

## VIR VIRIDIS VIVIT\*

Pilton Festival, revived almost 30 years ago by the Rev. Anthony Geering, Rector of St Mary's Church, has had yet another successful year. Under threat because of a serious lack of money as a result of the recession, the organising committee led by **Gareth Woolway** produced what was probably the best Green Man Festival yet on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Well done to them! Several events – *Fun Bingo, Stars in Your Eyes, Pilton Panto and Trailer Trashing* – raised money and Councillors from North

Devon District and Barnstaple Town Councils added their support to enable it to go ahead as usual.



For the first time, the Festival was preceded by a '**Decorate Your Door or Garden**' competition organised by **Carol Hadrill**. The idea - to let more of the village feel part of the Festival and bring wider happiness – proved a great success with over twenty entries. Three categories of prizes were awarded – Doors, Gardens and Children – the latter won by the Hunt children of 15 Wordsworth Drive (photo left). Well done to all who entered!

Yet again, Pilton Festival was lucky with the weather. A sharp shower around 10am gave way to a bright day with sunny intervals which brought out the crowds. Events started with a peal by **The Pilton Bell Ringers** inviting visitors in. A record number of varied stalls filled Pilton Street and the festivalgoers also enjoyed four different stages of music, brilliant street performers, a range of arts and crafts in Rotary Gardens, fairground attractions, all types of food, and exhibitions of many different activities.

The spectacular Grand Parade left The Square in Barnstaple at 11am and the Green Man Pageant (right, with **Hamish Patrick** as the Pilton Prior) followed on Pilton House Lawn. A wonderful Flower Festival in St Mary's Church took the theme of '**Celebration**'. Church festivals featured included *Pentecost, Mothering Sunday* and *Epiphany*, and under the



West Window was one for *Remembrance*. This great display (left), by the Brownies, celebrated *100 Years of Guiding*. Well done to them and all the other arrangers, especially **Sue Buttonshaw** who masterminded the event and prepared many of the displays and **Marion Sanders** who organised the accompanying texts and the teas. At the same time, in Pilton Church Hall, the Mission Community ran **Oasis**, a haven from the street with refreshments and prayers and a display of Pilton Bluecoat School Banners.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July in the afternoon, Marion Sanders also organised a calm **Walking Treasure Hunt** around the village, won by Abigail Winfield, finishing up with the traditional Cream Tea, this time in the Church. And still it didn't rain! Then Pilton Festival ended on the Sunday evening with the third year of the revived **Summer Concert of Words and Music**, this one



with the theme of *Man on Earth*, which explored Man's interaction with the Earth on which he lives – Fishing, Mining, Sea, Farming, Mountains and Weather – interspersed by a wide variety of music from some of North Devon's most talented young musicians. This elegant event is a suitable conclusion to a frantic weekend in Pilton. Thanks are due to Carol Hadrill, her cake and biscuit makers and other helpers and the concert sponsors, for a very pleasant evening which deserves to be better supported by the village and congregation.

And thanks, too, to everyone who helped in some way, however small, to make this year's Pilton Festival so successful. See you next year?

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For more on all aspects of Pilton Festival please visit the website: [piltonfestival.co.uk](http://piltonfestival.co.uk)

\* In case you didn't know, the headline means 'The Green Man Lives'.