



March 2011

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

Inside this issue:

Church services	3
Council News	12
Recipe	17
Film Night	2
Puttenham Page	19
From the Vicarage	24

Special features:

- Church Events 6
- Suduko 16
- Pavlov's cat 18
- Agricultural story 22
- Cubs 28

Readers' contributions are welcome. Send them in!

Homes instead of business at Dixons Wharf?

A SCHEME to build around twenty new homes at the Dixons Wharf business site might be proposed by developer CALA Homes. Andrew Lockwood from CALA Homes attended the February meeting of the Parish Council to hear views of Councillors before the developer takes the idea any further. Planning permission was granted last year for a commercial development on the site by Dixons Gap bridge, but because of the economic situation, no one wants to put up the money to build the offices and light industrial units which have planning permission.

This leaves the Marsworth-based owners with a bit of a white elephant, and they have previously indicated their intention to consider a residential scheme. Mr Lockwood stressed that there was no proposal at present, and his company were making soundings before deciding if they want to be involved. Cllr. Abby Fermont said that the main concern was that the site was not part of any of the villages in the parish, and a development would not be a part of the village community. The Council would support rural affordable housing schemes, but they had to be part of the existing communities within the parish.

In answer to Councillors' questions about the type of development envisaged, Mr Lockwood said that around twenty small homes of various sizes could be fitted onto the footprint already approved for the previous commercial scheme.

As he knew the Council were keen to provide affordable homes, a scheme could include these, he said.

Indeed, he seemed keen to extend the co-operation of his company to help with any other ideas the Council had for benefiting the local community. We will no doubt be hearing more on this subject in the coming weeks, so here is an opportunity for villagers to let Parish Councillors have their views.

5,000 cyclists expected at Long Marston

YES, that's right. Five thousand. And led by an Olympic gold medallist too. But they won't be staying long. Long Marston, and specifically the junction of Cheddington Lane and Tring Road, is being included in the route of a national cycle ride in the autumn. Intended to encourage more people to take up cycling, the route around Herts, Bucks and Beds will start and finish at Whipsnade and sounds like hard work.

One of two national events, it's not a race, and anyone (with the necessary stamina) can take part. The riders will take an hour or so to pass the Queen's Head, so will be quite a spectacle.

In France events like this are popular with spectators and riders, and villagers line the route. Organisers are keen to get local communities involved apparently, so *Village News* will find out more for the next edition.

Wilstone Film Nights

Friday March 25th



A Clint Eastwood film with Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon
 This last film of the season is not particularly about rugby; but the Rugby World Cup of 1994 is the vehicle around which this true story of how the newly elected President Nelson Mandela, (Morgan Freeman) recently released from Robben Island prison, uses the failing national rugby team as a way to ease racial tension and unite the apartheid-torn country. The captain of the South African national team, Francois Pienaar (Matt Damon), is called to meet the President and soon realises that victory at the World Cup would transcend rugby, and could lead to something monumental for his country. This is an inspiring, powerful, sometimes funny, film about leadership, which even if you have no interest in rugby, will leave you with a lump in your throat.

I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul



FRIDAY MARCH 25TH

TICKETS £6

Available now at Wilstone Village Stores
 and Meads Farm Shop

Film starts at 8pm.

Licenced bar opens at 7.15pm



Village News

Editor this month: Colin Moore

Advertising Manager

Graham Thorpe, 01442 822923

Email: villagenewsadvertising@googlemail.com

Editorial Team

Phil Buchi, Colin Davenport, Fran Flowerdew,
John McCall, Colin Moore, Emily Woodbridge.

Email: editorwlm@gmail.com

Post: Editor, 1 Chapel Fields, Wilstone, HP23 4SL

Phone: Colin Davenport, 01442 890713.

Distribution Manager & Secretary

Carole Harrison 01296 668526

Finance Manager & Treasurer

John Harrison 01296 668526

I thought I would look back to our March 2006 edition and see what we reported at the time. Our front page story was the 'Housing Survey' and surprisingly we are reporting houses for Dixons Wharf this month. Also John gave us a winter view of Wilstone reservoir and also this month. (See page 28).

The panto was *Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood* with Vanessa as *Trixie the Pixie!* At Puttenham, they were feasting on Bangers and Mash while exercising their minds with a quiz night. Long Marston FC in their 1st floodlit game beat Oving FC 4-0 at Oving. We even had article explaining the origins of the American railway gauge of 4 ft 8 1/2 inches. Farmer David was in the big field at Dixons Gap bridge, reminiscing about the War and posing the question "what is a *fold beetle?*" Something for you Google fans.

It has always intrigued me as to the origin of Dixons Gap. Today we use *Dixon's* suggesting it belonged to someone called Dixon but in the 18th century it was simply *Dixon Gap Furlong*: the name given to three fields near today's canal bridge, the two smaller being prefixed with *Near* and *Far*. Gap is an old Norse word which entered English use in the 12th century, meaning at the time a break in a hedge or wall. I think the gap is still open?

**Deadline for items for our next issue
(April) is Thursday 17 March 2011.**

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**

Denington Estate, Wellingborough, NN8 2RA. 01933 228855.

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.*

27 February

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

6 March

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

7 March (Monday)

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

9 March

Ash Wednesday

10.00am St Mary's Holy Communion and
Imposition of Ashes

13 March

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

20 March

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

21 March (Monday)

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

27 March

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

4th Tuesday Spoken communion 10a.m St Cross
every month Wilstone



Read Village News on line at:
www.tringruralpc.org.uk (Click on Village News)
www.wilstone.me.uk (Click on Village News)

What's on...

Messy Church

**Sunday 3rd April
4 – 5.30 p.m.**

St Cross Wilstone



Mum's day off

**Come and be pampered, chat,
read a magazine**

**While the children serve
refreshments and make you gifts**

For model railway buffs

TRING and District Model Railway Club will be holding its 25th annual Show in Tring at the Red Cross Hall on Saturday 26th March, 10.30am – 5.00pm. On show will be railway layouts from members and visiting clubs. Also there will be items for sale and refreshments. See www.tdmrc.co.uk

Messy Church

SUNDAY 6TH MARCH

4-5.30 p.m.

St Cross Wilstone

**PANCAKE RACES
FOR ALL AGES**

Followed by a Pancake party

in the church

- bring your own frying pan for racing!

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)

The public are welcome to attend these meetings.

16 February: Puttenham Cecelia Hall.

16 March: Wilstone village hall.

Thursday 24, 25, 26 February

Humpty Dumpty ,Long Marston Panto, Victory Hall.

Saturday 26 February

7.30pm Long Marston CC Race Night—Marlins

Saturday 5 March

8pm Cheese and Wine, Wilstone Village Hall

Tuesday 8 March

WI- Scrapbooking by Linda Gransby - 8pm Victory Hall,

Saturday 12 March

7pm Tennis Club Quiz Night, LM Victory Hall

Tuesday 22 March

All Saints Social afternoon

Saturday 25 March

7.30pm Long Marston CC Quiz Night—Marlins

Saturday 9 April

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

1 Tuesday 2 April

WI Chenies Manor by Valerie Edwards 8pm Victory Hall

Tuesday 26 April

All Saints Social afternoon

Friday 6 May

7.30pm Long Marston CC 50th Anniversary Bingo Marlins

Sunday 8 May

From 2pm Long Marston Tennis Club Open Afternoon

Tuesday 24 May

All Saints Social afternoon

Sunday 5 June

'Viva Las Wilstone' village fete.

Saturday 25th June

Fun Day, Wilstone Church 2pm-4pm

Tuesday 28 June

All Saints Social afternoon

Tuesday 28 June

1.30pm Herts Over 60s v Leicestershire Over 60s—LMCC

Wednesday 29 June

12 noon Minor Counties National side v Leicestershire

2nd XI (50 overs) at LMCC. .

Thursday 30 June

12 noon Minor Counties National side v Nottinghamshire

2nd XI (50 overs) at LMCC. **Saturday 2 July**

Puttenham Fete. Fun day.

Saturday 3 September

Jumble Sale Cecelia Hall, Puttenham.

(Friends of St Mary's).

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September

Tring Chamber Music concerts at All Saints

Saturday 1 October

October Supper and Auction, Cecelia Hall.

Your local event details can be included here for free.

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

Palm Sunday



Join our Palm Sunday procession - led by a donkey from Wilstone village hall to St Cross church at **10 a.m.**
On **Sunday 17th April**
Suitable for all the Family

Further information
Please ring Jo on 01442 851200

Cheese and Wine Tasting and Quiz!

*Wilstone Village Hall
Saturday 5th March
8pm*

*Come and sample
Peter & Richard's
wonderful selection of
very special cheeses and
wines from around the world.*

*Tickets £15 in advance from the
Wilstone Village Shop
and Mead's Farm Shop.*

MENTMORE EVENTS 2011

MENTMORE has a busy calendar of events for 2011 and you will be able to get up to date with the latest fashion at the village hall on Thursday 7 April from 6pm. And for gardening enthusiasts there is a plant sale on the green on Sunday 17 April 12- 4pm with barbeque, teas, cakes and refreshments. Donations of trees, shrubs, perennials, vegetables or well rooted healthy plants will be gratefully accepted. (Please call 07707 218719).

The annual **MENTMORE ARTS FESTIVAL** will be held in St Mary's Church and in the Village Hall during the May Bank Holiday weekend Sat 28 to Mon 30 May. If you want to help call Sue (01525 372757) or Caroline (01296 661141).

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**

Times for mobile library

Thursdays, fortnightly: March 10th and 24th.

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

Waiting for a reason
to go dancing?
You no longer
need an invitation.

Jazzercise blends Aerobics, Yoga, Pilates and Kickboxing movements into fun dance routines set to fresh new music, meaning you never get bored with your workout!

Free class with this ad at these locations:
(Classes start 10 January 2011)

Monday	9.30 a.m. 9.30 p.m. 7.45 p.m. 8.00 p.m.	Wilstone Village Hall Goldfield Infants School, Tring Goldfield Infants School, Tring Tringhoe Town Hall
Tuesday	7.30 p.m.	Goldfield Infants School, Tring
Wednesday	9.30 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	Red Cross Hall, Tring Pitstone Memorial Hall
Thursday	7.30 p.m.	Tring School Gym
Friday	9.45 a.m.	Wilstone Village Hall

Unlimited classes for only £5 per week,
payable by monthly standing order.

jazzercise
All fitness levels welcome www.jazzercise.co.uk 07900 987230

Church Events

St. Cross Wilstone

The Small church with the big heart !

THERE'S a lot going on at St. Cross this year, so get your diaries out and come and join us. We are holding our usual annual events, but also adding in some extras, which we hope will become 'regulars' over the next couple of years. Everyone, and that includes dogs, is very welcome to all the activities at the church, and we were delighted that Baggins (from Wilstone) and Lois (from Marsworth) joined us for the special service at Candlemas, to dedicate the new votive candle stand. The details below are for the first part of the year, and all of them seem to include refreshments, starting with Pancake races at Messy Church on Sunday 5th March.

MESSY CHURCH for LENT - Sunday 5th March at 4pm-5.30pm. Sausages and pancakes for all!!

LENT LUNCH - Wednesday 23rd March in the Village Hall 12noon-2pm. A frugal lunch to acknowledge all the people in the world living on very few resources; no charge, donations to Christian Aid.

TEAM PALM SUNDAY SERVICE - April 17th at 10am, starting at the Village Hall with a procession, led by a donkey.

EASTER EGG HUNT - Monday 25th April at 10am, with coffee and hot cross buns.

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL - Tuesday 31st May at 10am--an outdoor service of blessing for all animals. Please bring your pets along, or place their photo/name on the altar.

STRAWBERRY TEA - Sunday 19th June at 3pm-5pm (Friends .of St. Cross fundraiser).

FRIENDS of ST. CROSS SERVICE - Tuesday 5th July at 10am—a special service to celebrate friendship.

FUN DAY - Saturday 16th July at 2pm in the church garden. Fun and games, lots of refreshments, and Wilstones' unique dog-only raffle (Friends .of St. Cross fundraiser).

All Saints Puttenham

TODDLER WORSHIP - An opportunity for Mums, Granies and Carers to have an hour in Church with their children of pre-school age. Story time, singing, craft and prayer followed by drink and biscuit – we finish in time to pick up older children from school. The dates this month are 7th and 21st.

SUNDAY CLUB - 27th March. All children are welcome at 10am to join us for Bible stories, Activities and Crafts. Again there are drinks and biscuits (when the adults have their coffee) finishing around 11am. Please come and join in the fun with Jeannie and Maria.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON - 22nd March 2pm. We look forward to seeing you there. Everyone is welcome, for a cup of tea and a chat, do join us. Contact Carole Harrison (01296 668526).

We look forward to seeing you.

Get fit at Ashridge

If your New Year's resolution was to get a little fitter, there are now two Friends of Ashridge walking groups to choose from in addition to the walks organised by the National Trust: **Gentle Strolls** and **Discover Ashridge**. Brian and Siân Barton (01442 823 727) lead the **Gentle Strolls**, the popular weekday 2-hour informal walks observing the wildlife in different parts of the Ashridge Estate, and Kath Hardy leads the longer **Discover Ashridge** walks on Saturdays, each route chosen for seasonal interest and variety. For each walk stout waterproof footwear recommended. No booking required - just pay £2 per person on the day.

Friends of Ashridge annual **Spring Plant Fair** is not so far away either. Put **Sunday 8 May** in your calendar now and fill all those gaps in your garden where the cold weather has done its worst. As ever, thousands of plants grown by volunteers will be on sale at bargain prices, plus a great selection from commercial growers at prices you won't find at your local nursery. The fair runs from **11am to 4pm** on Monument Green by the Visitor Centre, National Trust Ashridge Estate, Ringshall and is free to get in.



The ever popular plant sale on the Monument green

Calling all skiers

THE Hospice of St Francis is calling all skiers to take part in its first ever online auction appeal and grab themselves a 5 star ski bargain! The auction is live **now** at www.stfrancisauktion.org.uk but until **Friday 4th March**. The prize is seven nights accommodation in the 5* Chalet Whymper in Chamonix which sleeps up to eight people, including gourmet meals and superb wine.



Letters...

Marston Gate - pictures required

I have been kindly given your details by Maggie Winship of Long Marston concerning my interest in Marston Gate railway station.

My late Father and I, and later my younger brother, have been researching the Aylesbury to Cheddington railway line since the 1950s, my Father producing a large model of Aylesbury High Street station as in circa 1910. I am now trying to expand our knowledge of Marston Gate railway station and to build a scale model but a small scale.

Bill Simpson wrote a book on the line in 1989 which made considerable use of my Father's work, but there are still, as always, many things I don't know, e.g. the type of buffer stops used at the end of the sidings, the construction of the milk landing, etc.

I believe you may be prepared to put a small appeal in your newsletter for photographs (none seem to exist before 1950 even though the station was open at least by 1863), information or just memoirs. I can assure you that all this is not for commercial use but may eventually be shared with the London and North Western Railway Society, of which I have been a member for 35 years.

If you are interested I would of course be happy to show you the results of our research over 50 years but they are all relating to the station with little if any reference to Long Marston..

Bob Williams Tel 01908 233757, Mob 07791 674543
E-mail RJWilliamsLNWR@aol.com

EASTER EGG HUNT



EASTER MONDAY
25TH APRIL 2011

10.30am Prompt start
from
WILSTONE CHURCH

Join us for coffee and
Hot cross buns too!



Preparations for this year's fete and dog show on Sunday June 5th are well underway. Above is the logo for the Las Vegas themed event. Designed by local artist Phil Madley, it will help create awareness for what should be our best ever fun packed show.



Starting at 12.30, Alvin (Elvis Presley) will process through the village to the Half Moon pub in a recently imported red Cadillac convertible, and he will be entertaining us at intervals during the afternoon, whilst accompanying the Wilstone showgirls.

Chris Burgess has produced a brilliant commercial for this year's fete which you can see it at the forthcoming film nights. It's great fun, and it will soon be on YouTube. Links to follow.

Please remember to put by bric-a-brac, books and contributions for the tombola. Also, the Committee urgently needs more volunteers to help put up and run stalls on the day. If you can help us, please call Jill on 07796804044 or email her at jillmary-walker@btinternet.com



Half century at Marlins

23rd January 2011 saw a significant milestone in the history of Long Marston Cricket Club. It was on this day in 1961 that the trust deeds for the ground were signed by four members of the club, securing the transfer of Marlins field to LMCC.

In the late 50's and early 60's the club had been seeking out a large enough plot of land locally to use for cricketing purposes. During this time the club had been playing on a coconut mat placed over a concrete strip in the middle of the current recreation ground. A chance overheard conversation in the local pub was followed up immediately and it became apparent that the plot of land known as Marlins Field in Cheddington Lane could be purchased from the Reverend Anthony.

The first big stumbling block was trying to find the £40 required to cover the 10% deposit. Voluntary contributions and the generosity of some of the existing committee members secured the deposit, and as they say, the rest is history.

The subsequent development of Marlins was funded in the main by weekly bingo sessions run by club members at Long Marston Village Hall and much later at Marlins once the club house had been built.


To celebrate the 50th anniversary of our club, two social events are planned for the coming year.

by Paul Dumpleton

Firstly on **Friday 6th May** (Friday night was always bingo night) Bingo will return to Marlins and it is hoped to recreate in a one off bingo session some of the atmosphere and amusement these sessions provided. Another major source of fund raising was frequent Cheese and Wine evenings and work is under way to arrange a similar evening towards the end of our 50th season at Marlins.

The new season will soon be upon us and we are proud to announce that in addition to the regular three day county game and the two day development match, the club has been awarded back to back competitive matches in the ECB Trophy. On **Wednesday 29th June** the Minor Counties Cricket Association (MCCA) national side will take on Leicestershire 2nd XI and on the **following day** the same MCCA side will play against Nottinghamshire 2nd XI. Both games will start at midday, are 50 overs a side and have to end in a result. We are honoured to be asked to host these games. Please make a note for your diary as these two days promise to provide superb entertainment and quality cricket.

Cherwell league fixtures start at Marlins on **7th May**.



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

THE CHAPEL ROOM

WILSTONE

A SELECTION OF 'CRYSTAL CLEAR' FACIALS
AROMATHERAPY AND SWEDISH MASSAGES
HAND AND FOOT TREATMENTS
'ST. TROPEZ' TANNING
'HIVE' WAXING
A VARIETY OF EYE TREATMENTS
CALGEL NAIL SYSTEM

*Scented candles *Bath oils and handmade soaps
*Silver and dress jewellery *Cards and gift wrapping

VOUCHERS AND "GIFT HAMPERS" AVAILABLE

HELEN LISHMAN

FULLY QUALIFIED
BEAUTY THERAPIST AND AROMATHERAPIST

9 CHAPEL FIELDS, WILSTONE, TRING,
HERTFORDSHIRE, HP23 4SL
TEL: 01442 890933



WI News

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

for a pleasant surprise.

Anita Epstein, clad from head to foot in black, explained how dance had probably arrived in Egypt many centuries ago via nomadic Indian gypsies. Starting with a stick dance done by men, she explained and demonstrated how all the dance movements stem from having strong legs. By tucking parts of the hem of her full skirt into her waistband to make a 'big skirt' she went on to show how the swaying hip movements are obtained by moving weight from one leg to the other. This left her torso free to interpret and express the music. We all marvelled at how supple she was

Her knowledgeable talk about the costumes, music and traditions of dance in Egypt and how it is used today, at family or all female gatherings but rarely in public except in luxury hotels, were spell binding. (In case you were wondering, the popular idea of 'belly dancing' by scantily clad girls was not

THE February meeting's talk was titled 'Traditional and Contemporary Egyptian Dance' but if members were nervous at the thought the spangles and swinging tassels associated with Hollywood's version of belly dancing, they were in

introduced to Egypt until the 1950s.)

Two members, Heather Bernard and Olli Wheeler-Cornell, had gone to great lengths to bake Middle Eastern cakes which were greatly appreciated at the end of the meeting.

Scrapbooking is the subject of our next meeting which

takes place on Tuesday 8 March. Visitors welcome., Please come along at 8pm and enjoy an evening with us, Refreshments (with cake) are served at the end of the meeting.



Anita Epstein—Berkhamsted dance teacher www.yalladance.com

SAFARI SOUTH AFRICA SELF CATERING ACCOMMODATION

3 bed roomed house, sleeps up to 6 people. House borders the Kruger National Park. Excellent for Bird Watching and Game Viewing.

Only £350 per week.
Game viewing trips available.

Contact Carolyn 07707922750 / fshr_crlyn@yahoo.co.uk



LOCAL CHIMNEY SWEEP

Professional Clean Efficient
Certificates Issued for House Insurance
Lucky Sweep for Weddings
Member of the Institute of Chimney Sweeps

Call Steve Jackson
Tring (01442) 890041
07947 757309

BOOKKEEPING & ADMINISTRATION

Local experienced bookkeeper offering a specialist bookkeeping service, using Quickbooks™ Accounting that will keep all your accounts in order. Also offering a Business Sitting Service. With a little planning and today's technology, you **can** walk away from your business. A long weekend or an extended holiday, I can take care of the day to day running of your business while you are away. All work is individually and competitively priced.

Contact Helen Vaughan (01442) 826643
Mob 07966 149254
helen.vaughan@highlifeservices.co.uk
www.highlifeservices.co.uk

NEED A HANDYMAN?

Locksmith

Plumbing
Bathrooms
Tiling
Painting

Garden Tidy Ups
Grass cutting
Hedge cutting
Patio Cleaning

Ref No Problem
Fully insured

Reasonable And Reliable

Call Gavin On Tring (01442) 381306

Mobile 07731047439

www.bhpropertieservices.co.uk



Save Fuel - Shop Local

WE are certainly living in challenging times, facing both increasing costs and cuts in services. And it's in times like these that shopping locally can prove to be a rewarding experience in a great many ways.

Just driving into Tring could cost us a £1 or more a time, Aylesbury double that. Here in our parish we are fortunate enough to have both the Wilstone Shop and the Wilstone Farm Shop, just a pleasant walk for some or a short drive for others. Between the two they offer us a wide range of products: fresh fruit and vegetables, everyday essentials, frozen foods, animal feeds, newspapers, stamps, gifts and cards to name but a few. Whilst they may not have the buying power of some of the national chains, they still offer competitive prices, ensuring they provide good value, excellent quality and locally sourced products wherever possible. Plus all this is delivered with a friendly and helpful service that's not so easy to find these days. They also provide a place for us to meet and chat, perhaps over a drink or something delicious to eat, all of which helps to strengthen our sense of community.

In the Wilstone Shop Liz and her team of volunteers offer us a wide range of products, but if you do require something that's not currently stocked, or need to order something for a particular occasion, just ask and they will do their best to ensure it's made available for you. Liz and the team are always pleased to welcome new volunteers to assist in the shop, so if you have some time to spare and would like to lend a hand, just call in and have a chat.

The Wilstone Shop is open Monday – Saturday 7.30am to 1pm, Sunday 9am to midday; the Farm Shop Monday – Saturday 9am to 5.30pm, Sunday 9.30am to 4.30pm

Charles Hill Garden Services Ltd

We are a local company offering landscaping services to villages in and around Long Marston.

Garden Design
Construction
Maintainance.



Tel 01525 222227

Mob 07773723236

Call now for a free
no obligation quotation

www.charleshillgardenservices.co.uk
Charles@charleshillgardenservices.co.uk



Exercise...
Companionship...
...and so much more



It's great fun being a Post for Barking Mad

All of the benefits of dog ownership without the emotional or financial commitment

Visiting dogs are carefully matched to your home environment

For more information contact
Esther Matthews
01442 827237
esther.matthews@barkingmad.co.uk

www.barkingmad.co.uk



RSPH
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

S G H Pest Control 07923 430920

A discreet and professional service

Rats Mice Squirrels Rabbits Foxes
Wasps Flies Ants
Fleas Cockroaches Bedbugs
Pest Bird species controlled
Bird and Rodent proofing

Using many control measures within
integrated Pest Management
not just pesticides

Marsworth Pre School



Opening Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
 Sessions: 9.00am – 11.30am and 12.30pm – 3.00pm
 Lunch club: 11.30am – 12.30pm
 Children from ages 2½ to 5 years

Baby & Toddler Group every Tuesday 9:30-11:30am

Marsworth Pre-School on 07506 179658 or Tracey Kennedy on 01296 660973

Mrs. Dittles

PET SITTERS

Whilst you're at work, on holiday or during illness, we will come & visit your pet in your home.

All types of animals.

Member of the National Association of Registered Pet Sitters. Fully insured.

Also holiday homes for rabbits, Guinea pigs, ferrets and other small animals.

Tel. 01442 822191 or 07967 019031.

LEARN TO DRIVE WITH ROUND THE BEND DRIVING SCHOOL

Are you interested in learning to drive? As a fully qualified ADI I will help you to pass your driving test and to drive safely for life. Special offer - £15 per hour for the first 3 hours then just £23 per hour!

Also able to offer lessons in motorway tuition, night driving, Pass-plus and Advanced Driving.

Patience and sense of humour guaranteed!!

If you are interested please visit my website www.roundthebend-driving-school.co.uk or call Brian on 01442 381549 or 07988 742385

Berkhamsted Carpet Cleaning Ltd

Carpets - Oriental Rug; - Upholstery

**High quality professional service
 domestic and commercial
 excellent value fully insured
 free consultation and quote
 references available**

**PO Box 903 Berkhamsted Herts; HP4 3ZQ
 Tel: 01442 876622 Mob: 0788 4058795**

Problem with your windows?

- Double glazed windows or door unit broken, or is the seal damaged?
- Want to clean the inside of the glass but can't?
- Water getting into the double glazed unit?
- All misted up inside the unit?
- Handles & Hinges repaired
- Cat flaps fitted

Guarantees on all units fitted

Visit our website for a free online estimate:

www.SmashingWindows.com

Or ring

01296 630650 to arrange an appointment today!

Try our window cleaning service. Just call 07875 534780 for more details.

www.phoenixmed.co.uk



Would you like some help at home?



We are specialist providers of domiciliary care services in your area, from assistance to help you stay in your own home to respite care to give loved ones a break. We offer support tailored to your needs & wants, including:



- Personal care
- Meal preparation
- Domestic work
- Companionship
- Support for days out
- Post operative care
- Live in care
- Shopping
- Short term & ongoing support
- Nursing care



To find out more about how we can help, call us today on freephone:

0800 783 8954



3rd Floor, Brooke House, Market Square, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 1SN
 Tel. 01296 422499 Fax. 01296 423300

Parish Council news

by Phil Buchi

Masons battle with WW2 memorial

STONEMASONS tasked with creating the memorial to commemorate the US Army Airforce crew who died when their bomber crashed at Long Marston in 1944 have hit a snag. The chosen stone has a natural flaw which is causing it to split in the wrong places, making it difficult to fix the plaque which contains the inscription. So an alteration to the design has been made, and I expect that we won't notice the difference when it's finished. The memorial is to be sited on the small green in the centre of Long Marston and there will be an official unveiling ceremony attended by survivors and families of the crew from the USA. *Village News* will publish the full story of this ill-fated flight in a future edition.

Bags of fun (and rubbish too)

THE Parish Council's village litter pick, this year in association with the Tring Anglers, was a big success in February with forty one bags of rubbish, one tyre and an assortment of scrap iron recovered from hedges and ditches around the parish. Anglers combed the canal towpath from Buckland to Marsworth, while villagers covered the villages. The most

common forms of litter were fast food wrappers and drinks containers, presumably thrown from the windows of passing vehicles. It is a shame we have to spend time picking all this up, but at least everyone enjoyed the sunny morning. The exercise will be repeated next February – the undergrowth is subdued at this time of year. (see page 28).

Big bills bump bank balance

THE now successful drainage work at Long Marston recreation ground proved to be a significant investment for the Council, with the final bill coming to £8,645. This has depleted the reserves, but Councillors agreed that the investment was worthwhile. Another big bill that had to be paid this month was the £690 quarterly bill for street lighting. As this is a significant item for the Parish Council, the Clerk is checking if savings could be made by reducing the time that the street lights are lit.

Smile - it's a speed camera

HERTS POLICE deployed a mobile speed camera and flashing warning sign in Wilstone during February. This follows lobbying of the police by the Parish Council to take action on

Greeting cards • Gift Wrap • Invitations • Posters • Thank You's

Greeting Cards

from Phoenix Trading

Why choose Phoenix?

- High quality cards and stationery with a range of exclusive adults' and children's designs printed in the UK
- Cards are £1.50 each (£1.20 each for 10 or more) - that's up to 50% less than High Street prices!
- Choose your cards and order from the comfort of home

BECOME A PARISH TRADER
You will receive our top quality 100% recycled cards and stationery at a special discount.

WIN A PRIZE! PARTY
Buy 50 or more cards around for a party and receive a party favour!

RECIPES

To request a FREE brochure or place an order please contact:

Sophie Squire
Independent Phoenix Trader
07718 909141
sophie.squire@btinternet.com

Phoenix TRADING

www.phoenix-trading.eu/web/sophiesquire/

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!

speeding through the villages. There has been much speed camera activity in the Tring area of late. Has this anything to do with the story in *The Gazette* revealing that only four speeding tickets were issued in the area in the whole of 2010? Perhaps not. But the mobile unit will be used again in these villages over the next weeks. Apparently, if it smiles at you, you're doing just fine.



End to Council funded Insulation

Dacorum Borough Council backed energy efficiency scheme is going to close at the end of this March. So this is your last chance to take advantage of Council funded loft and cavity wall insulation at just **£49** or **FREE** ;If in receipt of a qualifying means tested benefit.

Installing loft and cavity wall insulation could cost up to £250 each, but through HEEP, Tring Rural homeowners and private tenants can get their lofts and cavity walls insulated for just £49 each or for FREE.

Call HEEP free on 0800 980 6026

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

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

Experienced Conveyancing Solicitor

Rachael Matthews

From my office at home, I deal with all aspects of residential conveyancing.

I have a small practice so I can offer a more exclusive, individually dedicated service to my clients.

I handle everything myself and offer a personal touch with flexible contact hours.

Fieldview, Hawridge, 01494 758573,
 email: rachael@rmatthewssolicitor.co.uk
 website: www.rmatthewssolicitor.co.uk

Regulated by The Law Society

Rachael Matthews Solicitor

Registered in the Solicitors Regulation Authority

- LANDSCAPING
- GARDEN CLEAN UPS
- HEDGE TRIMMING
- PRUNING
- POWER WASHING


Jim's Mowing

01442 894146

Local Call Cost

www.jimsmowing.co.uk

Pre School

by Vicky Hayes

OVER the last few days the pre-school staff have been busy rearranging the store cupboard to get it ready to be part of the back-stage area for the Long Marston Pantomime. A lot of toys have been sent home with the children for their annual clean and we are taking the opportunity to have a good clear out and tidy up. We hope that the pantomime is a great success again this year.



After half term we will again be taking part in the Sainsbury's Active Kids campaign which helped us obtain a large quantity of cooking, gardening and sports equipment last year. If you shop at Sainsbury's and are able to donate vouchers towards our target, we would be extremely grateful to receive them. Please either hand them in when Pre-School is open, or put them in the red post box outside the Victory Hall.

First Steps Pre-School is held at Victory Hall, Long Marston every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am – 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, please ring Vicky Hayes on 01296 661586

Spring Term

by Clare South

THE first half term has already flown by and all at Long Marston School are busy and productive.

After half term we have a few events planned to enhance our curriculum and for the enjoyment of the children. Firstly Book Week, which is straight after half term. A storytelling workshop is visiting the school to work with each class on a different theme. The Friends of Long Marston School have kindly agreed to partly fund this event. A book fair follows on Wednesday 2nd March. Thursday 3rd March is World Book Day, and the children will be looking at favourite books in their classes.

The School Council are gearing up for the 'Long Marston's Got Talent Show', which is to take place on Red Nose Day, 18th March. The council are hoping to raise money for this charity. The children are being asked to showcase a talent on their own, with a friend or in a group. Throughout the week heats will take place in each class with three class winners going through to the grand final. For Red Nose Day we are also organising a Mufti Day and Cake Sale. We are sure it will be a great event.

The school have also been working on rewriting our vision and aims. Workshops have been taking place for staff, parents, governors and pupils. I will keep you informed of our progress. However if you feel you have something to add as a member of the community please feel free to contact the school directly or by or e-mail.



PRISM

CONSTRUCTION LTD

N/BC

Nicholas Webb

Conversions New Build
 Extensions Renovations
 Kitchens Basements Bathrooms
 Plastering

**Small Works Undertaken,
 Big Works Undertaken.**

Hallie Farm, Tring Road, Wingrave, Buckinghamshire, HP22 4LN
 Tel: 01296 660065 / Mobile: 07712 444981
 eMail: info@prismconstruction.co.uk
 www.prismconstruction.co.uk

Seaton's Catering

Established 1990

We cater for all occasions
 working lunches - buffets - parties—weddings
 and other family events.

Please call to order discuss your menu

tel 01296 630279/720459

seatonscatering.co.uk

email: seatonscatering@hotmail.co.uk

“A five star hygiene rating”

“Tis I, Gerald the Herald...”

or the voice of Horti.

I'M sure all you pantomime fans enjoyed yourselves this year. I am now in recovery mode after weeks of scenery painting, including spending all last weekend up at the village hall putting finishing touches to half the scenes and of course the song board which I have been doing for 10 years (it shows!).

At the pantomime, we launched this year's May Ball. This is our annual event where we try to give the local community the chance to put 'your glad rags on' and dance the night away to a live band. This, like many other events is designed to break even or maybe make a small profit for the local community. This year, we hope to be able to replace the roof on Long Marston village hall and any profits will go to this worthwhile cause. Last year's event raised £400 for the school and we hope with your support that we can achieve a similar result this year. To get you started, we normally lay on some practice lessons at LM, but this year we are supporting the lessons being offered at Wilstone Village Hall on Sunday afternoons (see separate advert) and encourage you all to have a go. My two left feet will hopefully be attending the ball, so why not join me! We are offering £5 off the ticket price of £40 if ordered by the end of March and a table of 8 receives 2 free bottles of wine.

On one of my walks recently, I visited my friend Oliver Matthews and bought some lovely honey and one of his


wonderful village plans he compiled just before the Millennium. This is an A2 sized print of the Ordnance Survey maps from 1796 and 1996 showing how Long Marston and the surrounding hamlets looked at the time, superbly drawn by Ken Peak, accompanied by some beautifully painted pictures of local landmarks by Phyl Thorpe. With the ever changing village population, the Horti agreed we should reissue these at £10 a copy. Anyone interested should contact Oliver directly on 01296 662181.

WILSTONE STICKS

*Handcrafted by John Evans
Member of The British Stickmakers Guild*



Telephone 01442 822115
Wilstone, Hertfordshire
www.wilstonesticks.com



Nicola Gibbs
Mobile Beauty Therapist
Tel: 07872 802817
E-mail: IAdoreBeauty@hotmail.co.uk

Adore Beauty

Children to juggle?..Hectic schedules?.. let me come to you...
Enjoy the luxury of a Qualified Beauty Therapist in the luxury of your own home. For Waxing, Brow and Lash tinting and relax with Ear Candling Ladies call me today to book your home treatments.

SBH GENERAL MAINTENANCE

For all property repairs and maintenance

**BUILDING • POINTING • GUTTERING
PAINTING • GLAZING • TILING
PATIOS • PATHS • FENCING
PLUMBING • BLOCKED DRAINS
FLAT PACK ASSEMBLY**

No matter how small the job
call for a free quote

Telephone 07739 985923 or 01442 382078
SBH, 50 Lakeside, Tring, Herts HP23 5HN

BLOOMFIELD WINDOWS & DOORS

Conservatories Hardwood UPVC
Aluminium Secondary Porches

10 Year Guarantee
FENSA Registered

Tel/Fax: 01442 824333 Mob: 07836 640448



Specialist in
Tiling, Slating, Chimneys and Flat Roofing
Guttering, Facias and Building Works.

56-57 High Street, Tring, Herts, HP23 5AG.
Tel: Tring (01442) 823031 Mobile: 07951 220904

THE HORTI NEEDS YOU!

AT the beginning of January I attended my first Long Marston and Puttenham Horticultural Society AGM, held at Victory Hall. The start time was 8.30pm which in Long Marston time means around 9pm, or once everyone had had a chat and refreshments had been set out and we all had a drink and some cheese or fruit to nibble on, then the serious business of the meeting could begin.

In case you don't know the function of the Long Marston and Puttenham Horticultural Society (the Horti), the committee is responsible for running and funding various village events throughout the year: the Pantomime, the May Ball, the Midsummer Ramble, The Children's Bike Ride, the Long Marston Village Show, and Carols Round the Tree. Normally meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at the Queen's Head, which happily coincides with the weekly visit of the chip van. As you can see, members ensure they are never lacking in sociability or sustenance!

Although I have been involved in the Pantomime and Fete for several years, it's only since joining the Horti last year that I have become fully aware of the enormous amount of effort and organisation that goes into these treasured village events. Many of the committee members have been running things now for twenty plus years and although still fully committed to the tasks in hand, I sensed a marked degree of anxiety about the sheer volume of work in the year to come, particularly with regard to the Long Marston fete at the beginning of August. One member of the committee even went as far as to suggest that we might have to abandon the outdoor field element and concentrate solely on the Flower and Produce Show in the village hall. What a sad loss that would be! Come rain or shine, this summer event has been raising money for the village since 1935, providing an enjoyable day out for family and friends.

Now this was not due to laziness or apathy, but the fact that these overburdened, long serving stalwarts are simply cracking under the strain, hence the reason for this article. The Horti needs new members and supporters to fire and inspire and simply share the load. So, dear people of Long Marston, Puttenham and surrounding environs, if you care for your Fete and all the other activities which make village life so special, I am appealing to you to come forward! New committee members would be welcomed especially, but it will be just as much appreciated if you could volunteer some of your time, especially on one or more of the show weekend days, helping to set up or run a stall, or clearing up afterwards. Or perhaps you have an idea for something new? I can vouch for the fact that taking part in these events is both fun and rewarding and you'll make new friends into the bargain. So please, even if it's just to put

By Gill Macdonald

your name down to help on the day, we'd love to hear from you. Your contribution could make all the difference!

Please call Gill Macdonald on 01296 661974, Vicky Hayes on 07855 369515 or email the Horti longmarston@hotmail.com

Sudoku Corner

by Colin

No 56 moderate

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

This is a slightly more difficult puzzle than we have had of late. You will get a good start by the usual inspection method but eventually come to an impasse. You will have to test squares for possible values, and possibly make some notes. Your best chance is to test lines, columns or boxes where only 2 or 3 squares are unresolved. Good Luck . The solution is on page 23



S.G.C.
Cleaning Service

Domestic & Commercial
House interiors, Offices,
Windows, Carpet Cleaning,
Fully referred & insured

Tenancy & New Construction

Free Estimates & Quotations
01296 489085 07786 394469
Covering Tring & Surrounding Villages

Recipe

by Anna Ashwell

Easter biscuits

These biscuits are quick and simple to make and are meant to be traditionally eaten at Easter. Like all homemade biscuits they don't keep particularly well, but it means you have an excuse to eat them all within a day or two.

Ingredients

110g/4oz caster sugar plus extra for dusting
 110g/4oz butter, softened at room temperature
 1 free-range egg, separated
 225g/8oz plain flour, sieved
 good pinch mixed spice
 55g/2oz currants
 30g/1oz candied peel
 3 tbsp milk



Preparation method

Preheat the oven to 160°C/325°F/Gas 3. Line a baking tray with baking paper.

Cream the butter and sugar together in a bowl until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolk until well combined.

Fold the flour into the mixture, then stir in the mixed spice, currants and candied peel. Stir in enough milk to form a stiff dough.

Roll the dough out (to 3-4mm thickness) onto a floured surface and cut out the biscuits with a fluted cutter. Place onto the baking sheet and bake for 10 minutes.

Remove the biscuits from the oven, brush with the reserved egg white, sprinkle with sugar and return to the oven for 5-10 minutes, or until pale golden-brown.

Remove the biscuits from the tray and set aside to cool on a wire rack.

M.D.SPRING AUTOS

All mechanical repairs
Very competitive prices
All work guaranteed
Vehicles collected and returned at
no extra charge.

MOTs available on site
Welding - Tyres -
Wheels balanced - Bat-
teries - Exhausts - Diag-
nostic Tuning -
Air Conditioning servicing
and repairs



Phone: 01296 662280
 New Fax: 01296 662347
 Mobile: 07860 847328
 Unit 9, Airfield Industrial Estate,
 Cheddington Lane, Long Marston.

Home from home dog sitting



Give your dog a lovely holiday in 10 acres of beautiful countryside for a day or longer. They will be walked regularly and cared for like one of the family!

A pre-visit is a must as I have 2 friendly dogs whom need to give their approval, sorry we are unable to take small dogs.

For more information or to arrange a visit please call
 Ruth on 01296 660445

LONG MARSTON DOG TRAINING CLUB



Victory Hall, Long Marston.



Long established friendly club, catering for all dogs. Any age—puppy through to pensioner.

Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme
offered.

Qualified instructors.
 01296 668752 or 01908 502272

www.longmarstondogtraining.co.uk

Pavlov's Cat

by Andy Ashwell

In a few weeks time our cat, Muffin, will be 84 – 84 cat-years, of course. I put her longevity down to her relaxed pace of life and good eating habits. However, since we moved to Long Marston she has become much more active and adventurous than she ever was before in urban Tring.

For her first ten (real) years all she ever did was sleep and eat. The only thing that she ever caught was a sausage. That's not quite as good as the leg of lamb that my grandmother's cat 'caught' during The War – the remains of which she rinsed-down and roasted for Sunday lunch.

Although I say that Muffin has become more active, what I really mean is that she now spends a larger amount of time scratching and miaowing at the door in an effort to get more food. The mere rustle of the cat-biscuit box or the sound of anything being chopped in the kitchen gets her salivating uncontrollably like a feline version of Pavlov's dog.

I suppose that because she is so lazy, she still finds pawing at the door easier than trying to catch anything herself.

Even the birds on our bird-table don't take any notice of her as she sorts gleefully through the seeds scattered on the ground below.

However, there is a good reason for Muffin's constant hunger and that is the fact that we have had to put her on yet another diet to prevent her from getting too large to fit through the cat-flap. Unfortunately for us, if she gets too fat to fit through the cat-flap it will probably be *after* she has eaten rather than before, meaning that she will be stuck inside rather than out – ideal for her perhaps, but not so good for me when nature finally decides to take its course.

But restricting Muffin's diet is more difficult than you might imagine because, unlike most cats, Muffin is semi-omnivorous – if there is such a thing – so keeping her away

from any non-cat foodstuffs is nigh on impossible. Even the odd crust that we throw out for the birds and hedgehogs gets snaffled and gobbled down before anything else has a chance. The only things that she turns up her nose at are raw fruit and vegetables; even then it's only after giving them a thorough inspection first.

The mother-in-law's cats, on the other hand, are the complete opposite to Muffin and won't go near anything unless it's lams and fresh out of its diamond-encrusted packet. Similarly, my sister's cat will only eat Go-Cat with Chicken. (Please note that other cat-foods are available and that Muffin

will be more than happy to receive free samples of any variety).

A few years ago when Muffin had a similar obesity problem we gradually reduced her food down to virtually nothing, yet she still managed to gain weight. All was revealed some weeks later when our neighbour returned home early to take her own emaciated cat, Squeak, to the vet to find out why he was losing so much weight. She found Muffin asleep on her settee happily sleeping off another of

Squeak's meals. One new cat-flap and two weeks later and Squeak's health had improved immeasurably whilst Muffin's weight had plummeted dramatically.

At the moment we have reached an acceptable state of equilibrium where a handful of biscuits, twice a day, keeps Muffin just about able to squeeze through the cat-flap. But it's not the end of the story, I fear, because the other morning I found the back-half of a mouse (or similar) on the floor next to her basket. Has she finally realised after 84 years that in order to satisfy her voracious appetite she is going to have to go out and catch her own food? I hope not, because if that's the case then I've no idea what I can do...other than to fit an even larger cat-flap.



'Muffin enjoying a well-earned rest after Christmas Dinner'

Superior standard painting and decorating
Established & trusted locally for over 18 years

MARTIN J KEABLE

Call 01296 660354 or 07855 154717
martinj.keable@virgin.net

Paul Brown Re-upholstery

Specialists in modern, antique & deep buttoning.

Loose covers & curtains.

French polishing.

All types of repairs.

Wide choice of fabrics.

Remnants & DIY supplies.

Est. over 30 years.

01296 631510

got_it_covered@hotmail.com

2 New Road, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP22 5JD

The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

St. Mary's Church

Do you enjoy singing?

We have a very **informal** choir for our Even-song Service on the fourth Sunday of each month (service at 3.30 p.m.) Why not come along and see how you enjoy singing with our "choir" and add to the voices? The only commitment is to arrive approximately half an hour before the service for a quick practice.

Your reward..... After the service, a cup of tea, sandwiches and cakes and a jolly good chat!

If you feel nervous about being part of the choir, then come for the service and see how things feel. You will be made very welcome.

MONDAY 4th APRIL 7p.m. AGM

"The Friends of St.Mary's Church".

Please support "The Friends". If you are a member of St.Mary's electoral roll, you are automatically a member, but if not, £5 per year will secure your membership. "The Friends" raise funds for the repair and maintenance of the fabric of St.Mary's Church and Cecilia Hall via donations and events throughout the year.

8p.m. AGM St.Mary's Church DCC & Election of Churchwardens

All members of St.Mary's Electoral Roll.
(Churchwarden election open to all)

Reminder

ASH WEDNESDAY, 9TH MARCH

Ashing Service at St.Mary's – 10 a.m.

VALENTINE & JAZZ !

WHAT a fantastic gathering we had! The Jolly Jazzers did us proud with their wonderful foot-tapping music. The hall was decorated with hearts, creating a splendid effect. The event was made even more joyful by the fact that Jill Atkin was celebrating one year, to the day, that she received her new kidney. To mark this, everyone received a glass of champagne and the ladies had a red rose on their place setting. In her short speech, Jill not only gave thanks for her kidney, but also remembered the family who would be marking one year after the loss of a loved one (the donor of the kidney). The atmosphere in the hall was wonderful, and by the end of the lunch, people were singing along and dancing.

The Jolly Jazzers play for the benefit of St.Francis Hospice, Berkhamstead, and after the charity draw which, coincidentally also proved in their favour, they will receive over £400 for the Hospice.

Our thanks to everyone who helped in any way, and donated items for the raffle.

The Puttenham Trust

THE FRIENDS OF ST.MARY'S CHURCH

JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY, 9TH APRIL

2.30 p.m.

CECILIA HALL, PUTTENHAM

Yes, that time has come round again!

Jumble may be left at any time in the Hall porch, or by arrangement (Christine: 01296 668337) preferably in the two weeks leading up to the "Jumble". As always, any offers of help for sorting during the week prior, or on the day, or clearing up afterwards, will be very much appreciated.

GARDEN COMPOST

Don't forget we still have a supply of compost in St.Mary's Churchyard, 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.

The ramblings of Lawless Ken

THE doorbell had just gone ding dong dong and after calming down the dog as much as possible, for when our bell rings unlike most normal pets, our fellow goes berserk. Anyway I went and opened the front door to discover there was nobody there. However in the distance stood the figures of two upright gentlemen, namely Ben Nevis of Reeves and his devoted Jeeves or his truly Hotlips. I ushered them onwards in blustery conditions to the famous watering hole and eaterie which we all know as "the Half Moon" in our beloved village Wilstone.

Minutes later I joined them. How welcoming it is to walk into the pub and find a cosy warm fire with logs glistening away and spreading warmth. Just great Yan of Totting Sundryland was her usual self, briskly serving away whilst Robbie of Madchester the Frighted was bidding a good evening to all his clientele. No bursting through the kitchen doors tonight with his rendition of "Maggie May" although a different Maggie would definitely be arriving later.

Before sauntering up to the bar I said a few hello's and passed HRH sitting in her usual slot Where she welcomes all her populist. Having seen the film "The Queen" in our village hall I didn't bother her too much other than a "Good evening Mam", for if anyone has seen that film they would say "what a lot one's got to contend with so let's leave one alone".

Howandsomeever I then sat at the table by the toilets and joined a quorum consisting of Capt. Cod, Hotlips, Ben Nevis of Reeves and King Angler where we started to discuss the past week's events etc. Now whilst no stone was left overturned we were then infiltrated by the well known impresario PW, who then proceeded to whip out his lap top and as is normal practice on certain Friday nights in different surroundings "put on a show" which was enjoyed by one and all. Sadly the lovely Jill never came round with nibbles. In-between all the meandering we were knockcumknackerated by the entrance of Madam and HRH Horatio Buchaise and as per usual all hell broke loose. The next few minutes were then taken up in embracelments with yours truly taking first place

ahead of Hotlips who showed his displeasure by obtaining seconds.

Also the arrival of Yusef with the lovely Fran minus Coat-bridge Anna brought the area into a hive of entertainment. Poor Yan's fingers were worn to the bone tilling up for all the liquids being consumed. Had there been music "dancing would have been inevitable" and Madame Buchaise was foot tapping ready. Later Horatio explained they had received great news. Not the kind some might be thinking. Oh no, sadly the couple are up and leaving Wilstone and moving up country to Long Marston. There is no truth in the rumour that they have bought the Boot in order to expand Magdalena's Tiller girl's studio, nor is there any iota of truth in the possibility of Horatio revamping the boot and renaming it Wellington. All this is utter nonsense. At the end of the day I, like many villagers, believe Wilstone's loss is Long Marston's gain. But hey! They are only down the road. So let's wish them "All the very best".

Lastly on the way out of the pub much later, a sextet comprising of three degrees and three wise men had joined two tables together beside hole 19. The topic of discussion was the annual Fete. Now ear to the grindstone tells us that word had it the June Fete is featuring the famous King believed to be seen all over the Globe, yes Elvis. As many are aware, he has been seen by a multitude of fans in places like Hull and West Lothian. Never however in Crystal Palace but Bournemouth and Clacton-on-Sea; even Solihull have made sightings. And it's not just fish and chip shops that have been so blessed to come into contact with the King. No, I can assure you he even made an appearance in the Annual Fete here a couple of years ago and many people were all shook up as a result. So the committee have decided to invite him back using the nom de plume Las Vegas so as to sort of kid him "he's home".

After a very enjoyable time I left and wished a good night to all. Sadly I had to rush home as I'm a galanthophile and needed to check my stock before retiring for the night. So there you are.

Licensed Private Hire

Established 1984

Alpine Cars

(Formerly Cheddington Cars)

Door to Door Service

To Airports, Seaports, London

To Book or for a Quote Call

07836 272122

EXPECTING VISITORS

Can't accommodate them? Well we can.

B&B

Family room available - en suite bathroom,
separate study area - TV - reasonable rates
Farm house in the centre of Long Marston
Phone Gillie 01296 668548

VERITY AUTOS

SERVICING REPAIRS MOT PREPARATION
 FAULT DIAGNOSTICS
 TYRES BODYWORK
 ALL VEHICLES COLLECTED HOME OR WORK
 EST 1989

FOR BOOKING OR ADVICE
 GRAHAM VERITY
 07850 499547 -- 01296 668176
 VERITYAUTOS@AOL.COM



The Old Pastures Dog Grooming



Bathing, Clipping, Trimming, Hand-stripping, Nails and Ears. Weekend appointments available. Easy walk in, non-slip shower ideal for older and bigger dogs. We can cater for any size dog. Easy parking.

For prices or to book an appointment call:
 01442 824856



The Old Pastures

Luxury accommodation for dogs

Icknield Farm, Icknield Way,
 Tring, Herts. HP23 4JX



VISITING, KENNELING AND COLLECTING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Luxury heated accommodation for your dog with a personal touch giving your dog the extra attention they deserve. All dogs are walked twice a day.
In association with Mrs. Doolittle's Pet Sitters

Tel: 01442 824856

The Blindman

For all types of Blinds at competitive prices

•Roller •Pleated •Woodslat
 •Vertical •Venetian •Woven

We also make Roman Blinds from your own fabric.

Free Friendly Advice & Quotation in the comfort of your own home.
Tel: 01442 828 108
Mob: 07767 783 955
 Call now for a free quote

Chiropodist

Wendy Hilliard MSSCh MBChA
 HPC Registered
Member of the British Chiropody and Podiatry Association

For a home visit, telephone 07969 741792
 or 01296 630189

RELIABLE GARDEN SERVICES

GARDEN CLEARANCE,
 GRASS CUTTING, PRUNING, HEDGE CUTTING, PLANTING, WEEDING AND MUCH MORE.

FOR REASONABLY PRICED WORK DONE WELL, CONTACT
 Mark Lee
 01296 668310 or 07914 355180

ASTROPE

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE AND FENCING CONTRACTOR
 GARDENS, PUBLIC SPACES AND COMMERCIAL AREAS

**GRASS CUTTING · HEDGE CUTTING · TREE SURGERY
 FENCING · DECKING · LEAF CLEARANCE
 WEED CONTROL · MULCHING · PRESSURE WASHING**

A Professional and Reliable Business Est. 1989. Fully Insured
 Current Contracts in and around:
 Long Marston · Berkhamsted · Felden · Tring · Chesham · Mentmore ·
 Wendover · Princes Risborough. New enquiries welcome.

Please call Glenn Ansell T: 01442 875155 M: 07951 126534

Vale Burner Services



SERVICE & BREAKDOWN REPAIR

For Oil-Fired Boilers & Cast Iron Range Cookers
OIL TANK INSTALLATION



Tel/Fax: 01844 299200

The agricultural story line...

by David Mead

FEBRUARY Fill Dyke! The warmer weather is very welcome, Daffodils, forsythia and snowdrops a wonderful sign in the gardens. I think we need a bit more dyke filling, some land drains are only just running. It's the time to assess the winter damage on the farm. The wheats are looking well but the oil-seed rape crops have taken a hammering, rabbits; pigeons and the severe frosts have left their mark. A couple of fields at Gubblecote will need some decision making. Do we replant with spring rape? Mid March is the crunch time. The grass has grown well; the ewe are hardly touching their hay or silage. I gather too much bulk food can cause prolapsing. They will be brought home for lambing at the end of February.

A load of lambs went to Thame market. Chris was so keen the market operatives were barely awake. No trailer inspectors - so a quick turn round and home. I haven't seen the results but trade has been fairly good.

Tim, the rugby playing New Zealander, was told when phoning home, that his father is buying a logging machine, the same make that Tim has been operating all winter. He'll be rushing home to use that; answer is to go down to the river and take the boat out; the canal does not seem quite the same.
The environmental health person is to inspect the rape-

seed oil production plant; when production started the young inspector had never been on a farm. It's fingers crossed for a broom and pressure washer tidy up. Though I must say Simon keeps it very tidy and we're all banned from going near the production line.

It must be an age thing - reincarnation was on the agenda the other day and two tales were remembered. It must have been fifty years ago: just about to get up when a bird, a spotted flycatcher, flew in through the bedroom window, did a couple of circuits and out. We had a couple of flycatchers in the garden for the next 12 years but only the one bedroom visit checking us out that we were still here?

The other tale involved a hen. We used to keep chickens in battery cages. One year several escaped; the door to the barn was open and one or two ventured out. You have to know that it was probably the first time they had walked on solid ground. One hen walked 40 yards to the house, walked in through the back door and perched on the bar under the kitchen table. Teresa named her Edith. When the health visitor called to discuss with Teresa her mother progress, Edith waked up the hall into the sitting room, much to the lady's amazement. Edith stayed long enough for us to discover her favourite food were melon pips. One day she wandered back to the other hens where she was scooped up and put back in the barn. I'm afraid I looked but couldn't find her.

A breath of spring to-day, birds are migrating. Two young "birds" have flown north to Long Marston; Teresa and I are staying put but wish Maggie and Phil Buchi, our esteemed editor in chief, success and happiness in their new nest.

AWJW SERVICES

*All Garden Work Carried Out
Borders - Lawn Care - Shrubs - Roses
Hedge & Tree Work - Paving & Turfing
All Types of Fencing and
Gates Supplied and Erected
Paddock Maintenance - Rolling, Topping
& Harrowing
Grass cutting - domestic, public,
commercial areas*

Alan Winfield
Ivy Cottage, Cheddington Lane,
Long Marston, Tring, HP23 4QP.

Tel: 01296-668977
Mobiles: 07803 058655 & 07778 919333

Email: ivy-cott@supanet.com

Fully Insured.
Established Over 20 Years.
New Inquiries Welcome.



The birds have flown! (young spotted flycatcher)

The big clean

by Cllr. Abby Fermont

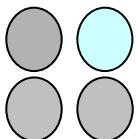
HERE are two of our litterpick volunteers: Poppy Rogers and Ferdie (who turned out to be a superb collector of hard-to-reach bits of rubbish!), standing with some of the 29 bags of litter found around Wilstone and along the canal as far as Marsworth and Buckland. A further 7 bags of litter were collected in Long Marston and Puttenham, resulting in a grand total of 36 bags' worth of rubbish collected in just two hours! This year we held our litter pick jointly with Tring Anglers who concentrated on the towpaths, whilst residents worked through the villages and targeted known 'hot-spot areas'. Thank you to everyone who enthusiastically turned out to help, despite the windy conditions. This is something which we will definitely be repeating next year. Not only is a litterpick an ideal opportunity for the community to work together to tidy up the Parish (and in doing so, discourage further litter-dropping), but it is also actually rather good fun!



Poppy Rogers and Ferdie

Sudoku solution No 56

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



In Form

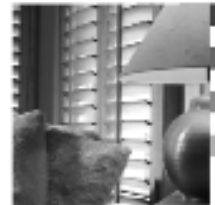
Optimal Health

Expert Remedial Massage
Deep Lymphatic Therapy
Metabolic Typing (nutrition)

Contact Angela on 07900 168996

www.in-form.co.uk 20 years experience.

the
**stylish
shutter**
company



INTERIOR PLANTATION SHUTTERS
Light control & privacy at your fingertips



For more information, a home survey or simply a chat about your particular requirements, please contact us now.

T: 01442 392324 (TRING)

E: info@stylishshutters.co.uk

www.stylishshutters.co.uk

From the Vicarage

by Rev'd Jo Wetherall

EASTER is very late this year, 24th April, which is almost as late as it can be, and the big advantage for those of us who follow a church calendar is that it has given us a much needed breathing space at this time of year. Often we find ourselves going straight from putting away the tinsel to making the pancakes, with very little time for thought. But this year we have four "extra" weeks before Lent and so we are putting them to good use, and have been spending them in thinking about our parish and planning for the future.

We are very fortunate in having five such distinctive churches in our time and we are immensely proud of them all. But we would like to see them flourish even more, and one of the best ways of doing that is by being consistent. For St Mary's, Puttenham, St Cross in Wilstone, and All Saints' in Long Marston, that means that we want to focus on the strengths of each one and build them up. St Mary's has the traditional Book of Common Prayer services, two a month. Starting a Sunday with a communion service early in the morning in the ancient church gives one a sense of God and of a new start, as well as linking with our past. The Evensong service there now has a choir to swell the voices, and there is time afterwards to linger over tea and cake (the ministers fight over who gets to take that service!). If you enjoy singing you'd be most welcome to turn up early and join in the choir. They practise the music for the day before the service. Dates and times of all services are published in this magazine, or look on the website tringteamparish.org.uk

St Cross is growing in a very modern way, by answering spiritual needs mid week. It is comforting and welcoming and the Tuesday coffee mornings are open to all and very well attended. They are a chance to catch up with others, to take some time to reflect, and the new candle stand offers us a focus for our prayers. Once a month there is a service before the socialising. St Cross is also the location for Messy Church – the next date is March 6th when there will be Pancake Races (bring your own pan!) It is fascinating how often an event that is prepared for children speaks to adults as well and Messy Church does that.

All Saints' Long Marston continues with its Sunday morning services, alternating Communion and Morning Prayer. The fourth Sunday of every month is when Sunday Club is held and children of all ages are welcome to learn about Jesus and our faith in a relaxed and loving way with songs and crafts and stories, as well as sharing in the worship with their families. It also holds the Toddler Worship twice a month, which is a chance for pre-schoolers to enjoy church. All Saints will also con-

tinue to hold the big services for the special Sundays – Mothering Sunday being the next one on April 3rd at 10am.

All three churches have dedicated people who look after the buildings, the services and the music and we are immensely grateful to all of them for all their often unnoticed hard work. Thank you.

But we are also there to serve you, so talk to us – about what you would like to see happening in the churches and in the services, about what we can do better. We can try to make it happen – but we can only do that with your help. If you are able to commit time, that is wonderful; and if you are able to commit money, then that means we can plan for the future, and we can keep all three churches going to the glory of God and the benefit of our community. Please contact any one of the clergy if you would like to talk about giving, of any sort.

Lord Jesus Christ

Fill us with your love

That we may count nothing too small to do for you

Nothing too much to give

And nothing too hard to bear.

St Ignatius Loyola

We look forward to hearing from you!

Vicar of Dibley at Tring

From the team that brought us the country's first stage adaptations of 'Dad's Army', 'It Ain't Half Hot Mum', 'Porridge' and 'Hi-De-Hi!',



The Cast

Tring Festival Company are now proud to present 'The Vicar Of Dibley' to be performed at The Court Theatre, Tring from Tuesday 8th - Saturday 12th March 2011.

The show features Ginny Faber as Geraldine Granger, Dave Barratt as David Horton and Andy Faber as his son Hugo. Maxine Reece is Alice Tinker with Lee Marsh, Dave Reece and Dennis Fugard as Parish Councillors Jim Trott, Frank Pickle and Owen Newitt, plus Lindsay Smith as Letitia Cropely.

Tickets can be obtained on line at www.courttheatre.co.uk or by calling the box office on 07543

F.R. Jeffery & Son

Coal
Smokeless Fuels
Logs
Garden Compost



Dean Jeffery- Lawnmower Service
& Repair & Sharpening of garden tools

Delivered to your door *Low prices*

Tel: 01296 661258 (Marsworth)

Chris Griffiths

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

Domestic, Commercial
& Industrial

For ALL your Electrical Requirements
No job too small

Telephone 01296 668257
Mobile 07768 222127

“Rose Cottage” Kennels

26 Mill Lane, Wingrave, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4PL

Discounts for early booking

Relax and enjoy your holiday knowing your pets are enjoying theirs.

Large individual accommodation. Huge exercise paddocks. Personal attention at all times.

Inspection welcome.

Contact Dave or Rita Habel on
(01296) 681306

J B SERVICES

**PATIOS AND DRIVES
BLOCK AND SHINGLE
DRAINAGE WORK
EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE
BRICKWORK**

NO JOB TOO SMALL

**TEL: 07799 398335
OR 01442 826648 (EVENINGS)**

CURTIS CARPET SERVICES

Parsons Lane, Bierton

All types of carpeting supplied & fitted
at excellent rates.

Adaptions - Domestic & Contract.

Phone David Curtis: 01296 482652

Mobile: 07773300054

Why Pay Shop Prices?

ALAN BOULT (Light Haulage)
‘MAN WITH A VAN’

- TRANSPORT: VAN WITH TAIL LIFT
- COLLECTION & DELIVERY SERVICE
- SINGLE TO MULTIPLE ITEMS
- REGULAR CONTRACTS WELCOME
- ESTABLISHED 2000

**FAST, RELIABLE SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK
LOCAL AND NATIONWIDE**

Telephone: 01296 427182
Mobile: 07770 237745

Do you want a local reliable

PLUMBER

that you can trust?

*Installation of bathrooms
kitchens, washing machines
taps, radiators, towels rails etc.*

*Call John Byrom
in Pitstone
07860 340 130*

www.johnbyromplumbing.co.uk

Local names and numbers

Herts Police non-emergency number 0845 33 00 222

Local Police Officers (in emergency dial '999')

PC Stephen Hunneysett 0845 33 00 222

PCSO Thomas Montgomery 0845 33 00 222

Fly-tipping reports

Call Dacorum Waste Services 01442 867858

Call the police if you see the crime being committed.

Cecilia Hall (Puttenham)

Christine Rutter 01296 668337

Beavers

Jo Woodbridge 01442 891444

Brownies

Claire Fordham 01296 668088

Cubs

Tony Short 01442 823096

Guides

Sheila Hill 01442 823463

Scouts

David Colvin 01442 381544

Horticultural Society

John Kaye 01296 662975

Rector

Rev'd Huw Bellis 01442 822170

Vicar

Rev'd Joanne Wetherall 01442 851200

Churchwardens

Wilstone St. Cross:

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

Cllr Michael Tomlinson 01296 661311

Clerk to the Parish Council

Dawn Slade 01442 824138

Village Warden

Colin Reedman 01442 822031

Long Marston Victory Hall

Hall hire: Mags Severs 01296 661021

Long Marston Cricket Club

Paul Dumbleton 01296 662849

Long Marston 1st Steps Pre-School

Vicky Hayes 01296 661586

Long Marston Baby & Toddler Group

Vicky Hayes 01296 661586

Long Marston Tennis Club

Margaret Kelland 01296 668314

Long Marston Football Club

Daphne Bateman 01296 668054

Long Marston School 01296 668386

Member of Parliament (House of Commons)

David Gauke 020 7219 4459

Or to make an appointment call: 01923 771781

Pet Dog Training

Claudia Cox 01296 668752

Evelyn Chapman 01908 502272

Whitchurch Morris Men

Nigel Cox 01494 481478

Wilstone Village Hall

Bookings: Tony Short 01442 823096

Wilstone Toddlers

Jane Cole 01442 828272

Women's Institute

Lynn Foster 01296 662466

Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

Thank you

To all our volunteer distributors who have delivered your Village News to every home in Tring Rural parish.

**Distribution enquiries to:
Carole Harrison, 01296 668526.**

Village News

**Long Marston, Wilstone, Puttenham,
Astrope, Little Tring, Gubblecote,
Startops End.**

Your editor for March will be:

editorwlm@yaho.com

Advertising enquiries:

Graham Thorpe

01442 822923

villagenewsadvertising@googlemail.com



**Deadline for items to go in the next issue is:
Thursday 17th March 2011.**

You can read *Village News* on line at:

www.tringruralpc.org.uk (Click on Village News)

www.wilstone.me.uk (Click on Village News)

The UK's No.1 Lawn Care Company



- Scarification
- Aeration
- Lawn Fertilising
- Weed Control
- Moss Control
- Water Conserver
- Pest and Disease Management



GreenThumb has a variety of treatment programmes to suit your pocket that include our traditional 'pay-as-you-go' service and our new, pay monthly, Direct Debit programmes, where you can save up to 25% annually.

Our treatments start from £5 per month, that's cheaper than D-I-Y and without the hassle!

Call your local branch today for a FREE lawn analysis and no obligation quote.

0800 0111 222

GreenThumb
LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE



Find us online at: www.greenthumb.co.uk

Water Cubs

by Tony Short

FOLLOWING on from last month's item by Kathy Sartin about our Scout Group, the Cubs took part recently in the West Hertfordshire District Swimming Gala at Berkhamstead Leisure Centre and finished a very creditable 3rd out of the 8 packs who took part.

Those taking part were Callum and Harrison Bullock, James Beauchamp-White, who swam in the Junior events and Ben Bayer, Ben Stevens, Harvey Chamberlain and Joe Renshaw who swam the senior events. Although no-one won an event, the boys consistently finished in the top four in most events.

The boys were presented with a third place certificate by the District Commissioner Alan Rands and all very much enjoyed their evening.

Following on from Kathy's appeal, if you feel you can give some time to help support our Group then please contact Jane Dawson on 01442 8274410.



The squad

VILLAGE VIEW

BY JOHN PAINTER



A winter sunset over Wilstone reservoir