



December 2010

Your independent village magazine - produced and delivered free to every home in the Tring Rural villages entirely by local volunteers.

## Remembrance

VILLAGERS turned out in numbers to remember the fallen at services held in Long Marston and Wilstone.

Rev'd Jo Wetherall led the service at St. Cross, and then at Wilstone war memorial. Wreaths were laid by Cubs, Scouts and Brownies, and by Mr Ben Reeves who served in the Africa, Greece and Italy campaigns.

At Long Marston war memorial the Wingrave branch of the Royal British Legion - including veterans of the 1939-45 conflict - paraded together with young people from Wingrave Scouts and Guides.

**Mrs P M Proctor writes:** A superb turnout at Long Marston for Remembrance Sunday, with Wingrave British Legion members, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides and Brownies joining local villagers. At the war memorial Bill Carpenter presided. Wreaths were laid by Cllr. Mike Tomlinson for the Parish Council, A. Rawlings for the RBL, and by Scouts and Guides. I would like to thank all who came to make this a memorable morning. Many thanks also to all who bought poppies in the preceding weeks. The total raised locally will be announced in the near future. Thank you all.



Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Brownies form a guard of honour at the Wilstone war memorial. (Picture: Village News.)



Members of the Wingrave branch of the Royal British Legion assemble at Long Marston war memorial. (Picture: Village News)

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Readers' contributions are welcome. Send them in!

## What is so interesting?

Is it a bird? Is it a plane?

What is interesting Joanne Wetherall, our vicar at Wilstone, at the opening of the new canal bridge? We would love to make this a competition and are sure we would get many interesting answers.

Instead perhaps the Village View provides the answer. Turn to page 27 to find out!



# Wilstone Film Nights

Friday December 17th



**Starring Meryl Streep, Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin**

A comedy about love, divorce and everything in between. Jane (Streep) is the mother of three grown kids, owns a thriving Santa Barbara bakery/restaurant and has an amicable relationship with her ex-husband, attorney Jake (Baldwin). But when Jane and Jake find themselves out of town for their son's college graduation, things start to get complicated. An innocent meal together turns into the unimaginable—an affair. With Jake remarried to the much younger Agness (Lake Bell), Jane is now, of all things, the other woman. Caught in the middle of their renewed romance is Adam (Martin), an architect hired to remodel Jane's kitchen. Healing from a divorce of his own, Adam starts to fall for Jane, but soon realizes he's become part of a love triangle. Should Jane and Jake move on with their lives, or is love truly lovelier the second time around? [It's...complicated.](#)

**FRIDAY DEC 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**TICKETS £6**

Available now from Half Moon Pub,  
Wilstone Village Stores, Meads Farm Shop  
Film starts at 8pm. Licenced bar opens at 7.15pm



# Village News

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How time flies! It is amazing to think that Liz and Ron have been running the Village Shop for over a year. Our congratulations—the village would not be the same without it.

Do look at the articles about the proposed mobile library cuts (page 7) and the campaign for super-fast broadband (page 10). The first is to preserve a service, the second to vastly improve one. The majority of us are interested in one or the other so our input can only be beneficial.

Lastly, on behalf of everyone on the Village News team, all our best wishes for a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*John McCall*

**Deadline for items for our next issue (February) is Thursday 20 January 2011.**

**We do not publish in January.**

**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!**

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## 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.*

### 28 November

10.00am All Saints Holy Communion & Sunday Club  
3.30pm St Mary's Evensong.

### 5 December

10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer  
4.00pm St Cross Christingle and Messy Church  
6.00pm St Cross Evening Prayer

### 6 December (Monday)

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

### 12 December

8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion  
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion  
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

### 19 December

10.00am St Cross Holy Communion  
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer and Sunday Club  
Nativity  
3.30pm St Mary's Nine Lessons and Carols

### 20 December

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

### 24 December

4.00pm All Saints Crib Service  
7.00pm St Cross Carols  
11.30pm St Mary's Midnight Communion

### 25 December

10.00am All Saints Family Communion

### 26 December

10.00am St Peter and St Paul Tring, Family  
Communion

### 2 January

10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer  
6.00pm St Cross Evening Prayer

### 9 January

8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion  
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion  
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

### 16 January

10.00am St Cross Holy Communion  
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer

### 17 January (Monday)

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

### 23 January

10.00am All Saints Holy Communion  
3.30pm St Mary's Evening Prayer

### 30 January

10.00am St John the Baptist Aldbury, Team Service

**Read Village News on line at:**  
[www.tringruralpc.org.uk](http://www.tringruralpc.org.uk) (Click on Village News)  
[www.wilstone.me.uk](http://www.wilstone.me.uk) (Click on Village News)

# What's on...

The L M & P Horticultural Society is pleased to announce:

**Tickets for**  
**THE LONG MARSTON PANTOMIME:**  
**HUMPTY DUMPTY**  
**by Neil Gurney**

*Will be on sale at Long Marston Village Hall on*

**Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> January**  
**from 11am to 12noon**

**See posters for where tickets can be purchased after that date.**

*Pantomime performances will take place at Long Marston Village Hall on:*

Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm  
 Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm  
 Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2pm & 7.30pm

Adults: £6, Senior Citizens: £4, Children: £3

**If you would like to help with the Panto please ring Vicky on 01296 661586**

## Diary dates...

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

**Wednesday 15 December**, Wilstone village hall.

### Friday 26 to Sunday 28 November

Art show at Town Farm, Cheddington. 10am - 5pm.

### Saturday 27 November

Long Marston Christmas bazaar. Victory Hall, 2pm.

### Sunday 5 December

Christingle, an Advent service at St. Cross. 4pm.

### Wednesday 8 December

Christmas celebration concert at St. Cross, Wilstone. 8pm.

### Tuesday 14 December

Carols around the Christmas tree. 7pm, Long Marston.

### Friday 17 December

Film night at Wilstone village hall, 7.30pm.

### Tuesday 11 January

Horti AGM, 8pm Long Marston Village Hall

### Saturday 12 February

Valentines Jazz Lunch, Cecilia Hall. (Puttenham Trust)

### Saturday 9 April

Jumble Sale, Cecelia Hall (Friends of St Mary's)

### Saturday 2 July

Puttenham Fete. Fun day.

### Saturday 3 September

Jumble Sale Cecelia Hall (Friends of St Mary's).

### Saturday 1 October

October Supper and Auction, Cecelia Hall.

*Your local event details can be included here for free.*

### Wilstone village shop opening hours are:

Monday to Saturday: 7.30am to 1.00pm

Sunday: 9.00am to 12.00noon.

Keep up with **Long Marston Cricket Club** progress and events by visiting [www.lmcc.org.uk](http://www.lmcc.org.uk)

## Times for mobile library

*Thursdays, fortnightly: December 2nd, 16th, 30th.*

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

LONG MARSTON AND PUTTENHAM  
 HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

# Carols Round the Tree

COME ALONG  
 AND JOIN US AT  
 THE MEMORIAL  
 SINGING  
 CAROLS  
 AROUND THE  
 TREE.



**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**  
**At 7pm**

THERE WILL BE FREE MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES AND WE ALREADY KNOW THAT WE HAVE A SPECIAL VISIT FROM **FATHER CHRISTMAS.**



THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A VOLUNTARY DONATION TO HELP FOR HEROES.

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

SAINT CROSS CHURCH, WILSTONE



**Wednesday  
8th December  
at 8.00 p.m.**



**“Christmas Celebration!”  
CONCERT**

An uplifting hour of Carols, Readings, Organ music,  
and Advent Hymns  
*(with audience participation, please!)*

given by  
**The Ridgeway Chorale**  
*director* Richard Grylls

**Seasonal Refreshments**

*Donations in aid of Smile Train*



**CHRISTINGLE**



**5<sup>th</sup> December, 4 p.m.**

**ST CROSS WILSTONE**

An Advent service of light in preparation for Christmas  
- ideal for the whole family.





Come along to the  
**Christmas Bazaar**

**Victory Hall  
Long Marston**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November  
2pm-4pm**

Come and support your local  
organisations.  
Games, prizes, stalls, refreshments and  
Christmas present ideas.





**Mentmore Christmas Fayre**  
**Sunday 5th December 1-4pm**

Come and meet Father Christmas, little ones can pay a visit to Father Christmas in his grotto at the Mentmore Christmas Fayre in the village Hall Sunday 5th December.

Seasonal food, gifts, mince pies and mulled wine will be on sale along with local produce, Christmas gifts, cards, home made Christmas cakes and puddings.

The Fayre will run from 1-4pm in the Mentmore Village Hall.

All proceeds to raise funds for locally linked charities.

**Messy Church**  
**At St Cross Wilstone.**  
**Sundays 4.00 - 5.30 p.m.**  
**Autumn dates**

**5th DECEMBER – Christingle**  
**GAMES, STORIES, CRAFTS.**

**CHROMA**

chamber ensemble presents

Two Fundraising Concerts in aid of Henry Fraser  
featuring pianist Martin Cousin

**FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER 2010**  
The Old Rect, Gethsemane School, Castle Street, Gethsemane



**4pm CHILDREN'S CONCERT**  
"A fairytale, Tangle and Tangle" a "Tangle"  
a magical musical Journey for 4-10  
years featuring music for piano with  
strings, harp and woodwind  
Tickets - £5 adults  
£3 children



**8pm FUNDRAISING CONCERT**  
A celebration of music for piano quartet  
featuring pianist Martin Cousin  
Harmonica, Percussion, strings  
and other chamber music  
Tickets - £10  
£10 children only

For tickets email  
christina@chromaensemble.com  
or call Chris O'Connell on  
01422 852253  
This page also includes a guide  
to local events!

## Suggestions sought for charities to support in 2011-12

by Jenny Scholes, on behalf of the Mission Committee

WE are amazed, and very grateful for the tremendous support from members and friends of Tring Team Parish who have given so generously of their time and talents to support this year's fundraising activities organised by the Mission Committee. It's difficult to single out particular events - but Janet's Walk round Tring Park in the spring sunshine was such a happy occasion. Jo's fantastic curry evening was a sell out at Aldbury vicarage, whilst Dorothy Walsh's hand-crafts and Hannelore's cushions were the big attraction at the summer cream tea events in Vanda's and Jane's gardens. A big thank you to everyone who opened their homes and gardens to host these events. Pam organised a great afternoon out in London with a Blue Badge guide followed by even-song in St Paul's Cathedral. (People are asking for more, Pam!)

The uncertainties of the economic situation have affected us all - and this is why we are so amazed, and grateful that you are still prepared to dig deep to support your brothers and sisters who are in need in the UK and abroad. Thank you! Look out in the pew sheets for the December and January activities.

It may seem a long time away, but February is the time of the year when the Mission Committee invites members of the congregation to submit ideas for the charities they would like to support during 2011-12, starting in May 2011. The usual practice is to support both overseas and UK based charities. The Committee will meet towards the end of February to discuss your proposals, so it would be really helpful if you could drop a note to Jenny Scholes or send an email to [jenny2ed@talktalk.net](mailto:jenny2ed@talktalk.net) by Sunday 13th February. We hope that, if your proposal is successful, you will provide some material for the display boards and help us with the fundraising activities. Perhaps you know of a speaker who could attend a 10.00 service to tell us more about the work of the charity? Last year we received 15 suggestions; it was a very difficult task to narrow this down to the six which were selected for 2010-11.

Mission Committee members are: Huw Bellis, Vanda Emery, Moira Hargreaves, Helen Reynolds, Pam Russell, Jenny Scholes, Maggie Tigg and Jo Wetherall. We would be delighted to welcome more members - we're a good team!

## Friends of Tring Reservoirs

by John Taylor

**Tuesday 28 December 2010 - meet at 11.00 am**

**FoTR's Christmas Walk - with mince pies and mulled wine!**

Following the success of last year's walk, we are holding our ever-popular post Christmas walk at Wilstone Reservoir again this year instead of Marsworth. Come and join us for a leisurely stroll to the birdwatching hide and for some mince pies and mulled wine!

Park at Wilstone car park; we meet at 11.00 am.

**Sunday 16 January 2011 - from 3.30 pm**  
**Bittern Roost Watch**

This season's Bittern Roost watch will take place on Sunday 16 January 2011. Please join us on the causeway between Startopend and Marsworth Reservoirs. We will meet initially at Startops Car Park at 3.30 pm, which is almost an hour before sunset. If you're late, just walk along the causeway between the two reservoirs and meet us there. We will finish around 5.00 pm (sunset is approximately 4.20 pm), so wrap up well!

Let's hope the reservoir isn't frozen over as it has been for the last two years!

## Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 54 Easy

		8			2	4		5
		4	1		6	9	2	
			3	5			8	
		2						7
	8	7			9	3		
9	5				1		6	2
			9	1		5		8
8	4				7	2	3	9

Eights or fives seem like a good place to start !

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## Allotment news

by Elaine Dean

The allotments at Potash Lane, for those of you who do not know, are situated beyond the church down the Wingrave Road at the 40 mile sign.

When we moved next door to the allotments in 1970, a whole one cost us half a crown and there was not a shed to be seen. Now it is unusual not to see a small greenhouse or shed housing tools and stools etc. on each plot

The allotments now cost £13 for a whole one and £6.50 for a half, which for a beginner is quite enough. The allotment community is a very varied mix of men and women—the old and the not so old! The sound advice which beginners receive is second to none and everyone is made very welcome. The soil is wonderful, probably the best around for miles; having been manured over the decades, it regularly produces show vegetables.

At the moment there is only one half-one to let, so hurry up and contact Elaine Winter on 01442 827913 and take that first step towards the cup for the Best Vegetables at the vil-



**The new gate built by Andrew Brown .**

Picture: Elaine Dean

lage show.

The allotments are jointly owned by Tring Charities and the Church. What is not so well known is the excellent work done by Tring Charities, when since 1999 they launched a separate charity which aims to provide financial support for students in further education. Students should reside in the ancient parish of Tring (which includes Long Marston, Wilstone and Puttenham) A comprehensive application form must be completed with full details of the financial circumstances of the student. Forms can be ob-

tained from Elaine Winterton on the above number.

This support is so welcome in these difficult times for students wishing to go to university, but where the burden of tuition fees is just too great.

Lastly, our thanks to Andrew Brown who built a new gate which has transformed the entrance to the allotments.

## Herts Library Cuts – Have Your Say

by Margaret Kelland

Like everyone else, Herts Libraries are having to make cuts. Until 11 December you have your chance to add your opinions to the debate. Library hours across Hertfordshire are to be reduced by 30%, but Tring will lose almost 40%. Tring Library will remain open on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, closing all day on Thursday and for half the day on Tuesday and Friday. The proposal reduces hours from the current 54 to the proposed 33.

The entire urban mobile service is to cease, with rural services continuing but with limited stops. Future mobile services will be designed around the Council's newest vehicles to avoid replacing vehicles in the immediate future. Economic sense of course, but with the proviso that the larger modern vehicles will not be able to serve many of the rural stops where space and access are limited. In recent years the mobile library ceased to visit Bromley in Long Marston, where many of our older and less able residents live, the replacement stop at the Queen's Head being far away at the other end of the village.

The reduction of library hours across Herts is set to save £1,400,000, with the deeper cuts in the mobile service saving £275,000. You may not use the services, and of course there is a certain amount of 'use it or lose it' to consider. To express your views about the service now and in the future, fill in one of the cards available at all libraries or record your comments online at:

[www.hertsdirect.org/websurveys/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.cgi?T4XHUR](http://www.hertsdirect.org/websurveys/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.cgi?T4XHUR) before 11 December.

## Pre-school News

by Vicky Hayes



The build-up to Christmas is always very exciting at pre-school. The children have already produced Christmas card designs that have been sent home so their proud parents can place an order. Rehearsals for the Nativity are underway and many Christmas craft activities are being planned. We will end the term with our Christmas party and the children just might get a visit from Father Christmas (if they are very good!).

At the end of term we will be sorry to say goodbye to Joshua Rutter and Mia Wilson who are leaving us to join a nursery class at one of the schools in Tring. We hope you've both enjoyed your time at First Steps.

The New Year will bring a new timetable for pre-school with extended opening hours (details are below). Hopefully this will work out well for the staff, children and parents, and be the start of a very successful 2011 for First Steps.

First Steps Pre-School is held at Victory Hall, Long Marston every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.00am – 12pm during term time, with lunch clubs on Tuesday and Friday until 1.30pm. We welcome all children aged between 2½ and 5. If you would like to know more about Pre-School or wish to put your child's name on our waiting list, please contact either Teresa Giddings, pre-school leader, on 07925 185311 (during pre-school hours) or our chairperson, Vicky Hayes, on 01296 661586.

Long Marston Baby & Toddler Group: 10-11.30am on Wednesday mornings (term time) at Victory Hall, Long Marston. £1.50 per child (50p per additional child over 1 year). Everyone welcome. For more information, ring Vicky Hayes on 01296 661586.

## Letters...

From Lynn Foster, Long Marston.

### Storm Drainage in Long Marston.

You may have noticed recently the activity of a team of men jetting the drains in Long Marston. After several days in the village the resulting silt has now been deposited in the ditch in Chapel Lane. The silt is in places very deep; surely this will have an adverse effect on water draining out of the village as the bottom of the ditch is now higher than the drain.

Is the Environment Agency now going to dredge the ditch? If not, was the whole exercise a waste of time?

Unfortunately another outcome of the jetting work has been the killing of the fish that lived in the water course and the drains. These were choked by the huge amount of water-born sediment (it looked just like thick cocoa) that was flushed through the system and the fish ended up dead in the ditch in Chapel Lane.

We did make a call to the Environment Agency who sent out two technicians to check the water quality. The readings were deemed acceptable.

From Andy Reynolds, Watch Liaison Officer.

### Theft of Vegetables in Gubblecote.

At the end of last month offenders stole a quantity of vegetables (leeks and brussel sprouts) from the garden of a farm at Gubblecote.

This could be a "growing trend"! Please keep an eye on neighbours' properties and report any suspicious persons to the police. With the current economic decline, local villains may be tempted to steal farm produce to supplement income.

### Optimistic sign from a reluctant gardener



**FARM P.E. MEAD & Sons SHOP**

*Festive gifts and Food for all the family*

**Christmas trees and Holly wreaths here 28th November.**

**Christmas hampers to order.**

**Orders also being taken now for fruit, veg and meat.**

Always a big selection of quality fresh vegetables.  
Extensive freezer selection too.  
Our own lamb and beef, and local venison.  
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## JAZZERCISE OFFERS NEW CLASSES

by Keri Donnellan

New Jazzercise dance-fitness classes will open in the Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Tring & Wilstone area the week of Monday 10 January 2011. Jazzercise instructor Keri Donnellan has added the classes to accommodate new participants and to provide current participants with a greater choice of convenient class times.

The new classes will take place at:  
 Wilstone Village Hall—Monday 9.30am.  
 Goldfield Infants School, Tring—Monday 6.30pm and 7.45pm.  
 Ivinghoe Town Hall—Monday 8.00pm  
 Pitstone Memorial Hall—Wednesday 7.30pm.  
 (other classes also in the area on different days—see website for details)

“I’m excited about the growth of Jazzercise locally,” said Keri. “Jazzercise offers a unique blend of fitness and jazz dance that Tring residents have discovered is a lot of fun. The new classes will just make it easier for participants to enjoy a workout where and when it’s convenient for them.”

The 60-minute Jazzercise class includes a warm-up, high-energy aerobic routines, muscle-toning and cool-

down stretch segment. Jazzercise combines elements of dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga, kick-boxing and more, to create programs for people of every age and fitness level.

### About Jazzercise

Judi Sheppard Missett, who turned her love of jazz dance into a worldwide dance exercise phenomenon, founded the Jazzercise dance fitness program in 1969. She has advanced the business opportunities of women and men in the fitness industry by growing her programme into an international franchise business that today hosts a network of 7,500 instructors teaching more than 32,000 classes weekly in 32 countries.

The workout program, which offers a fusion of jazz dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga, and kickboxing movements, has positively affected millions of people worldwide. Benefits include increased cardiovascular endurance, strength, and flexibility, as well as an overall feel good factor.

For more information on Jazzercise contact Keri Donnellan on 07900 987230 or go to [www.jazzclass.co.uk](http://www.jazzclass.co.uk).

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## Campaign for superfast fibre optic broadband in the villages: have you voted?

THE only way we are ever likely to see superfast broadband in these villages is if BT can be persuaded to run in an optical fibre connection. Well, a reader has pointed out that BT is inviting customers to petition for the upgrade in their locality. If all broadband users who read *Village News* register their 'vote' on the BT website, it might get us a notch or two up the priority list. BT do have a programme to bring superfast speeds to rural communities, so it is not out of the question, but we need to make our voice heard (before everyone else does!).

[www.racetoinfinity.bt.com](http://www.racetoinfinity.bt.com) is the website on which you can 'vote' for the service to come to your area. You don't need to be a BT customer to vote.

Broadband came late to the villages because of our distance from the main exchange (especially those on Tring 01442 numbers) and it is amazing that the simple copper wires can cope at all. But local people badgered BT to provide broadband, and eventually it came. Register your vote now and let's see if we can do the same again.

## Tring Parish Men's Society Thoughts on the battleship Bismarck

by Leslie Barker



At our November meeting Bill Carpenter gave us his thoughts on battleships, with particular reference to the *Bismarck*. He illustrated it with a metre long model of the ship, which he is still constructing, and with a map showing the voyages of German and British battleships at the opening of the Second World War.

My knowledge of naval history of the war is limited to Dunkirk, Pearl Harbor, and what I have read in *The Cruel Sea*, so this proved to be a fascinating account. The story begins with the Treaty of Versailles at the end of the First World War, which imposed various restrictions on Germany, including maximum tonnage, firepower etc. of its warships. An agreement in 1935 to appease the Germans allowed them to overstep the limits in several aspects.

The first result was the construction of three Deutschland class cruisers, of which the best known was the *Graf Spee*, which immediately war broke out was despatched to the South Atlantic for commerce raiding.

When the larger *Bismarck* set out hurriedly and without its full consignment of fuel, British warships were sent out to intercept it. HMS *Hood* was unfortunately sunk by three volleys fired from the *Bismarck* at long range. It had an armoured hull but a thin deck, so though protected from torpedoes and close range firing it was vulnerable to something effectively lobbed at it. One shell plunged through the deck, and set fire to a munitions store. The fire spread to the main magazine and then the *Prince of Wales* scored a lucky hit on

the *Bismarck* which went straight through the bow and out the other side, as the armour to the hull stopped short of both ends. It led to the oil tank there leaking. The *Bismarck* set out towards the Bay of Biscay to find repairs and fuel in occupied France. Then a torpedo from the *Ark Royal* went through the *Bismarck's* unprotected stern and knocked out the rudder, making the ship unsteerable.

The British warships circled it and pounded the superstructure to pieces, leaving only the accommodation below deck. The *Bismarck* was scuttled after the crew took to life rafts, and only about 300 of the 1500 crew were killed. We learnt much more about the *Bismarck* as Bill used the model to illustrate various points.

The *Graf Spee* suffered a similar fate and was also scuttled. The moral of the story is that the era of large warships was over, as none achieved very much.

However at this point *The Cruel Sea* kicks in. At the outbreak of war Germany had 38 U boats, increasing to over 800. They were very effective, and much quicker and cheaper to build than a battleship, costing about 100 times less!

I will end this report with the question, Do we ever learn? We now (will) have two aircraft carriers without aircraft and a treaty with France, with whom according to the timescale of history we are due for another war!

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# Parish Council news

## Parish Plan Review

### US air force memorial to go ahead

A PLAN to erect a memorial in Long Marston to airman of the US Army Air Force is to go ahead. Dacorum Borough Council has determined that planning permission is not required as it comes within the scope of "permitted development". The stone for the memorial tablet has been chosen and the inscription agreed. It will be placed on the green in the centre of the village near to the existing war memorial. The costs are being met by private donations. An inauguration ceremony will be held in Long Marston on Saturday 7th May 2011 and it is expected that surviving veterans will attend from the USA. Marsworth resident Chas Jellis has organised the UK side of things, and is in the process of putting together a programme of events for the visitors. We will be publishing the full story of the USAAF at Long Marston/Cheddington in a future edition of *Village News*, together with the background to the crash of a Liberator bomber in 1945 which led to this commemoration over 65 years later.

### Digging a ditch

The long-running project to improve the drainage at the bottom of Long Marston recreation ground seems to have made good progress recently. Contractors engaged by the Parish Council have excavated and re-laid the section of collapsed drain, successfully circumnavigating an apple tree in a neighbour's garden en route to the Long Marston Brook. Nearly finished then? Yes, but not without a further dose of misfortune. Workmen discovered asbestos contamination in some rubble when clearing the nearby ditch. This has now all been cleared out and safely disposed of, but at an additional cost to the Parish Council of some £4,000. No doubt Councillors will be pleased to see the back of this job - the object of which is to eliminate the pond of standing water which collects by the BMX track in the winter months.

### More water works

The Environment Agency has carried out a survey of the culvert which carries the Long Marston Brook through the centre of the

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village. The Parish Council involved the EA after the last flooding incidents in the village, when the culvert was unable to carry away rainwater running off the fields. The CCTV survey showed that the underground structure is in poor condition, and is obstructed in several places - sometimes deliberately. So now it's official - it needs fixing. But this is likely to be complicated and costly because of the number of landowners and other third parties involved. It will go on the EA's (no doubt long) list.

## Allotment hopes

The six Wilstone villagers who petitioned the Parish Council to ask for allotments to be provided have already generated action. Dawn Slade, Clerk to the Council, has found out that the site of the old allotments in Wilstone is still owned by Tring Charities, who have for a number of years been leasing it to a local family. The field in question is at the top of Rosebarn Lane, and behind Grange Road. The Council will make a formal approach to Tring Charities to see if the land is available.

## Police, helicopter, action!

The theft of a dinghy from Bates' boatyard was thwarted by a dramatic helicopter swoop last month. Many villagers heard the commotion as the police helicopter cornered the culprits with a searchlight and megaphone on the canal tow-path near Puttenham. The clamour was enough to induce them to surrender, and two arrests were made. Very impressive police work. Odd sort of crime though. Picture the getaway: under oars at about 2 knots, Puttenham lock would have brought the escape to an early end.

### 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 Olli Wheeler-Cornell 01296 662207

### *The Clerk to the Council is:*

Mrs Dawn Slade 01442 824 138

Email: [clerk@tringruralpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@tringruralpc.org.uk)

### *The Village Warden is:*

Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822 031

Parish Council Website

[www.tringruralpc.org.uk](http://www.tringruralpc.org.uk)

You can view and comment on planning applications at

[www.dacorum.gov.uk/planning](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/planning)

[www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

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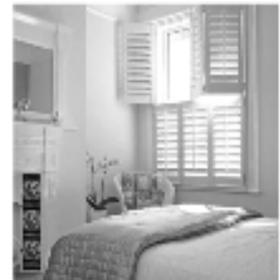
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## The Puttenham Trust's October Supper and Auction

by *Christine Rutter*

A very enjoyable evening, when we welcomed our guest auctioneer for the night, Chris Hodges, who did a splendid job and to whom we are most grateful.

During the meal, as always, a marrow and pumpkin were passed around the tables for the Guess the Weight competition. The lucky winners were Sylvia Bullenthorpe (marrow) and Barry Denyer (pumpkin) who both received a bottle of wine.

The charity draw benefited two charities with Ms. Scott-Lewis choosing the Royal National Institute for

the Blind, and Mary Bailey nominating the Kidney Unit at Oxford Hospital. Both charities shared the proceeds of the evening (£568) plus there was a special donation received on the evening for the Kidney Unit.

Our thanks to everyone who provided raffle prizes, many items of wonderful produce for the auction and prepared the hall and food for the evening.

It was a good evening, bringing the community together with much laughter and chat.

### Garden compost from St Mary's

With grass cutting and leaf-drop over previous years, St.Mary's Churchyard has a supply of compost, now rotting down well. Please help yourself, (do bring a suitable bag/tools for collecting it). You will find the supply at the end of the churchyard by the track to the left of Cecilia Hall.

### Wilstone Village Shop Opening times over Christmas

Christmas Eve: 7.30am - 1pm. Normal paper delivery.  
 Christmas Day: Closed.  
 Boxing Day: 9am-11am for papers pre-ordered & pre-paid.  
 27th December: Closed. Normal paper delivery.  
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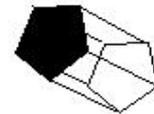
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## Christmas Letter

by Rev'd Jane Banister

When does Christmas start for you? Is it when you put up your Christmas tree and decorations? Or when you open the first day on the Advent calendar? Is it when the children break up from school or you stop work? Is it when the last present is wrapped? Maybe it feels as if there isn't a moment when it actually starts, but you simply slide into it.

For me, it is the services on Christmas Eve that are the definite beginning. First there is the afternoon crib service when the church is filled with excited children – and adults – and we all put the familiar figures in the stable, and sing the carols we know so well. Then there is Midnight Mass when all the candles are lit and there is a real sense of awe and mystery and wonder.

The Christmas Day service follows on from this. We know that the waiting is over, and that we are celebrating again the joyous news of Jesus' birth, and that we are doing so with God's family as well as our own. I have to confess that I have always wondered what it feels like for people who do not go to church at all over Christmas. Where are the moments of awe and mystery and wonder? Where are the moments that make us realise that we are but part of a whole, that there is something bigger and better than us?

I know many of us get frustrated by how early Christmas arrives in the shops, but I also get annoyed by when it ends.

Ask anyone who works in retail and they will tell you that Christmas Eve is when the decorations are taken down and they get ready for the sales. There is no sense of Christmas Day being the beginning of something, no sense that it continues after 24<sup>th</sup> December.

I love the fact that it goes on for 12 days, and the idea that we have all that time to celebrate. In the Church, we remember a variety of saints in that time, from St John who wrote the Gospel, to the Holy Innocents who are the children killed by Herod, to St Thomas Becket who defied his earthly king to follow his heavenly one. They for me are reminders that Christmas is not about separating oneself for the world for a few days, but rather that it is about being more part of it than ever. While for some Christmas ends at Epiphany, when we remember the coming of the wise men or kings, there is also a tradition that it continues for 40 days, until Candlemas, when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to give thanks for his birth. We keep our crib set up until then, as a reminder of how Christmas is always part of our lives.

I hope that your Christmas, whether it lasts 12 days or 40, is a joyous one, that reminds you of just how precious love is. I hope that we may see you at some point in one of the churches so that we can remember this together.

With love, Jane Banister

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## Non Compost Mentis

by Andy Ashwell

The dark nights of autumn are now well under way and only a few stubborn leaves still cling to the trees before they drop inevitably into my gutters or down to join the pile of their decomposing mates outside my back door. With the recent strong winds I never got a chance to pick our apples before they were all blown off the tree, so all the fruit that we have had this year have been windfalls. Having said that, the apples this year have been much larger and juicier than in previous years and in much greater abundance too. Last year I was kindly given an apple press by a generous reader, so I decided to have a proper go at making apple juice with our bumper crop.

The windfalls were much more damaged than one would expect from a mere fall from the tree onto the soft grass below and were, in some cases, bashed out of all recognition. Initially I was a little confused as to how this devastation had occurred; then I remembered that two days before, Florence and her friend had spent a blissful hour or two throwing apples at, and into, various containers that they had found in the garden. So my job of preparing the apples and carefully removing all the bruised bits was made doubly difficult by their shenanigans.

Florence helped by mashing the apples in the blender and after a couple of hours we had made a fair amount of juice – but it had been hard work. A few days after our juice-athon we visited the museum in Tring where there just happened to be a man demonstrating the art of making apple juice as part of Apple Week. He produced apple juice far more quickly than we had done but this was due to three things really: one, he had a special apple corer-cum-slicer; two, he had a large mincing machine; and three, and probably the main reason for his prolific juicing



rate, was that he just threw everything in. In went the core, the stalk, the bruised bits and, of course, the maggots. I must say that I didn't actually sample his juice with all its added protein, although Florence seemed quite happy to drink merrily away, even after she'd heard about the maggots. If only I'd known that the bruises and cores (and maggots) were fair game we could have made umpteen more gallons of juice in a mere fraction of the time.

The pulp debris then went straight into my two new compost bins – birthday presents from Florence and Mummy. A sure sign of old age creeping in is that I was genuinely pleased to receive them; worse than that, I actually read the instructions to find out how to make the best compost. Under the section entitled 'Activators' I found a list of suitable activators (or accelerators) that help to heat up and therefore speed up the composting process. The list included such things as grass, nettles, comfrey and, er, urine – something to do with the potassium nitrate (saltpetre) which can also be used to make gunpowder. When I told Florence that we needed to wee on the apple mush to make it change into better compost she laughed. She wasn't overly happy when I then suggested lifting her onto the bin to do the necessary; she was even less impressed when I produced her old potty from the shed to make things easier.

Apparently it is quite common for gardeners to activate their compost in this way but I don't think that I will reveal in this family magazine whether or not our compost has been activated in this way and hence be of the right chemical make-up to interest Guy Fawkes and his chums. Perhaps next spring when the compost is ready – or not, depending on the effectiveness of our activators – all will be revealed.

## Friends of Long Marston School 100 Club: November Draw

The November draw for the 100 Club has taken place. The lucky winners were;  
1<sup>st</sup> Prize £15, Taryn Hayes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £10, Eunice Hall; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize "Priceless Key Ring", Mel Bayer.

It is never too late to enter the Friends' Monthly Draw!

Subscription is £10 per year (October to July) but a reduced subscription is available if you join during the year. There are 3 prizes of £15, £10 and a "Priceless Key Ring" per

month for 8 months plus **Jackpot prizes of £50 in July and December.**

**Our next draw is scheduled for Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

For your chance to win up to £50, and support our school children, call the school on 01296 668386 and ask to join the Friends' 100 Club.  
Thank you and Good Luck!

# Recipe

by Anna Ashwell

## Christmas dried fruit compote

This very simple recipe contains all the Christmas flavours but is much lighter than a Christmas pudding. If you omit the port it can be eaten as an extra special Christmas breakfast – especially good with some natural yoghurt.

### Ingredients

110g no-soak dried apricots  
 110g no-soak prunes  
 110g no-soak dried figs (halved)  
 110g raisins  
 2 oranges  
 275ml water  
 350ml port

1. Rinse the apricots, figs and prunes under cold water then place them in a large saucepan.
2. Slice one of the oranges into very thin rounds, and cut each round into 4.
3. Add the oranges and raisins to the pan with the rest of the fruit and pour in the water.
4. Simmer the fruit for 15 minutes.
5. When the fruit is cooked stir in the port and the juice from the other orange
6. Leave the compote to cool and chill it for 24 hours before serving.

It can be served with yoghurt, cream, mascarpone or ice cream.

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## The agricultural story line...

by David Mead

### Winter approaches

WORK in the fields has virtually closed down. Chris occasionally ventures out with the sprayer to battle with some weed or disease. With this milder weather the wheats are good. Some oil seed rape crops are quite forward; the pigeons will get wet feet if they land in that. Most of the work centres nearer home: rape seed oil production, log splitting and of course making sure the beef cattle have a pampered life, fresh bedding each day and enough food for growth and quality.

Jenny thanks everyone for the support on the Farm Shop's Christmas evening. The weather was kinder than we've had other years. The marquee was well strapped down with pallets of compost at the corners. It's fingers crossed time in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The roast joints were well received. Jonathan Lear and Caroline tempted people with their turkey. Chris fed the masses with beef and lamb. There were pickles and pâtés, biscuits and cakes. This year we had Waddesden venison; the sausages went very well. What's all this about the ladies not liking venison? It's a man's thing I was told. If only half the population are eating it we will never lower the numbers in Ashridge. The National Trust own up to 800.

I had just sat down to see the local news when up came a

scene from Coombe Hill, Wendover. There was a ceremony around the war memorial which included adding two more names from the Oxon and Bucks Regiment who lost their lives in the Boer War. As the cameras panned down, among the names there was Mead, D. Duncan Mead, my grandfather Percy's brother. There is a letter from him somewhere in the system which I will look out. Strangely, I had a call from the Baptist Chapel's regulator. Some graves are unsafe at New Mill Cemetery. There are a lot of Meads up there. Duncan Mead is mentioned on a surround. Is this "health and safety" rearing its ugly head? Apparently children are playing up there and if a vault collapses, Oh dear! I remember hearing Father saying an amount had been put aside, but a few shillings a week does not cover maintenance after 50 years!! There will have to be some phone calls round the family.

We had a repeat Cabaret Night with slight alterations. I thought the audience were the star performers. Our dress rehearsal was a bit shambolic, but with a full house cheering all the way, what a difference!!

Teresa and I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas. Just a sprinkling of snow on Christmas morning, thank you. Perhaps just *remembering* last year's will do!!

### What's Happening at The Wilstone Shop

by Diana Crapnell

On the 29th October Liz & Ron and their band of volunteers celebrated the Wilstone Shop's first anniversary, ably supported by many of their loyal customers. "It's been a good year" said Liz, "not without its ups and downs, but we're still



Liz and Ron in their "second home." Picture Colin Reedman

here and offering a valuable service to the whole parish." Village shops have a real role to play in today's society, providing not just goods, but a gathering place where people can meet, share information and build a true sense of local community. If you haven't had the opportunity to call in yet, or it's been a while since you did, do please pop in and see what's on offer. By spending even only a few pounds here and there, you will help to ensure that the Wilstone Shop

continues to play its part in our community for many years to come.

At this time of year the Shop not only has its usual offering of local eggs, bread, pies, hams and marmalade but also a great range of Christmas items as well, such as homemade Christmas puddings and mincemeat, a selection of gift bags and wrapping paper, scented candles and other gifts. Plus there's still time to place your order for turkeys, geese and Aylesbury ducks from our acclaimed Chesham breeder.

The shop opening times over Christmas are:

Christmas Eve: 7.30am-1pm – paper delivery as normal

Christmas Day: Closed

Boxing Day: 9am-11am for papers pre-ordered & pre-paid

Monday, 27th December: Closed – paper delivery as normal

Tuesday, 28th December: Closed – paper delivery as normal

29th-31st December: 7.30am – 1pm

1st January: 9am – 12 pm

Liz would be grateful if those customers requiring their papers on Boxing Day would let her know as soon as possible.

Liz & Ron would also like to take this opportunity to wish all their customers a very happy festive season and all the very best for 2011.

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## theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

This month we held our Annual Meeting. A report was given by Carole Harrison (Secretary) of all that has happened over the past year, and what a lot has happened!

She recalled speakers and outings, parties and games, the snow, when unfortunately our Christmas meal had to be cancelled, quizzes and competitions. A financial report was given by Margaret Kaye (Treasurer), and Lynn Foster (President) gave an address thanking everyone for their efforts over the past year.

The next item on the Agenda was the election of President. Tellers had come from Cheddington WI to oversee this, and members voted for Lynn Foster to continue as President for the coming year. All serving committee members were re-elected.

Official proceedings over, it was now on to the Bake and Taste. Members has bought along different recipes for us all to sample; this along with a quiz rounded off the evening.

The next time we meet will be for our Christmas Party – Long Marston and Puttenham WI would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas a Happy New Year.

A great half term of work has begun. With Christmas fast approaching, the school are trying to fit as much as possible into the timetable before the new year. Our junior children have been involved in football matches against other schools, showing great promise and the Long Marston team spirit! Other children are performing well in cross country events and four children took part in a schools biathlon competition. All our children were also involved in a multi sports day organised by staff in school. Much to celebrate!

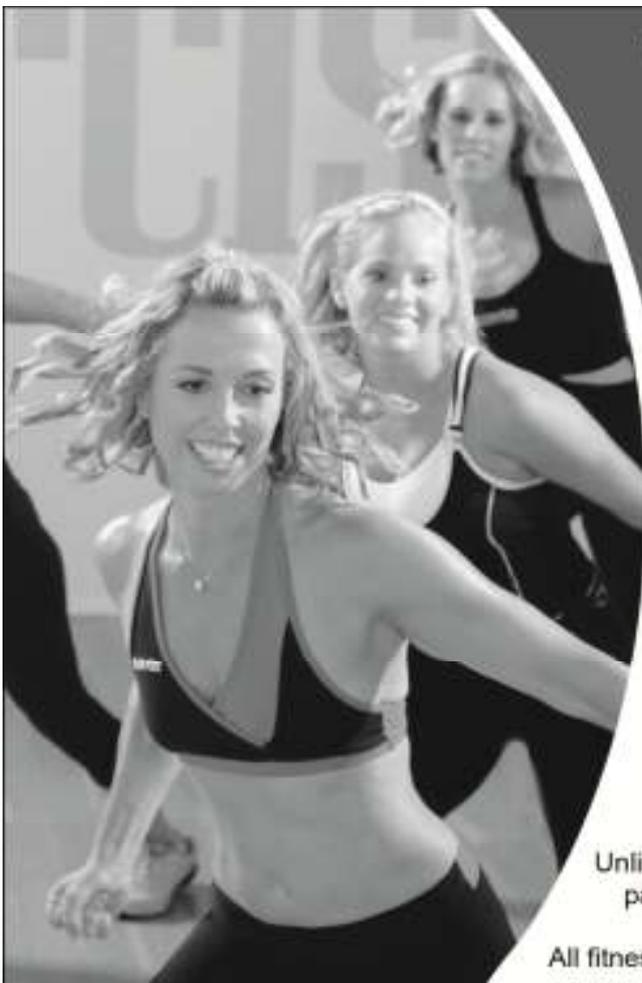
The school book fair was a great success, well supported by our parents and raised money for books in classrooms and the library along the way.

We have also had a visit from Image Theatre company, who performed Tom's Midnight Garden. The performance was interactive and some of our children performed.

This term our children have been visiting the church for assemblies with Rev. Jane Bannister. Jane is regularly involved in the school and we are keen to develop our close links with the church.

Finally, if you have time to visit our website you can see some of the great work taking place in classrooms and the start of our year in pictures.

[www.longmarston.herts.sch.uk](http://www.longmarston.herts.sch.uk)



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Tuesday	7.30 p.m.	Goldfield Infants School, Tring
Wednesday	9.30 a.m.	Red Cross Hall, Tring
	7.30 p.m.	Pitstone Memorial Hall
Thursday	7.30 p.m.	Tring School Gym
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# St Cross: Small church, Big heart

by Alison Cockerill

The church of St. Cross in Wilstone was built in 1877, by Smith and Fincher of Tring, at a cost of £1470. Wilstone was originally part of the parish of Long Marston but became a parish in its own right in 1979 when the Tring Team was formed. In 1982 The Friends of St. Cross was formed, to provide practical financial support to the church, and their unstinting efforts have resulted in many of the benefits the church enjoys today, including new leaded windows in 1990, an extension comprising a small kitchen, toilet and foyer in 2000, and following a lot of enthusiastic fundraising during the last 10 years, a new floor and heating system. Future plans include improvement to the outside decking area, upgrading the outside lighting, and purchasing some extra tables for Messy Church.

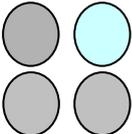
But churches are no longer simply places of worship, open on Sunday and closed the rest of the week. With the Tuesday Coffee morning, events to raise money to support the nominated charities of the Team Mission Committee, and Open Church most days of the week, St. Cross is now able to engage with people in many different ways. On the 18<sup>th</sup> October Wilstone was both honoured and delighted to welcome the Bishop of St. Albans to the village, chosen as part of his visit to the Berkhamsted Deanery, because so much of village life reflects a theme from his Diocesan Vision, that of Transforming Communities, where people are as concerned for their local community as for the global one. The village spirit of friendship and support for which Wilstone is so well known, (famous even!), is also part of church life, and St. Cross moves forward to the New Year, offering an open door to everyone, (usually accompanied by coffee and cake!), very happy to be part of a village whose fame for the ethos of com-

munity has now reached halfway across the county.

BUT, and this is a big but, none of this would be possible without the unflagging support and hard work of so many people. Following the sad loss earlier this year of Ian Doley, I was appointed Treasurer to the Friends of St. Cross, and am now witness to both the financial and practical side of church life. Fortunately for me that does not involve having to raise money for the Parish Share, the annual sum the Tring Team have to pay to the Diocese, currently just over £100,000 p.a. All other expenses do involve St. Cross, and small though we are, we are able to make a contribution to the Team to cover the basic running costs of the church, including gas, water, electricity, and insurance. But for so many things we rely on the kindness and generosity of many different people, and as the end of the year approaches, it seems the right time to say a HUGE thank you to everyone concerned with St. Cross;

- thank you for supplying and arranging the flowers
- thank you for maintaining the garden
- thank you for looking after the heating
- thank you for doing the cleaning
- thank you for unlocking, and locking, the church each day
- thank you for making cakes and serving coffee every week
- thank you for doing the maintenance
- thank you for helping at the fund-raising events
- thank you for all the donations, financial and in kind.

And especially thank you to Rev'd Jo Wetherall for her ministry in the village, her drive and determination on behalf of St. Cross, and her sustaining belief in the future of this small church.



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1	8	7	6	2	9	3	5	4
9	5	3	4	7	1	8	6	2
7	2	6	9	1	3	5	4	8
3	9	5	2	4	8	6	7	1
8	4	1	5	6	7	2	3	9





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# The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

## St. Mary's Church

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**SUNDAY, 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – 3.30 p.m.**

**Immediately followed by hot Puttenham Punch, Mince Pies & Sausage Rolls**

**Decorating the church for this service and Christmas will take place on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 10 a.m. Do join us for this exciting and enjoyable task of the year.**

## St. Mary's Church

### **MIDNIGHT MASS**

***(The first Communion of Christmas)***

**11.30 p.m. FRIDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

### THE PUTTENHAM TRUST

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**SEE OUR LIST OF PUTTENHAM EVENTS FOR 2011 IN THE DIARY LIST AT THE FRONT OF THE MAGAZINE & NOTE THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY.**

## *“Thank You”*

A genuine note of gratitude must be offered to all who have tended and cared for St.Mary's Church during 2010. For cleaning and polishing the church interior and arranging the flowers: Ernestine & Oliver Matthews, Audrey Clay, Margaret Kelland, Sheila Barron, Liz Josling, Pat Jackson, Eunice Hall, Helen Keeble. Also to John Barron and David Kelland for all the many and various “manly” jobs inside and outside that they carry out during the year. **Thank you, to you all.**

## Wilstone...Tring's Wild West

by Jeremy Johnson

It was hoped that the long saga of "Wilstone's Wild West", a short stretch of footpath that has been a problem for years, would end in early October when the Council finally cleared the obstruction to Wilstone Brook and resurfaced the path.

Earlier this year the Council wrote to the landowner to get the blockage to the stream cleared, but to no avail. Eventually the Council had to carry out the works themselves as the responsibility to ensure that the landowner keeps this stretch of stream clear rests with the Council, not with the Environment Agency.

This stretch of path is an old lane with records dating back more than a century, although right of access is on foot only. The original intention was to restore a two metre wide surfaced footpath within what the historical records show as an unobstructed six metre wide strip. This would allow us to get to and from the reservoir easily, avoiding the traffic on Icknield Way and the more dangerous crossing further down towards the Reservoir car park.

The works had to be delayed until 11<sup>th</sup> October in order that



The fence on the path Picture J. Johnson

the local police could provide a presence to reassure the contractors undertaking the work. Briefly the path was clear and once again a pleasure to walk or run. Then on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October three men turned up, dug up the path, put a fence down the centre of it and painted bitumen on the tops of the posts. A local resident who was passing at the time called the police and was told someone would go out but there is no record of them attending the call.

Thankfully at present the stream remains unobstructed so at least the Council has reduced the risk of flooding as we head into winter, for which we thank them. The matter is now back in the hands of the Council's Medicine Man and we are unsure whether the Cavalry are going to turn up.

*(Editor's note; a message from Christopher Townsend, Dacorum Borough Councillor, said "I understand that the issue with this footpath is on-going and has led to frustration. However it is important to note that the Dacorum Borough Council is on the case and is working hard to resolve the issue using all the tools at its disposal".*

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PCSO Thomas Montgomery 0845 33 00 222

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John Kaye 01296 662975

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Rev'd Huw Bellis 01442 822170

#### Vicar

Rev'd Joanne Wetherall 01442 851200

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Andrew Minter 01442 823605

*Puttenham St Mary's:*

Christine Rutter 01296 668337

John Barron 01296 631351

#### Tring Crime Prevention Panel

(Neighbourhood Watch) 01442 381793 & 824593

#### Tring Rural Parish Council - Chairman

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#### Clerk to the Parish Council

Dawn Slade 01442 824138

#### Village Warden

Colin Reedman 01442 822031

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*Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.*

## Thank you .....

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**Distribution enquiries to:  
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## Village News

**Long Marston, Wilstone, Puttenham,  
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Startops End.**

Your editor for February will be:

Emily Woodbridge  
editorwlm@yaho.com



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**Deadline for items to go in the next issue is:  
Thursday 20th January 2011.  
(We do not publish in January.)**

You can read *Village News* on line at:

[www.tringruralpc.org.uk](http://www.tringruralpc.org.uk) (Click on Village News)

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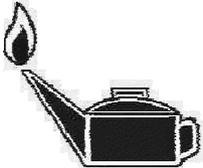
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## Police report

With Christmas now upon us and the dark nights already here we would ask that all residents remember our crime prevention tips in relation to **burglary**;

- Ensure all your windows and doors are locked and secure. If you have UPVC doors or doors that have a double locking facility, ALWAYS double lock them.
  - Ensure side gates, sheds and garages are locked and secure.
  - If you are away, let your neighbours know. Consider a timer switch for lights to come on. (making your home look lived in).
  - Keep expensive items out of sight. Ensure packaging for expensive items are discarded in a way that it's not easy for someone to know what you have on your property, particularly at this time of year on the approach to Christmas.
  - Consider installing external lighting, as it could help deter a thief.
- REPORT anything suspicious to the Police.

**Officers from the Tring Neighbourhood Team along with colleagues are still engaged in Operation Guardian—our force-wide burglary operation.**

### Distraction Burglary/Rogue Traders

Most people who call at your home will be genuine. But sometimes people turn up unannounced with the intention of tricking their way into people's homes. They are known as "distraction burglars" or "bogus callers"; their only aim is to get into your home and distract you to enable them to steal your money or your valuables.

**You should always be aware when someone you don't know calls at your door. Bogus callers come in all shapes and sizes and may claim to be from the council, the police, health organisations, or utility companies. They can be convincing, persuasive and sometimes intimidating. They may be men, women or even children.**

Always be on the lookout for anyone suspicious calling at your door. They may ask for a drink, or water to wash their hands. They may tell you there is a water leak inside or outside your property and need to test your taps. They may try claiming they are looking for a lost pet or need to retrieve an item that has landed in your garden.

### What can you do?

- If you hear someone at your door, check who it is before you open it.
- Remember—if you have any doubts, don't open the door.
- Use your door chain if you have one fitted.
- Always ask for ID. Confirm the ID with the company; genuine callers will always be happy to hand over ID and wait while you check.
- Never be afraid to challenge people calling at your home. **If in doubt, contact the police.**

*by Thomas Montgomery, Herts Police*

### Frosty Mornings

We know that it is never pleasant having to de-ice the car in the freezing cold. However we ask that residents never leave their vehicle with the keys in the ignition unattended, regardless of how long you are away. It would take someone less than a minute to take your car. We have already had a report from the Dacorum areas of this happening, so please don't let this happen to you.

### Neighbourhood Watch

This is very active in the area and we are always looking for additional residents to receive messages via email and pass out to neighbours, on occasions distributing Neighbourhood Watch leaflets and attending yearly Neighbourhood Watch meetings. Anyone interested, or for more information please contact us at the police station.

### Crime Prevention Visits

We are happy to visit your home to offer crime prevention tips and advice. If you are interested, then just make contact with us and we can arrange a visit. Should anyone need to contact us, please visit [www.herts.police.uk](http://www.herts.police.uk) to see your local officers and how to contact them. Alternatively contact us on 0845 33 00 222 or in an emergency call 999. Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111

### Surgery Street Briefings

Wednesday 1st December: Costa Coffee Street Briefing High Street Tring 10.30-11.30.

Thursday 16th December: Street Briefing on the Herts Mobile Library, 13.15– 13.35 Astrope Lane.

Monday 20th December: Officers will be on patrol in Tesco Tring offering crime prevention advice 13.30-14.30.

## Another Perfect Poo Poster



**“Take out that scoop to pick up dog poop.” This poster was designed by Daisy Austin of Long Marston School for Tring Rural Parish Council. The council hopes that the children's designs will be more effective than the official signs.**

# VILLAGE VIEW

BY JOHN PAINTER



## Is this what Joanne saw?

We were fortunate to be at the Grand Opening of the new canal bridge last month. Following the ceremony, we were able to witness the first vessel to cruise beneath it, on its maiden voyage to join the fleet following its launch from the Puttenham shipyards.

The recently announced budget cuts have resulted in some

cutbacks in the Navy, and it seems that the Government has been able to negotiate a considerable reduction in the cost of their two new aircraft carriers, with some small modifications to their specification! We understand that there will shortly be two aircraft carriers for sale, no reasonable offer refused!

## Local history museum opens in Tring

by *Phil Buchi*

AFTER many years of planning and preparation, the new Tring Local History Museum has opened in the market place, Brook Street, Tring. Occupying the old market office which has been stylishly modified, the museum is the result of an ambitious project undertaken by members of the Tring and District Local History Society.

Items on display all have a local connection with Tring and the surrounding villages of Aldbury, Long Marston, Marsworth, Wigginton and Wilstone. Examples are: Neolithic finds, Roman and medieval objects, items connected to local employment, commerce, the military, and everyday life over the centuries.

The Society is keen to stress that the museum is for the villages too, not just the town of Tring. It is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10am to 4pm, and their website is [www.tringlocalhistorymuseum.org.uk](http://www.tringlocalhistorymuseum.org.uk)

## News from All Saints

We look forward to seeing you at some of our activities and services during December.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CRAFTS. A morning of crafts in the Church – good fun for all.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 10am. Our Morning Service will include the Sunday Club NATIVITY - everyone welcome.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December SOCIAL AFTERNOON 2 – 3pm. Everyone welcome – you may even have a mince pie!

24<sup>th</sup> December – CRIB SERVICE 4pm. A lovely family service for everyone.

CHRISTMAS DAY – 10am. Family Communion – we hope you can join us.

Happy Christmas to you all from All Saints.

## New bridge restores village link

by *Phil Buchi*

A RURAL parish is not likely to host very many bridge openings in its history, so it was appropriate that a ceremony was organised to inaugurate the splendid new footbridge over the Aylesbury Arm of the canal at Wilstone.

Village Warden Colin Reedman organised the event, held on 28th October, and in his address thanked those at British Waterways and Dacorum Borough Council who had made the rebuild possible.

The team from BW who built the bridge attended, as did Clayton Rae, footpaths officer from Dacorum Borough Council. The Vicar, Rev'd Jo Wetherall, led the ceremony and spoke of there being "bridges for each other" in our

lives. Ben Reeves, a senior Wilstonian, cut the ribbon and declared the bridge open for business so that villagers present could make the journey to the other side (and back), which they did.

Built from oak at a cost of £32,000, the bridge restores the

ancient link between Wilstone and Long Marston. This was used in years past by villagers walking to the old church at Long Marston, before St. Cross church was built in Wilstone.

The path goes in almost a straight line across the fields to the now ruined church at the end of Chapel Lane, Long Marston. It would have been in use every Sunday at the time the canal was built, and that is probably why the canal company was required to build a footbridge, even though there are two other bridges in close proximity. That it has been replaced in the 21st century is remarkable. The cost was met by British Waterways and Dacorum Borough Council. The previous structure had become dilapidated and was declared unsafe last



**Ben Reeves officially opening the bridge**

Picture: John Painter

year. The new one is much better - allowing simultaneous both way traffic - and looks like it will last many decades. A proper job indeed.

## Conviviality at the Farm Shop

by *Phil Buchi*

THIS year's Farm Shop Christmas food fair evening proved as convivial as ever, and there seemed to be even more food-

stuffs to sample than before. Villagers are no doubt delighted that this event has become a fixture in the social calendar, courtesy of P.E.

Mead and Sons. The local companies that supply the Farm Shop turned out in force to meet customers and promote their wares. Mead's own roast beef and lamb samples disappeared as fast as Chris could carve, and all the products on show will be available from the Farm Shop over the next few weeks. A very enjoyable evening.



**Belinda (left) and Rosie present a tempting selection of "Belinda's Bakes" at the food fair.**

Picture: Village News

## Jeff Rodwell's 80th Birthday

by *Jeremy Johnson*



**Jeff with his "best friend" the cat!**

Jeff Rodwell, who was originally born in the Long Row in Wilstone and has lived here all his life, made it to the grand old age of 80 in November. He is seen here celebrating with Hector the cat and friends. Congratulations to Jeff from the Village News and all his friends in the area.