

## Is God Calling You to Join a Christian Community with a Purpose?

The Pilsdon at Malling Community is looking for new Community Members to be part of its life.

- \* We are an ecumenical Christian community with an Anglican foundation, seeking to live a sustainable lifestyle on six acres of land.
- \* We aim for a spirit of inclusiveness and acceptance in the hospitality we offer to those recovering from a life crisis, and to wayfarers.
- \* We seek a life balanced by a mix of prayer, manual work and recreation.
- \* A sense of vocation to Christian community living and service is essential, as is a physical and emotional robustness. See our website: [www.pilsdonatmalling.org.uk](http://www.pilsdonatmalling.org.uk)

For more information phone the Guardian, Viv, at 01732 870279 Or email [viv@pilsdonatmalling.org.uk](mailto:viv@pilsdonatmalling.org.uk)

### Forthcoming Events in the Barn Chapel



**The Bazaar** opens on 3<sup>rd</sup> June -12<sup>th</sup> June

**The Straight Eight Choir** will be giving a concert at 7.30pm on 26<sup>th</sup> June

**Music at Malling Concert** at 1pm 30<sup>th</sup> September

**A Flautist Concert** at 7.30pm on 28<sup>th</sup> October

**A Violin and Piano concert** on 18<sup>th</sup> November

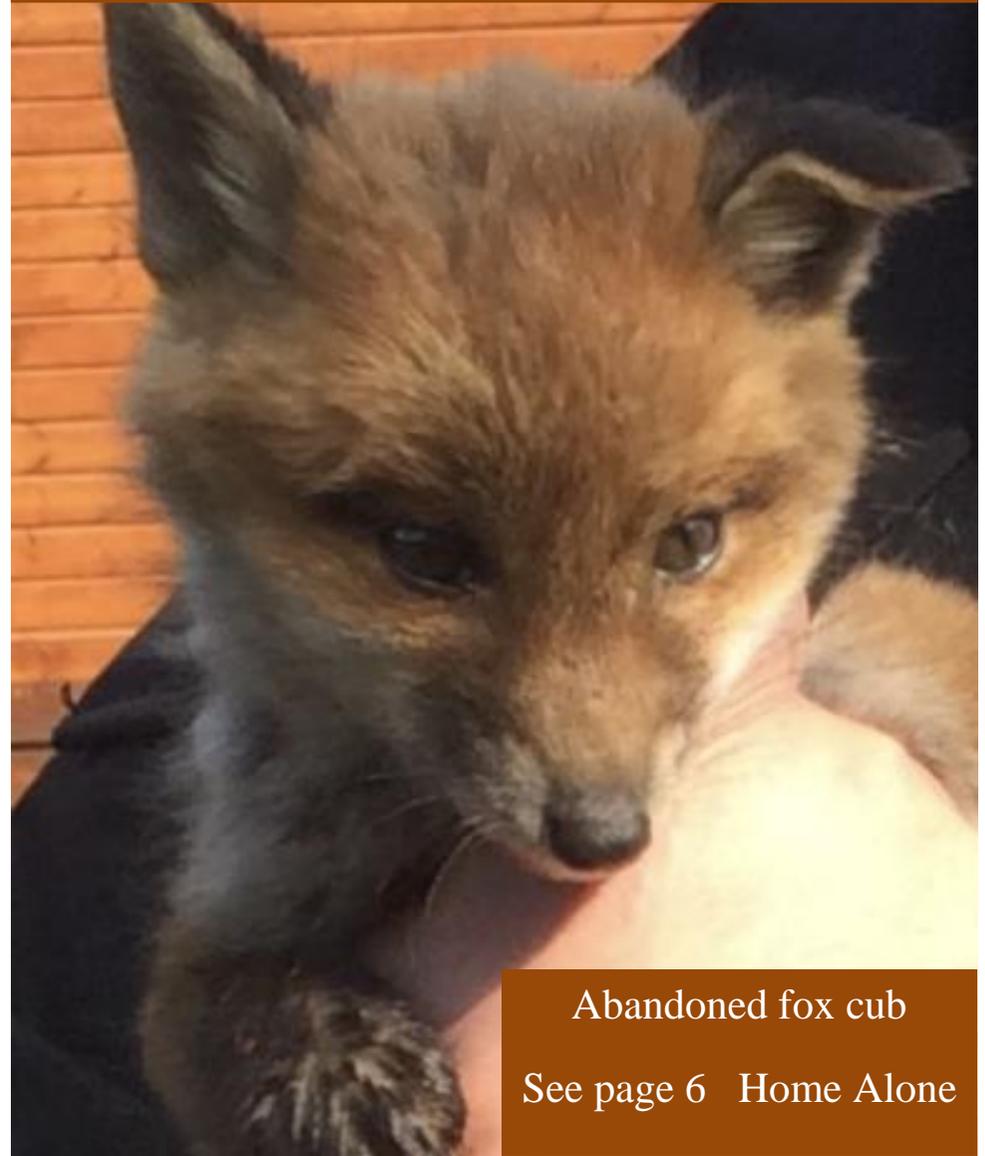
**The Bazaar** opens again on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec – 18<sup>th</sup> December



**Pilsdon at Malling Community**, 27 Water Lane, West Malling, Kent ME19 6HH  
Tel 01732 870279/01732 870434 [www.pilsdonatmalling.org.uk](http://www.pilsdonatmalling.org.uk)  
email: [pilsdon@pilsdonatmalling.org.uk](mailto:pilsdon@pilsdonatmalling.org.uk)

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 let us know. Pilsdon at Malling Community is a charitable company limited by guarantee. Company No. 6218667 Reg Charity No 1123682

## The Pilsdon at Malling Community Summer 2016

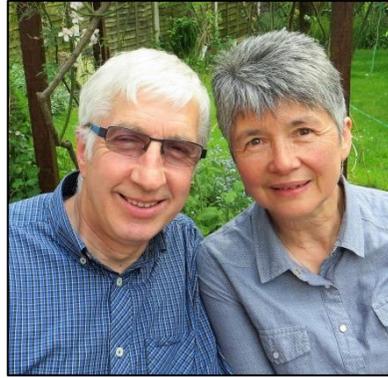


Abandoned fox cub

See page 6 Home Alone

## From the Guardian

As I write this Tim and I have been here for more than six months. How the time has flown. It's been a steep learning curve for both of us with lots to adapt to and find out about, but I think that we can happily say that we have settled into community life and are enjoying living here.



At present it is a very beautiful time of year with spring very much in evidence. The magnolia trees are in full bloom and the woodland by the main gate is awash with the colour of daffodils and bluebells. The ewes have had their lambs, eight this year, and it's fun watching them playfully chase after one another in the paddock.

## The Log Cabins



## Fit for Purpose

We are delighted to have the main greenhouse fully repaired, cleaned and cleared.



The vine is showing wonderful fresh growth and tomatoes are planted.





## Home Alone

Here at Pilsdon we are so entwined with our animal companions that drama is never far from our door.

A few weeks ago our emotions were pulled in multiple directions when we discovered that one of our beloved chickens had been taken by a fox.

Our initial thoughts were that it must have been a fox from the neighbouring parkland, but on closer inspection we discovered that we had our very own fox den, complete with three young cubs, a mere fifty yards from our chicken coop!

Our activity near the den caused the vixen and two of her cubs to take flight that night, but the smallest member of the family – obviously the runt of the litter - was left behind.

As distressing as the loss of the chicken had been, our feelings were transformed in an instant by the sight of this frightened, helpless, newly-abandoned little cub. There was much discussion over the table at lunch about what we should do – could we keep him? Could we tame him? Could he become the new mascot for Pilsdon? Or should we just leave him be and let nature take its course?

The sight of this little cub was such that it was impossible not to want to do everything in our power to help him, so a call was made to the RSPCA and within a few hours he was on his way to a wildlife rescue centre in Hastings, where he would be raised with other similarly orphaned cubs until he was fit enough to be released back into the wild.

This seemed a fitting conclusion to our dilemma – our chickens were safe and our most recent guest had been assured a safe passage to the next chapter in his life.

AH



Since we arrived it seems as though we have been continually trying to get sorted out. The log cabins, though completed in September, still had to be finished off inside with fire retardant liquid which needed three coats. We are grateful to Steve who lived with us for a while who, with others, painted on the invisible solution and helped to put the finishing touches to the log cabins so we could begin to move in. I am pleased to say that they are all now in full use.

The Recreation Room has been attractively furnished through generous donations from local people and provides us with a very comfortable quiet space for sitting and talking and small meetings. The wonderful smell of the wood also adds to the experience of spending time in there.

The Freezer and Food storage room is vital for organising the many donations that we receive for Pilsdon particularly at harvest time and throughout the year for the Food Bank which operates from here.

The Wayfarer Room, with ensuite facilities, has provided hospitality throughout the winter months for many of our regulars as well as some who have found

themselves homeless and needing some respite from living outdoors. One young couple on being shown the room exclaimed, “This is luxury!”

In the other log cabin a two-roomed flat with bathroom was created for Wasantha by adding a door in the corridor to give him a bit more space and privacy. The remaining two rooms are now occupied by guests.

### **Volunteers**

We are very grateful for the number of volunteers who offer their time and gifts to Pilsdon. We have recently welcomed some new people as volunteers. Brenda has undertaken sewing projects for us. Her latest efforts have produced new aprons for the kitchen made from no-longer-needed double duvet covers. Debbie had walked past our drive many times and one day plucked up courage to come in to offer to volunteer. She is a wonderful cleaner and her particular skills are also very much appreciated. If you have skills in carpentry or joinery, can decorate, are good at DIY or are just willing to help out with whatever is needed, do get in touch. Besides bringing their skills, volunteers bring energy and friendship into the community which is always welcome.

### **New Community Members**

Waz will be greatly missed when he leaves at the end of the summer. We are very grateful to him for all he has contributed to both Pilsdon communities and we will need to be looking to recruit a new community member. If you know of anyone who would like to be part of the community, particularly if they have cooking skills, do encourage them to get in touch at [viv@pilsdonatmall.org.uk](mailto:viv@pilsdonatmall.org.uk)

### **The Cottages**

The Grade II listed buildings need upgrading and renovation. Tim and I, along with Mark Trevett and Sr. Mary John, are considering how we might improve the present accommodation for guests as well as create self-contained space for members or residential volunteers. We are just at the thinking and talking stage but hope to have a clearer plan by July.

*Viv Ashworth*

## **Life is a journey ...**

*“Whatever you give others is also a gift to yourself”*



Pilsdon can be described in many ways but I would like to describe it as a place to journey through a special phase in your life. People come here seeking recovery, reflection and healing. We all are here in this community for different reasons but in that process we all walk together.

Looking back over the last five year period, the Pilsdon community has helped me to rediscover myself, to sharpen my skills in caring for others and for myself. Throughout this period I have met a number of people. Being surrounded by people you don’t know at the beginning is a challenge. However, I think that the process of getting to know others kept this journey lively and taught me to trust, accept, respect and love others. Pilsdon is a great place to experience God’s love, love for others and yourself.

I am going to leave the community at the end of this summer and I am leaving with so many great experiences. I want to thank Peter & Mary, Pam and Dennis for the support and the guidance they have given me; without them I don’t think I would be here. Also, I want to thank Viv and Tim for understanding my journey and encouraging me to follow my heart. Thanks to everyone who has helped, supported and been with me on my journey over the past five-plus years.

*Wasantha Hettiarachchi*