Village News: Wilstone, Long Marston, Puttenham, Astrope

March 2007

Your vibrant village magazine - delivered free to every home in Tring Rural Parish.

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Goose goes for gold in eggciting drama

by our man in the stalls, Luke B. Hind-Yew

Neil Gurney's production for the LM&P Horticultural Society this year was the first time I had seen Mother Goose, so I was interested to know the story. Well, an impoverished egg producer meets a giant goose which produces eggs of great value, and that might have been the end of it but for two evil clock-makers on the lookout for more cuckoos eggs who capture the goose while disguised as Bill and Ben the Flowerpot Men. Got it? Well it all came right in the end of course, thanks to some spirited performances from the cast and a delightful chorus - I thought the children were particularly good this year.

Come on lay another egg

Mother Goose herself was great fun, with a flamboyant performance from Alan Munt - who really looked as if he was enjoying the rôle. Each appearance of the suitably dastardly duo King Tic (Geoff Horrigan) and his sidekick Toc the clock (Vanessa Iley) was welcomed by an enthusiastic audience with rousing boos and hisses - it can't be easy to play a clock! Phyllis Proctor as Flush (the toilet duck) has got a nice sense of comic timing and Fairy Ida Down (Sally Smith) managed to keep the continuity intact and the audience in order. Anyone willing to spend hours and hours closeted in an overstuffed feather costume with only "Quack" for a line particularly deserves recognition, so Danielle Lewis as Priscilla the Goose gets my vote for selfless dedication to dramatic art.

The Chorus

This was Mr Gurney's 20th panto production for the Horti, and he wrote, directed and produced them all. High quality production is a trademark of these pantos. The sets and costumes are fantastic and probably better than you would find on the professional stage. With 19 scene changes required (!) he is clearly a hard taskmaster, and the list of dozens of names of the back-stage crew demonstrates how much effort goes into just four performances. A great night's entertainment and an impressive event for a village community to stage.

Suggestions on a postcard

Village News is supported by Tring Rural Parish Council

Church services

St Mary's Puttenham
St Cross Wilstone and
All Saints Long Marston

You are most welcome to join us at any of these services.

25 February

10.00am	St Cross All Age Worship and 11.30am Talk "The Hebrew Bible in its Cultural Context"
10.00am	All Saints Holy Communion and Sunday Club
3.30pm	St Mary's Evensong

4 March

10.00am	All Saints All Age Worship
11.30am	Talk "The roots of Islam in their cultural and religious context"
6.30pm	St Cross Evening Prayer

11 March

8.15am	St Mary's Holy Communion
10.00am	All Saints Holy Communion
11.30am	Talk "Jesus and the Gospels in their cultural context"
6.30pm	St Cross Holy Communion

18 March **Mothering Sunday**

10.00am	St Cross Mothering Sunday Morning Prayer
6.30pm	St Cross Evening Prayer

25 March

10.00am	St Cross All Age Worship and
10.00am	All Saints Holy Communion and Sunday Club
3.30pm	St Mary's Evensong

St. Cross, Wilstone

Your friends and relations all over the world can read Village News on-line. Find us at:

www.tringruralpc.org.uk and *click 'Local News'*
www.wilstone.me.uk *and click on 'Village News'*

Village News

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I hope that the worst of the winter is now over and we can look forward to the spring.

.This month's issue contains all the usual features, it always amazes me the number of local events and activities that are happening in our villages.

However ***Village News*** is always on the lookout for new contributions. We rely on you, our readers to provide us with ideas, stories and photographs. There are many things happening all around us-please tell us about them.

Remember, many older readers often cannot get out to see all the changes and developments that are going on around our village. However through the medium of ***Village News*** we can all play an important part in keeping each up to date with news and events.

We have one of the best village magazines around, so lets all use it to the full.

Deadline for items for our next edition (April) is Wednesday 21 March 2007.

Village News is written, edited, produced and distributed entirely by local volunteers. Only the final printing is done by a commercial company. We aim to be local, interesting, informative, fun and a good read.
Let us know if we are not!

Printed by ***Express Printing***
3 Milnyard Square, Peterborough, PE2 6GX. 01733 230800.

Bird Flu update from Chicken Roundabout Norfolk.

YOUR special roving correspondent is reporting from the infamous Chicken Roundabout as seen on national news here on the Norfolk/Suffolk border. Just a few miles up the road is the Bernard Mathews food processing plant and turkey farm situated on a disused World War ll airfield at Holton and the site of the recent outbreak of the H5N1 strain of avian flu. The processing plant has reopened but the adjacent farm remains closed.

The *wild* bunch at Chicken roundabout **photo Village News**

Throughout the surrounding surveillance zone local authority inspectors and officials are still trying to get all poultry under cover, but the chickens here on Chicken Roundabout apparently are able to openly flout the rules. The 50 or so chickens that scratch out an existence on this typical English roundabout are not newcomers to controversy. These are no ordinary chickens - these are streetwise chicks that have managed to get themselves declared officially as *wild* and so are excluded from rules that apply to ordinary humble chickens. These are a tough bunch of birds as some over bureaucratic Norfolk CC official found out when he tried to get the birds "removed" permanently because he considered them to be a road safety hazard. Petitions, protests and '*hands off our chickens*' tee-shirts soon changed the councils tune and gained the birds wild status.

A spokeshen for the group said "We are quietly confident that we have survived this outbreak. However as you can see only a few of us are present today as it seems a good idea to keep a low profile, but us wild birds must stick together and if some EU official takes a too closer look at Google Maps we will be seeking advice from the RSPB".

Wedding in Paradise

Assistant Village News editor Colin Davenport and his partner Heather recently jetted off to Grenada in the Caribbean to get married.

Having first met as teenagers in the late fifties, they had not seen or heard of each other for over 40 years when they regained contact through *Friends Reunited*.

The wedding in the beach garden of The Spice Island Hotel was carried out by the chief magistrate of the Island and was witnessed by Heather's son and daughter-in-law.

Just married - congratulation to Colin and Heather

What's on...

THE Queen

The postponed showing of The Queen film, disappointingly delayed because of the poor weather at the time which prevented the projectionist from travelling, is re-scheduled for **Friday March 9th**.

If you already have tickets but are unable to attend, please bring them to Wilstone Village Store where you can get a full refund. There is much demand for these tickets, so please return them as soon as possible.

We are planning one more film showing for this season on March 30th. Not confirmed yet (and tickets are not yet available), but think of Aston Martin, Martinis and, oh yes, blue speedos. Don't get too shaken up by that.

If you would like advanced notice of film showings, please send your email address to Peter Walker at halfmoon120@hotmail.com

The Tabard Singers at Aldbury

Saturday 24th March at 7.30pm in St. John the Baptist Church, Aldbury. A selection of music from the 16th century to the 20th century sung for our pleasure by a London choir, called "The Tabard Singers". There will be a retiring collection for the Team Parish Project, Habitat for Humanity. We hope the concert will be well supported. .

Elvis

Planned visit to Tring School Confirmed
Friday April 27th 2007
8.00 p.m.
Desborough Hall, Tring School

Whatever you are doing on **Friday April 27th**, . cancel it! We have booked **The King** (Alvin Print-whistle) to come and entertain us at Tring School. Get your drainpipes pressed and your dancing shoes polished. Join us for an evening which will bring tears of laughter to your eyes. This **Comedy/Elvis Tribute Night** is one **not** to be missed. Tickets are just **£10**. Bring your own picnic and drinks.
Book early – this is bound to be a sell-out.
Tickets available from **Tring School Reception** (send requests and cheques (payable to Friends of Tring School) to "The Friends of Tring School", Mortimer Hill, Tring, Herts HP23 5JD) or from **Dennis's of Tring**. Telephone enquiries 014420 822303.

*This is an **ADULT** show for **over 18s**.*

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)
The public are welcome to attend these meetings.

Wednesday 21 March, Wilstone village hall
Wednesday 18 April, Puttenham Cecilia hall

Friday 2 March
Elvis at Wilstone village hall, 8pm
10 March to 22 April
Butterfly exhibition: 'Bright wings of summer'.
Natural History Museum, Akeman Street, Tring.
Tuesday 13 March
WI: Caribbean cookery demo. 8pm, LM village hall
Saturday 24 March
Crocus Walk - Wilstone War Memorial 2pm ~4.5m
Tennis Club quiz
Saturday 31 March
Band night at LM Village Hall.
Sunday 1 April
Beetle Drive at LM Village Hall
Easter Monday 9th April
Easter Egg Hunt and coffee morning St Cross Wilstone
Tuesday 10 April
WI: Victorian jewellery & 19th century social history.
8pm Long Marston village hall.
Saturday 14 April
Jumble sale - Cecilia Hall
Friday 27 April
Elvis at Tring School, 8pm
Saturday 28 April
Quiz night and supper - Cecilia Hall
Tuesday 1 May
May Day, 6am, in St Mary's churchyard + breakfast-
Monday 7 May
Bookstall at Aldbury Fair
Sunday13 May
1 day Minor Counties Cricket at Long Masrton CC
Saturday 9 June
Wilstone Village Fete & Dog Show
Saturday 23 June
Midsummer Ramble (date correction)

Times for mobile library

Thursdays, fortnightly, 1st, 15th, 29th March.

Tringford (Piggeries Pine)	**11.10 to 11.30**
Wilstone (The Half Moon)	**11.35 to 12.35**
Astrope (Astrope Lane)	**13.15 to 13.35**
Puttenham (Church Lane)	**13.40 to 14.40**
Long Marston (Queen's Head)	**14.50 to 16.20**

... don't miss anything with our guide to local events! Free listings.

Sunday 24 June
Wilstone Open Gardens
Sunday 24 June
Children's bike ride
Sunday 1 July
Family Games - Astrope
Saturday 4 August
Long Marston Village Show
Sunday 19 –Tuesday 21 August
3 day Minor Counties cricket at Long Marston 11am
Sunday 12 August
St. Mary's "Patronal Picnic"
Saturday 1 September
Jumble sale - Puttenham

St Cross Church Wilstone
Easter Egg Hunt and Coffee Morning
in Church Yard
Easter Monday 9th April
10.30am

HORSE DRAWN VEHICLE FOR SALE

4 WHEELED, BENNINGTON, HORSE SIZE CARRIAGE WITH EXTENDING AXLES, DISC BRAKES, DELAYED STEERING MECHANISM, SINGLE & DOUBLE DRIVING SEATS, SEPARATE GROOMS SEAT. WHIP HOLDER & REIN RAIL. FINISHED IN LOVELY BLACK PAINTWORK WITH BRASS FITTINGS. USED FOR DRESSAGE, CROSS COUNTRY AND CONES DRIVING AT HOME AND ABROAD. UP TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARD. £4500. PLEASE CONTACT HEATHER DAVENPORT on 01442-890713.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
LONG MARSTON

FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE

ALL WELCOME
Tickets
Adults £3
Children £2
Family (2adults,2children) £8

CHILDRENS RAFFLE

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

SUNDAY 1stApril
START: 3.00 PM
IN **VILLAGE HALL**
LONG MARSTON

INCLUDING DRINK & CAKE

PLEASE CONTACT
Carole Harrison
01296 668526
or
Elaine Smith
01296 662099

The

Queens Head

Long Marston

Pub lunches and sandwiches served
Monday to Saturday
12 noon to 5pm
Sunday lunch 12 noon to 5pm

Our Tapas Menu is now served
Monday - Saturday, 6pm to 9pm

Quiz night: 8pm first Sunday of the mo nth.
01296 668368
w.w.w.thequeenshead.uk.net

What's on… continued

"Roll up, Roll up, for our Skittles Evening" on Saturday 28th April, starting at 5pm with a Buffet Tea in Bishop Wood School,Tring.

There will be skittle lanes hired for the evening; great fun to play and to watch, with a team prize for the winners. Four people is the maximum number for a team, and an amusing name for each team would go down well. There will be other fun things, quizzes such as Guessing the Object and a Giant Word-search, a Children's Storytelling Corner, Children's and Teenagers' Second hand bookstall, and, of course, a Raffle. What we need is lots of people there to make it buzz.

Tickets are priced £5, but for children under 12 only £2 . Tickets will be available from the beginning of March, either from Vanda Emery 01442 822300, Janet Ridgway 01442 851303 or Margaret Wilson 01442 890241 With your support we will be raising money for our Mission choice for March and April 2007, the MU Literacy and Development Programme in Africa.

Currently the Literacy and Development Project is being piloted very successfully in areas of great disadvantage and need in Burundi, Malawi and the Sudan. It is hoped that it can be expanded further. The project enables learners, both women and men, to acquire literacy and numeracy skills. .

In order to ensure that the Skittles Evening is a success, we would encourage you to enthuse, to rally, to invite your friends, your family, other families to join you and come along. There will be posters and leaflets to remind you of the event and the date.

Walk of Life for Kidney Research UK

25th March 2007 - Hatfield House

Take part in the Walk of Life at Hatfield House and help us to save lives through funding research and to raise awareness of kidney disease and organ donation by taking part in our sponsored walk in the grounds of Hatfield House on Sunday 25th March 2007.

There are two routes starting and finishing at the house. Walkers will have a choice of a 3.5-mile family route and a more challenging 6-mile route, which takes in the peace and tranquility of the 42-acre park. The registration fee is £5.00 per walker, and although there is no minimum sponsorship, we encourage walkers to raise as much sponsorship as they can. Proceeds will be used to further the work of Kidney Research UK and help improve the lives of people living with kidney disease.

If you would like to register, or require further information, please contact our Elizabeth Wright on 01933 650284 or visit www.kidneyresearchuk.org

A Taste of the Tropics

THE WI promises a feast of sunshine! A Caribbean Cookery demonstration will brighten the evening for members and visitors on Tuesday March 13th at 8pm in Long Marston Victory Hall. Transport on the night can be arranged from all three villages by telephoning Pam Edmonds 01296 661370. Delicious refreshments included in the £2 visitors' fee.

Next month - Victorian jewellery and the social history of the 19th century.
Watch this space.

Garage wanted

Dry, lockable garage required for classic car.

Please contact Debbie Roberts on 01296 668892 if you have an empty garage you would be willing to rent out.

News from All Saints

Following the success of previous years we are having another **Beetle Drive** on Sunday 1st April in the Victory Hall. This is a fun family afternoon and there are always lots of prizes.

Tickets will be £8 for a family, £3 for adults and £2 for children which does include a drink and cake and also the opportunity to take part in a craft competition! There will also be a children's raffle.

See you there children with your Mums, Dads, Grannies and Grandads.

Enquiries to Elaine Smith 01296 662099

Crocus walk

A "Crocus walk" is being organised on Saturday 24th March to raise money for Breakthrough Breast Cancer (charity number 10G2636)

The walk will start from Wilstone War Memorial at 2pm.and will be roughly 4.5 miles in length taking in the reservoirs and canal, finishing at the War Memorial.

BE A FILM 'EXTRA' Register your email address, and you will be the first to know what new films are coming your way, and be able to comment and suggest other films. Send your email address to Peter Walker at: **half-moon120@hotmail.com**

'Bright Wings of Summer'

Exhibition at the Natural History Museum Tring
March 10th-April 22nd 2007

Margaret Noakes writes
'DISCOVER the wonder and importance of our butterflies and moths and what we can do to ensure their future in a drastically changing landscape. This exhibition is mounted by the Herts & Middx. Branch of Butterfly Conservation'.

Ringlet Butterfly

This is the first ever butterfly exhibition to be held in Tring and has particular significance because of Walter Rothschild's interest in butterflies and moths and the fact that his niece, Dr Miriam Rothschild was, until her death 2 years ago, a Vice President of Butterfly Conservation. She loved Tring and would have been delighted that this aspect of natural history is being highlighted in 2007.

The exhibition will be suitable for all ages and will be accompanied by an evening talk and a special visit to Millhoppers, the reserve owned by Herts & Middx. Branch and managed by a local member with volunteer help. Newly published leaflets about the reserve will be available as well as books, reports and plenty of information about the subject.

It should be fun for everybody. Do come and enjoy being taken into a special world.

Tring Bereavement Visitors

You, your family and friends are warmly invited to attend a Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for those we have loved and see no more.

The short service for the whole community will be held on
Sunday April 29th 2007 at 3p.m.
in the
Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, Tring.

To be followed by light refreshments.

Please bring a long-stemmed flower, (if you will) to remember a family member or friend.

We particularly welcome those who have lost a loved one during the past year.

If you would like further information, please contact:-
Margaret Oram 01442 824575

In brief...

Ode to Rick Williams

from the Askey family

Happy the man, and happy he alone,

He who can call this day his own -

He who, secure within, can say:

Tomorrow do thy worst, for I have lived today!

John Dryden.

Friends of Youth in Need Tanzania

Due to the generosity of many people turning out their lofts and other archives towards our car boots, we have a number of large items that we can exclusively offer to you first. If anyone is in need of a full size wooden cot , an IKEA stair gate (new) or a variety of cot mattresses, please ring Janet on 01442 826018. We can deliver. In addition to gaining a bargain you will be helping us to free up some of our limited storage space.

Try walking in 2007!

by John Harris

WALKING is the most natural and simple form of movement and an excellent all round mode of exercise. Yet as a nation we are walking less and less. Walking can help you to:

* Improve your general health
* Get fit and stay fit
* Control your weight
* Live longer!

Walking helps protect the body from many illnesses and conditions: heart disease and stroke, high blood pressure, osteoarthritis, obesity, depression, some types of diabetes and colon cancer.

Health experts agree that 30 minutes' brisk walking on most days of the week is sufficient to improve fitness. That might seem a lot at first, but walking can be incorporated into your everyday life more easily than any other activity.

You don't need any special gear and you can do it wherever you are. It raises your energy levels, works off calories and doesn't cost a bean!

Where to start? Try looking at **www.walkinginherts.co.uk** – this website gives you all the information you need to know to start walking. It lists guided walks taking place, leaflets and books of walks and contact details for dozens of walk groups.

John Harris's Walking in Herts

Go on, check the site now – you know you will enjoy a

Long distance!

Away on holiday or business when *Village News* is published? No need to wait until you get home to read the latest village magazine with our website editions! One reader who couldn't wait has reported reading the February edition from an internet cafe in the Caribbean. Do we have any more long distance readers who can beat this? Do send us an email and let us know (editorwlmp@yahoo.com).

You and your friends and relatives can read the last three editions of *Village News* at the two websites listed below. Broadband is best as the PDF files are quite big. You can also print a copy if you want to.

www.tringruralpc.org.uk and click 'Local News'.
www.wilstone.me.uk and click 'Village News'.

TRING CHARITIES

(Registered Charity No. 207805)

ALMSHOUSES IN TRING

From time to time one and two bedroom bungalows become available to let, for people who currently live in Aldbury, Long Marston, Marsworth, Pitstone, Puttenham, Tring, Wigginton or Wilstone. Applicants, one of whom must be aged 55 or over, must not own their own home or have savings in excess of £16,000. The average weekly maintenance contribution (equivalent to "rent" for housing benefit purposes) is £60 for a one bedroom property and £70 for a two bedroom property. If you would like to be considered for the Waiting List, please telephone the Secretary to the Trustees on 01442 827913 (weekday office hours only) for an application form.

...In brief

HALL - IMPROVEMENTS

REGULAR users of Wilstone village hall will be aware of the many improvements that have taken place over the last 2-3 years, notably introducing a dedicated toilet for disabled persons and total refurbishment of the existing toilets, the introduction of gas central heating to radiators, tiling of the kitchen floor, refurbishment of the main hall floor, replacement of the old plastic chairs with over 100 padded ones and the purchase of a new fridge/freezer.

The latest projects to be completed are 'opening up' an area under the stage to provide much-wanted storage space and the replacement of old lighting units in the main hall.

The next project is to replace the worn surfaces in the foyer and main toilets with floor tiles. Hopefully this will be completed within the next few weeks.

As readers will appreciate, this all costs money. As such the Committee is always on the lookout for new bookings. At present the hall is vacant on all weekdays during the daytime, except for Thursday afternoons. Hire rates are extremely competitive.

Birthday spot ...

Happy Birthday
Melanie (Big Mel)
Have a great Day.
With love from all your
Fellow tuskers XX

PS Mel is 40 but don't say we told you!!

Wanted

To Buy
A field to graze our horses
Please phone 01296 662167

Need an evening out? Come to the Half Moon for great food, choice of wines, and good beers.

The Half Moon

Wilstone

(off the B489 near Tring and Aston Clinton)

Real Ales ● Good Food ● Children's Menu
Children's Play Area ● Patio ● Car Park

Tel: 01442 826410
A warm welcome guaranteed!

FARM P.E. MEAD & Sons SHOP

Always a big selection of
quality fresh vegetables.
Extensive freezer selection too.
Our own lamb and beef, and local venison.
Top brand pet foods and animal feeds.
Garden bird tables and bird food.

And have a break with a great cappuccino in the Café and Gift Shop, set in the comfortable surroundings of our restored 18th century barn.
Toasted sandwiches, salads and ploughman's lunches.

Open 7 days
Lower Icknield Way, Wilstone Green
(01442) 828478

Parish Council News

Local Elections:

Your council needs you and your vote

Now is the time to ensure that your name is on the Electoral Register so that you can support your community and vote. Copies of the Electoral Register are kept at post offices, libraries, and by town and parish clerks.

Please make a quick check to make sure your name is there it would take no time at all. It is your right to vote, so do not miss out.

You may have also attended one of the recent meetings held by parish and town councils around the district and shown an interest in becoming a councillor. Nomination forms are available from **Tuesday 27th March 2007**, and can be.

obtained by telephoning and requesting one from your District Council's Elections Office (01442 228230).

As Tring Parish Council Clerk (Dawn Slade) explains: "Parish and Town Councils depend on local people taking an interest in what happens in their community. Whatever their background, local people standing as councillors can bring a wealth of knowledge and community understanding into the local team."

If you are interested or know someone who might just need some encouragement, now is the time to act, get forms and send them off. Help your local council to meet your needs by supporting them, and remember, VOTE

Your Parish Councillors are:

Mr Michael Tomlinson (Chairman) 01296 661 311
Mr Chris Griffiths 01296 668 257
Mr Alan Winfield 01296 668 977
Mrs Abby Fermont 01442 825 352
Mr Nick Murrell 01296 668 190
Mr Peter Foster 01442 825 282
Mrs Jill Finlan 01296 661 716
Mrs Kim Deathe 01296 662 623

The Clerk to the Council is:
Mrs Dawn Slade 01442 824 138

***The Village Warden is*:**
Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822 031

Parish Council website: **www.tringruralpc.org.uk**

You can view and comment on planning applications at

www.dacorum.gov.uk/planning

www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

Are you aged 9 - 14
and interested in a
YOUTH CLUB in Wilstone?

WILSTONE YOUTH CLUB PROPOSAL

Village News understands that it has been proposed that the village should look at forming a youth club and the parish council has expressed some interest and will be looking at the implications at the next council meeting.

If your children are interested in such a venture or you have some time to get involved in setting up a club, we would suggest that you first check the minutes of the last council meeting first (21st February) or speak to one of the councillors. If you can not get a contact address you can write to ***Village News*** and express your interest. We will be reporting on progress in future issues and will i pass on your details to the relevant group if and when formed. *Ed.*

Mike & Diane Armson have now had the antiques shop in Wilstone for 14 years, and are always happy to advise or help anyone interested in buying or selling antiques. To get in touch phone 01442 890990 or 07860 910034.
armsonantiques@ic24.net
Our website is up and running and updated regularly.
www.armsonantiques.com
We are frequently on the premises, but to view the stock a prior phone call is definitely recommended.

The Old Post Office
34 Tring Road
Wilstone, Nr Tring, Herts
HP23 4PB

Letters ...

John Cockerill

Dear Editor
We would like to thank all the very kind people who have shown us such support during the last six months. For all the time that John was in Stoke Mandeville Hospital there was not a single day when he did not have a visitor.

We were overwhelmed by the number of cards and letters received since his passing, and would like to thank everyone who came to the Service to celebrate his life, and for their very generous donations. We do not know the final figure but it will be in the region of £500, to be divided between The Salvation Army and The Alzheimer's Society.

We were also delighted to be joined by so many friends at the Village Hall, to continue the celebration of John's life in the way he would have most enjoyed.

Thank you all. Pam, Tim, Lyn, and Alison

From Margaret Buchi, Wilstone

Thank you to all whose kindness and support made the death of my Mother more bearable. Some didn't even know her personally, but through me knew what a character she was. She enjoyed her visits to Wilstone and would have been glad to have been remembered by so many.

Dear Editor
Thank you for covering the 'heArt' of Wilstone exhibition in the latest issue of Village News.

I'd like to take this opportunity clarify some issues surrounding the organisation of the exhibition. The exhibition actually arose from the efforts of SueThomson, Penny Goddard, Phil Madley and myself (SaraWickenden) to produce joint publicity for our individual exhibitions in the Open Studios last year. This led to the formation of the 'heArt' of Wilstone group (including John Painter) whose members jointly organised the exhibition in December. The exhibition was very much a group effort and it is extraordinarily disheartening that the efforts of the all the members were not recognised or acknowledged including the help and support given by the Village Hall committee and many village people. I believe it is also important to recognise that all exhibitors donated 10% of their sale proceeds to the Ian Rennie hospice; and together with donations by the public raised a total of £190 for this very good cause .And as you reported elsewhere we also raised £54 for Youth in Need in Tanzania .This exhibition, enjoyed by so many people, was a group effort. And I would very much appreciate it if you could clarify these issues as I feel that the hard work and considerable generosity of many people who were involved with organising this exhibition has not currently been made apparent.

Yours sincerely Sara Wickenden

Normally we rely on the group to provide us with a report of the event Ed

Rick Williams

Dear Editor
May I through your Parish Magazine join the many, who I am sure, have already expressed their shock and sorrow at the untimely death of Rick.
I had the privilege of serving the Parish as Chairman of the P.C when Rick was a Councillor.
He was a very keen and knowledgeable member of the team, taking particular interest in lighting and planning.
I will always remember his reluctance to support the sighting of more lamp standards in Station Road, saying that they detracted from the essence of rural life, suggesting that those who wanted a "bright" nigh time environment should perhaps move to Tring or any other urban area.
He was very thorough in his planning work and we were always very grateful that he and Serena opened their home to the parishioners on Sunday mornings to hold planning meetings.
He was a fearless tree surgeon, doing good work throughout Parish and in my opinion a thoroughly decent chap who was always good entertaining company.
He will obviously be greatly missed by many and I would like to extend my sincere sympathy to Serena, Adrienne and his family.
Many thanks, **Brian Prior**.

Berkley Writes..

Dear Editor
I was very upset when I read my piece in last month's magazine not to find a special thanks to my friend.

Kevin Gray....

Kevin should have been include among those who helped Berkley out of his predicament and we are sorry that he got missed.
By printing his name here in large letters we hope we make amends. Ed.

Berkley waiting for the post-

ASTROPE

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE AND FENCING CONTRACTOR
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Tales from Tringford Farm

by Gary and Minty

WE seem to remember telling you last month that we had news of a visit by Miss Nina and Scruffy Ed to the vet. Now we have to add to that because Grumpy Po had the vet come to visit him. Oh, by the way, we call him Grumpy because he always chases us and the donkeys when we are in his field. Mind you, he can't run as fast as us – well, he couldn't last week because he had a bad front hoof. That's why the vet came to visit him. Poor old fellow had a flint go through his foot, that's the sole bit underneath, which turned septic, the horsey lot call it "pussinfoot". The vet had to drill a hole in his foot to relieve the pressure. Quite sad for him really because when the vet came Po was in his stable hanging his foot in the air virtually waving it at the vet telling him to get on and do something about it because it hurt. All is well with him again; his foot is healed and the hole has been sealed up with hoof putty, but he hasn't had a chance to chase us because the fields are too wet and soggy.

Ed and Nina went off to the vet together in the horse box, Ed having no idea what was in store for him. Ed and the vets do not see eye to eye. As soon as he realises that it is a rubber glove job he just turns to jelly and gives a good impression of being a wind-up clockwork toy set down on the floor for a good work-out. The result of his visit was the removal of a growth on his neck and, while he was under the anaesthetic, there were four bad teeth to be removed. After all that trauma he is a revitalised dog, with plenty of energy and voice for a twelve year old and he can still tackle the odd bone or two.

Miss Nina's problem required her to stay all day to have X-rays on her hock - that's the elbow bit on the rear legs. These pictures revealed a touch of arthritis in the plates below the hock joint. Two injections of steroids and stable rest for a week have put her back on the competition trail once again. She is now in training for the coming season, and we still have to put up with her being a "bossy boots".

Last month we also reported on Mrs Black Call Duck sitting on a clutch of eggs. Everyone was very excited one morning early this month when she came out of her hutch with eight little ducklings dashing about around her feet. She was very proud to show them all off and then took them for a swim on the pond. There are five yellow and three yellow and black ducklings who are all very well behaved. When mum calls they all dash up to her and huddle under her feathers for a warm up. As they are so tiny Bo-Peep decided they should have an enclosed pen with a top wire to prevent the nasty herons and magpies trying to carry them off.

Mrs Black and her ducklings

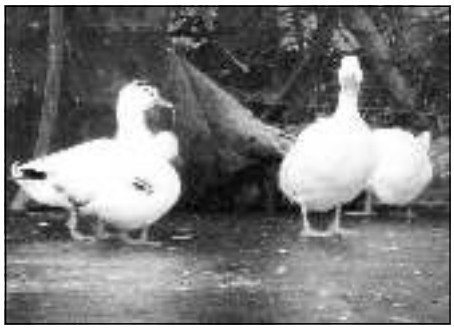
It was in the building of this pen that we all had a good old belly laugh at Ed's expense. As usual he had to be in on the action keeping an eye on what was going on along with the chickens and geese. All of a sudden Ed let out such a yelp and then a growl after he had dashed around to hide behind Bo-Peep's legs. Across the other side of the duck run under construction was one of the new pullets with a beak full of Ed's hair. She had crept up behind him and pecked his bottom and pulled the hairs out at the same time. Poor Ed's face was a picture, - he just couldn't make out what had happened, made even worse by everybody laughing – you could say he was not amused. I bet he keeps an eye out to the rear in future when he is in the chicken run.

Talking of chickens, we have just welcomed some new Rhode Island Red pullets to the flock who have already presented us with a tiny little egg just for starters. They have had a smart new five place egg laying box made for them and fitted into the hen house – very posh!!

The big white cockerel 'Beaky', the marauder of the footpath walkers, has been found another new home. We wonder if that's the last we have seen of him, or will he return as before?

The donkeys Donk and Jenny are both well and in fine fettle, still shattering the silence of the day with their ear blasting brays. Little donk seems to be becoming the pet of the yard because he is such an amusing character and knows how to play to an audience with his innocent looks and big floppy ears. Oh, Jenny's tummy measurements this month are 72 inches, a two inch increase on last month, so all seems in order in the maternity wing. Mind you, after her and donk had performed in the snow the baby donk could be all ends up. When the snow came everybody was eager to get out in it and those two went absolutely potty chasing one another, galloping around the field and then rolling in the snow; even Po had a good gallop around. What is it about snow? We don't like it because it makes us look very tawdry against that whiteness maybe a good script there for a soap powder advert! We decided to stay put in our nice warm dry stable and have our breakfast, lunch and tea brought to us. Much the better idea, thank you.

The ducks had a fine old time, slipping and sliding about on the ice; they just couldn't make it out why their usual morning swimming session had turned into an ice hockey match. Never mind though - the spring weather is just around the corner when we will all be able to have a good chew at all the new sweet Spring grass.



Swimming the hard way

There you are then - that about covers this month's activities, with a couple of pictures this time. So until we meet again
Gary and Minty signing off.

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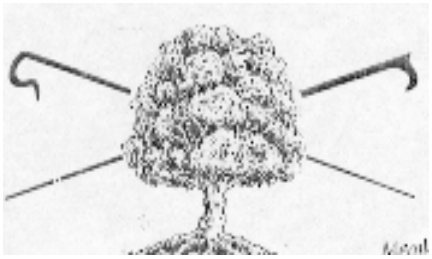

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A voice from the past

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Transcribed by Colin Moore

The late Cyril Chandler (1901-1978) talking about Long Marston in the early 1900's

Memories of flags and banners The Sunday school treats were very special village events and started with a parade

"Some of them were Chinese: the rising sun or the setting sun, I don't know which. Japanese…. there were flags of every nationality that we used to have at the Sunday school treat . Only the Rev'nd Anthony he didn't hold with em, he done away with em. I think he also done away with that banner what we carried in front. Well we got two in the last year or two, cos they'd still got their original banner that was made in the start at 1835 and we had a new one at the centenary, cos it got so many moth holes in it… that it was nearly like wire netting".

In 1920-30's Cyril was in the Long Marston Band and they were suitably reimbursed for playing at various Sunday School treats around the area. These were often held midweek so the band members had to take time off work and hence the reimbursement. He was also on the organising committee, but not for long ….

We used to have three Sunday school treats for several years in one week. They weren't very profitable touches either, especially Long Marston! The last time we had a meeting about carrying on, some of the old dears that got in … poked their noses in somehow or the other… We had the usual meeting about having this Sunday school treat. Didn't I get swore at afterwards cos old Uncle Jim could swear well what he called me the next that was nobody's business. "I couldn't see what I could do - "I was only one", I said. Anyhow they debated having this Sunday school treat and they wanted to have a outing to somewhere or the other. In the finish we proposed to hold it a usual, cos old butcher was on my side cos he liked it. In the finish they out-voted us. Well that was pretty obvious, there was several of them there and we hadn't got a leg to stand on … Anyhow when they'd decided where they was going out to I said, "Well that's it - I'm finished" One lady said, well surely I should carry on as usual but I said "if you going whistle the tune you can pay the piper". Anyway I got out in the porch and old butcher come and caught me up, cos, we been money in hand since 1835 and never bin without a pound in hand. "How about the *so-in-so* money Cyril"? he said. In the finish I said "Oh let them *so-in-so* spend it". They must have heard what I was saying! I said "when they've spent it they'll be happy". The next year they were in debt!

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Su Doku Corner

by Colin Moore

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	2						5	
4	6	1			3			
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Give your brain a work out. Fill in the grid so that every column, row and 3x3 box contains only the digits 1 to 9.

The Puttenham Page

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News from St Mary's Church

ST. MARY'S A.G.M will take place on Monday 12th March at 8 p.m. in the Cecilia Hall, commencing with the Vestry Meeting to elect two Churchwardens for the ensuing year, immediately followed by the A.G.M.

The Electoral Roll must be renewed this year , so if you have not already sent in your form, or wish to have your name on our Roll please contact Rosemary Thorpe-Tracey –Telephone 01296 668998, 7 Lukes Lane, Gubblecote HP23 4QQ.

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The agricultural story line... *by David Mead*

The Woodmans at Great Farm

A BUREAU bookcase was seen crossing the meadow. This particular piece of furniture has been taking up too much room at Simon and Jenny's for 20 years. In 20 minutes it was on the van and into our sitting room. Luckily it came apart. I noticed that inside the base there were definite signs of gnawing.

Now some years ago a lady appeared and asked if she could walk round the outside of the house. Apparently she remembered the Woodmans. This family had farmed Wilstone Great Farm from 1760 - 1930. When I asked her why did Rothschilds pull down the old farmhouse, she told me the old house was falling down and was full of rats.

Now I know my grandfather went to the farm sale in 1930 - did he buy this bureau and give it to father when he set up home? First find the right rat. Anyway I like to think it's come home - with that provenance it's staying.

The Woodmans at Great Farm, circa 1900

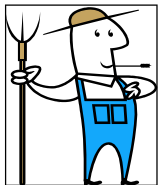
The Woodmans: William, Alice, Aida and Miriam, brothers and sisters, had retired and moved to Lonicera Cottage, now Mr & Mrs Minter's home. Alice Woodman taught in Wilstone School. In fact she took me for my first year in 1939. Vera Rance remembers her as being very strict. I think Miss Woodman would have been proud of her ex pupil. Vera is bright and cheerful with a love of poetry, a wonderful memory and a friend to all her neighbours past and present. That ruler across the knuckles worked well!

On the subject of farm sales, my grandfather, Percy Mead, loved farm and house sales. He went to a sale at Ashridge House and bought a fire engine and a grand piano. Luckily he was able to sell the piano after the sale but the fire engine got back to Gubblecote. It was the sort you trundled up and down the long passages - not much use at Gubblecote.

I have just heard of Tubby Edmond's passing away. I have told Tubby tales and will tell more next time. Teresa and I send our love to Ethel and wish her well.

Grow your own

by Fred Planter



It's that time of the year again when we can get things moving in the vegetable garden, but as the recent cold snap shows it pays not to be in too much of a hurry to get things planted.

But March is fairly safe to plant early vegetables and there is a great variety to choose from. Even with a small vegetable patch it is amazing just how much you can grow if you plan carefully and choose real value crops. From last year I still have leeks and a few carrots and some Jerusalem artichokes,a row of perpetual or spinach beet and multicoloured Swiss chard which will crop again in the next few weeks but the chard will be replaced later. Also I have few plants of perpetual sprouting broccoli that should crop shortly. But I am not impressed with them and they will be replaced with a standard variety for next year.

This year I intend to grow a row of shallots, garlic and 2 rows of onions and I shall be planting those early as soon the soil drains. The onions are not a particularly good value crop as the yield is small for the area required but you can't beat the flavour. Similarly with new potatoes so again 2 rows of a good early variety with about 12 to the row. So far all of these will crop early and release the ground ready for leeks and sprouting broccoli. I've got 3 rows of established strawberries but I shall replace one of the rows with fresh new plants taken from last year's runners.

I will plant a few Jerusalem artichokes along the panelled fence. Smaller crops do not do too well there but the artichokes grow 6 to 8 feet and produce an abundance of tasty tubers for the following winter.

Last year I grew two 4 foot squares of self supporting peas I am to give these another go, but add a bit of support. A couple of rows of parsnips, then short rows of carrots, spring onion and repeated planting of radishes, mixed salad leaf and lettuce, a square of about 20 sweetcorn and a tepee of runner or climbing French beans. Leeks and sprouting broccoli will grown from seed ready to plant later when space is freed up. No bad for a small patch!

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Ten days before the mast

Or, how I got to the top (and back down) *by Phil Buchi*

While we were shovelling snow in February, Phil Buchi spent ten warm sunny days learning how to sail a Tall Ship around the beautiful Canary Islands. Here are his tales from the mess deck.

Under full sail (Picture with acknowledgement to the Tall Ships Youth Trust)

"Choice of two", said the pleasant lady on the phone at the Tall Ships Youth Trust in Portsmouth. "If you want to go in February we have space on the Cork to Dublin voyage in the Irish Sea, or... there's one place left on the Tenerife to Gran Canaria ship." The Irish Sea in February? Was she kidding? It's pretty awful in August. Not much of a decision then to secure the last berth aboard the curiously named British brig Stavros S. Niarchos, outbound from Santa Cruz de Tenerife to seek out new life forms, and to take sailors to parts of the ship they had previously only known from watching Captain Pugwash.

Two weeks later, on lookout duty at 04.00, gazing out over an apparently empty Atlantic Ocean under a blaze of stars with the lights of Tenerife a distant haze over the horizon and a spectacular sunrise to look forward to, I considered that I had probably made the right choice. The ship looked pretty impressive during the day - all masts, spars and rigging - but at night it was even better. From the lookout's position on the wing of the open bridge the whole ship was set out in the moonlight: the helmsman at the wheel concentrating hard on the compass illuminated by the light of the binnacle (it was his first go), the officer of the watch strolling up and down taking the air, a fellow crew member bringing cups of tea. Fantastic. You really felt that you were on an 18th century sailing ship.

Stavros S. Niarchos *is* a replica of an 18th century brig. (A brig has two masts, both square rigged). Above decks all the masts, rigging and sails are arranged exactly as they were on the original. This 60 metre, 900 ton steel vessel was launched in 2000 though, and some opportunity has been taken to make some helpful modifications. Crew conditions have been improved considerably (thank goodness). There is a bunk - of sorts - for each crew member and you get your own locker in quite cosy cabins of eight. There are hot showers, flush toilets and air conditioning. The crew mess is very comfortable and the food excellent. For those of us more used to the cramped conditions on small yachts this was luxury indeed!

So what was I doing there? I have often seen the tall ships visiting Falmouth and other ports and marvelled at the displays of the cadets in the rigging. I knew that the purpose of these ships was to provide young people and Navy cadets with sail training experience - but I did not know that there were opportunities for the middle-aged too! A conversation in a bar last year revealed that a colleague of mine had sailed on one of these ships and had a great time. The Tall Ships Youth Trust is a charity which owns two ships to give young people the personal development experience of being part of a tall ship crew. But there are times when young people are not available (because they are at school!) and so that the ships are not expensively idle, adult voyages fill the gaps. An occasional yachtsman myself, I thought it might be interesting to find out how the big boys do it. It was!

Before leaving the busy port of Santa Cruz a whole day was spent on training, briefings and finding our way around. (It

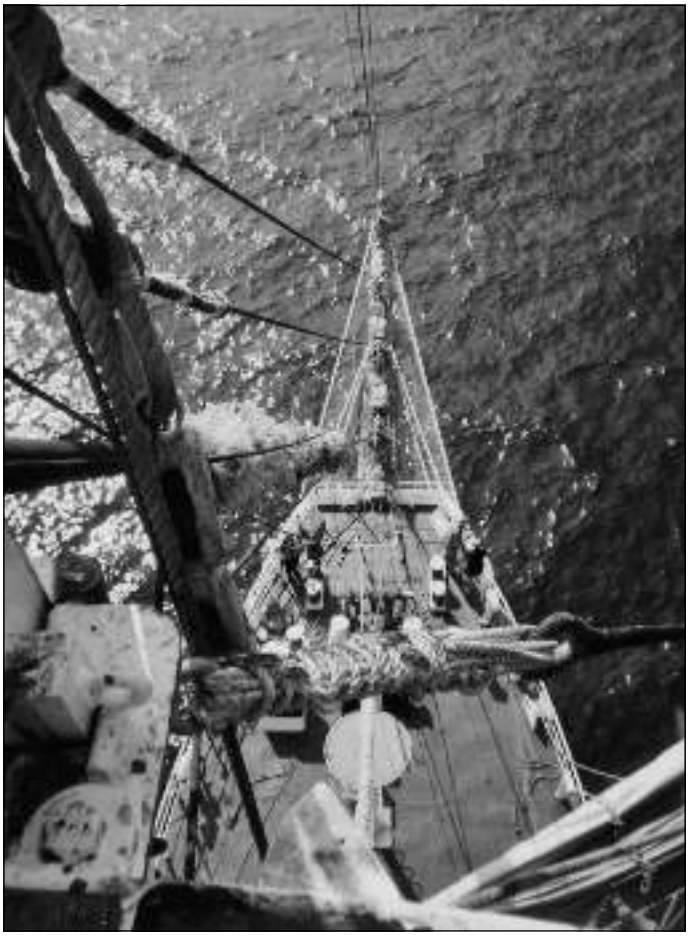
Before the main mast. The author in climbing harness with lots of old rope.

took me three days to find the men's showers.) Even today, a crew of 64 is required to sail efficiently - the main body of 48 being *us*, divided into three watches of 16. The Captain and other officers were professional merchant seamen (phew!) with our Watch Leader and other helpers being volunteers with lots of previous experience. In Blue Watch we had an amazing cross section of people, ages and experience. The youngest was 18, the oldest a very agile 70 year old! Plenty of room for the middle-aged, and indeed anyone else.

After all this preparation everyone was keen to get going and we pulled away from the quay in time to see the sunset and a full moon rise into the clear sky. The 4-hour watch routine is familiar to anyone who has sailed in small boats, but it does take a bit of getting used to each time. After a few days it became (almost) second nature to rise when called at 3.30am and to go to bed at 8pm! The days were spent manning the sails, bracing the yards and learning the ropes - hundreds of them. If you wanted to learn, someone would show you. And here's the best bit: there was time to idle about. I hold an advanced certificate in idling and it was great to get some practice in. Even the daily clean-the-ship routine was quite fun with so many people trying to clean the same area and getting in each other's way.

As a bonus we visited some beautiful places bathed in warm sunshine: Tenerife, Gran Canaria and the smaller islands of La

All spars and braces. Make sure you pull the right one!



Room at the top. View from the Fore Royal yard (don't look down) (Picture: Phil Buchi; honest!)

Gomera and La Palma. A bus tour was offered at La Palma, and we travelled from a palm fringed beach, through banana plantations and tiny vineyards, across barren lava flows (from 1948), into a dense forest and finally out into the snow and ice to view the volcano crater. A remarkable place, worth visiting again.

So yes, I did lean how the big sailing ships operate and I have a 'Competent Crew' certificate to prove it! I did make it to the top of each mast (see picture for the view), know my Royals from my T'gallants, put sails in and out, hauled the braces, steered the ship and cleaned the toilets. What more could one want? If you would like to have a go, then the Tall Ships Youth Trust would welcome your support by booking an adult voyage which helps them to keep the ships running. No previous experience is necessary, just a willingness to have a go - but nothing is compulsory and you don't have to climb if you don't want to. They sail almost every week of the year, and offer some one-day (which I did) and 3-day sailings so you can see if you like it. The cost is not huge and represents remarkable value for money. 5-day voyages start at £299, with longer voyages from £599. The full programme for 2007 is on their web site: ***www.tallships.org***. Or you can get a smashing brochure by ringing the Tall Ships Youth Trust on 023 9283 2055. And before you set sail, speak to an old salt for some useful hints. By the way, I now answer to my Watch number: *Blue 16*.

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Long Marston Cricket Club

"A view from the Boundary"

By Paul Dumpleton

THE mild winter and early spring finds the director of 'Hedgerows and Turf' eagerly anticipating the first full mowing of the outfield and table. With the season approximately 8 weeks away,. pre-season nets are under-way at Misbourne School, Great t Missenden, Wednesdays 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending these should first contact Kevin Winfield (01442 381008) or Geoff Graveson (01296 681517) to book a place.

Promotion in 2006 means visits to different grounds in the Oxford Cherwell League area for Long Marston First XI in the coming season. The team will now play in Division three and will start the league season on 12th May with a home fixture against Handborough. The Second XI season begins on the same date with an away fixture in Division seven at Bledlow.

Colts registration evening will be on Wednesday 25th April with the first training session commencing on Wednesday 2nd May.

The club will also again compete in the National Village Cup and the Hertfordshire Villages Cup (Runners up in 2006) but at the time of writing, details of the draw are awaited. More in the next edition. Other dates for the diary:-

Come and enjoy a day's cricket at Long Marston photo Village News

Saturday 24th March-
Pre Season quiz at Marlins

Sunday 13th May
Minor Counties Cricket Association Knockout Cup - Group 4. at 11.00am. Hertfordshire CCC v Oxfordshire CCC.

Friday 25th May
Coronation Cup 1st Round - Flamstead v Long Marston with the winners travelling to Aston Clinton or Eddlesborough in the second round on 8th June.

Sunday 19th – Tuesday 21st August
Minor Counties Cricket Association Championship. at 11am. Hertfordshire CCC v Buckinghamshire CCC (3 days)

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It's all coming our way folks!

by Colin

THIS week British Waterways completed work on the new overflow at Wilstone Reservoir after several months of disruption. The old structure and ditch at the far end of the north bank has been replaced by new overflow and underground pipes to carry the water to the road corner where it enters into the old stream. Following the course of the water provides a striking comparison between the old and new, and perhaps begs the question, did they start at the wrong end?

North bank of Wilstone Reservoir with the new overflow ….

….Hundreds of gallons flow into the pipes …..

...and into the stream by the main road …..

…... to emerge at the bottom of Chapel End Lane and disappear into an old brick culvert before meandering as the Gudgeon stream across the fields to the canal .

This is an ancient water course which existed long before the reservoir and supplied the old water mill which was situated towards Astrope

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What's the recipe today, Jane?

Parmesan Crusted Brie and Creamy Garlic Mushrooms

by Jane Kelly

Jane says: Try these two tasty dishes that can serve two for a light supper or lunch or serve four as a starter.

PARMESAN CRUSTED BRIE with lemon and lime sprinkles

What you need

8oz (225g) triangle ripe brie
3oz (75g) breadcrumbs from a white loaf (crusts and all)
1½ oz (40g) freshly grated parmesan
2 large eggs
2 tbsp milk
light olive oil
for the sprinkles
grated zest of 1 lime & 1 lemon,
3 tbsp freshly chopped parsley,
2 cloves garlic (chopped

What you do

1. Several hours in advance, cut the brie into 4 equal triangular wedges as shown in the diagram on the right.
2. Mix the breadcrumbs with the parmesan and some freshly milled black pepper and spread the mixture on a plate.
3. Beat together the eggs and milk.
4. Dip each brie wedge firstly in the egg and milk then in the bread crumbs coating thoroughly, then repeat to give a double coating.
5. Chill uncovered in the fridge.
6. Now make the sprinkles by simply mixing all the ingredients together. When ready heat the oil in a frying pan to give a depth of ½ inch (1 cm) until very hot and briefly fry the brie (approx 45 secs) on each side. Drain on some crumpled kitchen paper and serve sprinkled with the sprinkles with lemon and lime wedges to squeeze over.
8. Serve with crusty bread as a starter and just add a green salad for lunch or supper.

CREAMY GARLIC MUSHROOMS

What you need

1 lb (450g) mushrooms - thinly sliced
2/3 cloves garlic - crushed
bunch parsley - chopped
10 fl oz double cream

What you do

Simply put a layer of mushrooms in an oven proof dish and sprinkle with some of the garlic and then some of the parsley. Repeat until everything is used ending with the parsley. Pour over the cream, cover with foil and bake in a moderate oven (180C 375F gas 4) for 45mins to 1 hour or until the mushrooms are cooked through. Check periodically as the mushrooms need re-submerging under the cream. Serve piping hot with lots of crusty bread to soak up the juices. Mouth watering!

Chris Griffiths

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Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

Thank you .....

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Village News

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From the Vicarage… *by Rev'd Frank Mercurio*

The Days of Holy Week - Palm Sunday ~ Maundy Thursday ~ Good Friday ~ Holy Saturday

CHRISTIANS are often called 'Easter People' because we are called to radiate the joy of the risen Christ in our lives. Before that joy, we have to travel the path of the cross through Holy Week. I hope this guide is useful.

Holy Week is the last week of Lent, the week immediately preceding Easter Sunday. It is observed in many Christian churches as a time to commemorate and enact the suffering (Passion) and death of Jesus through various observances and services of worship. While some church traditions focus specifically on the events of the last week of Jesus' life, many of the liturgies symbolize larger themes that marked Jesus' entire ministry. Observances during this week range from daily liturgical services in churches to informal meetings in homes to participate in a Christian version of the Passover Seder meal.

The entire week between Palm Sunday and Holy Saturday is included in Holy Week, and some church traditions have daily services during the week. However, usually only Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday are times of special observance in our churches.

Palm Sunday (or Passion Sunday)

This Sunday observes the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem that was marked by the crowds, who were in Jerusalem for Passover, waving palm branches and proclaiming Him as the messianic king. The Gospels tell us that Jesus rode into the city on a donkey, enacting the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, and in so doing emphasized the humility that was to characterize the Kingdom he proclaimed. Traditionally, worshippers enact the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem by the waving of palm branches and singing songs of celebration. Sometimes this is accompanied by a processional into the church. In many churches, children are an integral part of this service since they enjoy processions and activity as a part of worship.

This Sunday is also known as **Passion Sunday** to commemorate the beginning of Holy Week and Jesus' final agonizing journey to the cross. The English word *passion* comes from a Latin word that means "to suffer", the same word from which we derive the English word *patient*. Increasingly, many churches are incorporating an emphasis on the Passion of Jesus into services on this Sunday as a way to balance the celebration of Easter Sunday. Rather than having the two Sundays both focus on triumph, Passion Sunday is presented as a time to reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus in a Sunday service of worship.

Maundy Thursday, or Holy Thursday

There are a variety of events that are clustered on this last day before Jesus was arrested that are commemorated in various ways in services of worship. These include the last meal together, which was probably a Passover meal, the institution of Eucharist or Communion, the betrayal by Judas (because of the exchange with Jesus at the meal), and Jesus praying in Gethsemane while the disciples fell asleep. Most liturgies, however, focus on the meal and communion as a way to commemorate this day.

Even as Jesus and his disciples came together to share this meal, they already stood in the shadow of the cross. It was later that night, after the meal, as Jesus and His disciples were praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, that Jesus was arrested and taken to the house of Caiaphas the High Priest. On Friday He would die.

There is some difference in the chronology of these events between the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) and John's account. In the Synoptics, this last meal was a Passover meal, observing the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt when death "passed over" the Hebrew homes as the tenth plague fell upon the Egyptians. Yet in John's account the Passover would not be celebrated until the next day. And while the Synoptics recount the institution of Communion during this final meal, John instead tells us about Jesus' washing the disciples' feet as a sign of servant hood.

In any case, this Thursday of Holy Week is remembered as the time Jesus ate a final meal together with the men who had followed him for so long. We do not have to solve these historical questions to remember and celebrate in worship what Jesus did and taught and modeled for us here, Traditionally in the Christian Church, this day is known as Maundy Thursday. The term **Maundy** comes from the Latin word *mandatum* (from which we get our English word *mandate*), from a verb that means "to give", "to entrust" or "to order." The term is usually translated "commandment" from John's account of this Thursday night. According to the Fourth Gospel, as Jesus and the Disciples were eating their final meal together before Jesus' arrest, he washed the disciples' feet to illustrate humility and the spirit of servanthood. After they had finished the meal, as they walked into the night toward Gethsemane, Jesus taught his disciples a "new" **commandment** that was not really new (John 13:34-35):

> *'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, you also ought to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'*

The sharing of the Eucharist, or sacrament of thanksgiving, on Maundy Thursday is the means by which most Christians observe this day. There is a great variety in exactly how the service is conducted, however. In some churches it is traditional for the pastor or priest to wash the feet of members of the congregation, or there is a symbolic washing of hands as part of the service.

In some church traditions all of the altar coverings and decorations are removed after the Eucharist is served on Maundy Thursday. Since the altar in these traditions symbolize the Christ, the "stripping of the altar" symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers prior to his crucifixion. This, like the darkness often incorporated into a Good Friday service, represents the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of sin as a preparation for the celebration of new life and hope that is to come on Resurrection Day. Some churches leave the altar bare until the Easter service

However it is celebrated, the Eucharist of Maundy Thursday is especially tied to the theme of remembering. As Jesus and his disciples followed the instructions in the Torah to remember God's acts of deliverance in their history as they shared the Passover meal together, so Jesus calls us to remember the new act of deliverance in our history that unfolds on these last days of Holy Week

Good Friday, or Holy Friday

Friday of Holy Week has been traditionally called Good Friday or Holy Friday. On this day, the church commemorates Jesus' arrest (since by Jewish custom of counting days from sundown to sundown it was already Friday), his trial, crucifixion and suffering, death, and burial. Since services on this day are to observe Jesus' death, and since Eucharist is a celebration, there is traditionally no Communion observed on Good Friday. Also, depending on how the services are conducted on this day, all pictures, statutes, and the cross are covered in mourning black or purple, the chancel and altar coverings are replaced with black or purple, and altar candles are extinguished. They are left this way through Saturday, but are always replaced with white before sunrise on Sunday.

There are a variety of services of worship for Good Friday, all aimed at allowing worshippers to experience some sense of the pain, humiliation, and ending in the journey to the cross. The traditional service for Good Friday was held in mid-afternoon to correspond to the final words of Jesus from the cross (around 3 pm, Matt 27:46-50). However, modern schedules have led many churches to move the service to the evening to allow more people to participate. Usually, a Good Friday service is a series of Scripture readings, a short homily, and a time of meditation and prayer. One traditional use of Scripture is to base the homily or devotional on the **Seven Last Words of Jesus** as recorded in the Gospel traditions.

Father, forgive them . . . (Luke 23:34)
This day you will be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43)
Woman, behold your son . . . (John 19:26-27)
My God, my God . . . (Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34)
I thirst. (John 19:28)
It is finished! (John 19:30)
Father into your hands . . . (Luke 23:46)

Some churches use the **Stations of the Cross** as part of the Good Friday Service. This service uses paintings or banners to represent various scenes from Jesus' betrayal, arrest, trial, and death, and the worshippers move to the various stations to sing hymns or pray as the story is told.

Holy Saturday

This is the seventh day of the week, the day Jesus rested in the tomb. In the first three Gospel accounts this was the Jewish Sabbath, which provided appropriate symbolism of the seventh day rest..

Each Christian church in our community and Team offers a wide range of services to mark Holy Week. There are opportunities to make the journey of the Cross so we can truly be Easter People.

Village View

BY JOHN PAINTER

WINTER seems finally to have arrived - after the daffodils have started to flower! Waking up to find a blanket of snow covering the village was still a surprise despite the forecasts - the snow seems usually to have bypassed us in recent years. The heaviest snowfall for about twenty years (I am told) was welcomed by many - the kids had a couple of days off school and, judging by the number of snowmen, many had fun in the snow. I noticed quite a few people out with their cameras to record the event. I thought that the strong outlines of the timber framed house contrasted well with the interesting shapes of the tree to produce a quite a striking and topical photograph for the Village View.

Paddock Cottage, Wilstone

SNOW MANIA in Wilstone

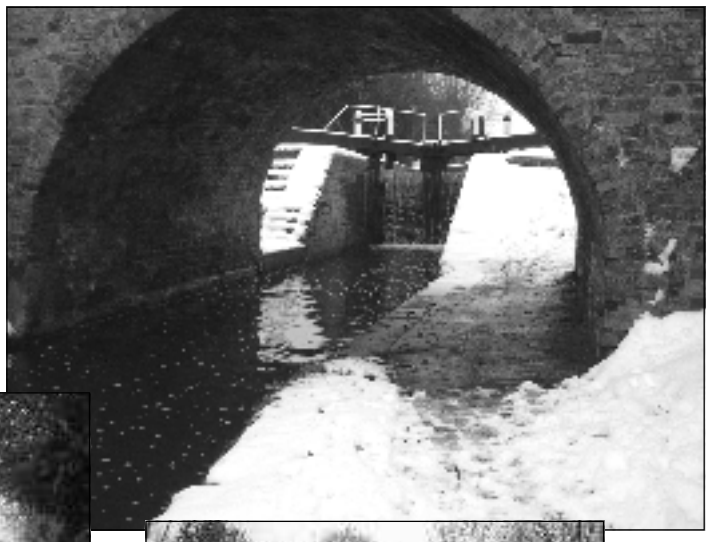
Dave Watson and 9ft snowman **photo Roger White**
Where did you get the scaffolding, Dave? Ed.

Bespoke Snowmen

HOW about this 9 foot monster snowman 'constructed' by Dave Watson on the front lawn of his house in The Mill. Dave has received many requests to repeat his creation and he is considering giving up his day job and become a full time ' 'Snowman Creator' .One small problem Dave, or is it a problem?.....you will only the working one or two days a year! Some unkind person could say,."so what's new John"?

Magaret Buchi **Photo Colin Reedman**

Down Sandbrook Lane …. **Photo Colin Reedman**



Ice bound **Photo Colin Reedman**

Jefferies Bridge **photos Ken Lawless**