



STRETCHING A POINT

adapted from a column by *Aly Wilks*

- 1 CHATTING TO ANNA, our postmistress, I remarked on how fit she was looking. “It’s Pilates,” she said. “It’s marvellous!” She told me about the energetic Louise who was running courses in a neighbouring village, and that thanks to her, Anna now looked good and felt great. I immediately signed up for a course of seven lessons.
- 2 The sessions ran weekly, on Thursdays, and as the first one approached, my excitement grew. I dug out my tracksuit and some trainers, packed my towel and water bottle into a wicker basket, and set off. Almost at once my headlights lit up a mass of branches over the road. The magnificent horse chestnut tree that guarded the entrance to the village, had fallen down. By the time the road was passable again I had missed my first Pilates class.
- 3 The following Thursday, I was about to set off when the doorbell rang. It was Kay, my next-door neighbour, in panic mode: “Frimble’s gone!” Frimble was her much loved Kune-Kune pig. Looking for a black pig on a dark night in winter is not to be recommended – we discovered tree stumps, black plastic bags and a startled badger, but absolutely no pigs. I gave Kay a comforting mug of coffee and accompanied her home. Her phone was ringing: it was Ed, the owner of our local pub. “I believe the black pig in our bar is yours. She’s very popular, and the takings have been excellent, but I’d like to close up now, and she’s not showing any signs of leaving.” We raced to the pub to collect Frimble, who had a garland of hops around her neck, and whose breath smelt of beer. She had the air of a pig who’d had a great evening, but I had missed my second Pilates class.
- 4 I have no excuses for the third Thursday. The night outside was black and filled with sleet. The warmth of the sitting room with woodburning stove and sleeping dogs was too beguiling. By the fourth Thursday I was totally ready for Pilates. 13 Teazle, my favourite sheep, chose that night to lamb. I think she was happy I was there, and she certainly appreciated the post-lambing meal I prepared for her after she had produced her charming twins.

5 On the fifth Thursday, I waited for a diversion to present itself, but it didn't, so there was nothing else for it but to go to Pilates. And it was fabulous. The exercises were testing without being painful, and the whole experience was life-enhancing. "I'm longing for next week's lesson!" I told Louise on the way out. "Aly, that was the last one – it was a course of five!" Ah. Five lessons, not seven. "It starts again in the summer," added Louise, encouragingly. I signed up, of course. But summer is the season of spontaneous barbecues with friends, of long horse rides in the golden evening light, of hay-making against the clock.

Country Living, 2012

Tekst 7

- 1p 11 Why did Aly sign up for a course in Pilates?
A She felt rather pressured into doing so.
B She realised she needed to lose some weight.
C She thought it might do her a lot of good.
- 2p 12 Geef van elke van de volgende beweringen aan of deze wel of niet in overeenstemming is met alinea 2 en 3.
Omcirkel achter elk nummer 'wel' of 'niet' in de uitwerkbijlage.
1 Aly had zin om met de Pilates-lessen te beginnen.
2 Aly's auto werd bedolven onder takken van een boom.
3 Aly is een hulpvaardige buurvrouw.
4 Ed was boos dat er een varken in zijn kroeg zat.
- 1p 13 Kies bij 13 in alinea 4 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
A As a matter of fact,
B But then
C That's why
D What's more,
- 1p 14 Which of the following can be concluded about Aly from paragraph 5?
A She has invited her Pilates group to come and visit her at home.
B She has trouble admitting she dislikes doing the Pilates exercises.
C She needs to practise more if she wants to get into shape.
D She will probably miss most of the next Pilates course as well.
- 1p 15 How can the text as a whole be characterised?
A As a critical description of life in a small English village.
B As a lighthearted account of a project that failed completely.
C As an objective report about the writer's personal frustrations.
D As a touching story about setbacks and how to overcome them.

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.