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

*June 2012*

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

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**Village News Extra!**

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

# Olympic stadium run

## Is Bayer the next Bolt?

OUR picture shows Joe Bayer from Long Marston ready for action at the new Olympic stadium in East London. To find out what he (and his Mum, Melanie,) are doing there see the full story in this month's *VNX.* *Turn to page 17.*

# Mystery surrounds rumours of superstar appearing with the Wilstone Showgirls at June village fete

***by our outside broadcast team***

OF course, the Wilstone Showgirls will be performing at the Wilstone village fete and dog show on Sunday 10th June. They have gone to some lengths to make sure we know they are intent on winning disco dance medals. But who is the mystery man spotted at their rehearsals? A spokeswoman for the fete committee was tight-lipped, refusing to confirm or deny rumours that Barry White disco numbers were being used in training. Will there be a special guest joining their routine? I think we should be told.

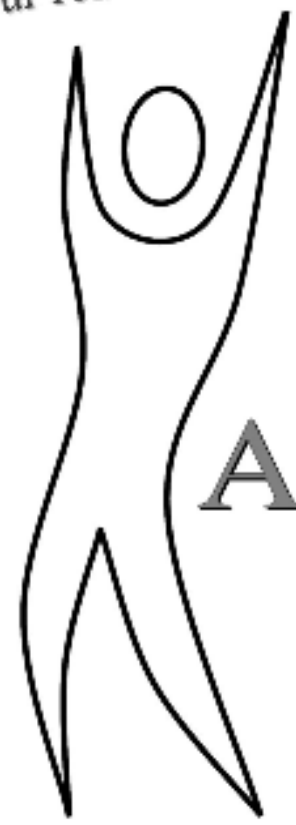
**Wilstone Showgirls (l to r) Jayne, Caroline, Fran, Maggie, Sheena and Jane. But who is the mystery man at rehearsal?**
(And how did he get that strange shape on his face? Ed.)

# Wilstone Village Fete
# Sunday June 10th 2012

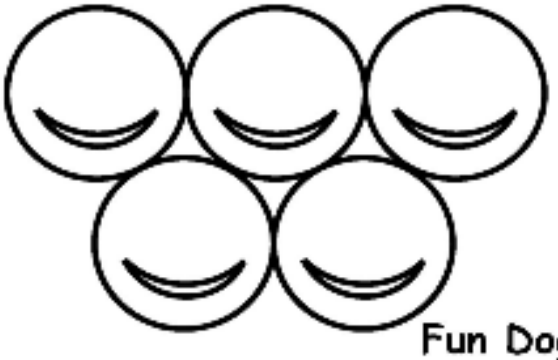
Archery ~ Bungee Run
Sumo Event ~ Crazy Golf

Grand Opening by
Queen Jane

Our renowned BBQ ~ Open from 1 pm



WILSON



Fun Dog Show
*Entry form in Fete Programme*

## ALTERNATIVE OLYMPICS

## FETE

Don't forget your
Raffle Tickets

Teas & Refreshments
Fine Beers and Pimms

*Vegetarian Food*

*Casino Tent*

**Join the Olympic Procession . . .**

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

# Village News

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## Hatters' heartbreak

Heartfelt commiserations to Luton Town FC of the Blue Square Premier, who missed their big opportunity for promotion to the Football League on 20th May. It is an ambition of every supporter of a lower-echelon club (I should know; this is my 42nd season as a Crystal Palace supporter) to earn a place at a big Wembley final. And the Hatters did it. What a great day out it must have been. Of the 39,265 who turned out, I think Luton won on supporter numbers. And to open the scoring with a goal after only 71 seconds - a great bonus! I do hope you enjoyed the occasion even if the result was er... less than optimal. I have composed a short ode of commiseration.

*Let the anguish begin anew,*
*As this sad score I relate to you.*
*Have you guessed? Do you need a clue?*
*It's: Luton 1, York City 2.*

Good luck next season! *Phil Buchi*

***Deadline for items for our next issue (July/August) is Thursday 21 June.***

***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 the services.

| | |
|---|---|
| **3 June** | |
| 10.00am | All Saints Morning Prayer |
| 4.00pm | St Cross Messy Church |
| 6.00pm | St Cross Evening Prayer |
| **10 June** | |
| 8.15am | St Mary's Holy Communion |
| 10.00am | All Saints Holy Communion |
| 6.00pm | All Saints Evening Prayer |
| **17 June** | |
| 10.00am | All Saints Morning Prayer |
| 10.00am | St Cross Holy Communion |
| **18 June** | **(Monday)** |
| 2.00pm | All Saints Toddler Worship |
| **24 June** | |
| 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...

**Phil Madley** is opening his studio for
**BUCKS OPEN STUDIO 9-24 June**

OPEN 10am - 6pm
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*Everybody Welcome.*
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**www.philmadley.com**
50 Tring Road, Wilstone, Herts, HP23 4PD

## Times for mobile library Route 72

***Thursdays, fortnightly: 14th and 28th June.***

| | |
|---|---|
| **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** |

*Apologies that the library dates were wrong last month. Ed.*

## Diary dates...

**Tring Rural Parish Council meetings** (8pm)
*The public are welcome to attend these meetings.*
**Wednesday 20 June** Wilstone village hall.
**Wednesday 18 July** Puttenham Cecilia Hall.

**Friday 1 June**
Maypole and tea shop with country dancing at Long Marston School, 1.45pm.
**Sunday 3 June**
Queen's Diamond Jubilee: Wilstone village lunch and a new village photo. From midday to 5pm. Village hall.
**Saturday 9 June**
Bucks Open Studio begins. Local artists. (Until 24 June.)
**Sunday 10 June**
Wilstone village fete. 'Alternative Olympics'. 12.30 parade from the War Memorial.
**Monday 11 June**
Luton airport proposals. Marsworth Millenium Hall 7.30pm.
**Tuesday 12 June**
County cricket. Herts over 60s v Berkshire over 60s. 1pm at Long Marston Cricket Club.
**Thursday 14 June**
Tring Together Business Mart Breakfast (£10). 7.30-9.30am at the Akeman, Tring.
**Saturday 16 June**
The Chandos Ensemble at St. Peter & St. Paul's Church, Tring, 7.30. Tickets £10 on the door. See ad for programme.
**Sunday 17 June**
Marsworth steam and classic vehicle rally. 11am - 5pm.
**Tuesday 26 June**
All Saints social afternoon, 2pm to 3pm.
**Saturday 30 June**
Tring's summer carnival parade. 2pm, High Street.
**Sunday, Monday, Tuesday 8-10 July**
Minor Counties Championship: Herts v Suffolk. Play starts 11am at Long Marston Cricket Club.
**Monday 9 July**
***Village News*** AGM and review. 8pm, Half Moon, Wilstone. All readers are welcome to attend. (See notice of meeting.)
**Tuesday 10 July**
Friends of St Cross 30th Anniversary. Service of Thanksgiving. 10.00am.
**Sunday 15 July**
Fun day and Strawberry tea at St Cross. 2.00pm
**Tuesday 24 July**
All Saints social afternoon, 2pm to 3pm.
**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.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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

**Saturday 4 August**
The Long Marston Show.
**Sunday 12 August**
St.Mary's Patronal Festival.
**Tuesday 28 August**
All Saints social afternoon, 2pm - 3pm.
**Sunday 2 September**
Harvest Festival and lunch at St Cross. 11.30am.
**Saturday 8 September**
Bike and Hike. St Cross open from 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.
**Saturday 13 October**
October Supper with John Bly.

WILSTONE ALTERNATIVE OLYMPICS ON FETE

**WILSTONE ALTERNATIVE OLYMPICS VILLAGE FETE *and Fun Dog Show***
**Sunday 10th June 2012. Parade 12.30.**

**Wilstone village shop opening hours are:**
Monday to Saturday: 7.30am to 1.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am to 12.00noon.
***Closed Bank Holidays Monday 4th, Tuesday 5th June.***

***Village News*: Notice of Annual General Meeting**

All readers, contributors and distributors are invited to attend the

## Village News AGM and review

**at 8pm on Monday 9th July 2012**
**at the Half Moon, Wilstone**
to approve the accounts for 2011 and to elect the officers.
The business of the AGM does not take long, and will be followed by an informal discussion on ideas for taking forward your village magazine in the months ahead. All welcome.

Enquiries: Carole Harrison, Secretary. 01296 668526.

# The Chandos Ensemble

St Peter and Paul's Church Tring

**Saturday 16th June 7.30 p.m.**

*Mozart - Divertimento in D for strings.*
*Bach - Brandenburg concerto No 5 for flute, violin and harpsichord.*
*Mozart - symphony no.41 in C "The Jupiter".*

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# In brief...

## New interest in Wilstone affordable homes development

AS reported in *Village News* last month (May, page 9), housing officials at Dacorum Borough Council have confirmed that there is interest from a housing association in taking on the previously failed development of eight affordable homes for rent in the centre of Wilstone. The site - between Tring Road and Grange Road - was abruptly closed shortly after work started in February 2010 when the developers Aldwyck Housing Group decided to pull out. There are currently no firm proposals and only preliminary investigations have been carried out. The land is owned by Dacorum BC.

## Luton airport: briefing on 11 June

There is to be a briefing for villagers on the new proposals for Luton airport to be held at Marsworth Millennium Hall (corner of Vicarage Road and the B489) on Monday 11th June at 7.30pm. Michael Nidd will address the meeting, which is hosted by Marsworth Parish Council. It is open to all.

## "Cloak of mystery" surrounds S106 funds at Gubblecote

Tring Rural Parish Councillors have complained that a "cloak of mystery" surrounds the intended use of the 'Section 106' funding provided by the developer of the Dean's Farm Eggs site in Gubblecote. Section 106 funds are cash sums which the developer agrees to hand over to the local authority as part of a planning agreement. The money is a contribution to local amenities as a consequence of the development, and is paid to Dacorum Borough Council. Parish Councillors want to make sure the money is spent on this community but attempts to find out what is intended have failed. "The cloak of mystery has not been drawn back, and this is not good enough", said one. The Parish Council will now enlist the help of Dacorum Councillors in lobbying for local use of the money.

## Good year for WVHC

2011 proved to be a successful year for Wilstone Village Hall Committee. Chairman Richard Smisson told the AGM on 15th May that the year's activities produced a surplus of £3,810 after expenditure on maintenance and improvements to the village hall. Total turnover was £23,414 of which the Committee's popular events produced record receipts of £7,517 (for an expenditure of £5,744), and receipts from the annual fete were also up at £8,915 (expenditure £5,460). Total expenditure for the year was £19,604.

In 2011 the Committee staged a cabaret club, a programme of Wilstone film nights, a quiz night, cheese and wine tasting, Farther Christmas and the Wilstone fête and dog show. The meeting re-elected Richard Smisson as chairman, Jude Roust as secretary and Neil Williams as treasurer. Councillor Richard Briant agreed to serve as the Parish Council representative.

## Tring's carnival parade

Tring's carnival parade will this year be held on Saturday 30th June. Organised by 'Tring Together' the parade along the High Street will begin at 2pm.

## Sponsorship continues

TWO *Village News* sponsors have confirmed their intention to continue their sponsorship in 2012. The Long Marston and Puttenham Horticultural Society agreed at their AGM to make the donation for the current year, and Wilstone Village Hall Committee have said they will be doing the same. Editor Phil Buchi said: "The support of local organisations has enabled us to maintain the free distribution of *Village News* to every home, and to add more features such as colour covers and *VNX*. Advertising pays for around 80% of our costs, and it is great that sponsors are willing to make up the rest."

## Local artists open their studios

Local artist Phil Madley is one of many opening their studios to visitors from 9th to 24th June. Phil will welcome you at 50 Tring Road, Wilstone between 10am and 6pm (except Mondays and Thursdays). He can give you a free handy trail map showing the locations of 13 artists in the area taking part in Bucks Open Studio this year.

**'White spash' in wax, by Wilstone artist Phil Madley**

# Moving to Long Marston: the Stevens family 1938-1956

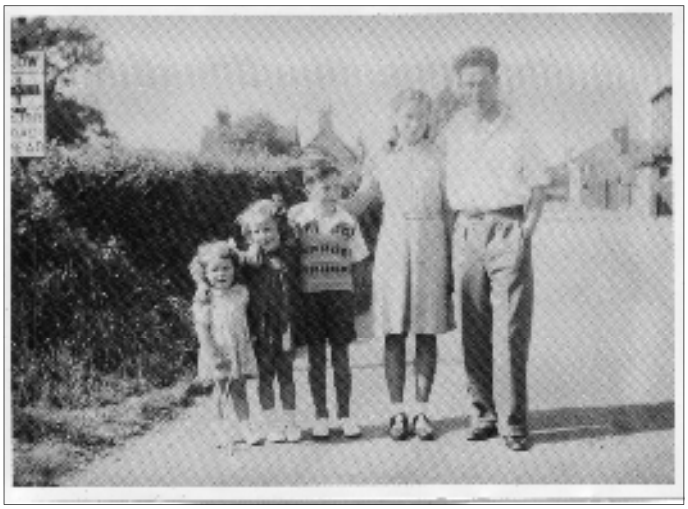
*The Stevens family moved to Long Marston in 1938. This is their family history from that time until 1956. It was written by Connie Stevens as a letter to a grandson in Canada. The article and photographs have been provided by family member Gill Allen who lives in Station Road, Long Marston.*

WE moved into a four room cottage in Cheddington Lane, Long Marston in 1938. Tony was five, actually it was the day he started school. Sylvia was three. We had moved from a much bigger house (Cymric House) which was very damp and had quite a big rent. Although the cottage was a bit cramped at first, we soon got used to it and we had a friendly neighbour. Pop had a very large allotment and kept chickens, geese and for a time turkeys and pigs. So with his railway job he was always busy.

In August 1939 we went for a holiday in Llandudno, North Wales. We did not enjoy it much because the country was on the brink of war and every day we waited for newspapers to see what was happening. There was very little on the radio and no TV in those days. We left Wales for home on September 2nd, a Saturday. We left in the morning and the train took all day. All along the way there were parties of school children being evacuated.

When we finally reached our village we hardly recognised it. It had been taken over by people from London and what seemed like hundreds of children looking for homes to be taken in, we knew then that war was imminent. Everyone who had room, had to take evacuees. I had my friend from Barking (East London) and her two boys, you can imagine how crowded we were. Grandma lived just up the road and she helped us out. Of course school was out of the question, for some time there was just no room. Teachers who came with the children had to be found somewhere to live.

On Sunday morning, September 3rd, we listened to the Prime Minister (Neville Chamberlain) tell us we were at war with Germany - I can remember his voice and exactly what he said.. He had hardly finished speaking when the air raid warning went and people in the towns rushed to the shelters. Fortunately it was a false alarm but nobody knew what to expect, we had been told there would be gas attacks and all kinds of horrors. In the event nothing happened for some time, it was called the phoney war. Lots of the evacuees went back to London although the government had warned them not to. They were very unhappy here and could not get used to our country ways. I'm afraid it was mutual; the country people were quite relieved when they went.



**Shirley, Dian, Roy, Sylvie and Tony. Cheddington Lane, Long Marston. Date uncertain, but great road sign, left.**

Our children started school again. Sylvia was five and went to the village school with Tony. Meanwhile air raid shelters sprang up everywhere, all the towns and villages were blacked out. Roy was born in 1940 and I can remember the air raid warden staggering up the stairs with a gas mask for him. It was a large box to put the baby in, with a kind of pump at the side for air; it was never used.

For a time the war did not affect us much. Pop was in a reserved occupation on the railways, so he did not have to go to war and with all our vegetables and eggs etc. rationing didn't affect us much either. Then in January 1941 a lone bomber flew over our village and dropped two bombs, one demolished the school killing the teacher. *Continued on page 8.*

**Back, L to R: Tony, Shirley, Sylve, Dian, Roy. With Connie and Sid at the front. A later picture, date not known, but the front door of the Queen's Head is in the background.** (Pictures courtesy of Gill Allen.)

## Moving to Long Marston *(Continued from page 7)*

It was just after 4 o'clock and the children were out of school. Before the bomb dropped I had left home to meet the children and to pick up some library books. I took Roy, he was in his pram in the school porch with Sylvia and Don, our evacuee. I left Tony outside the school to play with some other children - he will never have a narrower escape. I had just got in when the bomb fell, I left the three children and ran down the road to find Tony. I didn't expect to see him again. He was running up the road screaming, the little girl he had been playing with had her leg broken, caused by the blast but she and Mrs Whelan were the only casualties. The other bomb fell harmlessly in the next village.

Our village shop and pub were partially destroyed. So of course once again our children had no school and continued their education in disused buildings, a vicarage, a chapel and even for time in farm buildings. In spite if this, their education did not suffer much and several of them went on to gain scholarships to higher schools when they were eleven - including Sylvia.

At this time an aerodrome was being built some few hundred yards from our house. At first for the RAF and Wellington bombers which we used to watch every night fly over our house to bomb Germany. By this time America had entered the war and American airmen were camped on the aerodrome, which covered Long Marston, Marsworth and Cheddington. There were now Flying Fortresses and Liberators doing the daylight bombing. The American troops livened up our village considerably, very popular with the local girls and the children. They were generous with gum and candy which for the English was very scarce and strictly rationed.

London and the big cities were now under attack and many of the evacuees who had returned home came back to stay until the end of the war - in fact some of them still visit occasionally for funerals etc. of the people they lived with.

Danny was born in 1943 and Shirley in August 1945. I remember hearing the church bells when she was born, to celebrate the end of the war. After the first excitement of VE day on May 8th and VJ day, life was very drab with shortages and rationing which went on into the 1950`s.

Meanwhile Sylvia passed her eleven plus and won a place at Berkhamsted School for Girls. This was quite an achievement because this was and still is a very good school and there were very few free places. I think there are none at all now. I remember going to a prize giving when Lady Churchill who was an old scholar presented the prizes.

*(Continued on page 21)*

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# Vidal Sassoon

*by Liz Faulkner*

IT was with sadness that I read about the recent death of Vidal Sassoon. My stepfather was an architect who specialised in shop design and he worked for many famous names of the time: Richard Henry (London and Rome), Raymond (Teezy Weezy), Andre Bernard, Xavier Wenger, Steiner and many more.

As the sixties opened, this young innovative hairdresser, Vidal Sassoon, took the world by storm. With his distinctive methods of cutting he released us all from the time consuming labour of perms and rollers! He and my father became firm friends as they designed his salons in London and New York. I heard recounted many times that in their meetings Vidal spent the whole time on his head in a yoga pose!

I have a copy of Vidal's book given to my father, with a long jokey message from him on the fly leaf, which I shall always treasure. *Liz Faulkner.*

You can view and comment on planning applications at
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# Sudoku Corner

**by Colin Moore**

**No 67 Moderate**

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

If in a row or column the only candidate Xs are within a box then you can remove any other Xs from that box! Now think of the corollary**. Solution on page 26.**


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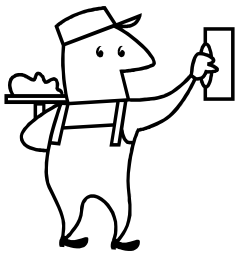

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# Letters...

***From Steve Frow, Astrope.***

## Left out of the title!

This is the first time I have ever written to a journal, newspaper, magazine or publication of any kind but I just can't help myself.

For the eighteen or so months I've lived in the area, I have thoroughly enjoyed reading your great little magazine. I haven't joined in with as many community activities as I would like but to be fair, I've been a bit busy with helping to refurbish the cottage.

After reading the latest issue and then perusing the front cover again (the Wilstone Showgirls are on the front - nuff said ...) it suddenly dawned on me that there is another reason why I can't get closer to the community. I don't live in it! I went back and looked again at previous issues and, sure enough, I don't exist! Either the Tring Rural parish boundary keeps changing on a monthly basis (excluding Astrope on some months, Little Tring or Gubblecote on others) or you need to have a smaller font at the top of the cover page to get us all listed.

Can I make a suggestion? How about replacing the random place names at the top with the words "If you get this magazine through your door, then welcome … you're one of us!" or "You know where you live - welcome to your magazine!". On a serious note, keep up the good work. On the months that Astrope is listed, I really do feel quite at home. Thank you! *Steve Frow.*

*We are delighted to have you as a reader Steve - every month, and not just when the name of your village appears on our masthead. Full marks for spotting our 'rotating villages' at the top of page One. You have guessed the reason: to get everyone in every month the font size would have to be tiny, so some have to take it in turns - this time it is Little Tring. Sorry you feel left out some months! Your suggestion will prompt a lively debate at our next editor's meeting! Ed.*

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

**Wilstone village shop opening hours are:**
Monday to Saturday: 7.30am to 1.00pm
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# Allotment diaries *by Jane Waterhouse*
# Only one left!

THE bizarre weather conditions continue to challenge us all, we've had winds that have blown greenhouses away, frosts that have surprised us and enough rain to take us out of drought conditions. The well has been full to the top on occasions.

Through all this though, the site is beginning to green up. Sadly most of the greenery seems to be thistles! Along with the endless weeds there are signs of our hard work paying off and many plots have potatoes being earthed up, peas and beans coming through and fruit bushes flowering.

The fascinating thing about the site is all the different approaches we have to our plots, each one is very different to its neighbour. There are some that are regimented and built for maximum yield with raised beds in lines and constructions to keep birds and animals away from the growing areas. There are others where areas have been excavated enough to plant sufficient crops to enjoy when they mature. Then there are others that have been developed for pleasure, leisure and food growing, these have space for sitting, playing and enjoying the summer evenings when they come. Each one has been designed to meet the needs of the individual *allotmenteer* and their family and friends. We are very fortunate to have had the chance to make our individual mark on our plots although inheriting established plots has the advantage of established plants and less initial groundwork.

**Impressive progress by *allotmenteers*.** (Picture: Graham Thorpe.)

We have now secured funding for the perimeter fence and are awaiting the well company to come and put the pump in. It seems to take a long time to get the tasks done but things are slowly moving in the right direction.

If anyone would like to join us on the allotment site there is still one plot left, it can be divided if a whole plot is too much, it's great fun, very sociable and you can throw away your gym membership, there's plenty to keep you fit!


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

# Dixon's Wharf development: the debate continues

THE proposal to build 21 homes at Dixon's Wharf resulted in a lengthy debate at the May meeting of the Parish Council. The developer, CALA Homes Ltd, has made a "pre-application" submission to planning officers at Dacorum with the same plans that were displayed at the recent consultation at Wilstone village hall. (The pre-planning stage is intended to get everything sorted out before the formal application is made.) Some Councillors were of the opinion that the site was not suitable because it was quite detached from any village and the roads were too dangerous to make walking to Wilstone or Long Marston practical. The residents could be isolated from the community and not be part of it. The original (approved) plan for commercial use would have provided local jobs. Other Councillors felt that some development was inevitable, and that lower cost small homes would be of more use to local people. In the end the Council agreed that the statement in the Minutes of their 21st March meeting reflected their view, and this would be sent to Dacorum. I have reproduced this in full below, so that readers have the official position.

*"The Parish Council upheld the view that as the site is not near to an existing community, it is not suitable for affordable housing. Also, the need identified has been largely met by the Gubblecote site. It was stressed (by the developer) that the site could assist the local community in that the traffic generated by residential development would be less than commercial use. The proposal was for 21 dwellings of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes of 2 and 2.5 storeys. The present permission is for wharf style but a barn/farmstead type may be more suitable for the rural location. Councillors suggested that lower cost smaller housing would give opportunities for local people to purchase. Also, a link to Wilstone by a footbridge over the Canal and links to the existing footpath system would enhance the location."*

# Weight measures for bridge

A resolution was made to seek a weight restriction of 7.5 tonnes on the canal bridge at Dixon's Gap "to protect the heritage of the bridge and reduce the number of heavy vehicles coming through the villages". The resolution will be sent to elected representatives and Hertfordshire Highways, though the process is expected to be a long one. Also lengthy was the list of pot holes on local roads resulting from the heavy rain. It took some while for Councillors to get them all written down for passing to HH, but at least one particularly nasty one (at Gubblecote) could be deleted straight away - it had been fixed that afternoon.

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# Saving on the insurance

The Council's mandatory insurance policy (with AoN) presently costs £2,000 a year - a substantial chunk of the total budget. Cllr. Mike Tomlinson, himself a veteran of the insurance industry, has succeeded in finding a better deal which will save £700 per year, an astonishing reduction. His investigations have found a company that specialises in getting a good deal for parish councils. They offer better cover for less money apparently, and Cllr. Tomlinson has been impressed with the people he has dealt with. Councillors had no hesitation in voting to switch to a 3-year contract with Caine & Co. at £1,300 per year.

# Jubilee decisions confirmed

Final decisions have been made on how to use the £1,000 grant made available by Dacorum to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. A tree has been purchased for Wilstone, and this will be planted on 3rd June. Long Marston will get a new bench seat, made locally from sustainable wood and engraved with a crown and the year 2012. Villagers in Puttenham have asked for their notice board to be renovated, so that will be arranged too. Total costs: conveniently - £1,000. Job done.

# AGM appointments

This month's meeting was preceded by the Council's AGM. Cllr. Mike Tomlinson was re-elected chairman, though he reminded the meeting that this was his last term as a Councillor and that some thought should be given to a finding a successor. Also re-elected at the AGM were Cllr. Chris Griffiths (vice-chairman) and Cllr. Abby Fermont (planning representative). Other roles were confirmed as follows: police liaison - Cllr. Mike Tomlinson; highways and environment - Cllr. Nick Murrell and Cllr. Chris Griffiths; Footpaths liaison: Cllr. Jill Finlan; Long Marston village hall representative - Cllr. Alan Winfield; Wilstone village hall representative - Cllr. Richard Briant.

**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:***
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# VNX Village News Extra!

Edited By Harriet Rogers

**HELLO!** Welcome to the summer edition of VNX! This month we have news of an exciting competition that you can get involved in and an interview with a local football star!

This edition is the last VNX before September so over the summer please get writing if you'd like to see your face in the September issue and email your articles marked for the attention of **Harriet at VNX** to editorwlmp@yahoo.com.

## In this Edition...


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| Joe Bayer at the Olympic Stadium | 17 |
| Furry Tails: Daisy and Phoebe | 18 |


## Wilstone Village Shop Logo Competition!

The Wilstone Village Shop would like to tell you about an exciting competition to design a logo for the shop. The logo will be used on all the posters, flyers, price tags, business cards and product labels! We would like it to represent community, and to convey the idea that shop is local, friendly and convenient. There are three age categories: 7 and under, 12 and under, and 16 and under. A winner will be picked from each category and then an overall winner. If you're arty, creative and have an eye for design, don't miss out on this great competition!

### When creating your logo remember to:

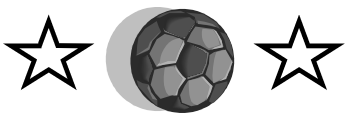
- Keep it to one or two colours
- Keep it as simple and clear as possible
- Give it as much impact as you can
- Think whether it will work when it's reduced in size to fit on labels and price tags

### Prizes!

The winning entry will have their design 'polished' by local Wilstone artist Phil Madely and it will be used throughout the store. There will be a £5 Wilstone Village Shop voucher given to the winner of each age group and a further £5 voucher to the overall winner!

If you want the village to be talking about YOUR logo please post your entry in the competition box in the shop and mark it with your name, age and home phone number!

**Turn over to find out who this month's Sports Star is !**



# Bend it like Boyes!

Wilstone girl Charlotte Boyes, 17, has recently gone from strength to strength with her football. Ladies football is a fast growing sport and Charlotte has been successful in experiencing the exciting, growing game with a professional academy club. She has travelled up and down the country to play some of the top ladies' academies.

**When did you start playing football?**
I started playing football at Long Marston School when I was in year 3. I was the only girl who played as all the other girls chose netball. I have only been playing for a team for 3 seasons.

**Which clubs have you played for?**
I played for Berko Belles for 2 seasons and I am currently playing for Watford Academy and Watford U17s.

**Where do you train now?**
Currently I am playing for Watford Academy, training with them 3 times a week and twice a week for the U17s. However, unfortunately, the U17 season has come to a end for this year.

**What do you want to do in the future?**
I have one more year left to play with the Watford Academy. I'm also looking at joining a ladies team as well for next year. In the future I also want to pursue a career in sport. I'm studying sport at West Herts College at the moment.

**What is your highlight from the time you've being playing football?**
I have had many highlights this year, such as getting the chance to play at Cobham, which is the Chelsea men's team training ground, where we beat the Chelsea Academy 2-1! The academy team also got through to the national play offs. We got to travel to Newcastle and stay the night up there. Unfortunately we lost 3-2 but it was a great experience. I also had the opportunity to play at Vicarage Road in a friendly match which also was amazing.

**Who is your footballing hero?**
My hero is probably Steven Gerrard because I'm a massive Liverpool fan and he is a class player.

**What is your favourite part of the game?**
My favourite part of the game is being part of a successful team.

Do you know a young local talent who you'd like to nominate for next month's edition? Please email your nominations to editorwlmp@yahoo.com marked for Harriet at VNX. Thank You!

# Is Bayer the next Bolt?

This 'surf board start' photo won Joe his place on the track.

Joe lines up with (l to r) Josh Evans, John Rendell, hurdler Derval O'Rourke and coach Toni Minichiello.

Joe (left) with his cousin Josh Evans, who co-incidentally also won a place.

100m specialist Joe Bayer at the Olympic track.

Joe Bayer from Long Marston was one of 47 very lucky people who won a 'Powerade' competition to run on the Olympic track at the Olympic Stadium in East London. He stayed at the Holiday Inn at Stratford on Wednesday 2nd May and on the Thursday morning was taken over to the Olympic Park. Joe got to meet the 100m hurdler Derval O'Rourke and had his warm-up with none other than Toni Minichiello who is the coach to Jessica Ennis. He ran a warm-up lap of the stadium and then got down to business by competing in 100 meter races with the other prize winners.

All the competition winners ran on the 100m track twice and the fastest runners were selected to run a third time in a 'winners' race. Joe's fastest time was 12.62 seconds, which gave him a place in the winners' race! Joe said: "This was a fantastic and amazing opportunity and now when I watch the Olympics I will be thinking: 'I ran on that track'". The fastest time for 100m on that day was achieved by Even McGuire with a time of 11.37 seconds, with Joe being the 8th fastest runner on the day. People came from all over the UK and Ireland to take part, with ages ranging from 16 to 65.

Joe is 16, and is presently doing his GCSEs at Tring School. He is keen on track and field events and is a member of the Dacorum and Tring Athletics Club in Hemel Hempstead where he competes in the 100 meters sprint, long jump and triple jump.

Long Marston represented in lane 2.

For the 'Powerade' competition he was asked for a photograph to be sent in with the subject 'on the starting blocks' as though about to run 100m. Joe's novel 'surf board start' photo clearly caught the judge's eye, winning him this fantastic opportunity to be a part of the Olympic preparations.

# VNX Furry Tails

## Ashleigh and Pudsey? Say hello to Daisy and Phoebe!

I have been going to dog agility training with my dog Phoebe for about six months. She loves going and really gets into 'working' mode when it's her turn to go on the equipment.

When we go to agility classes we start off doing the jumps and then add more difficult equipment every week. Other pieces of agility equipment are: the tunnel, the tyre, the flat tunnel and – the hardest of them all – the weave sticks. At the moment the weave sticks are spaced apart so that the dogs get used to running through them, and then they are slowly, week by week, moved closer together until your dog starts weaving through them.

When our dog approaches a piece of equipment we have to run alongside pointing and calling out the correct name. It can be quite hard to shout everything in the correct order while you are also trying to keep up with your dog! Also we are just starting to teach our dogs 'left' and 'right' because sometimes when they go over a jump we need to be able to tell the dog which way to go.

There's a lot to learn, but it's a lot of fun for both of us!

This is a picture of Phoebe when she was learning how to go over the A-Frame. It wasn't long before she got the hang of it, but her favourite piece of equipment has to be the Dog Walk. I think it's because there's always a treat at the end!

By Daisy Fermont, Wilstone

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!

Thank you to all this month's contributors! This is the last VNX until September so you've got a while to get writing! It would be great to read some holiday stories and photos, so please email in your contributions by **Thursday 23rd August**.

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

Harriet :)

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# John Rhodes - telecommunications pioneer

WE are sorry to report the death of Mr John Rhodes who was for many years a resident of Wilstone, and continued to live in his bungalow in Tring Road until shortly before his death. He was 88. One of the village's elder statesmen, he was usually seen making his slow daily circuit of the village with his dog Loui on a ridiculously long extending lead, sometimes on opposite sides of the road. The call: "Here Loui", often announced his imminent arrival. Loui no doubt appreciated the walk, and seemed keen to make it more interesting by not responding to any instructions from John. Those able to stop and chat always learned something interesting from the conversation, until Loui demanded further progress.

John Rhodes was an engineer who worked most of his life for the GPO, later Post Office Telecommunications. Engineering and electronics were his passion, and he was interested in everything from motorbikes to televisions. In the past he had owned a Lanchester car and a massive Russian motorcycle.

During the war he enlisted in the RAF and was sent to Canada where he trained as aircrew on Lancaster bombers. One of the jobs he trained for was to drop "Windows" - strips of aluminium foil designed to confuse enemy radar. His training was completed as the war was coming to an end. He joined GPO Telephones as an engineering apprentice and began a career which suited him well. These were exciting times in the development of modern communications, and John contributed to the work on fast data transmission which led to the broadband services which we use today. He also worked on the development of a revolutionary picture scanner, which in the 1960's made it possible for the press to send photographs direct down the line to their offices from outside events. This work led to the facsimile transmission services which were in widespread use until superseded by email. Even in his later years he was keen to keep abreast of technology.

John's wife, Jo, died some years ago and he missed her a lot. He was known in the village for mischievous devilment, and it was difficult to detect if you were being wound up. Stubborn and cantankerous are also words that have been used, but he was a kindly man who was quick to ask after the health of others.

There is no doubt that he could not have remained in his own home for so long without the daily support of his good friends Chris, Rick and Amanda. Loui has been found another home - let's hope the long lead got lost in the process. *PB.*


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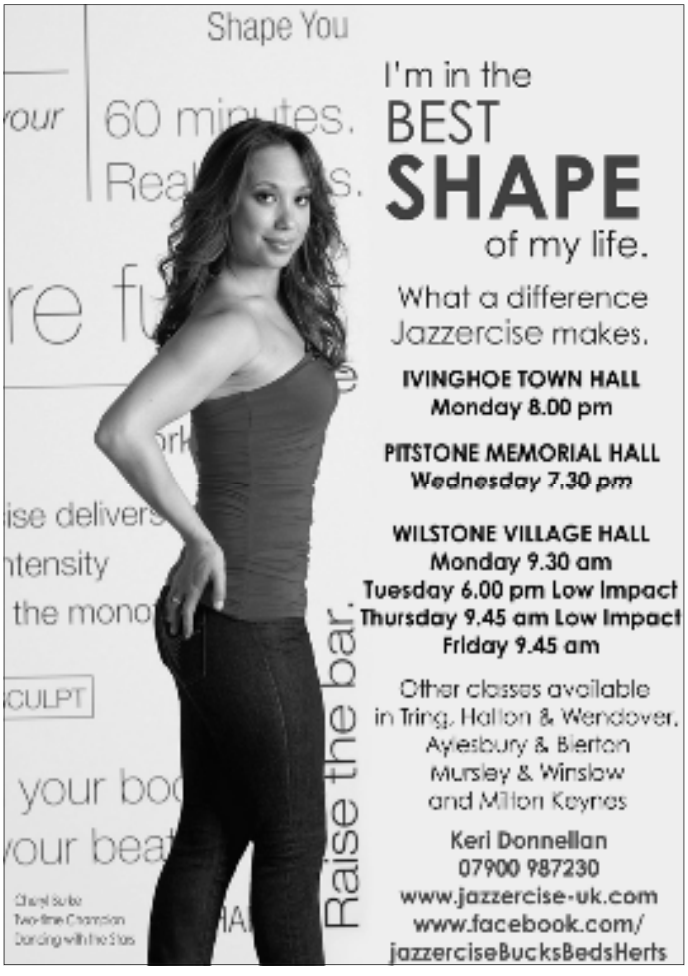

## *The agricultural story line…* *by David Mead*

# Lords, and Luton Town at Wembley

THE weather has dominated the scene this month. Those responsible have lost the key to turn off the rain. The cattle have been turned out on to fields with grass knee high, but it has been so cold. When I check the cattle each day they follow me back to the gate with an 'I-want-to-go-home' look in their faces. I can't see the sheep shearers being keen to start this month, but the wheat and oil seed rape look well and I'm still taking out the odd load of logs.

Health and safety have been very visible with the new building going up. A net had to be fixed before the roof sheets could be fixed. Mark you, I wouldn't argue against it if I had to go up there. I would have to have a go a driving at "cherry picker", an extending platform that can be driven from that platform no matter how high. I read somewhere there are many accidents on building sites with these machines. They have a long way to go to finish the job in time for harvest.

**Lords and Luton Town**

There might have to be a plan B this Friday. I was going with Son-in-Law Michael to cricket at Lords. The last time after a good day's cricket the two of us tried to gain entry to the Ivy for a light sustaining dinner, chips in newspaper etc. The very polite lady at the door apologised and suggested we try somewhere else. Oh well, what a weekend. Grandson Tim is taking Grandfather to Wembley on Sunday to see Luton in the playoff final for promotion. In the eighties I used to go with Tim's father "Smithy" to support Luton at Vicarage Road. Those were the days when Luton beat Arsenal in the Littlewoods Cup Final at the old Wembley. I shall have to lie down for a week after all that excitement.

Due to a later presentation date for the magazine I can report I survived my weekend in the capital. Lords was cold. Management found us new seats after water dripped from the floor above, but I enjoyed the cricket. The tube journey to Euston was challenging. I don't remember Baker Street being quite so complicated, and those push button ticket dispensers. Well, I need a quiet day with a machine to myself and plenty of time to get back from Crewe.

Luton did not do well at Wembley but they were well supported; every train was packed. We didn't need a sheepdog to guide us at the station. Somehow we got out at Berkhamsted. Anyway Teresa met us at Tring. I declined the final session at Tring Cricket Club: age related!!

**Darts at Agincourt?**

In a previous magazine I mentioned my interest in the Butts shown on the 1719 map of this area. In a reply to a question in the Daily Mail, it was explained that, in medieval times, all able bodied men between the ages of 14 and 60 years had to practice on the long bow every Sunday. The article explained the long bow was a difficult weapon to master and needed lots of practice. I expect the pubs were well supported after a session on the Butts. Did darts follow when the long bow finished? Double Top at Agincourt? No, it must have come later.

**New Mill centre to close**

It's very sad that the end is in sight for the New Mill Social Centre on Bulbourne Road, near the roundabout. A notice to quit has been served, and this will include the allotments as well. Pat and George Bishop will lose their garden, worked for so long. I hope the Chaplain for Tring School appreciates their loss. Will other faiths be represented at the school? I suspect there will be more than one dwelling. Of course new houses are badly needed, but access roads so close to the roundabout?

Someone has turned up the thermostat; it's been beautifully warm this week. Southernwoods have cut their grass for silage. The oil-seed rape has had an extended flowering so the bees are happy. Let's hope there are some good sunny days in June for the village festivities.

## Moving to Long Marston *(Continued from page 8)*

Times were still quite hard with unemployment etc. when Sylvia left school. At sixteen she had done very well with her school certificates but even so jobs were hard to find. Her first job was in the office of a gas company, I believe Margaret worked there as well. After that she got a job in Barclays bank which was much better.

The girls had some very good times although I don't think girls today would think much of cycling to dances in the dark as they did. There still wasn't much money about but all the young people seemed to enjoy life. It was at a dance in Aylesbury that she met your father who worked for a firm in Aylesbury, which had moved out of London, called Negretti and Zambra. They were precision engineers.

They married in 1956 when Tony was doing his National Service in the Middle East. He was very disillusioned with the army and never really settled down again.

Tony and Margaret were married in 1955 and shortly after he was called up again and when the Suez Crisis was on he was sent to Egypt. When he came home he was very restless and discontented and emigrated to Canada and it was not long after that, your parents followed them with Negretti and Zambra.

*With thanks to Gill Allen for making this family history available for publication in Village News.*

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# Recipe of the month

by Anna Ashwell

## Cheat strawberry cheesecakes

**Ingredients**

- 85g low-fat biscuits
- 200g tub extra-light soft cheese
- 200g tub 0% fat Greek yogurt
- 4 tbsp caster sugar
- few drops vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp good-quality strawberry jam
- 100g strawberries, hulled and sliced

**Method**

1. Put the biscuits in a plastic bag and bash with a rolling pin until you have chunky crumbs. Divide between 4 glasses or small bowls.
2. Beat the soft cheese, yogurt, sugar and vanilla together until smooth, then spoon over the crumbs and chill until you are ready to serve.
3. Stir the jam in a bowl until loose; then gently stir in the strawberries. Divide the strawberries between the cheesecakes and serve.

**Different fruit**

Top these little pots with whatever fruit you've got at home. For a delicious banoffee version, slice bananas and toss with a squeeze of lemon juice and a spoonful of caramel sauce, or roughly crush raspberries with peach slices to make it Melba-style.

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# Troubles and treasures of the compost bin

***by John Noakes***

I GUESS 25% of our compost derives from our household vegetable waste. We like to pride ourselves on our contribution to a better environment. Each time I empty the bucket from under the sink I feel virtuous.
However I become less virtuous and less pleased when a bin is full and needs emptying. Work is involved! Even prior to this stage of work we are told that the compost should be regularly turned over. This advice is often given by smart TV gardeners who I strongly feel have never been near a compost bin. It's mucky work. I have two bins which I constructed but both of them are beginning to disintegrate, eventually to self compost themselves or end up on the front room fire. Two new bins need to be produced. More work! Hopefully I can leave them one more year when I will be one year older but feebler.

The real work starts when both bins are full, which occurs once a year. One has been maturing with no further material additions for one year. The other has been added to on a regular basis during the same year. The matured bin now has to be emptied. It's wonderful to discover how all the materials have rotted down to a friable mix that can be spread around the garden as a soil improving mulch. It's an incredible combination of grass cuttings, weeds and vegetable waste. Added to this is a volume of confidential and sensitive information, bank statements etc. in the form of shredded documents. All this material generates a lot of heat. So did some of the shredded documents in their past life too. One disadvantage is that the heat is not sufficient to kill off all the seeds which later germinate prolifically in an unwelcome manner when the material is spread around.

Even more wonderful was to discover that long lost bread knife half way down the pile. It brings back memories of chopping off the roots and green leaves of leeks on a cold winter's day. Suddenly I spot a gleaming piece of steel; it's a very special trowel which I treasured and thought lost forever. I had expensively replaced it. Can I now use two trowels at once?

Emptying the compost bin produced an unexpected problem. As the pile inside the bin reduced in size, I had to climb into the bin to dig it out. On getting near the bottom I found I could dig out the material into a wheel barrow but couldn't get out myself. I was stuck. How ignominious to be marooned in a compost heap at the end of one's garden! Would help arrive? Perhaps a cup of coffee may wend its way to me and my wife haul me out?

I resorted to idle day dreaming looking at small plastic labels with" Jaffa from Israel" on them which had survived a whole year without degrading. So had the Hoover bags which I though too should have rotted down. I tried to calculate how many tea bags had been deposited in the bin and then spread around the garden. On average we have about six cups of tea per day between us. This adds up to over two thousand tea bags over the course of the year! What affect would this have on the plants? Maybe there is a research project here in the waiting. We seem to be alright with this indulgence so why worry about the plants.

I was suddenly woken from this daydreaming as I spotted some movement at my feet; it was a family of voles. Even if I didn't like it here they did. They were warm and had a good supply of worms but now their home had been destroyed so I scooped them up and popped them over the edge for them to seek out new accommodation before the owls found them. Would anyone scoop me out? Have paramedics or the fire brigade ever been asked to extract a geriatric from a compost bin? If so another bin, the loony bin, might be the eventual destination!

I do have rather long legs but was never good at hurdling. I thought I just cannot be found like this, it would be just too humiliating; it could be all over the Village News so with one supreme heave I managed to get one leg over the edge of the bin. A second heave precipitated me out of the bin straight into the semi full wheel barrow. I found myself lying on my back on good well rotted compost. I laid there for some time staring up at the sky. This was just as humiliating as being locked up in a compost bin. It was as though I had decided to have a crazy mid morning nap. Composting must be for idiots! Just then a red kite flew whistling above me with chestnut wings and forked tail. Perhaps he had spotted the voles; clearly I was not yet dead and no interest to him and he wheeled away.

Fortunately the wheelbarrow proved easier to eject myself from than the bin itself so I rolled myself out deciding that I should put an end to this ludicrous activity. I distributed the remains of the bin, cleaned up the lost and found bread knife and trowel. Finally I put the lid back on the bin and the lid back on my silly and embarrassing morning adventure.

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# News from Dublin of Miss Saunders

GILL ALLEN reports a recent telephone conversation with Sister Kathleen in Dublin on the occasion of her 95th birthday. Before taking orders and moving to Ireland, Sister Kathleen was better known in these villages as 'Miss Saunders'. She was for many years a teacher at Long Marston School, and Gill says that some residents will remember her. Miss Saunders is fit and well and living in a retirement home in Dublin. The phone conversation recalled a Coronation related story.

During the war, the gold and glass Coronation Coach was moved out of London for safe keeping, and taken to the grand house at Mentmore for storage. Miss Saunders knew someone on the staff at Mentmore and was able to go and see it, and sat in it too! Later she was able to arrange for children from the school to go and view the coach - but they did not get inside.

Miss Saunders lived in Cheddington, and after the war travelled to school each day on a rather racy Lambretta motor scooter, which must have impressed the children.

*Thanks for reporting that conversation Gill. If other readers have recollections of Miss Saunders, do let the editor know.*

**Spotters' Corner: No. 472**

# The (LT) Green Line bus

**This splendid 317 was spotted at a previous Marsworth Steam Rally; this year it's on 17th June.** (Picture: Phil Buchi.)

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# A brush with the past

*by Andy Ashwell*

FLORENCE has had a bit of a sniffle recently but that's not unexpected in a primary school environment. In fact, since she left the nursery in Tring and started 'big school' here in Long Marston we've all been significantly healthier. Back then it wasn't just the bugs from her nursery that were a problem, it was the mixture of all the horrible bugs that I brought home from the secondary school in which I was teaching combined with all the virulent bugs from the hospital in which Anna was working. But now that we have both moved away from our less infectious work environments, the blame for any illnesses that we now all get can be plonked squarely onto the little, narrow shoulders of poor old Florence.

When I was at school I don't remember there being much illness and looking back I think that the main reason for our apparent good health was down to the sterling work of Nursey, our school nurse. I'm not sure quite what nursing qualifications she had – she looked old enough to pre-date anything formal – but she always dressed like a nurse in a white pinafore, blue blouse and starched hat.

**Nursey and her brush**

Now, it wasn't that Nursey was actually good at nursing – anything but – more the fact that she had her own special remedies for treating all the most common ailments. She had Benylin® for respiratory problems, Disprin® for aches and pains and a whack on the back of the legs with a large, wooden hairbrush for anything else. If after a few days of Benylin®, Disprin® and brush (BDB®) you weren't getting any better, she might try tweaking your ear or giving you a slap on the back of the head. If that didn't work then she would grudgingly put you into sickbay – a tiny, windowless room (probably an old cupboard) with a single bed in it – where you would be starved of food for a week and given only dilute orange squash to drink. Finally, if you still refused to get better, she would very reluctantly call for the doctor.

Once when the whole school went down with a really nasty tummy bug and no amount of BDB® could cure it; a sour-faced Nursey eventually called in the doctor. He decided that every toilet and washroom in the school should have a bowl of disinfectant put in it as a way of trying to stop the bug from spreading. There was a flaw in the doctor's plan – quite a large and serious flaw, in fact. Unfortunately the bowls full of disinfectant looked exactly like bowls full of wee and in a school full of little boys, it was only a matter of time before one (or more) of them decided that diluting the disinfectant with their own fluids would be a terrific wheeze. Of course, word soon spread about the jolly jape and as nobody knew which bowl, or bowls, had been affected everybody stopped washing their hands.

So, as the tummy bug failed to respond to the doctor's measures, Nursey gradually reintroduced her trusty BDB® regime and eventually, more by luck than judgement, we all got better. And when, a few years later, another tummy bug swept through the school there was not even the slightest whiff of a bowl of disinfectant anywhere – and especially not near the toilets.

I imagine that Nursey was probably not as bad as I remember and that she did have a softer side – although I'm not quite sure that giving me a 'friendly' whack across the head as I climbed into the ambulance with a broken arm was a good way of showing it. Anyway, I survived to tell the tale and perhaps if there were more Nurseys around there wouldn't be so many hypochondriacs in the world and 'man-flu' would be a thing of the past. There would be no more long waiting-lists for people trying to get into hospital; instead there would probably be even longer queues of people, with hairbrush-bruises, waiting to get in to see a solicitor.

## Sudoku solution No. 67

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

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# The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

## *St. Mary's Church, Puttenham*

## Open Church Sunday, 24th June

Along with many other churches all over the diocese, St.Mary's Church will be open for visitors from 10 a.m. Material will be on hand for you to read and/or take away, describing the history of this small but beautiful church. As is usual on the fourth Sunday, sung Evensong will commence at 3.30pm followed by a Sunday afternoon tea in the church. If you haven't visited us in the morning and are unable to make the service, then why not drop in for a cup of tea, sandwiches and cakes at around 4.30 p.m. You will be most welcome.

## Freak gust of wind sends gazebo's flying!

YES, it was at the Jumble Sale. A very wet and windy day and not the most inviting for anyone planning on an afternoon out. We are just coming to the end of our lunch break before the start of the sale when a freak gust of wind ripped the gazebos away from their ground pegs and, as we had them cable-tied together, they took off in pairs .One set landing upside down on top of the big marquee and the other with its legs in the air on top of the larger grave stones. The surrounding area was cleared of people starting to queue for the sale and we battled against the wind-filled "tents". However, right on time, the doors opened for the sale and the crowds poured in. Everyone crammed together in the Cecilia Hall and the Marquee, with a few brave buyers and sellers out in the rain with the goods we were unable to accommodate under cover.

Despite all this, the sale raised £910.00 for The Friends of Puttenham Church. A very big "Thank You" to everyone who helped with the sale in any way. It wouldn't have happened without you.

The left-over items went to aid the Long Marston Playgroup, the Orphanages in Burma, and another jumble sale being held elsewhere in aid of children with a cleft pallet. Nothing went to waste.

## Still raining for May Day!!

YET again, despite the poor weather, the usual crowd arrived for the singing-in of May-Day. Not from the church tower, as planned, but with the marquee still up from the Jumble sale, May-Day was well and truly welcomed in, in the dry. Everyone then came into Cecilia Hall for sausage and bacon rolls and kedgeree.

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# From the Vicarage

by Rev'd Jo Wetherall

## Jubilee!

WE are all gearing up to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the coronation of Elizabeth, our Queen. Until the abdication of her uncle (Edward VIII) Elizabeth was not destined to be Queen but, like many who find themselves in a position of leadership and trust they don't seek or expect, she has served the nation for 60 years with dedication and sense of duty. I don't particularly consider myself a Royalist, but I can honour and respect that achievement.

Even a short reflection on British history will remind us of the enormous changes in culture and society since the last time that we celebrated a Diamond Jubilee. Could there be a greater contrast between Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897 and this year's commemorations in June? Then, the Empire celebrated a glorious past and a future on which "the sun would never set". No one could have really foreseen the horrors which lay around the corner leading into the 20th century, and the effect they would have on all our historic institutions including the monarchy.

I best remember the celebrations for the silver Jubilee in 1977 - I was 15. Like villages all over the country we all dressed in red white and blue and had a really good-knees up. I probably remember it mostly because I had my first pair of Levis and my parents actually allowed me to go inside the pub! Thirty five years ago, the future of our monarchy was not seriously a matter for public debate. Now many of us are less certain we don't really see ourselves as subjects but as citizens. I may remember the silver jubilee for typically teenage reasons but I am aware too that there was a strong sense of togetherness, a unity within the nation that is rare during peace time, I wonder if the erosion of many of our national institutions also leads to a fragmentation of community, that we loose our sense of responsibility for each other.

In the Hebrew Bible, 'jubilee' celebrates cancelled debt and freedom for slaves. It promises a world that is more just, more equal and more free. Institutions have the power to corrupt and destroy, but at their best they can shape the future for good, something so badly needed in today's fragile world. If we are unsure about having a hereditary monarch as our head of state and want to replace them with an elected person, then as a nation, we would first need to shed our obsession with celebrity. We would also have to ensure that our political and education systems create a different culture from the current ego driven one, a culture through which people can understand dedication and duty and the degree of selflessness necessary for the breadth and depth of service required from a Head of State.

This is how Christ's curious work is achieved in the world. Jesus comes among us not to be famous but to serve. He gives his life for us, not only talking about a greater love but actually living it. And whoever we are he speaks these words to us and asks us to make them real in our own time and place: *'Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, for I am among you as one who serves'* . (John 1,1-14.)

## News from All Saints

WHAT a delight it was to walk into All Saints for the 10am service today. The aroma of polish, swept floors, Hoovered carpet and very clean kitchen – the Brownies had visited! Thank you girls, yes, it was dirty and you had to work extra hard this time, but we are so grateful to you all.

**Fund raising** efforts are continuing. The May Fair at Aldbury was really quite successful in spite of the weather; thanks to all those who donated goods and helped on the day.

**Steam Rally, Marsworth, Sunday 17th June.** We do hope for a nice day and your support would be welcome in the Refreshment tent. I am again asking for cakes and also for volunteers to help throughout the day – we start making tea about 10am and finish around 5pm (depending on demand). It's always a very friendly event so do come along.

**Social afternoon, 26th June 2 – 3pm.** Do join us.

*Carole Harrison 01296 668526*

## Easter bunny at St. Cross

**Picture taken by Graham Thorpe at this year's Easter egg hunt in the churchyard. Looks like the rabbit got the egg.**

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*Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.*

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***Your editor for July/August is Colin Moore.***

**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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# People: *VNX* editor Harriet Rogers

***Interviewed by Phil Buchi***

WHEN Harriet Rogers decided to go for the Bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme she had to choose an activity in each of four sections: physical, skills, volunteering and expedition. The easiest to choose, she says, was in the physical section. She is a keen dance enthusiast, so choosing objectives in ballet, tap, modern and jazz dance did not take too long to decide. But for the skills section you have to learn something new - so Harriet asked if she could join the *Village News* team and learn how we put together a community magazine. She was a regular reader of the magazine, and was interested in the world of media and publishing, so this seemed a good fit all round.

**Editor Harriet at work on *VNX*.** (Picture: Village News.)

After chatting with me about how to best achieve the objectives required by the DoE Award, Harriet agreed to produce and edit a special 4-page supplement aimed at younger readers. She completed our training programme - and *VNX* is the result. Involvement for a minimum of three months will meet the DoE standards, but Harriet has now edited and produced five editions over a six month period. Editor Colin Moore said: "We are delighted to have Harriet's contribution to the team, and have been impressed with the content and presentation of *VNX*. It is great that she has encouraged contributions from younger readers too - something we are keen to continue."

Harriet told me that the editor's job is bigger than she first thought, and that it is hard work getting articles and stories to publish. Working to a fixed deadline is a bit hair-raising, but it is great to see the finished magazine. "The best thing is recognition on the street, when people tell me they enjoyed reading it," she added. To qualify in the volunteering section she is working at weekends at the Wilstone village shop serving customers. She may have served you. This is a good place for an editor to be as the village shop is a big communications centre where you meet a lot of readers. The expedition is being planned for June. Harriet thinks it is all worthwhile. "It's not just about the award," she said, "It's about learning new things and meeting new people. A lot of time, but worth the effort."

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is open to young people aged 14 to 24 and aims to provide "...a balanced programme of activities to develop the whole person." It was founded in 1956 by HRH Prince Philip, who is still patron today. Having gained the Bronze Award, progression is through Silver to the Gold Award. The organisation's website is: **www.dofe.org**

*(The next VNX will be published in September.)*

# VILLAGE VIEW

**BY JOHN PAINTER**

## Village View quiz

**AN unusual shot from John this month, and he wonders if readers will spot where it was taken. Where will a stroll along Footpath 22 take you? And where is Footpath 21, which is *not* represented on this sign?**

***Answers on a postcard please, or by email to:***
**editorwlmp@yahoo.com.**

# Village shop to become a community co-operative

## More volunteers needed

**What a cheery group of shop volunteers! More like them will be needed.**

THIRTY FOUR villagers attended a meeting at Wilstone village hall in May to discuss how to keep the village shop going in the future. Present proprietors Liz and Ron Faulkner have run the Wilstone shop since October 2009 with the help of a rota of volunteers. But having now seen the enterprise onto a steady footing Liz and Ron have said that they want to ease back from the front line, and would like the community to take over the shop in 2013. Encouraged by the success of the volunteering arrangement, shop volunteer Diana Crapnell organised the meeting to plan a way forward.

The meeting agreed that the form of constitution that best suited the situation was a community co-operative. This is defined as: "An autonomous association who co-operate for their mutual benefit, and managed by the people who use the service." So a community co-operative will be set up with a view to taking over from Liz and Ron. This will need some capital and more volunteers to make it work. An organisation called the Plunkett Foundation offers advice and support to community shops, and apparently there are over 250 trading at present.

Neil Williams put forward a possible financial model for the shop as a co-operative. All staff would need to be volunteers and there was no opportunity to pay wages. But experience already gained in the last two years showed it could be made to work that way. The aim would be to break even. Capital would need to be raised: initially £5,000 to reimburse Liz and Ron plus further working capital. Suggestions for raising the money included: donations, sponsorship, raffles, Lottery funding and government grants. Nine people put themselves forward to form a committee. To ensure success, it was said, the community shop needs customers and volunteers from all the villages, not just from Wilstone. So everyone is welcome to join in and volunteer their time and skills to help launch the co-operative. Diana Crapnell would be pleased to hear from any villagers who would like to help, in any capacity. Just leave your name and number at the shop.

## 'Save our Shop' 100 Club launched

***by Graham Thorpe***

AS part of the fund raising process we have gained a licence to run a '100 Club' prize draw. The basis of this is that a number of people (for example 100) by standing order pay £5 per month into a prize draw fund. Each month a draw takes place with 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize cash payouts of 20%, 10% and 5% of the amount collected, with the remaining 65% retained by the Save Wilstone Shop fund. So, if there were 100 in the prize draw club 1st prize would be £100! If we can get this prize draw up and running it would be a fantastic contribution towards the fund raising effort, and all the participants would no doubt eagerly await the draw result each month to see if their luck is in! We have the licence now, so if you would like to take part entry forms are available at the shop, and on the new website:

**www.wilstonevillageshop.org.uk**

or call Graham Thorpe on 01442 822923.

## Butterbur

***by Martin Winship***

THIS is Butterbur, which I spotted growing locally, by the stream which flows along the edge of Devril's Pegsmore. It's a very unusual looking plant and is a member of the daisy family. Apart from its rather strange appearance it is unusual in that it flowers before the leaves develop. The leaves are huge, growing up to *three feet* across! Apparently, they were used in the past to wrap butter, hence the common name. The botanical name is *Petasites hybridus.*