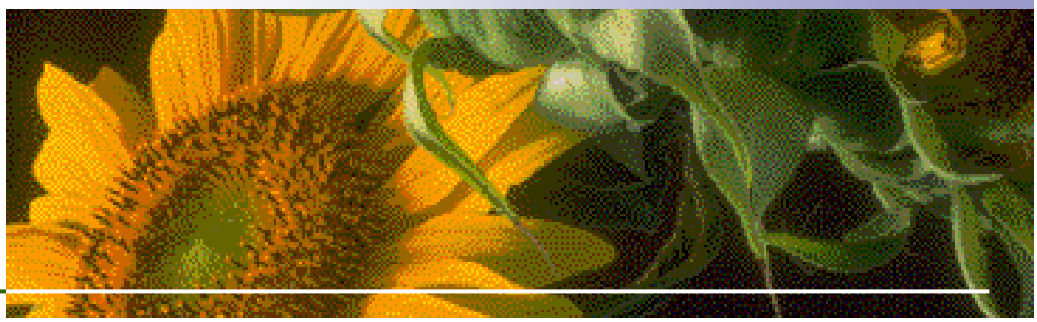
Village News: Long Marston, Puttenham, Wilstone, Little Tring



*May 2012*

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

Inside this issue: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**Village News Extra!**

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We depend on readers' articles and pictures. So let's have them!

# Showgirls seek disco dance medals at Wilstone fete

***by our outside broadcast team***

**Six members of the Wilstone Showgirls try out the costumes for 10th June. But will they ride up with wear?** *(Picture Village News)*

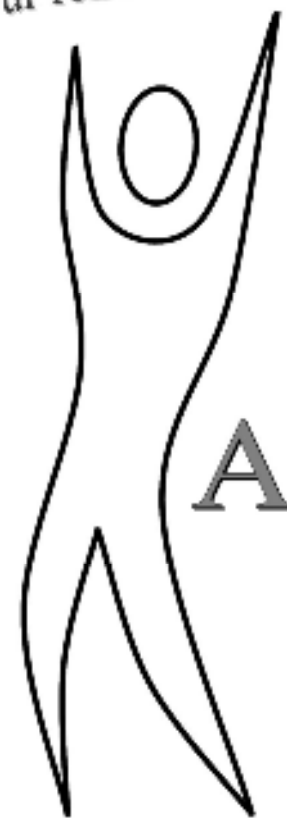
WE can ***exclusively*** reveal the costumes being tried out by the Wilstone Showgirls for their appearance at the Wilstone fete and fun dog show on Sunday 10th June - this year called the Wilstone Alternative Olympics Fete. The famous Showgirls hope that they are in line for medals as, for the first time, they present the Wilstone disco dance team entry at the alternative Olympics. Well, the costumes look great so that's a good start. The girls are apparently a bit concerned that the nice dresses might ride up with wear, so extra rehearsals are planned to see if the hemlines stay where they should. *(Full report on the outcome next month. Ed.)* There is speculation in the village that a special guest may be performing with the Showgirls on 10th June, but organiser Maggie Buchi refused to comment on this and declined our request for an interview. *(continued on page 24)*

# Wilstone Village Fete
# Sunday June 10th 2012

With the **Wilstone Showgirls**

*To be Opened by*
**Queen Jane of Wilstonia**

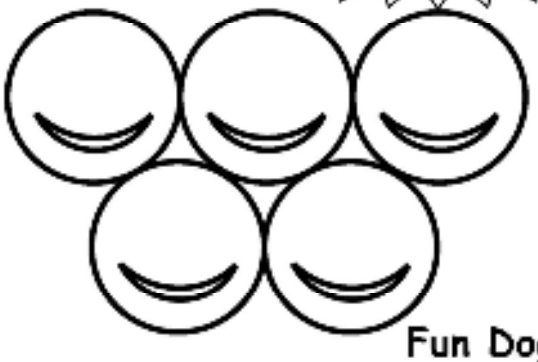
Our renowned BBQ ~ Open from 1 pm



WILSON

ALTERNATIVE OLYMPICS

FETE



Fun Dog Show

*Entry form in Fete Programme*

Archery ~ Sumo 'Wrestling'
Bungee Run ~ Crazy Golf

Teas & Refreshments
Fine Beers and Pimms

***Vegetarian Food***

All Your Favourite Stalls

Casino Tent

**Join the Olympic Procession . . .**

Follow the Torch with your Decorated Bike or Trike 12:30

# Village News

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Our congratulations and thanks to Liz and Ron Faulkner for all the time and effort they have put in to establish the Wilstone Village Shop. Understandably they now wish to take a step back, so do make a note of the action group meeting on the 1st May and give all the support you can to ensuring a smooth transition.

There are lots of dates for your diaries, in particular the the Jubilee celebrations - don't forget to send your replies by April 28th - and the local "Olympics" (incorporating the Fun Dog Show).

Lastly let's hope it only rains at night! Ever since the hose-pipe ban was introduced it seems to me that it has rained (if not poured every day). The reservoirs are still very low and the allotmenteers are grateful for every drop of moisture but wouldn't it be good if the days remained dry!

***Deadline for items for our next issue (June) is Thursday 24 May.***

***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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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 the services.

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

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

**20 May**
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer
10.00am St Cross Holy Communion

**21 May** **(Monday)**
2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

**27 May**
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion and Sunday Club
3.30pm St Mary's Evensong

**All Saints, Long Marston**

**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...

**Long Marston School**
Would like to invite you to their
**Maypole and Tea shop**
**with Country Dancing**
On
**Friday 1st June 2012**
At 1.45pm
Please contact the school on **01296 668386**
to book your place

## Times for mobile library Route 72

***Thursdays, fortnightly: 10 & 24 May***

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tringford** (Piggeries Pine) | **11.00 to 11.20** |
| **Wilstone** (The Half Moon) | **11.25 to 11.55** |
| **Astrope** (Astrope Lane) | **12.50 to 13.15** |
| **Puttenham** (Church Lane) | **13.20 to 13.45** |
| **Long Marston** (Queen's Head) | **14.00 to 15.15** |

## Diary dates...

**Tring Rural Parish Council meetings** (8pm)
*The public are welcome to attend these meetings.*
**Wednesday 16 May** Long Marston village hall.
**Wednesday 20 June** Wilstone village hall.

**Saturday 28April**
Jumble Sale. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham, at 2pm.
**Saturday 28April**
Cheese and Wine tasting, Wilstone village hall, 8pm.
**Tuesday 8 May**
All creatures great and small. Service of pet blessing at St. Cross. 10.00am
**Sunday 13 May**
Ashridge Spring Plant Fair. 11am - 4pm at visitor centre.
**Tuesday 15 May**
Neil Gurney Flower Arranging. Long Marston Village Hall 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Tickets £7.50.
**Sunday 3 June**
Queen's Diamond Jubilee: Wilstone village lunch and a new village photo.
**Sunday 10 June**
Wilstone village fete. 'Alternative Olympics'. 12.30 start.
**Tuesday 12 June**
County cricket. Herts over 60s v Berkshire over 60s. 1pm at Long Marston Cricket Club.
**Sunday 17 June**
Marsworth steam and classic vehicle rally. 11am - 5pm.
**Sunday, Monday, Tuesday 8-10 July**
Minor Counties Championship: Herts v Suffolk. Play starts 11am at Long Marston Cricket Club.
**Tuesday 10 July**
Friends of St Cross 30th Anniversary. Service of Thanks-giving. 10.00am
**Sunday 15 July**
Fun day and Strawberry tea at St Cross. 2.00pm
**Thursday 26 July**
Cricket: ECB Trophy. MCC Unicorns A v Derbyshire 2nd XI. 12 noon at LMCC
**Friday 27 July**
Cricket: ECB Trophy. MCC Unicorns A v Warwickshire 2nd XI.12 noon at LMCC.
**Saturday 4 August**
The Long Marston Show.
**Sunday 12 August**
St.Mary's Patronal Festival.
**Sunday 2 September**
Harvest Festival and lunch at St Cross. 11.30am.
**Saturday 8 September**
Bike and Hike. St Cross open 10.00am - 6.00pm.
**Friday 28th September**
Wendover Arm Restoration. Illustrated talk at the Village Hall. 7.30pm.
**Saturday 29 September**
Jumble Sale at Cecilia Hall, Puttenham. 2pm.

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

## Wilstone Village Hall. Management Committee.

### Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday 15th May 2012 at 8.15pm. All welcome – particularly anyone wishing to join the committee.**

## Wilstone shop news

Opening hours:
Monday-Saturday: 7.30am-1pm
Sunday: 9.00am-midday

**Bank Holiday Monday, 7 May: Closed**

For orders or queries call 01442 891167

**Have you lost some jewellery within the last month? If so, please call in or phone and give us the details. We would love to reunite what we have found outside the shop with its owner.**

## New home needed for special 78's

A NEW home is being sought for some rather special recordings made on old 78 rpm gramophone records. Alison Cockerill has two boxed sets in good condition that she needs to find a new home for. They are quite unusual collections which would be a treat for Gilbert and Sullivan fans and Shakespeare enthusiasts.

The first set is of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe" on six 78rpm records. Released on the Columbia Masterworks label, the performance is by the Colombia Light Opera Company, conducted by Joseph Batten. Included is a booklet of the story and songs.

The second is even more unusual. Released in the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre Series, it comprises ten 10-inch 78rpm records. This selection is: 'The Tempest' (3 discs), 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' (3 discs), and 'Richard II' (4 discs).

Alison would be pleased to hear from any reader who would like to give these recordings a new home, or from anyone who knows of a collector who might like to have them. They are available free to a good home. Contact Alison on 01442 824394.

## Neil Gurney's

### Flower Arranging Evening

**Victory Hall, Long Marston**
**Tuesday 15th May 2012**
**7.30pm for 8.00pm**
**Tickets: £7.50**

**(To include a glass of wine or tea and nibbles)**

**TICKETS FROM: THE QUEEN'S HEAD, LONG MARSTON; WILSTONE VILLAGE STORES OR MEAD FARM SHOP, WILSTONE.**

**TICKETS AND ENQUIRIES: TOBY DAVIDSON - 01296 660754/07970 636168 OR EMAIL: thejug@lmcc.org.uk**

**This event is organised by The Horticultural Society to raise funds for The Victory Hall.**


## Give Bowls a go!

**CHEDDINGTON BOWLS CLUB**, your friendly local Club, is for everybody – all ages: beginners to experts.

**Open for you from:**

**May to Sept on TUESDAYS (2pm) and FRIDAYS (6pm)**

**OPEN DAY & BBQ is from 2pm on Sunday May 20th**

Our Open sessions are an ideal opportunity to get to know bowls and make new friends. Just bring trainers or flat soled shoes. We will supply the rest, including a cuppa or something stronger from the bar.

*Sponsored by:*
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# Wilstone village fete dog show classes announced

Sunday 10th June is fast approaching and The Fete Committee can now announce the classes for the Fun Dog Show which is managed for us by the team from The Long Marston Dog Training Club. We want to thank Evelyn Chapman and her team who have always come along on the day and run the Dog Show and the associated events. So it's time to start the gruelling practice and grooming regime for the following classes:

1. Junior Handler (16 years and under)
2. The Dog the Judge would like to take home
3. Most handsome dog
4. Prettiest Bitch
5. Best Trick

The Race this year will be The Sausage Eating Race (time allowing).

As always the top 5 places in each class or race will be rewarded by a rosette and this year we have some extra 'Highly Commended' rosettes for those who may be just outside the first 5 or when the judges are hard pressed to decide (see class 2!).
Entries for the Dog Show and Races should be made on the day at the registration desk next to the arena where entry forms will be available.
An entry form will also be included in the Fete Programme which will be delivered to each house in the Rural Parish during May; just fill it in and bring it along on the day. We would like to take this opportunity to remind owners that they are responsible for the actions of their dogs and to always to clear up after your dog.
Happy training and we look forward to see you on the day.

# PLUS.....

Raffle Prizes Worth Taking a 25p Gamble on!
So far we have been fortunate enough to have the following donations:

A Mazda MX5 for the weekend
A Round of Golf for 4 at Mentmore Golf & Country Club
A family ticket for Kensington Palace
A Hot Stone Massage at Totality Day Spa Tring
A meal for 2 at The Half Moon

....Plus many many more!
Tickets are 25p each and will be on sale soon at Wilstone Village Store and The Half Moon Pub, Wilstone. We will also be selling tickets at Meads Farm Shop at weekends during May.
Raffle tickets will also be on sale during the Fete and the draw will take place on the day.
Thank you to all who have kindly donated and also to our ticket outlets!

Please don't forget to sort out your bric-a-brac items and let Irene McCall have these before the day (Tel 822529).
Tombola donations are also most welcome and there is a collection box in Wilstone Village Store.

---

World Challenge

## Thank You!

**I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me to do the litter-pick in Tring with my World Challenge Group from school. We collected 17 large sacks of litter from around Tring. Your sponsorship raised over £45. In total now, from various odd jobs and other fundraising events, I have raised over £700.**

**I hope to see you at the Village Show in June where James Lovis and I will first be helping with the car parking and then running a basketball competition!**

**Thank you again for your support.**
**Robbie Cogger**
**01442 827021**

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***Most courses are 2 hours weekly for 6 weeks am, pm, or evenings. Computing classes have a maximum class size of 8.***
***A small charge will apply.***
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**(Dacorum Communities for Learning)**

Tel: **01442 251930**
Email: your.dcfl@yahoo.co.uk

Hertfordshire

# The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

# *May-Day !!*

## *Tuesday, 1st May – 6 A.M.*

## *St.Mary's Churchyard*

**Remember – set your alarm clock extra early and arrive at St. Mary's Churchyard and listen to the singing-in of the month of May from the church tower. This will be followed by a full breakfast in Cecilia Hall at approx 6.30 a.m. There will be plenty of time for breakfast before leaving for work, or just to start an early day. No charge for meal, but cash donations will be welcome.**

**Don't forget to collect your COMPOST from St. Mary's churchyard. You will find it along the trace, past Cecilia Hall. Remember to bring your own sacks and shovels, etc.**

**CECILIA HALL .... Available for your meetings, anniversaries, parties, etc, Very attractive hall, good kitchen facilities, car park plus extra parking. £16 per hour. No disco's permitted. Sited in St. Mary's churchyard, it makes an excellent complete package for you wedding.**
**Booking secretary: Christine 01296 668337**

# Dixon's Gap comments

*by Jeremy Johnson*

I'VE just been down to see the CALA Homes exhibition on the development of Dixon's Gap at the village hall. I don't have any automatic views for or against the development as it's a brown field site and that's better than development on green fields. I don't live next to it and my main reason for going is that unless you go and make your comments you get lots more houses and no infrastructure to serve them. My comments for anyone that wants them are as follows:

- Sewerage. I asked about sewerage as that's one of our issues in Wilstone and the answer was that there is an existing sewage treatment plant on site. There's nothing in the details of their proposals that addresses sewerage or any information from Thames Water, so I'm assuming the answer is correct and this won't contribute to the 'Wilstone Whiff'.
- Pedestrian access. I don't agree with their highway specialist's assessment that the bridge provides a 'natural traffic calming feature'. That road is a commuter rat-run and just because people are supposed to slow down for the bridge it does not mean that they actually do slow down. The road surface isn't great and people occasionally bang into the bridge. Children aren't as tall as adults and they are harder to see behind those walls so I think that they should allow for footpath access in any final plans.
- School places. They are planning to build a lot of houses on this site and to my knowledge there aren't the school places to serve them. We might end up with a situation where local Wilstone children are unable to attend Long Marston School if this particular issue isn't addressed. From memory I think the proposal is for more than 20 dwellings.

Finally the director who was there made a comment that because the office development for which planning permission had already been granted had not received any takers they *[may now be]* allowed to go ahead. I think that this is irrelevant; even if a local business had wanted to develop the site to produce jobs in the last couple of years they probably would not have been able to do it because the economy is only just beginning to emerge from recession and the banks haven't been prepared to lend in the last couple of years anyway. It's for the community to decide whether the greater need locally is for more houses or more jobs.

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Wilstone

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# More houses at the rear of Tring Road?

*by Vic Spratt*

PEOPLE in Grange Road in Wilstone probably wondered what the big construction machines were doing at the end of the road on Thursday the 19th of April. The secret is that yet another Housing Association has become interested in building houses on the land at the rear of 36-44 Tring Road and were carrying out permeability tests in preparation to developing the site.

This in spite of many Housing Associations in conjunction with The Dacorum Council having previously looked at the site and spent much time and money with the intention of building houses on the site and finally finding it not a viable proposition.

Most villagers will know that the the Aldwyck Housing Group were the most recent to spent months preparing to develop the site employing architects to draw up several schemes.

Environmental investigations were made, tree surveys, wild life considerations were all taken into account.

Early schemes were for thirteen dwellings but after many objections from local residents and the Parish Council with Dacorum Councillors also getting involved to fight the cause of the villagers, a plan for eight dwellings was finalised.

After all appeared to be ready to commence construction of the houses more tests were done including soil tests. It was found that the drainage would be a problem due to the high water table in the village.

Villagers have been concerned that if more houses are built in the village the infrastructure in the village which is already over stretched will become impossible. Some of the services are not sufficient now, in particular sewage. It is evident that the sewer pumping station cannot cope with the present levels - the roads are becoming more congested making parking more of a problem and other things such as emergency services are of concern.

If anyone has particular concerns they should write to The Dacorum Council or The Hastoe Housing Group.

# Fred Benjamin

FRED was born at Reeds Cottages in 1945 and lived all his life in Long Marston. His family would like to thank everyone who came to his funeral and those that gave so generously to the charity he had supported for over 30 years. Fred would have been amazed at the £796 donated in his memory, to World Villages for Children. Any information can be obtained from www.worldvillages.org

Thank you all, for your support at this very sad time.

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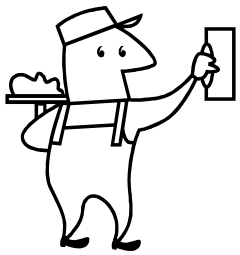

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# Pre - School News

PRE-SCHOOL returned after the Easter break on Tuesday 17th April and immediately began exploring the forthcoming summer activities with a fun-filled term ahead. We have recently expanded our collection of toys and resources, much to the delight of many of the children. Our newly purchased items include resources to help develop the children's fine motor skills and hand eye co-ordination so the children are enjoying toys like jumbo tweezers, mini connecting people and new lacing cards. All these purchases (and much much more) were made possible by our continued fundraising and we are grateful for all the support we receive from parents and the wider community.

Our collection of Petit Filous yoghurt pot lids and Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers is growing and we will continue to accept all contributions for as long as the schemes run. For those of you who shop at Tesco we are happy to take Tesco vouchers and pass them on to Long Marston School who are currently in the process of collecting them for new equipment.

On Tuesday 15th May at 9.15am we will be holding our Annual General Meeting. As we are a registered charity and the pre-school is run by a Voluntary Management Committee we will be electing new committee members. If you would like to become involved in the pre-school and would like to find out more about what's involved contact Lindsay on 01296 661017.

First Steps Pre-School is held at Victory Hall, Long Marston every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.00am – 12.00am during term time, with lunch clubs on Tuesday and Friday until 1.30pm. We welcome all children aged between 2½ and 5 and as a result many children stay with us until they 'cross the road to big school'. If you would like to know more about Pre-School, come and look round, or 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 Chair, Lindsay Armitage, on 01296 661017 or email firststepslongmarston@gmail.com Long Marston Baby & Toddler group runs on Wednesday mornings 10.00am until 11.30am term time only, for more information call Ali Driver on 01296 662482

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# St Cross Church, Wilstone

**Small church - big heart**

**Programme of events May to September 2012**

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL Tuesday 8th May @ 10am—a service of blessing for all animals. Bring your pet along to this short informal service; if the animal is not portable their name can be placed on the altar, for inclusion in the service. (If we could have some names beforehand we can prepare the altar cards in advance). Everybody (whether on 2 legs or 4!) is invited to stay for refreshments afterwards.

FRIENDS of ST. CROSS SERVICE Tuesday 10th July @ 10am—This is it, the **30**th anniversary celebration of the founding of The Friends of St. Cross. Starting with a service of thanksgiving, with special guest the **Right Rev'd Paul Bayes, Bishop of Hertford** and followed by a reception, **everyone** who supports St. Cross, in any way, will be invited to join in this special occasion.

FUN DAY & STRAWBERRY TEA Sunday 15th July @ 2pm in the church garden. Fun and games for all ages, book stall, bric-a-brac, lots of tea, strawberries, and cakes. Warm sunshine and a warm welcome guaranteed.( F.of St. C. fund-raiser)

HARVEST FESTIVAL Sunday 2nd Sept @ 11.30am. A traditional Harvest service, led by a Harvest loaf (and the vicar!), followed by Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall. Tickets for the lunch will be £5; **please** book in advance to be sure of a place.

BIKE AND HIKE Saturday 8th Sept. The church will be open all day (10am to 6pm), and everyone is welcome to call in for refreshments. Spend some time in Wilstone—enjoy coffee in the church, have a walk around the village, maybe across the fields (try and identify the rare Black Poplars which grow in this area).

HOLY CROSS DAY Sunday 16th Sept. @ 10am. Everyone is invited to this special service to celebrate the patronal festival of St. Cross, followed by coffee and refreshments.

WENDOVER ARM CANAL Friday 28th Sept. @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall. An entertaining illustrated talk on the history and restoration of the local Wendover Arm. Tickets, to include coffee/tea/nibbles, will be £5. (F.of St.C. fundraiser).

We look forward to welcoming you to St. Cross.


Problem with your windows?

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*From our reporter at the Parish Council meeting* *by Phil Buchi*

# Mowing on the verge of agreement

THE complex process of getting a better deal on cutting the grass verges of the parish took a step forward when the Parish Council agreed on the appointment of a local contractor to take over the work from Hertfordshire Highways later this year. The County Council have arranged for their legal team to draw up an agreement 'devolving' the task to the Parish Council. If this proves as complicated as the rest of the project it could take some time though.

The objective is that the Parish Council will be responsible for all the cuts of the grass verges, not just some of them - and the County Council will hand over the budget too. Parish Councillors wanted to get a better deal for taxpayers because the present arrangements are inefficient. Currently Hertfordshire Highways pay for the grass verges to be cut twice a year. As this is not adequate, the Parish Council also pay for an additional two cuts per year. Different contractors are used at present, and as the Parish is never told when the Highways people will mow, getting the timing right has proved a problem. The result is that there is either far too long between cuts, or too little time - which is a waste of money. Councillors believe a single contact under local control must be an improvement.

# Dixon's Wharf consultation

Developer CALA Homes Ltd. held a consultation at Wilstone village hall in April to seek views of villagers on the proposal to build 21 homes on the Dixon's Wharf site between Wilstone and Gubblecote. The architect, engineer, and a director of the company were present to explain the proposals and get feedback. The event was well attended, and people were asked to fill in a questionnaire. Planners at Dacorum Borough Council have now sought local views from the Parish Council prior to a planning application being made, so there are also opportunities to make your views known to a Parish Councillor.

# Cup winners' changing rooms

Long Marston FC, recent winners of the ADL Sheffield Jackman Cup, is to apply to Sport England for a grant to extend and upgrade their rather basic changing facilities at the Long Marston recreation ground. As the Parish Council own

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the playing field their support was required, and this was quickly given. Improvements will provide facilities suitable for children so that youth football is possible, and will also include a disabled toilet. Councillors agreed that these improvements would be a welcome benefit to the community as well as to a successful local club. Planning permission has already been granted.

# Stranded boats on the move

A number of canal boats have been 'stranded' for several months on the Aylesbury Arm of the canal as the water shortage has caused the canal to be closed for navigation. The main Grand Union is now open for a few hours a day to allow essential boat movements, after which time the lock gates are padlocked. The Aylesbury Arm is to open for one weekend in April. Boats stranded in the Wilstone area have been notified by British Waterways and asked to re-locate. Progress is expected to be slow - maximum 4mph.

# New plans for Luton airport

There are new plans for changes at Luton airport, Councillors learned, so it was resolved to find out how these could affect local villages.

**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
Mrs Jill Finlan 01296 661 716
Mrs Olli Wheeler-Cornell 01296 662207
Mr Richard Briant 01442 825674

***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**

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# Village News Extra!

Edited By Harriet Rogers

**HELLO!** Welcome to this Spring edition of VNX! In this edition you'll be able to read some more sheep stories, some exciting news about how you can get involved in this year's Olympic themed Wilstone Village Fete and much more!

If you'd like to see your face in the last edition of VNX before the summer break e-mail editorwlmp@yahoo.com with your stories, photos, pets and stars!

## In this Edition...


| | |
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## WILSTONE ALTERNATIVE OLYMPICS!

The theme for the 2012 Wilstone Village Fete is the **'Wilstone Alternative Olympics'**

The fete is on Sunday 10th June and will begin with a colourful parade through the village at 12:30pm, so come out to the street and join us in opening the Wilstone Alternative Olympics!
Come along to get the opportunity to win your own Gold, Silver and Bronze medals throughout the day.
You can enter the fantastic fancy dress competition to win medals. To win the competition you must decorate a bike, pram, scooter or anything else with wheels!
If you've got a bike, why not enter the slow-motion bike race to win even more medals!
Programmes with full details will be delivered to your homes shortly.
We can't wait to see you all there in your fab fancy dress!

### Also featuring at this year's fete...

**The Wilstone Cheerios!**
This year we are returning with a bigger troupe. We hope you enjoy our Olympic themed routine, and sing-along to a medley of your favourite hits!

# Furry Tails

## Long Marston's Got Talent!

Hi Everyone, my name is Riajin, I'm a golden Labrador living in Long Marston with the Thirkettle family! I had the most wonderful time the other day! About two weeks ago I was whisked off by my trainer and ex-owner Jojo to a filming studio! Turns out, I was going to be in one of the new Virgin Media adverts that sponsors *Britain's Got Talent!* I was so excited that when I got there I almost forgot that I wasn't allowed to do my business inside… but I caught myself just in time! I was placed in a kennel along with a few other superstar dogs that were going to join me in these adverts. My kennel was very clean which I was very glad about because at home my bed is always clean and I don't like sleeping in unclean places… makes me feel dirty.

Anyway, I was in my kennel, happily relaxing, when my trainer Jojo decided to pay me a visit. She gave me a good pampering which consisted of a bath, groom and even a toe nail clipping! I was feeling very relaxed and refreshed by the end of this and ready to sleep, but NO! I then had to go and star in the advert. As soon as we stepped on to the set I started to get butterflies in my stomach. I was suddenly very nervous and didn't quite know what to do with myself. I decided the best tactic would be to stay right next to Jojo. Unfortunately I couldn't do this for long because they needed me to be in clear view of the camera. I gathered up my courage and stepped off to the side of Jojo. Jojo then asked me to cover. For a terrifying second I forgot completely what I had to do! I started panicking. I looked at Jojo for comfort and realised I knew this! I simply lifted my paw over my nose and bowed my head. There! I thought, done! But what I didn't know was that I still had more to do. But this time I didn't really have to do much, as Jojo did most of the work, showing everyone how she taught me to do cover. Overall it was a very relaxing and fulfilling day! An experience I will never forget!

### Last month we met Jake and his sheep, but this month it's…

## …Oli and his sheep!

Hello I'm Oli Garnham, and I have nine sheep in total, eight ewes (which are female sheep) and one ram (the male sheep). It is lambing season at the moment. So far I have delivered 4 new lambs who are all fit and healthy!

Oli Garnham, 15, Long Marston

If your pet has access to a computer, then get them to send in their 'Furry Tail' to editorwlmp@yahoo.com marked for the attention of Harriet at VNX. Don't forget to include a cute photo too!

## Volunteering at the Wilstone Village shop

For those of you who haven't seen me in the shop, I volunteer there on a Saturday morning. I love working in the shop as it's a great opportunity to meet new people in the villages and a way that I can give something back to the community. I would really recommend that some of you readers that are 14 or over volunteer your time, even if it's just for an hour on a Saturday morning. I know that Liz and Ron would warmly welcome new younger volunteers to help them in the shop. If you like early mornings, are interested in helping the community and getting some valuable work experience, please visit Liz and Ron in the shop to give your availability. It would be great to see you there. Harriet.

## VNX REVIEWS: Daisy's App Of The Month

**Diner Dash HD-£1.99!**

Pair up with Flo, and dash into a world of mad waitressing! Unlocking new restaurants you get to explore the life of professional cooks and waitresses, and serve as many people as you can before the restaurant closes! Serve up all different meals for the hungry customers before they get angry and rush off in a huff! I really enjoy this game and recommend it to any budding chefs! Overall I'd rate this app with 5 stars

**Wedding Dash-£1.99!**

Wedding Dash is a fun and exciting game where you pair with Flo and her wedding planner assistant, and you help plan perfect weddings for her beautiful bride and groom! Choose the flowers, food, honeymoon, and wedding cake! Then, help Flo serve the hungry guests! But be careful, because some guests request to either sit next to each other or stay away from each other! Every character has a different personality!

I like this app too, but not as much as Diner Dash so I rate it 4 stars.

Thank you to all this month's contributors! I would like to encourage all you readers who haven't sent anything in to email a story, or a picture, to go in next month's edition. It would be great to hear from you! The deadline for the next issue is Tuesday 22nd May so please get writing! The next edition will be the last one before the summer break so if you've got something interesting you want to share, don't hesitate to get in touch!

Harriet :)

Email the editor at editorwlmp@yahoo.com marked for the attention of **Harriet at VNX!**

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# From the Rectory

by Rev'd Jane Banister

APPARENTLY there is a new trend in the workplace, and this is carrying out RAKs. You don't know what RAKs are? No, neither did I. Apparently they are Random Acts of Kindness. I read an interview with a toy shop owner who was committing such acts – adding extra treats to orders, delivering them himself in order that they might arrive in time for birthdays and so on. To me, that seemed like a very kind man – OK, he was doing it in part that people would recommend him, so that the fact that he went the extra mile would get him more sales, but that wasn't entirely how it came across. What really made me sigh though was hearing about the companies who have a RAK Day (January 21st apparently) when everyone had to do something generous – buy a coffee for the person behind you in the queue for example. Of course, the minute you start doing it like that, it is not random but forced and it must become competitive. Each person tries to do something better than the next in order that they be noticed by the bosses. It goes completely against the grain of what being kind is all about surely?

One of the things Jesus tells his followers in the Gospels is not to boast about being good or pious – don't show off about it, but just get on with it with a smile. This is not about being competitive, but it is about serving other people, and not because you get a reward from it. I don't know that he would have thought much of RAKs.

The other thing that has got me thinking recently was reading an article by someone who had been through cancer and treatment and who had compiled a list of 10 things you should never say to someone who is seriously ill. It included telling them all about your illnesses, suggesting they try some obscure treatment they had read about, and " let me know if I can do anything". The response to what she wrote was very mixed – some found it helpful, others felt that she was being very mean to all those friends who were trying to help. I came, on the whole into the first category. I found it useful to realise that a definite offer of help eg. "shall I walk the dog on Wednesdays?" can be much more helpful, and sadly it didn't surprise me to hear that some people's responses are to tell you all about themselves (they tend to do that no matter what the situation). What the writer wanted to get across is that if you are friends with someone who is going through this, then don't change the friendship. The illness doesn't have to be the only topic you talk about.

What both these issues brought home to me is how often we start with ourselves rather than others. It is so important, and vital to our lives, that we learn to help others , but it has to be for the right reasons. We may well get something out of it, but that is an added bonus, and if we are only prepared to help on our terms, and not to listen to others and offer what is really needed, then we are not helping at all.

And no, this isn't the Big Society, or RAKs or any other terrible pretend manifestation of community living, but rather it is about "love one another as I have loved you" – the most important commandment of all. It includes unpopular words such as service and sacrifice, and not putting our needs first. Easier said than done maybe, but surely worth trying?

With love

Jane Banister

# Tring Parish Mens Society

*by Leslie Barker*

RICHARD needed no introduction for most people, as some had performed with him and many others had been to concerts and church services he has taken part in and frequently led.

He gave a lively and entertaining talk as he recalled events and anecdotes, interspersed with some rare recordings. Richard came to Tring in 1980, and taught in Chesham. However it was six years before he became involved in the Tring amateur music scene.

Memorable events included the world premier of *War Cry*, an anti-war piece in 1987, a joint event with the cathedral choirs of Ely and St Albans in 1990, the centenary of Tring Choral Society at the Victoria Hall in 1990 which reproduced their first programme, and a millennium communion service at St. P&P.

The list goes on, but to get a flavour of them come to the event being planned for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on 4th June, and having missed this year's Candlemas service, come to next year's.

The Men's Society programme for next year, October 2012 – July 2013, is now being planned and will contain the usual interesting mix of talks, visits and meals with the ladies. The new venture of Men's Breakfasts will be continued, possibly with the next at the autumn half term. There should be more up to date news on the Men's Society stall at the FOTCH fun day. The visit to the BMW Mini Works is fully subscribed. However on June 6th we are visiting Ivinghoe Church, and on 4th July Huw will be speaking to us.

# Sudoku Corner

**by Colin Moore**

**No 66 Easy**

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

Another easy puzzle. So I don't really need to give any hints. Good Luck! **Solution on page 29**

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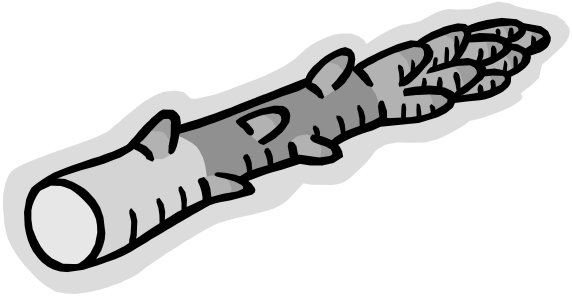

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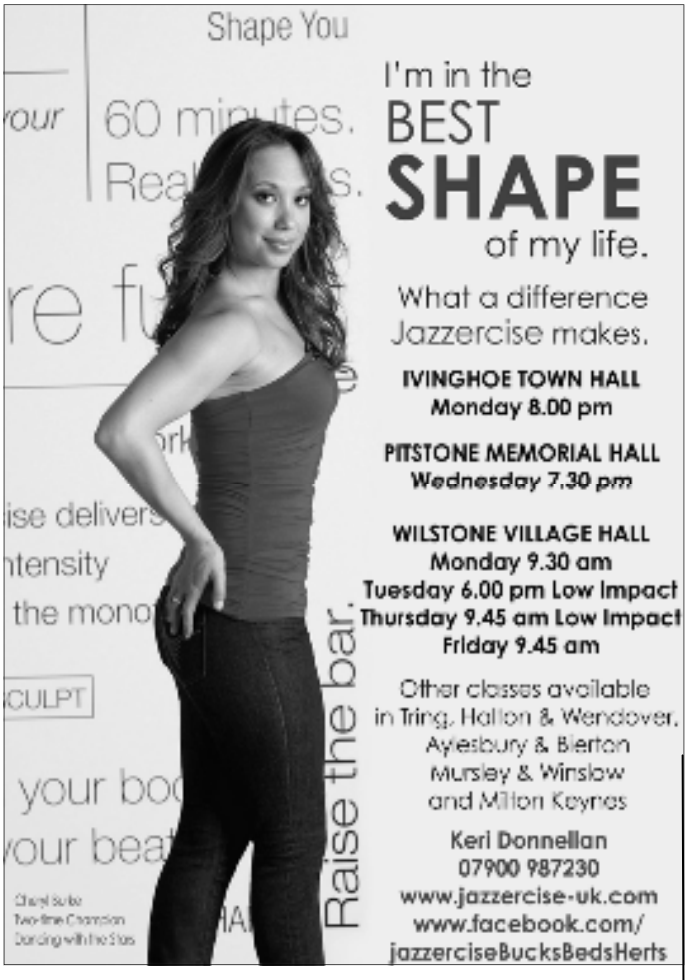

# 'Allo, alas, alat - allotments at last!

***by Lawless Ken***

THERE have been many articles written about the allotments in Wilstone. So I believe it's only fair to set things straight and start with how they actually came about, where the need was etc. So here goes.

And the sower went out to sow her seed. And to quote Brucie: " Didn't she do well! " She admitted to *Village News:* "I'm forgetting about Tarzan and digging deep over the next few months". So with this enthusiastic attitude Lady Jane's allotees flocked in their multitudes to enhance this barren land, this weary field, this Wilstone. The start of the adventure was the clearing of the driveway or path into the area now commonly known as Allotment Valley. Upon instruction from “her's truly” Lady Jane de Greenhouse, officers were duly appointed whilst Barrow Mentors were instructed to organise and control the clearing of the barren site in the charity field. The clearers arrived in their throngs armed with spades, hoes and all manner of implements. A great job was done by all.

**Garden sheds or doggie houses?**

So many local people had expressed a need for land upon which to grow vegetables etc. Due to lack of space in small gardens it was with much delight that the news about the allotments was greeted with cheers all round. 'Twas like full moon in the village pub’ - that fine eating house with fabulous ales served with speed in Wilstone. There's always a gardening tip available from over the bar at no extra cost. One only had to discuss the problem in and around the Table by the Toilets in order to discover villagers were resorting to skabbing a plot here and there in order to grow a little veg. So the survey was done, and duly K Jockey passed it on. And hence we are where we are today.

The only opposition which objected to the allotments going ahead came on behalf of Eric Cozens and Ern and Tallulah Woodbridge who felt it was a cat tastrophy in their area taking away their strolling privileges. It had been a great basking area for all concerned. Even the two ‘57’ puddies of Tring Road were pyracanthaning about it when their brother gained a plot. Whilst Alfie and Sky Smith who live nearby were uneasy about marking new ground, they felt the whiffs of carrots, beans etc. would definitely make up for the smell of peas. Well sniffed you two.

However at their meeting the evening beforehand, Archie Walker suggested they get together after lessons in Short Marston doddie training hall and discussing things openly over a few dental sticks. His sister Lilly suggested taking up French lessons to take their minds away from it all . Sound advice! She's just like her Dad. Whereas Dolly and Bunny Rabbit Weedon suggested walkies father afield was a better solution. Susie Reedman has been doing it for years remarked John le Camera whilst photographing his Poplars. Just to please pops, Beagle Yusef suggested using charity field as a putting green (but this was quashed), whilst Ginnie Greenhouse was interested in a holiday home for older unwanted moggies upon seeing the new chalets erected.

Anyway to cut a long story short, all this news about the allotments was greeted with pleasantries by the former Queen of Wilstonia who also gave her blessings to the toiling of idle land providing food on tables for her populous. Her lady in waiting - whom we all know as Yan of Totting Sundyland whose fine ales are served in the Half moon in Wilstone, - donated a packet of Carrot Seeds to be sown in a poled area for HRH's donkeys. No corgi treats upon this soil! How Yan finds so much time to wait with all her energy spent pulling is amazing. Da Vid was not amused.

The Isley Sundayland plot has made contingencies with regards to the probable water shortages in summertime, for should this prove wanting Father David has offered Newkey brown as a back-up. When sowing and planting gets going in earnest I'm certain Wilstone will be producing veg to compete with any competition - notably that from Short Marston. I'm convinced allottees will gladly display their fruits of the soil on the Horti Show tables for inspection. Roll on summer.

It's remarkable how quickly the plots were rented, but sad as it may be to Lady Jane, it has been reported to *Village News* that RH Philanderous Buchaise won't be taking up his option of a pole mainly due to his involvement in the proposed rail link to Short Marston. Madame Magdaleana however is willing to provide her Tiller Girls should any allotment opening-day festivities be decided. Tip toeing with the tulips from Short Marston to Wilstone - what a good idea. So there you are. All is going well and so, hopefully, when the diviners meeting takes place at the TBTT in the Half Moon we shall have some ideas as to how the water restrictions can be dealt with.

In the meantime let's all wish the Allotments good fruitful luck.

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# Recipe of the month

by Anna Ashwell

## Summer rhubarb crunch

### Ingredients

**For the rhubarb**
3-4 stalks rhubarb (young tender stalks are best), cut into 1cm/½in slices
1 orange, zest and juice only
2.5cm/1in root ginger, grated
1 cardamom pod, split open, seeds removed

**For the biscuits**
110g/4oz salted butter
110g/4oz brown sugar
225g/8oz brown breadcrumbs, toasted
**To serve**
3 tbsp crème fraîche

### Preparation method

**1.** For the rhubarb, place the rhubarb, orange juice and most of the zest (reserve a few pieces of zest for the garnish), half of the ginger and the cardamom seeds into a saucepan and bring to the boil.

Then reduce the heat and simmer for 8-10 minutes, or until the rhubarb is just tender. Remove the cooked rhubarb from the saucepan using a slotted spoon and set aside to cool. Reserve the liquid.

**2.** For the biscuits, heat the butter and sugar in a saucepan over a low heat for 2-3 minutes, or until the butter melts and the mixture turns golden-brown. Add the toasted breadcrumbs and the remaining ginger and cook for a further 1-2 minutes, then remove from the heat.

**3.** Spoon the biscuit mixture onto a sheet of greaseproof paper and spread it out to a 2-3mm thickness. Set aside to harden for 5-10 minutes, then cut out 5cm/2in discs using a biscuit cutter or upturned cup as a template.

**4.** To serve, place a spoonful of the stewed rhubarb into the bottom of a serving glass. Spoon some of the crème fraîche on top, then one of the biscuits.
Repeat the process until there are no ingredients left, finishing with the crème fraîche.

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# There really is no such thing as a free holiday

*by Andy Ashwell*

They say that there is no such thing as a free lunch and as I discovered recently, there is no such thing as a free holiday either. My father-in-law had arranged for us to stay in his Lake District time-share cottage during the Easter holidays, free of charge. As the roads were unusually clear we made good time and arrived at the letting agent's office by early afternoon.

"Hello," said the receptionist looking up from her computer with a welcoming smile. "Mr and Mrs Blenkinsop, I presume, and..." She stopped mid-sentence and gawped at Florence. She looked back at her computer screen and then gawped again at Florence. "…and, er, David?" she asked coyly.

"No," I laughed. "We are Mr and Mrs Ashwell and this is Florence."

"Mr and Mrs Ashwell?" she queried. I nodded; she looked back at her screen. "Oh yes, here we are," she announced. "It says that you're booked in for next week."

As I started to protest about her obvious error, she strolled over to a large, green filing cabinet and proceeded to rummage through it. After a few seconds she pulled out an official-looking piece of paper, looked at it briefly and then handed it to me with a poorly-disguised smirk. She helpfully pointed to where it clearly showed next week's date and then to where, equally clearly, it showed my father-in-law's signature.

**The childish king and his little princess**

I apologised for my little outburst and asked about any alternative accommodation that she might have. Five minutes and five hundred quid later, we headed out to a less superior apartment right on the outskirts of town. On the positive side, we didn't have to face a further five hours of driving back home and, in addition, the weather forecast for the following day was pretty good.

So, to make the most of the decent weather, the following morning we rose bright and early and by 11 o'clock had climbed the 480 metres to the top of our nearest hill. We then sat and ate lunch in the glorious sunshine whilst admiring the magnificent views over Lake Windermere. As we made our way back down to Ambleside the wind picked up and we actually got quite cold. In fact it turned so cold that the weatherman predicted heavy snow during the night. I thought it a trifle pessimistic of him but, sure enough, when we awoke the next morning all the mountains were covered in snow. We decided not to go up any hills that day, partly because of the snow and partly because it was still rather windy and more than a tad chilly.

Instead we took a boat trip across the lake to the National Trust's newly-opened Wray Castle. Although the castle has been owned by the NT for years, it has always been leased out to various concerns until quite recently when they decided to open it up to the public. It was very much 'work in progress' and sparsely furnished, but in each room they had placed an activity for younger visitors to try: giant Kerplunk; oversized Jenga; huge Connect-4; and, best of all, a room full of costumes for the children to try on. Florence first dressed as a fairy, then as a knight and finally as a princess. I found a king's costume that seemed to fit and briefly joined in with the fun, until an NT official quietly hinted that perhaps I should act my age and leave the fun to the children.

I apologised for the second time in as many days and we left the castle to take the four-mile walk along the lakeside to catch the ferry back to base. It was windy and cold, but a very pleasant walk, nonetheless.

The rest of the week turned out pretty well, weather-wise. Most of the snow disappeared after a day but we did manage to get up high enough to have a snowball fight with the remains of a small drift. Higher up the wind remained fairly brisk and we took Florence's kite up to 650 metres and flew it off the top of the hill whilst eating our picnic. Right on schedule at the end of the week as I was packing the car for the journey home the heavens opened and remained fairly open for the whole of the journey back down south.

I must say that there hasn't been any hint of compensation from the father-in-law yet, but I shall be leaving a copy of this edition of the magazine in a prominent position (and possibly even open at the right page) when they next visit. I must admit that I'm not very hopeful, but I think it's worth a try.

# Showgirls seek disco dance medals at Wilstone fete

*(continued from page 1)*

Fete committee chairman Jill Walker was less bashful though and had lots to say. "Our 'alternative Olympics' theme will be bags of fun", she told *Village News.* "As well as our fun dog show there will be lots of opportunities to win medals during the afternoon. We particularly want children to enter the fancy dress competition for the best decorated bike, pram, scooter - in fact anything with wheels. Those with bikes can also enter the slow motion bike race. And don't miss the parade through the village at 12.30!"

Full details of all the events of that afternoon will be in the fete programme, to be delivered to every home in the weeks before 10th June.

# Long Marston Horti - News

*by Toby Davidson*

WITH summer fast approaching, our minds turn to warm sunny evenings by the barbeque, (or taking shelter from the rain which seems to happen more often!). The Horticultural Society meanwhile are already planning this year's August extravaganza, the Long Marston Village Show! Not much to report as yet other than an idea to recreate the old barn dance that used to be staged in the village hall in the evening.

Our only problem as always is volunteers. For any successful event to take place, an organisational committee is compulsory. However, the Horti committee put a lot of effort into the show, both in terms of the recreation ground and the hall itself, so we are looking to find someone new to head up a team for the evening do. We would encourage an event that would raise money for a charity of your choice, but need help to do it. Anybody interested in offering us some help in this should contact David Severs (01296 661021) or Oliver Matthews (01296 662181).

We do however have another new event before the show which looks to be a winner. Our good friend and panto genius Neil Gurney is bringing his superb one man show and flower arranging evening to Long Marston Village Hall. Neil will be here on the evening of 15th May (see "What's On") and will recount the most fabulous stories whilst creating a selection of marvellous floral displays which are then given away in the raffle. This remains an ever-popular show in the local area and always sells out! To get your tickets for this memorable evening of entertainment (priced £7.50 to include snacks and a drink in the interval), please contact Toby Davidson on 01296 660754 or (thejug@lmcc.org.uk).

During the past year under the scrutiny of Martin Winship, the Horti has been busily working on our 'memories' document for the local villages. In an attempt to enhance this project, we organised a small get-together of some of our older residents to listen to their stories of what Long Marston and the local area was like around the 40's and 50's. A very pleasant evening ensued, recalling the old school before it was bombed and all the activity that took place around the area at that time. It was so successful that we have decided to have another meeting on 3rd May in the village hall at 7pm. Anyone interested or who can, more importantly, contribute to what will be an interesting discussion should contact Martin directly on 01296 662388.
This project was first started 14 years ago when a map of the local area was produced. This is an A2 sized print of the Ordinance 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. Anyone interested in one at £10 each should contact Oliver Matthews on 01296 662181.

## *The agricultural story line…* *by David Mead*

# The field by Dixon's Gap

THE field in between Wilstone and Gubblecote, by the canal, that may become a building site for houses, was an arable field that was part of Gubblecote Farm. I can just remember a horse and cart coming out of the field on its way to the farm buildings with a load of sheaves of corn. Then, during the war, everything changed. The main entrance was 150 yards from Dixon's Gap canal bridge, the entrance to an army camp. The field now had 10 to 15 army accommodation huts. There was a square guard room just off the road with a water tower close by. An enclosed corn yard was placed in the middle with a concrete road. For a while, in front of the guard room the regimental badge was picked out in coloured stones. It never seemed to be very busy. After the war the land was returned to my father and his brother, my Uncle Duncan. They had to make up their minds what to do with it. Roy Waldock kept pigs there. Oldacres used the site for their business as corn merchants. Then Dalgety enlarged the building and extended the offices. The wholesale bathroom people were the last to use it. One thing is certain; it would have been a major operation to return the field to its original use.

Interestingly, on the 1719 map part of the field on the north west side was marked as: "The Butts". I would really like to know more about these Butts. There is another site marked on the map on the north east side of the road where Dixon's Gap canal bridge is now. Anyway, what about a nature reserve? There are no places about here in that condition - a field that has reverted to wilderness.

The farm is enjoying some rain. It has come at a time when grass, wheat and oil seed rape want to grow to produce a flower head. Chris has applied the fertiliser so we should see the result. He is using more urea this year, a slower acting fertiliser that is not so easily washed away. The pigeons have dispersed to their nesting sites. It's time to look for any plant diseases.

Alex has presented the farm with a weeping willow tree. Actually it was his young lady's idea, and he has duly planted this tree so it will grow over the side of the pond. We shall have to make sure the hedge cutting man sees the new arrival, and the nursery man advised: "It needs plenty of water".

Last month I reported rapeseed oil sales on the Isle of Mull. This month a man in Amsterdam reported his order had arrived safely. The men arrived today to extend an existing building so the bottlers have more room.

This Friday we are saying goodbye to Karen at the farm shop. Karen started working at the shop after leaving school; that was when Sarah ran the show. We all wish her all the best, not exactly in her retirement, but a change of direction.

A couple who have restored, and are now living in, a wooden narrow boat have promised to write about the boat moored close to the wooden bridge at Wilstone. That is when they have returned from their sculpture exhibition and sale in New York. (They have gone by plane!)

# Community Transport Research – We Need Your Views!

*by Deborah Fogden*

We would like you to help us to build a picture of the transport needs for Long Marston, Wilstone and Puttenham so that we can understand what transport services are being used, the support available within the community to assist someone isolated due to not having their own transport, and if any gaps in provision exist.

If you are a resident or belong to a community group such as a Residents Association, Day Centre, Club for Older People, Scouts, Sports Clubs or are generally concerned with transport and the needs of your community, we want to hear from you. You can either complete a survey questionnaire online via www.communityactiondacorum.org.uk or contact Deborah Fogden, Community Transport Researcher on 01442 253935 or Deborah@communityactiondacorum.org.uk to arrange a meeting or chat.

What is community transport? It is a wide range of flexible and responsive transport solutions developed to support local residents' needs. It can provide the connectivity needed to get to a range of destinations for otherwise isolated or excluded groups of people and is open to people of all ages.
As a Council for Voluntary Service, Community Action Dacorum believes in bringing people together to achieve more in their communities and improve quality of life. We understand that public transport cannot be easily accessed by everyone and there is a role community transport can provide to ensure people do not become isolated.

We operate a Community Wheels service including a fleet of ten minibuses, which are hired out to community groups based in or serving the Borough of Dacorum and a Community Cars social car scheme with volunteers using their own cars to help individuals to access a range of locations, such as Hospital, GPs, hairdressers, shops, friends etc.

We look forward to hearing your views.

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# Long Marston Cricket Club

*by Paul Dumpleton*

All up and running at Marlins. The season started with a club friendly on14th April and further friendly fixtures will take place in the next few weeks as the club builds to the start of the Cherwell League season on 12th May. On this day our 1st and 3rd XI's entertain Challow & Childrey and Aston Rowant 4th XI whilst our 2nd XI travel to Great Brickhill.

Colts registration took place on the evening of 18th April and their training evenings get started on Weds 2nd May. Hopefully our overhaul of the Colts system will result in much more directed coaching in 2012 as we attempt to develop the next generation of cricketers at Marlins.

The ground is looking in excellent condition but extra planning needed if the temporary use ban announced by Thames Water does not bring the anticipated wet summer.

The club has redeveloped its website over the winter thanks to a lot of work by our club member Johnny Horn. Why not take a look at www.pitchero.com/clubs/longmarstoncricketclub/ and follow the club's progress and fixtures during the season.

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# Community oil buying scheme

*by Katharine Sexton, CDA for Herts.*

Did you know that 23% (13,519) of households in the Dacorum Borough Council area are "off gas"? Does this affect your parish? We can help your residents save money! The Community Development Agency for Hertfordshire have joined with other Rural Community Councils throughout the country to enable domestic, business, or community users of oil to buy at lower prices.

To read about our scheme please view the following webpage. We are asking for your support in publicising this unique opportunity for your residents. www.cdaforherts.org.uk/focus-areas/environment-and-energy/oil-buying-group/

***Example of prices (at 24 February 2012):***
Member price (kerosene): 59p per litre. Highest price quoted by a supplier (for 1000 litres): 71p per litre Average price) quoted by suppliers (for1000 litres) : 67p per litre.

# LMFC win the Cup!

CONGRATULATIONS to Long Marston FC who won the ADL Sheffield Jackman Cup at the cup final tie played at Tring Athletic's ground on 16th April. They were convincing winners, beating Britannia FC by four goals to one.

# News from All Saints *by Carole Harrison*

Just a reminder to everyone that we have a stall at the Aldbury May Fair on Monday 7th – please support us.

Marsworth Steam Rally, Sunday 17th June. We have been invited to serve refreshments again this year. Any offers of help on the day and donations of cakes etc would be appreciated. Contact Carole Harrison on 01296 668526

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Tring Rural Parish Council

# Annual report from the Chairman

*by Councillor Mike Tomlinson*

*(This report is reproduced in full at the request of the Parish Council.)*

## A year of challenge, but also reward and progress.

THE outstanding highlight of the year was the WW2 memorial event. The Parish Council was pleased and honoured to be involved with and supportive of the event. Thanks to all those residents, organisations and individuals who contributed to the success of this memorable occasion.

The agendas for council meetings continue to provide a wide variety of issues for thought and discussion. With the constraints of time and space I refer to but a small cross section.

- The request received from residents to find suitable land for allotments in Wilstone was discharged successfully. The old allotment field off Rosebarn Lane is now being transformed by enthusiastic gardeners.
- Working with Herts Police, the Parish Council has initiated a project to update and refresh the local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme with online alerts to crime and security information. Statistics from biennial traffic census indicates little change from those of 2009. The increasing use, through Astrope and Puttenham, by vehicles using Astrope Lane is of concern.
- The Countryside Access programme continued with an application for more gates. A group of Councillors are developing a project to create leaflets describing circular walks within the Parish.
- The "Localism Bill" was enacted by Parliament in November. The effects of this legislation on local issues and communities should be of great interest to us all.
- The Parish Council is a strong supporter of the Village News and welcomes the comprehensive and independent reporting of Council business. It is very pleasing to learn of the high placing of the publication in a national competition (32nd out of 620 entrants). Many congratulations to the editor and his team.

In the present uncertain economic climate it is encouraging to report that normal expenditure is within budget. The unforeseen and unbudgeted loss of £4000 from our reserves had its effect on Council finances. The shortage of reserve funds delayed the replacement of damaged swings at Long Marston playground. Councillors were very appreciative of the generosity and goodwill of both the Puttenham Trust and a private donator, enabling the replacement swings to be installed.

Looking ahead in 2012, I believe the challenge and the aim for this Council is to improve our reserves yet enhance the standard of services provided. A review of the highest expenditure items in the Council budget has identified opportunities to improve efficiency and be cost effective. To maintain services at the current level the precept will increase by 9.5%.

To end this report I offer sincere thanks to those residents who have given or offered support to the Council. To Colin Reedman (Village Warden), and Dawn Slade (Clerk to the Council and Financial Officer), for their invaluable contribution to the Council. To my fellow Councillors for their support, and for their time and effort given freely for the benefit of Tring Rural Parish.

# Arla construction signs

*by Victoria Walker*

THE locations for the temporary road signs were approved by the Highways Authority last week and erected this week. However, a number of the signs have been torn down and thrown into gardens.

I wondered if you are able to highlight to the community that these are here to seek to ensure that any vehicles needing to reach the site use the appropriate agreed routes and if the signs are torn down this might lead to confusion.

If any residents sees a sign missing are they able to report this by calling – 07885 995339.

If they see a vehicle using an incorrect route this can also be reported by getting the vehicle registration and company logo from the vehicle and calling the number above.

We are seeking to minimise any issues and Caddicks, the contractor, will act upon any information received.

**Sudoku solution No 66**

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

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**Long Marston Football Club**
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*Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.*

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***Your editor for June will be: Phil Buchi.***

**Deadline for items to go in the next issue is:**
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**You can read *Village News* on line at:**

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

**UPDATE - Wilstone Village Hall Committee - UPDATE**

# The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in Wilstone

## A Village Event for all the family at Wilstone Village Hall, Sunday June 3rd from 12 'till 5.

The event has been created for village residents, their friends and family, and for those who support the village in any way. Every house in Wilstone should now have received an invite, so if you have not had one, please visit the Village Shop.

## TREASURE HUNT

Get your friends and family together and join in the village treasure hunt. Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd who get the most answers right. It will take about an hour. You can start from 10.30am, so you don't miss other events.

Take your place in the new village photo at approx. 2pm

## FUN AND GAMES FOR ALL

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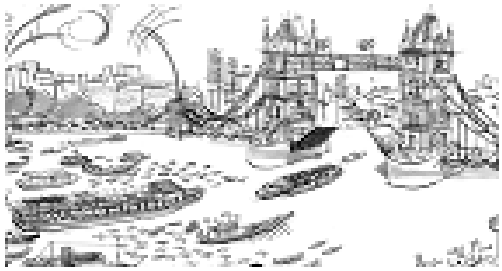

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Donations of prepared food would be gratefully received, especially cakes, buns and biscuits.

Licenced bar at low prices

Commemorative tree planting at around 5pm at The Mill

Added feature for the Jubilee celebrations

## The Rat Pack Live & Swingin' Show

Sat June 2nd at 7.30pm
Tickets £10 available from the village shop.

# Wilstone allotment diary April 2012

*by Jane Waterhouse*

AS usual Mother Nature has put us in our place by giving us the most extraordinary hot weather making us think that summer was upon us and then shocking us all with heavy frosts and cold winds. For us novice allotmenteers we were encouraged to plant, seed and put out crops that were then slaughtered by the cold and wind! However many times the old hands tell me it's still too early, I cannot stop myself from planting and seeding – one day I will learn! So it's back to the seed box for me with a number of plants to re-sow. I am not alone in this as talking to other allotmenteers they too have lost seedlings to the change in the weather. The good thing is that onions, garlic, shallots and broad beans are doing well and surviving the classic April weather.

From a site progress point of view we have had a terrific leap forward on the **well refurbishment**. Phil Buchi approached me to say that his father, Norman Buchi, who died last August, had left some money for the village where he was made welcome by our community. As Norman was a civil engineer for most of his life and lived his last 12 years in Grange Rd, close to the allotment site, Phil felt it would be very fitting if the legacy was used on the civil engineering project of the allotment site well. We are all extremely grateful to both Norman and to the Buchi family for giving the allotments the gift of water, such a necessary element of successful cultivation.

**Engineersfrom specialists Weatherheads inspect and clear out the old well prior to re-commissioning.**
*(Photo Graham Thorpe)*

Now we have the funds we have been working with a local well company, Weatherheads. The company came and checked the flow rate to ensure there was enough to serve the allotments - and there is. Weatherheads then came back and removed the debris which had collected (thrown) in the well over the 50 odd years it has not been used, cleared out slurry and mud and jet washed the brick lining. By the end of this exciting afternoon's work clean water was gushing into the well and I am sure there will be an ample supply for us all. The next step is to erect and fit a hand pump and to make the area somewhere a civil engineer would be proud of.

We still have to erect the perimeter fence at some time. Stan Smith has erected the corner posts for this project and once we have found funding we will get this done.

For now its back to digging, sowing and planting – lets hope the rain gets all the seeds bursting through and we can start the non stop job of keeping plots free of weeds.

# Changes expected at Wilstone shop

*by Phil Buchi*

IN October 2009 the Wilstone village shop was rescued from closure by Liz and Ron Faulkner, who open 7 days a week providing a valuable service to our community with the help of volunteers. The shop has not only survived, but has also become a community activity itself as more volunteers came forward to help. Having successfully seen the enterprise onto a steady footing, Liz and Ron have now said that they would like to begin to ease back from the front line and for the shop to continue as a full-blown community project or co-operative.

This is a big change and needs a lot of thought to ensure it will all work smoothly, so a group of eleven shop volunteers met at the end of March to discuss how to proceed. An action group has been formed and will meet again on Tuesday 1st May at 8.15pm in Wilstone village hall. Anyone interested in helping, or who has ideas or experience to contribute, is welcome to attend. More shop volunteers will be needed in the future if this valuable service to the villages is to continue. Please contact the shop during opening hours on 01442 891167 if you want to be involved. Progress reports will be published in *Village News.*

# Summer Term 2012

*by Clare South*

AS we start to plan the term ahead we see how busy, once again, the school will be. Spring term ended with our annual Easter egg hunt and visit to church to celebrate Palm Sunday. The egg hunt was great fun as the children worked together in 'family groups' to find nine different pictures of patterned eggs. It is always wonderful to see our oldest children supporting the younger children throughout the school.

This term we have Jubilee celebrations to look forward to as well as our Olympic week of activities. Our oldest children will be visiting Cuffley Camp for their residential week and we are lucky to have an author visiting us too.

Our new term brings new topics of Pirates, All around Us, Tudors, Space and Community Project. The children are also involved in a series of new clubs including fencing, Olympic sports, tennis, cooking, craft and rounders.

And finally...we currently have three members of staff who will soon be leaving us to go on maternity leave this term. As a school we wish Mrs Sheerin, Mrs Hutton and Mrs Rothery well and are looking to welcome new teachers (temporarily) for the coming year.