

# The Twelve Curlicues of Pilton

Thirty years ago an exciting project came to Pilton. Funded by Beaford Arts to celebrate its 21st birthday, and with enormous support from many local companies, the Horse and



Bamboo Theatre from Lancashire organised what turned out to be a spectacular four days of events, celebration and fun. They took place over the Easter holiday of 1987 on the streets of Pilton and in Pilton Park and brought together local schools, clubs and organisations as well as many individuals.

A 'curlicue' was the name given to sailors' pigtails when worn in a 'O' or 'cue'. But why curlicues? Because Pilton was (and indeed still is) a village with a natural centre with many fascinating details like Ladywell, the Church, the Almshouses and the snake-like course of the River Yeo round Pilton Park which overall suggested the curlicues theme. The theatre company worked with Pilton groups and schools throughout March and into April on the preparations of processions, performance shows, and the making of costumes, masks, puppets, banners and decorations.

The celebration started in the evening of Good Friday 17th April with a Lantern and Candle Requiem and continued with a spectacular community show on Saturday 18th in the Show Site Stockade built in Pilton Park. Along with a host of local crafts, arts and food stalls, the Pilton Mother's Union did a sketch in Devonshire dialect, the 12th ND Scouts performed the



Medicine Show, the ND College theatre students ran a cafe with performing waiters and there was a dramatic performance of 'THE GREEN MAN' by the theatre group. On Sunday 19th, a bell procession (photo left) from Pilton Quay to the Church and back, commemorated the return of the re-cast church bells to Pilton. Then the community show was repeated in Pilton Park. Finally on Monday 20th there was a Carnival Procession with giant puppets, music, morris dancers and local characters and lore from Pilton past and present.

The whole event was recorded in the 50 page 'Curlicue Scrapbook', a copy of which is held by The Pilton Story thanks to Albert Linacre's diligence. It is filled with sketches, notes, records, explanations and photographs and a list of all the people in all the groups and what they did. Over 500 people were involved in different creative activities. One solid piece of artwork remains of the events of 1987. The mosaic Pilton sign at the entrance to Pilton Street was created by a team of ceramic artists helped by Piltonians. It serves as a lasting record of what was clearly a brilliant event which may be the reason why we have a Green Man Day today - thirty years on!

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