed, and clearly they want to

stay that way. Our select four turned out to be slippery customers. They had about a dozen of us chasing them with squeals of frustration and delight. They seemed to know every gap in the fence, every patch of mud that slowed us down and swallowed our shoes.

But in the end military planning and strategy — and a little cunning — won the day and the squealing wrigglers were deposited in the trailer for the journey to their new home.

Fundraising needs

We know that many of you already give generously to Pilsdon at Malling and we are really grateful for your continuing support. Your generosity has enabled us to achieve a huge amount over the eleven years we have been here at West Malling, especially recently with major maintenance needs and our log cabins.

Our new accommodation, however, is proving to be more



expensive than we had foreseen, mainly because new building regulations require us to fulfil requirements on sound proofing that were not originally envisaged. We have also had to do more to connect to gas and electricity than initially planned, which has in turn meant that the archaeologist spent more time here than we expected. All of this means that we need to raise more

funds in order to replace the money we will spend on this project that would normally be used to further our work of hospitality to all who come to our door. Ideally we need to raise in the region of £30,000 a year through fundraising and donations in order to maintain our ethos of welcome and hospitality to all, as well as the gardens and animals that help to provide an environment that nurtures and values all who come here.

I wonder whether you would

consider making either a one-off contribution, directly to us or to our special [JustGiving](#) site, or a regular monthly contribution by standing order or BACs (contact us for bank details), or perhaps, as some local churches already do, your church may consider adding us to their list of regular away giving.

Many thanks for considering this – you will be an answer to prayer!

Hi, I am Phil and in 2014 my life went downhill in a space of weeks. My Myotonic Dystrophy disability meant I could no longer work as a painter and decorator. This came at about the same time as my wife and I agreed to divorce and I became homeless and penniless. At this point in time I despaired and could see no future ... little did I know I was on the verge of big changes for the better.

In December 2014 I arrived at Pilsdon at Malling for a weekend visit, however on seeing how ill I was, I was invited to stay on and recover physically, mentally and emotionally. During the next few months I was able to spend time with some lovely people and a fantastic chocolate Labrador called George. Walking with the dog and helping around the community helped me to recover a positive spirit.

In October I was accepted by a vocational college at Leatherhead for retraining. This was a positive step which meant I lived in from Monday to Friday and returned to Pilsdon at Malling for the weekends. At college I passed an NVQ2 in Business Administration and seven certificates in Microsoft Computer skills, although I had very few computer skills when I arrived. I took every advantage of being at the College and even learnt to play the guitar (very badly).

Having left college I returned to



Pilsdon at Malling for a brief time while I did work experience at a housing association, which went very well. This improved my CV and confidence hugely.

I now work in a business administration role, have taken on the tenancy of a social housing flat with the help of the guardian at Pilsdon at Malling and have been given full access to my two small children. Life is the best it's been for years and I am happier with my new employment and new friends, including George the dog, than I was before my life crumbled.

From the adversity which I felt had destroyed me, I was given the opportunity to rebuild a better future than past. So thanks Pam and everyone at Pilsdon, it was a happy time and I still continue to visit.

What's on at Pilsdon

September

- 5th** St John the Baptist with St Mildred, Meopham: Quiet day
- 12th** Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride
- 12th-13th** Heritage Weekend: visit our beautiful 15th-century Barn Chapel and enjoy homemade refreshments at our Café in the Barn; there will also be a stall selling our own produce and homemade jams and bread.
- 19th** Pilsdon at Malling Celebration (see below).
- 20th-27th** Music@Malling: an international festival of music (go to [website](#) for full details).
1pm Friday 25th: Chamber Domaine performs works by Ravel and Debussy in the Barn Chapel.
 Concert — date to be confirmed.

October

December

- 11th-20th** Bazaar, in the Barn Chapel. Open daily (except Monday 14th) from 10am until 5pm.



The Pilsdon at Malling Community

invites you to a celebration day on
Saturday 19 September 2015

Please join us so that we can welcome the new Guardian to the community, celebrate the completion of our log cabin accommodation, and give thanks for eleven years of Pilsdon's presence in West Malling.

11.00 am	Arrival	
12 noon	Celebration eucharist	RSVP (for catering purposes)
1.30 pm	Lunch	pilsdon@pilsdonatmalling.org.uk
4.00 pm	Afternoon tea	
5.00 pm	Depart	Parking signposted in Water Lane