



Pilton Annual Parish Meeting

12 March 2025
Pilton Village Hall
7pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 15 May 2024 Annual Parish Meeting
3. Chair of the Parish Council's announcements and matters arising from last year's Parish Meeting
4. To note the 2025 Community reports.
5. Presentation of Action Plan arising from the 2024 Parish Survey

Refreshments

6. Open Forum – discussion and comments on the Action Plan.

Contents

- Minutes of previous meeting

Reports

- Happy Circle
- Pilton Community Allotment Association
- Pilton Parish Council
- Pilton Players
- Pilton Show
- Pilton Village History Group
- St John the Baptist Church
- West Pennard School

Survey Action Plan

Pilton Annual Parish Meeting

15 May 2024, Pilton Village Hall

Present: Liz Mayhew, Steve Russell-Yarde, Mike Mayhew, John Dilkes, Simon Lodge, Maureen Tofts, Nicky Davey, Peter Davey, Cllr Roger Noble - Pilton Parish Council (PPC), Cllr Nick Hall (PPC), Colin Watt, Thom Bonneville, Liz Elkin, Gail Milne, George Milne, Christine King, John Boucher, Cllr Claire Connock (PPC), Cllr Richard Woodhouse (PPC), Cllr Terry Moulder (PPC), Jenny de Gex, Tony Wheat, Cathy Lowe, Steve Lowe, Cllr Kelly Sumner (PPC), Cllr Claire Sully – Somerset Council (SC), Gill Pettitt (Parish Clerk).

1 Apologies

Lynda Roberts, Owain Powell, Tom Hollings, Joe King.

2 Minutes of 11 May 2023 Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes were not seen by enough members present to approve.

3 Chair of the Parish Council's announcements and matters arising from last year's Parish Meeting

Cllr Sumner thanked all the councillors for the work they had done during the year. The Parish Council is the eyes and the ears of the parish but has very little power. The Council does support parishioners as much as possible, it responds to planning applications along with many other consultees, it looks after the burial ground, bus shelter and war memorial, and organises events such as Remembrance Day and Litter Picks. This year the Council has worked with the Pilton Playing Fields Trust to set up a new Trust Document – thanks to John Boucher for all the work that he put into this. Other work has included dealing with flooding, looking at affordable housing allocations and a speed reduction program with Glastonbury Festival Events Ltd (GFEL) who were very helpful with the design of the scheme and the costs. The Council has also worked with GFEL to improve security and traffic management in the village. GFEL has announced that a grant of approximately £40,000 will be made to the village.

4 Verbal reports from Speakers:

- a. **Tony Wheat – West Pennard School** – Tony gave an overview of the school's year, mentioning a visit from NSPCC who spoke about the digital world and the Speak Out, Stay Safe initiative. The school is seeing larger numbers of children attending now and thus larger classes, the new intake of 30 children came from 17 different pre-school groups. The school had 214 students at the start of the year, there are now 224.

A parent's information evening was held to discuss the curriculum, values and learning behaviours. A Harvest Festival was held with some amazing artwork from the children. At an October workshop, the author M G Leonard told tales of her school years to year 6 students. Music provision has improved, and community singing events were held at Christmas and again during Easter in a care home. The library is well stocked. School is at risk of flooding – in January the community helped to ensure the school was not affected but in February, during half term, damage occurred that has now been dealt with. The children dressed up for World Book Day and the Easter Bonnet parade.

- b. **Jenny de Gex – Pilton Show** The aim is to include all village aspects and ages. Jenny gave a brief history of the show over the years. There should be something for everyone. Living Homes and the Carnival Club help with storage during the year. The team needs new blood and new ideas and welcomes more people to join to support this important event. Jenny announced that she is standing down from organising the event this year. There are 18 members on the Committee, the constitution is linked to the Pilton Playing Field Trust and support is received from GFEL, members of the community can apply for grant funding from Pilton Show funds.

- c. **Cllr Kelly Sumner – Flooding** Shop Lane and Weir Lane are notably affected as more rainfall is occurring. Drains are not being cleared frequently enough by SC, which are on a 4-yearly rota. We are awaiting 40 or 50 drains to be cleared. Top Street has a collapsed drain and works should be done to repair it this summer. Pilton village is experiencing more water run-off from the A361 down Shutwell Lane, exacerbated by a blocked culvert in Shutwell – works should be completed this year. This culvert then passes under properties on Shop Lane where it is the landowners' responsibility to keep it clear.
- d. **Steve Russell-Yarde – GFEL** There will be a liaison meeting on the coming Wednesday. The company has looked at the numbers of vehicles accessing the Green car park during the festival and have implemented a scheme whereby vehicles must have their registration plate pre-recorded through the on-site portal. Letters have gone to all residents who are eligible for parking however some have not arrived – parishioners are asked to contact the hot line (hotline@glastonburyfestivals.co.uk) to request replacement letters.
- GFEL has been working on the speed reduction scheme with SC – to 20mph around Pilton and from 60mph to 50mph in East Compton. Work started on Monday, posts should be in position in a couple of weeks. If the work is not completed by the time of the festival, GFEL have standby signs to put in place.
- The community grant – GFEL received a rebate during COVID which will go to surrounding parish communities. It will be distributed based upon the size of population in each parish. Pilton will receive £49,450, out of which half of the speed reduction scheme costs will be paid (expected to be approximately £9,000).
- At the festival – an art exhibit is to be announced in early June. The Park area is changing. The Wednesday fireworks will be a drone show that is hoped will spread the crowd – there will be 100-200 drones and last for 8-10 minutes from around 10:45pm. Footpaths have been closed since April for safety reasons. All on-site personnel must have a Health and Safety induction. If visiting, please enter via Red Gate. Neat Lane access will be exit only. Visitors to the village should contact the hot line for passes and information on routes to their destination. Check points will start next week, Monday to Friday only, to stop larger vehicles initially.
- e. **Cllr Claire Sully – SC** Reflecting on her two years as a Somerset Councillor, she noted that Somerset has over half a million population, the council has a turnover of £1 billion, 120 councillors and over six thousand staff. The Council has, in the last two years, transitioned to a unitary council and dealt with achieving sustainable funding and devolution.
- Problem solving is a large part of her work. It is always best when people come together as a community and acts with one voice. Claire's ward is rural and great ideas come out of rural communities.
- Achievements in Pilton include nearly 200 potholes being filled. In Mendip new multiuser pathways are being laid under the Active Travel initiative - £1.5 million funding is budgeted for these. Somerset ranks 28th of 228 Local Authorities for recycling rates – 97% is recycled and 99.4% of plastic is recycled locally. Council buildings are being de-carbonised. Nature Recovery Strategy maps have been developed to guide us to where work is needed. A Somerset Tree Strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain policy have been developed and the council has worked to save bus services, install electric charging stations, introduced 8,000 glass eels to the waterways and Somerset now has its first net zero school.
- f. **Cllr Richard Woodhouse – Pilton Parish Community Survey** Delivered on behalf of SALC, funded by Somerset Council supported by the Community Council for Somerset. The survey will ask parishioners to respond to questions about what can be done in the parish, the best focus for the future to help the Council and the community implement change for the

better – this is the opportunity for change. Currently the Steering Group is processing potential hot topics, examples of which were on display, such as wellbeing, young people, and communication. The survey will include questions specifically for young people. If you have any ideas, please let Gill Pettitt, the Parish Clerk know, or any of the Steering Group members – Cllr Richard Woodhouse, Cllr Nick Hall, Cllr Claire Connock, Lise Sorensen, Carolyn Griffiths, Angela Wynn, and Kelly Knight before the next meeting on 23 May '24. The Parish Council will agree the final survey questions and the survey will go live on 3 September '24. Notices will go out in the Roundabout and a stall at the Pilton Show will be available to discuss and have help to fill out the survey with members of the steering group if you wish.

Any Parish Council that has a parish plan in place, resulting from a survey, is much more likely to receive funding for new initiatives.

- g. **Cllr Nick Hall – Pilton Burial Ground** The Parish Council is responsible for the Burial Ground and Cllrs Richard Woodhouse, Roger Noble and Nick Hall are members of the Burial Ground Working Group. During this year the Burial Ground records have been digitalised, procedures have been updated, the price list revised on a cost neutral basis, inspections have taken place every two weeks, the gates have been painted, hedges laid, and a new roadside fence installed. The group is now considering ideas to improve the area around the water tap and enhancing the landscape of the bare areas with some planting.
- h. **John Boucher – Affordable Housing Allocations** Concern was expressed last year at the allocation process for affordable housing and the Parish Council set up a Working Group to look into this. Applicants register with the Somerset Council Homefinder portal, which ranks applicants according to housing need. Housing in Pilton is advertised on Homefinder where Hastoe Housing Association and the Guinness Trust are the local providers. For Hastoe, SC forward the list to them and the housing association relates the applicants to the three S106 planning agreements for which each has different eligibility requirements. The Parish Council has received a report from the Working Group, which will be considered at the June meeting.
- Members of the public noted that Social Housing, (as opposed to Affordable Housing), is an issue in the parish as properties are being sold on. Also noted that best practice is to integrate new estates with a mix of properties, the recent developments have not done this and have poor design. Request that any future development is built to the right specification.
- i. **Cllr Kelly Sumner – Speed Reduction scheme** See item 4.d. above – it is expected for work to be completed over the next few weeks. There are considerations around Conduit Square and Neat Lane that will be discussed at item 6.
- j. **Cathy Lowe – Pilton Bell Ringers** The Bell Ringers need more recruits please. Bell Ringing is good for mental and physical health. There are 8 bells – so 8 people are needed. It is quite technical – a bit like ringing a knitting pattern. On Saturday 8 June the Tower will be open to visitors. Practise sessions are held on a Tuesday 7:30pm. There is a teaching tower in Street where experts help, both Cathy Lowe and Maureen Tofts are experts.
- k. **Steve Lowe – Pilton Players** The group has been active for 100 years but recently it has been hard to recruit new members. The group needs youngsters for young parts. The Christmas Carol production was successful with assistance from players from outside the parish. There will be no productions in 2024, but in January 2025 there will be a production for the wassail and small plays during the year. The group needs people, especially young people. Cllr Connock volunteered to deliver leaflets for the group. Noted that there used to be a directory of village activities, it would be nice to see that updated.

- i. **Thom Bonneville – Pilton Table Tennis** The first session was held at the Pavilion on 31 July, it is held every Monday 5-9pm at a cost of £5 per session. The first session is free. The group now has two tables. Attendees tend to be middle to upper middle-aged, but there are some younger players. There are around 9 players per session. The group would like to expand to Saturdays – a Youth Club and exhibition would be good. There is no pre-booking – just come along.
- m. **Mike Mayhew – Gabriel’s Orchard** It’s Pilton’s village orchard, available due to a generous donation in 2000. It is always open and can be accessed across the road from Red Gate. Every villager is welcome to come and learn and practice orchard skills – the apple juice and cider produced are sold on a non-profit basis. There is always excess fruit available free – Pick Your Own.
It is good company – there are many varieties of apple and the orchard is one of the ‘rare breed’ orchards that provide a seedbank for the future.
Season activities – Spring – beautiful blossom; Summer - bring a picnic and watch the crop; Autumn – Harvest – 1,000s are picked, many are left behind. Come and help yourself, Winter – pruning.
The group needs recruits for attending the Gabriel’s Orchard stands at the Wassail, Pilton Show and Christmas Fayre. There are 6 trustees – more are needed. The group is independent and self-sustaining. The orchard needs more visitors. The morning of the first Thursday of each month the group works in the orchard – all are welcome. It is hoped to start early summer evening group sessions in the future.
- n. **Maureen Tofts - Pilton Village History Group** The group has been active for 40 years, has 70 members and holds 10 meetings a year with one outside visit. 40-50 people attend each meeting. The group recently received 200 slides of Pilton and received a grant to fund a website. Around 790 volunteer hours are needed to populate the website. All the archive documents have been sorted and catalogued ready to upload to the web. The images will be digitalised and searchable. The conditions of the grant funding require that the work must be completed within the year.
Members need to help with uploading data. Training will be available. Please also collect documents and images of current events and initiatives – these will form part of the continuing archive.
- 5 **Informal chat and refreshments** The meeting adjourned for a glass of wine, informal chat and to look at the display. Cllr Sumner left the meeting at this point and handed over the Chair to Cllr Woodhouse.
- 6 **Open Forum** – discussion and comments on the previous year in Pilton and suggestions for the future.
- a. Cllr Woodhouse noted that the Parish Survey and resultant Plan will be informative to the Parish Council and community as to how it should spend its time.
- b. Conduit Square traffic measures – ideas are up for discussion, such as traffic lights allowing traffic to only move in one direction – this could be another project after the 20mph scheme is completed. Noted that the local Speed Watch team records the numbers of vehicles passing through.
- c. Suggestion of a roundabout at Springfield crossroads.
- d. Noted that Top Street traffic is much increased – traffic levels are generally greater than the infrastructure was designed for.
- e. There are rumours that Dulcote Recycling Centre may close.

Meeting Closed at 8:38pm

REPORTS

Happy Circle Club

Happy Circle Club has about 20 members who meet at the village hall on the third Wednesday of each month.

During the last year we have had illustrated talks about a walking tour in Japan at blossom time and from a guard at the East Somerset Railway. We have ventured on coach trips to Teignmouth and around the Glastonbury Festival site, played skittles and Shuffleboard, grappled with quizzes and joined in with descriptions of the home-made transport of childhood – soapboxes, sledges and rafts – and the consequences.

Last, but not least, we enjoyed lunches and afternoon tea at various venues.

Pilton Community Allotment Association

Pilton Community Allotment Association was set up in 2008/2009 on land leased from our landlord. We are situated at the corner between the east end of Top Street and Springfield Hill/Neat Lane, and the site can be accessed either from Top Street or from John Burns' Cottages.

We welcome anyone from the local area, including other communities nearby, who might wish to enjoy the benefits of growing their own food.

We run the site via a small committee of ploholders, and we have monthly work parties which enable us to tackle the communal areas of the site which sometimes need a tidy up. These monthly work parties are an excellent opportunity to get together as a group and, as well as allowing us to keep the site tidy, they provide us with an unmissable opportunity to chat and eat cake!

2024 has been a busy year for us, with somewhat challenging growing conditions, but we have all found our time very rewarding and invigorating, with the added benefit of fresh organic fruit and vegetables to consume as our reward!

We currently have a few plots available, so you can contact piltonallotments@gmail.com to find out more.

We would be delighted to hear from you!

Pilton Parish Council

This year has achieved a few milestones, including the completion of the 20mph scheme within Pilton Village and the speed reduction from 60mph to 50mph through East Compton with gateways at each end.

The Burial Ground has received a fair amount of focus. The annual grounds maintenance and hedge cutting has continued. A ditch outside the north border has been cleared of stone, which has opened up the waterway again and reduced flooding in the Burial Ground. Much of the stone retrieved will be used in 25/26 to build a stone feature, with seating, around the water tap. Over 1,000 wildflowers were purchased and planted this spring around the borders and trees, including primrose, bluebell, cowslip, snowdrop, red campion and meadowsweet. Markers have been purchased to be placed on rows in the coming year to aid plot identification. It has, unfortunately, as the church report notes, been a busy year for burials.

The Community Survey went out to the parish in September and achieved nigh on a 30% response rate, which is considered excellent in the market research industry. Now the work starts to feed the results back to the council and community groups, to implement the changes where possible. This Annual Parish Meeting being the launch of the Action Plan to the community.

Flooding from road run-off that cannot flow through the blocked drainage system has continued, causing dangerous situations in icy weather. Some drains have been gulped, and some major works around Whitstone Hill, Shutwell Lane and St Mary's Lane have finally commenced. There remain, however, a large number of blocked drains throughout the parish and the parish council is beginning a review to instigate works in 25/26. New drain gulping will be paid by the parish as Somerset Council is unable to fund it.

A group litter picking session is held twice a year and a group of councillors and parishioners go out most weeks to attend to some of the worst spots.

The parish council was pleased, this year, to be able to offer grants to the Pilton Village History Group, Pilton Community Fridge, and the Rubbish Art Project. As promised last year, GFEL has donated £39,190, (after deduction of half the costs of the speed reduction scheme), for use within the Pilton community for infrastructure and repairs work. The precept approved for 25/26 is £32,488 - representing an annual increase of 20p per household which has allowed us to build our modest reserves. This also means potentially more grants and community items may be sponsored. Parish funds are being moved to a higher interest earning account to generate further income.

The Remembrance Day parade and wreath laying attracted a good crowd and went well. Many thanks to Caron Potts of the Wells City Band for being willing to attend at the last minute, due to our usual musician being taken ill, to play the Last Post and the Reveille

Also at the War Memorial, D Day was commemorated with a special 80th anniversary flag in June.

Day to day parish business has continued, reviewing a number of planning applications on behalf of the parish, as well as considering the effects upon the parish of off-site festival campsites. This is now being co-ordinated by GFEL with representatives from neighbouring parishes and the off-site campsite owners.

Unfortunately two councillors were subject to complaints this year, both of which were reviewed by the SC Monitoring Officer who found that no action was required.

Overgrowth impeding vehicle visibility and pedestrian access was a frequent agenda item during the year. The areas, particularly of lowgrowth, that require attention prior to the festival will be notified to GFEL this year.

Councillors have liaised with Glastonbury Town Council on their desire to remove freight from the A361. This is ongoing, as is liaison with a campaign group that is planning to initiate a community bus from Glastonbury to Castle Cary, which should pass through Pilton.

Pilton Players

In January 2025 Pilton Players combined with Gabriel's Orchard to put on a Wassail celebration in the Tithe Barn and the nearby orchard. The event was well-attended by around 150 villagers and guests from the surrounding area. Local businesses made very helpful contributions, notably Glastonbury Festivals Ltd and Latchem and Tamblyn who provided fuel for the braziers in and outside the barn. Players contributed a Mummings' Play in which evil, in the shape of the Emperor Napoleon (BOO!) was roundly defeated, and were supported by Village Voices Choir and Cam Valley Morris Men.

In February, planning began for a production of Hans Christian Andersen's The Snow Queen to be staged in the Parish Church of St John the Baptist in the last week of November 2025.

Steve Lowe, Chair

Pilton Show

Pilton Show takes place annually over the first full weekend of September, involving several village voluntary organisations. It consists of a Flower Show (including photos and crafts) and Fete on the Saturday afternoon, with traditional sideshows, stalls and special attractions, then an evening Barn Dance, followed by more relaxed sports and/or music on the Sunday, concluding with a thanksgiving service.

The aim is there should be something for everyone, to appeal to *all* ages. Anyone can get involved, so **please do!**

This last year the Show committee marked and mourned the loss of our President and inspiration, Philip Eavis, who died in June 2024. Largely responsible for the shape of the Show as it is today, he was involved since 1969 when some of the land at Benleigh became the Playing Field.

Today's Show is the merger of earlier versions dating from 1882 (Fair and Sports) and the first Flower Show in 1907, held over the years at different venues. The name changed to Pilton Show in 1990 and included a Pilton Party for villagers on the Friday night, until Glastonbury Festivals took over organisation in 2009, when this grew too large for the Playing Field (partly because of publicity on Radio 1!). Since 2010 it has remained on Worthy Farm, benefitting not only the Show but also other village organisations.

Our constitution is linked to the Playing Fields Trust, the main beneficiaries. A grant from GFEL covers essential outgoing costs and any balance combined with profits raised over the weekend goes into a central pot, from which all village organisations can apply for grant-funding for specific projects.

Sometimes we give space in the marquee for displays, such as the Parish Council launching the Parish Plan, or History Group their new website, or other charities.

As villagers age, we now rely on manpower help from Wick Carnival Club (raising funds for their charity projects) but we particularly need strong help on the field, as well as new energy and ideas and help over the weekend.

So please, younger team – become involved! Please contact myself or 2025 Chair, Kelly Knight (01749 890683).

Jenny de Gex, Chair, Pilton Show 2024, now Vice Chair 2025 (01749 890465)

Pilton Village History Group

Pilton Village History Group have had an amazing and exciting year...

Last Spring, we were awarded a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of over £7000, in order to create a website to record and preserve our archive of material on the heritage of Pilton, and to encourage new contributions of documents, pictures and people's memories.

We have also received generous grants from Pilton Parish Council and Pilton Show, for which we are very grateful.

A small team of members of the Pilton Village History Group, consisting of our archivist Maureen Tofts, and Christine King, Nicky Davey, John Dilkes and Steve Tofts, have now created and populated the website www.piltonhistory.org.uk via the provider Community Sites. Since early summer 2024, this team has put in well over 1000 volunteer hours on the project.

Anyone can now go onto the website, and search our amazing archive, which already consists of a listing of well over one thousand documents, and about two thousand scanned images of both photos and documents, all of which either we have collected or that people have donated, since the Group was formed in the early 1980s.

We have already had many hundreds of visitors from countries all over the world who have

visited and made lovely comments on the site.

It is very much an ongoing project, and we plan to complete getting all our existing archive catalogue list uploaded in the next few months, but of course it will never be complete, as we continue acquiring lots of new material, with the help of you all!

Contact via - piltonvillagehistorygroup@gmail.com

St John the Baptist Church

Life at the Parish Church has continued despite the fact that there has been no resident priest throughout the last year. The post for a priest to be responsible for the extended benefice of Pilton, Croscombe, North Wootton, Ditchheat with Alhampton, East Pennard and Pylle has been advertised a number of times but unfortunately this has not led to an appointment being made. There is now a monthly service that moves around these parishes as we get to know one another.

However, weekly services have continued to take place throughout the year and we have benefited greatly from the support of local retired priests. We also continue to join in monthly services with the Methodist Church alternating between the two venues.

There have been a small number of baptisms and weddings and, sadly especially recently, a significant number of funerals. We continue to support people at these significant events in people's lives.

Special services have been held to celebrate the major Festivals of Easter and Christmas as well as village events such as Pilton Show when it is good to see people from the wider community in the church.

After nearly forty years of being responsible for Roundabout Magazine we reluctantly called this to a close but are very pleased that a new team has taken this on for the villages but also as a means of outreach for the Church and church events. It was good to see that the Parish Survey revealed what an important means of communication is provided by the magazine.

Security in churches can be a problem and we are glad that the church is now open from dawn to dusk every day after a period of problems from young people. We appreciate the number of local people who keep an eye on our village church.

During the year the Churchwardens, Paul Warry and Sheila West succeeded by Wendy Bower, have undertaken considerable responsibility in running and caring for church life and the church building. They have been ably supported by Susan Green, the Reader, along with members of the PCC. We gladly give our time and energy in this way.

West Pennard School

Annual Report – A Year at West Pennard

We started the new academic year full speed ahead, with our new intake children all starting school full-time from day one, which is a first for us. We had a full cohort of 30 children again this year. Mrs Catley, our Reception Class teacher, expertly eased the children into school, which was no mean feat, considering that the 30 children came from 12 different pre-school settings! The school has continued to grow in size and to flourish, with a great number of families choosing to move schools to join us across all year groups, and families moving into the area. Certainly, in my time at West Pennard, some 17 years, I have not seen this level of movement, particularly into the surrounding villages. We now have 225 children on roll, which considering that in 2019 we had 199, it is a huge increase – nearly a whole class! It is greatly pleasing, on the one hand to be so popular, and on the other to know that the children that have joined us and are entrusted with our care will have the opportunity to learn and progress well, have fun and make lifelong friends in such a special school and community.

Being a popular and thriving school is great, but that does bring added pressures, particularly with regard to transport. The buses from Pilton and North Wootton are very full in order to cater for the new families, and Julie Bailey, our bus escort, continues to fulfil an absolutely vital role in keeping the Pilton children safe on the journey and supervising them before reuniting them with their parents / carers. I would like to express my utmost thanks to the Parish Council for their support with funding the escort. It is increasingly difficult to meet the costs of this ever more important role. Traffic to the school remains an issue, to the geographical situation of the school site and the sheer number of families accessing the school. In order to ease this in the mornings we put ourselves forward to be one of the 750 schools nationally to trial a free breakfast club and were successful. We have had a lot of interest in this free offer, which is replacing our existing provision, so this should ease the traffic and parking issues around the school site to some. We held our annual Harvest Festival in St Nicholas' Church in late September, with the proceeds raised going to local causes. The children produced some amazing artwork that was on display on the end of the pews.

We had our first Christian Values Day of the year with a focus on Friendship. The children were vertically grouped and took part in a variety of activities to promote a greater understanding of what it means to be a good friend and to express friendship towards others. Our values days continued throughout the year, starting off each term, with a prayer space to end each term. In October the children enjoyed a number of enriching activities including workshops on Isambard Kingdom Brunel's achievements and a visit to the SS Great Britain in Bristol. Year 5 visited Kilve for three action packed days of activities on their residential. Year 6 extended their understanding of the World Wars by visiting the Rural Life Museum. Children from the school laid a wreath at the war memorial to mark Armistice Day. We concluded a busy half term with the opportunity to show a number of prospective parents / carers to the school with our annual Open Morning. Our Year 6 children did an excellent job in showing parents around the school and telling them all the opportunities that we offer here.

Last year we had a continued drive to improve our music provision. We welcomed new peripetetic music teachers and have continued this into this year with the further development of the choir, led by Mrs Clarke. In the run up to Christmas we wanted to spread a little festive joy in our community again this year by repeating the 'Carols in the Community' event. We organised for the choir to travel to North Wootton, Pilton and West Pennard churches on the same day for renditions of Christmas carols old and new. In the final week of term we took the choir to the Cyder Barn to sing to the residents of the care home. We will repeat this at Easter, singing firm Easter favourites on the last day of term. We are currently busy planning for a VE/VJ Day event with the village community.

The Autumn Term concluded with the arrival of our now traditional outdoor Christmas tree that the children brought a decoration in to adorn. We were treated to a wonderful retelling of the Christmas story by our KS1 children! We had our traditional Christmas dinner for the children, with Mandy and Sue making well over 200 meals for us! They most certainly deserved a rest after that!

We continued to liaise closely with partners in the community for the betterment of the educational offer that the school provides. I am part of a working party with the heads of The Blue, Millfield and Wells Cathedral to develop pupils' school experience and staff's professional development by accessing resources in all of those schools, both public and private. The collaboration will be of mutual benefit with, for example, Cathedral School musicians being able to showcase their skills in concerts and assemblies at our school, providing inspiration and aspiration for our pupils. Reading continues to be a great strength of the school, with our library well stocked and a robust system being in place for monitoring and encouraging reading. The new year started, as it did for many, with the heavens opening and the school at great risk of flooding. We had another flood in school, which makes four in the last 18 months! We fear this

may be the way of things to come and are looking at engineering solutions to get the water away!

The school was awash with intricate and interesting costumes in March to celebrate World Book Day. The children and staff all dressed as a book character or an adjective, all in order to promote a love of reading...and to have fun! It was great to see so many smiles and such creativity on display. There were £5 book tokens given to the best designs and certificates for the runners up.

As previously mentioned, the number of children attending the school remains high, which is all the more pleasing as there is a national drop in birth rate and a decline in school populations in other schools locally. Numbers from the villages for September are low, but there are a number of new houses being built in Pilton and also several for sale. We look forward to welcoming new members of the community to the school and sharing such a special place with great learning opportunities with them.

At the time of writing this we have just had our Ofsted inspection after 11 years of waiting, having had a historic outstanding judgement. Until the report is officially released I am unable to share the result with you, but I can say that we are happy with the result and pleased that the inspectors have recognised areas of strength in the school that we are proud of.

It has been a really positive year, with many things going on in school in order to continue to improve and provide the best learning opportunities for the children.

Mr Tony Wheat
Headteacher

SURVEY ACTION PLAN

EASY WINS

Roundabout

Thanks to the old team, the Roundabout is the most popular method of communication in the parish. Thanks to the new team, it continues!

Communication

Facebook, noticeboards, email and Roundabout are all popular sources of info. Local groups to be asked to use a mixture of all these.

Community Transport

Increase awareness of the availability of Community Transport

Health Connectors

Plan a Village Hall talk from local Health Connectors. Plan for minor medical support at the Village Hall.

Cleaner Parish

Provision of litter / dog waste bins. Ensure all aware of the Somerset Council address to report fly tipping.

Increase Biodiversity

1,000 wildflowers have been planted in the Burial Ground this spring. More trees, hedges and flowers can be planted around the parish.

MEDIUM TERM

Playing Fields

Team Sports; Park Run; Outdoor gym; better / accessible facilities for under 8yr olds; and teenagers. Hang out shelter. Improve paths – for buggies. Benches; fencing; Youth Club; Solar lighting.

Communication

More consultation / surveys / polls. Q&A sessions or regular public engagement meetings. Councillor surgeries. Dedicate parish-only Facebook group for important parish comms only.

Environment

Verge management / biodiversity. Improve habitat diversity. Recycling. Green Charter. Garden days, seed swaps, pond building.

Village Hall

Ease of use – calendar booking facility. Repair shop / second-hand swap shop. Skill training. Craft activities. Library – book swap or mobile. Community workspace / work hub. Social events – open nights / days, talks. Accessible stage area. Wedding receptions. Bank surgeries, talks, pamper days, events such as car boot, craft fairs, monthly market, live music, indoor sports facility. Opportunities to meet other people in similar age / situation. Mentoring. Support with IT – online banking & shopping. Support for carers Social prescribing.

Energy

Community schemes / purchasing. Provide energy efficiency guidance.

Rights of Way

Does anyone want to join the ASBOs? Provide some signage.

Traffic / Transport Concerns

Bike hire; community car sharing.

CRITICAL / LONG TERM

Parking

Notably at the Village Hall, Playing Fields and Pilton Burial Ground.

Getting around the parish

Create signage for rights of way. Multiuser paths to link to main thoroughfares such as the Strawberry Line.

Safe Walking / Cycling

Reduce areas where walkers and cyclists are in conflict with vehicles. Signpost out of Parish routes e.g. to Strawberry line.

Flooding Emergency

Improve communication system. Improve mitigation measures.

Traffic / Transport Concerns

Traffic volume and speeding. Potholes and drainage. Safe cycle lanes. Access to bus routes.