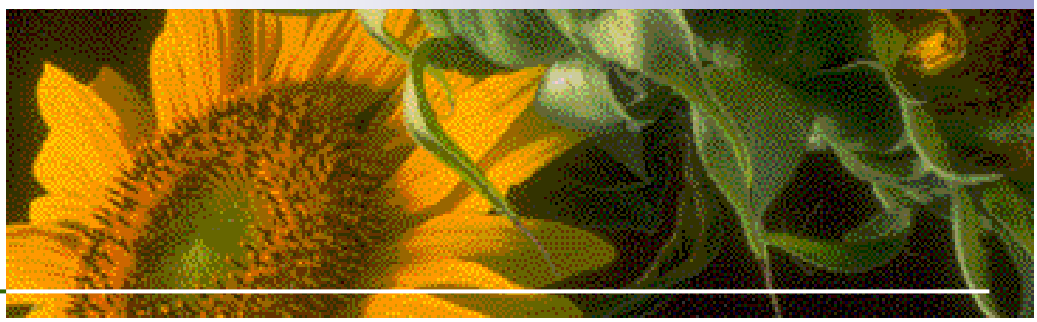
Village News: Wilstone, Long Marston, Puttenham, Astrope



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

Success snatched from the jaws of defeat

by Jill and Peter Walker

IT was a pretty full programme of events for Wilstone - the Jubilee Rat Pack evening on June 2nd, the Jubilee celebrations on June 3rd and the Village fete, all against a background of forecasted storms instead of the hoped for dry and sunny June weather.

The Rat Pack went ahead without a hitch. Playing to a delighted and packed village hall, they got the Jubilee celebrations off to a brilliant start with their impersonations of Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jnr.

The Rat Pack appear at Wilstone.

The next day saw torrential rains and a bitterly cold wind, but that did nothing to deter the 220 villagers who provided loads of food to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee lunch. Inside the hall, Royal watchers were able to see the pageant projected on to a large screen, and those brave enough to sit outside were able to enjoy a bountiful lunch, followed by teas and an excess of delicious cakes.

….. continued on page 16/17/32

Surprise guest at Wilstone street party

TO celebrate the Jubilee Chapel End Lane had a fantastic street party. On Monday the road was officially closed and all helped to put up the bunting and provide food and drinks . There was slight consternation when one guest arrived and was mistaken for a more Royal personage! All the children (around 60) were given a red, white or blue balloon and they were released into the sky together. The children had their hair sprayed and tattoos put on them and ate lots of cake. And the adults had a great time too.

Is it really you Ma'am?

Champagne all round

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Champneys Tring presents an evening with Style Heaven

Wednesday 11th July 2012 from 6pm – 8.30pm

Fed up with your clothes, but money is tight? Need some magic Gok Wan style?

Learn how to recession-proof your wardrobe, see how to create four looks from one dress plus styling demos & how to do it yourself. Come on girls, bring a friend & get fabulous style!

The evening includes:
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Village News

Editor this month: Colin Moore

Advertising Manager
Graham Thorpe: 01442 822923
Email: villagenewsadvertising@googlemail.com

Editorial Team
Phil Buchi, Colin Davenport, Fran Flowerdew, John McCall, Colin Moore, Harriet Rogers, Mark Woodbridge.

Email: **editorwlmp@yahoo.com**
Post: 3 Ravens Court, Long Marston, HP23 4AN.
Phone: Phil Buchi: 01296 661339

Distribution Manager & Secretary
Carole Harrison 01296 668526
Finance Manager & Treasurer
John Harrison 01296 668526

This has been a busy few weeks with all the village events and celebrations. This months or should I say two months *Village News* is equally busy with all 32 pages crammed with news, reports, articles and photographs. We aim to keep you up to date with what's been going on and what is about to happen.

We have some new contributors this time. If you feel you could add something to next month's edition please have a go. We don't mind if its written on the back of an envelope along as it news or interesting.

I had hoped that by the time I was writing these few lines we would basking in glorious sunshine but it is not to be, at least not yet. But the gardeners among us can not complain about the lack of rain only about the weeds which seem to have taken on gigantic proportions this year.

Wilstone certainly had luck on their side with weather for their fete day and I hope Long Marston have the same luck both for their show and the County cricket games.

Deadline for items for our next issue (September) is Thursday 23 August.

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.

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

1 July	
10.00am	Team Service at St Peter & St Paul Tring Holy Communion
6.00pm	St Cross Evening Prayer
2 July	**(Monday)**
2.00pm	All Saints Toddler Worship
8 July	
8.15am	St Mary's Holy Communion
10.00am	All Saints Holy Communion
6.00pm	All Saints Evening Prayer
15 July	
10.00am	All Saints Morning Prayer
10.00am	St Cross Holy Communion
16 July	**(Monday)**
2.00pm	All Saints Toddler Worship
22 July	
10.00am	All Saints Holy Communion and Sunday Club
3.30pm	St Mary's Evensong
29 July	
10.00am	Team Service at St Peter & St Paul Tring
5 August	
10.00am	All Saints Morning Prayer
6.00pm	St Cross Evening Prayer
12 August	
8.15am	St Mary's Holy Communion
10.00am	All Saints Holy Communion
6.00pm	All Saints Evening Prayer
19 August	
10.00am	All Saints Morning Prayer
10.00am	St Cross Holy Communion
26 August	
10.00am	All Saints Holy Communion
3.30pm	St Mary's Evensong

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...

FUN DAY

AND CREAM TEAS

SUNDAY

15TH JULY

WILSTONE CHURCH GARDEN

2PM – 4PM

BRING YOUR DOG AND ENTER THE FREE DOG RAFFLE

GENERAL RAFFLE SIDESHOWS

CAKE STALL BRIC A BRAC

AND MORE!

Follow Long Marston Cricket Club on www.pitchero.com/clubs/longmarstoncricketclub/

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.

Wilstone village shop opening hours are:
Monday to Saturday: 7.30am to 1.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am to 12.00noon.

Times for mobile library Route 72

Thursdays, fortnightly: 12th, 26th July; 9th, 23rd Aug.

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 18 July Puttenham Cecilia Hall.
Wednesday 15 August Wilstone village hall.

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.
WI 7.30pm Long Marston Village Hall visitors welcome
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.
Saturday 4 August
The Long Marston Show.
'Classical Music through the Ages' Aldbury Church 7.30pm
Sunday 12 August
St.Mary's Patronal Festival.
Saturday 18 August
Hog Roast LM Cricket Club 7.30pm Tickets See Page 6
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.
Tuesday 11 September
WI 7.30pm Long Marston Village Hall Visitors welcome
Fabrics, Fashion and Furniture through the ages.
Friday 28 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.
Friday 19 October Film Night Wilstone village hall
Friday 30 November
Tring's Christmas Festival. High Street from 6.30pm.

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

Classical Music at Aldbury

Sara Whichelow presents **'Classical Music through the Ages'** -a selection of songs, opera arias, and ensembles from Bach to Bellini, Mozart to Mahler, Puccini to Poulenc and many more at Aldbury Parish Church on Saturday 4 August 2012 7.30pm.
Sara Whichelow *Soprano appears with* Rachel Harvey *Piano* Rory Carver *Baritone* Charlotte Ireland *Mezzo Soprano* and Zöe Freedman *Soprano*.
Tickets £12 (£10 conc.) (12 years and under FREE) can be purchased at the village shop in Aldbury from 1 July 2012, or by emailing **s.whichelow@yahoo.co.uk**

Sara Whichelow

Proceeds will go towards fundraising for my Postgraduate course in Vocal Studies at the Royal Northern College of Music. A percentage of funds raised will also go to the upkeep of the churchyard in Aldbury.

For more information about Sara, her career and how to sponsor or donate, please visit www.sarawhichelow.com.

Wilstone Film Nights

Look forward to a great season of film night films. Here are the dates for the forthcoming season, for your diary:

Friday October 19th
Friday November 16th
Friday December 14th
Friday January 18th
Friday February 22nd
Friday March 22nd

Our first film will be the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.
Tickets will go on sale in September

Bar opens at 7.15pm
Films start at 8pm

Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

Raising funds for your church

Saturday 8 September 2012
10 am to 6 pm

- Have fun Cycling or Walking
- Help save your local heritage
- Raise funds for your church or chapel
- Over 600 churches and chapels to visit!

Raise money for the repair of your local church or chapel by getting sponsorship for cycling or walking between churches in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Anyone can take part and there is a choice of over 600 churches and chapels for you to visit, most of which will be open.

For More Information Please Contact:

Long Marston	Carole Harrison	01296 668526
Puttenham	Christine Rutter	01296 668337
Wilstone	Mary Minter	01442 823605

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust
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LONG MARSTON CRICKET CLUB

HOG ROAST DINNER

Saturday 18th August 2012
7:30pm - onwards

Games: Rounder's, Welly Wanging & other activities.

Adult ticket: £7.50

Childs ticket: £5.00 (Under 15's)

Family Ticket (2 adults, 2 under 15's): **£20.00**

Welcome to members & non-members

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Please email Tracy at beez.ht@tesco.net

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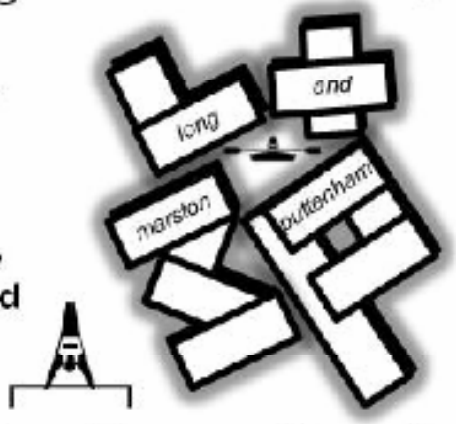
Long Marston & Puttenham Horticultural Show

Summer of Sport

Saturday 4th August 2012

Join the Marching Band from The Queen's Head 1.45pm

The Bugles & Drums of the Stedfast Association will be marching from The Queen's Head to the Recreation Ground at 1.45pm



Bar, Refreshments & Barbecue

Band
"Friends of the Blues"

Long Marston Recreation Ground 2.00pm

Displays and Sideshows

Raffle
Pound in the Bucket
Bric-a-brac
Books and Plants
Tombola
Tug "O" War

Bouncy Castle – Cakes
Children's Clothes
Crafts

Greetings Cards
Children's Games
Skittles
Coconut Shy
Spinning Jenny
Jewellery

Horticultural Exhibition

Exhibition of Produce, Art & Photography in the Victory Hall

News in Brief ……

Free first aid training

WOULD you know what to do if someone collapsed in your community?

The British Red Cross is offering free first aid learning to rural communities in Hertfordshire ensuring everyone can respond to a crisis. By learning some simple first aid techniques you too could save a life. To find out about sessions in your area or to organise one for your club or group, please contact:
Rosemary Estherby,REstherby@redcross.org.uk, 01992 585954 or
Helen Kibbler, HKibbler@redcross.org.uk, 01992 585959

New Mill Allotments

THE allotments, adjacent to the New Mill Social Centre, will **not** be closing when the Centre closes. .In future, the rents for the allotments will be payable to the Tring Team PCC but we shall be in contact with the allotments holders to provide them with the details.

.

News from the WI

INSTEAD of holding our usual meeting, this month the Long Marston and Puttenham WI (along with a few husbands and some friends) visited Waterperry Gardens near Oxford. We were able to look round the house and church, stroll around the grounds, shop and some of us even managed tea during our afternoon there. It is a beautiful setting, the grounds and nurseries are inspirational. We came home with plants bought from the nursery that we had seen growing in borders or flower beds, knowing exactly what they would look like when established in our own gardens.

On a very warm day this week our walking group visited Ragpits Nature Reserve, Aston Clinton to look at the wild orchids growing there. We managed to spot three varieties, although I am told there are more. We then walked up through Wendover Woods to the cafe for a very welcome drink. The walk back to our cars, parked by the canal, past the mountain bikers and the golf course was much easier than the ascent. It was a lovely day for a walk, it didn't rain, in fact it was a perfect summers day.

The next meeting of the WI will be on Tuesday 10 July, 7.30pm in Long Marston Village Hall.

News from All Saints

OUR fund raising has had its ups and downs in June. The organisers of the Jubilee Street Party in Chapel Lane kindly *rattled* a donation tin at the event and we were the recipients *of £57.48*. A lovely gesture and thank you to Mel and friends.

A waterlogged field meant that the Marsworth Steam Rally had to be cancelled – we were very disappointed but bogged down traction engines would not have been much fun.
Our next fund raiser will be our usual Cake Stall at the Horticultural Show on 4th August. Donations to Carole before the event or to the stall on the afternoon please.

Social afternoons 24th July and 28th August, 2 – 3pm. Everyone is welcome.

Sponsored Bike 'n' Hike Saturday 8 September 10am – 6pm for the Historic Churches Trust. See Advert on page 6 for full details.

.....continued

SWS '100' Club winners

WINNING numbers in the June draw which took place 12 noon Saturday 16th June.are:-

1st Prize £72 number 64
2nd Prize £36 number 6
3rd Prize £18 number 8

After prizes, the Save Wilstone Shop Fund received £234, a big big thank you to all of our registered players for your kind support towards saving the shop.

We had 72 registered numbers in the June draw but we are trying to achieve 100 so PLEASE consider to take part if you are not already and ..if you are already playing please 'spread the word' if you can.

The next draw date is 21st July 2012

Support your Village shop **picture J Painter**

Would you like super fast Broadband?

IF your current broadband speed doesn't meet your needs you can do something about it today by visiting ***www.superfastforherts.org*** and backing your local county council's campaign to bring super fast broadband to Hertfordshire.

These days it's not uncommon for households to have more than one way of accessing the internet – be it through a computer, tablet, smartphone or games console. With *super* fast broadband, multiple devices can be online at any one time and still enjoy high speed connectivity. Registering your demand for super fast broadband will only take a couple of minutes and won't cost a penny. You're simply helping Hertfordshire County Council demonstrate to broadband providers that there is a demand for super fast connectivity here in Hertfordshire. If you are unable to register online please call 0300 123 4040. Register by 1 September 2012 and you will be entered into a free prize draw for a chance to win an *iPad* kindly donated by Serco.

More information, including answers to frequently asked questions, is available on ***www.superfastforherts.org***.

Hertfordshire County Council has also secured government funding to improve access in areas which currently have no broadband access or suffer very slow speeds.

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

The Half Moon

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From our reporter at the Parish Council meeting by Phil Buchi

'Neighbourhood Plans' will need a referendum

THE Parish Council is to consult with villagers to draw up a series of 'Neighbourhood Plans' which would set out planning guidelines for the communities within the Tring Rural Parish. These Neighbourhood Plans are new, a consequence of the Localism Act, and can become a part of the formal planning process. The community has to draw up each plan - which could, for example, cover one village - in partnership with the Planning Department at Dacorum Brorough Council. Involvement of villagers is the key, and once the plans are finished they are put to a local referendum. Cllr. Abby Fermont, who proposed the action, said that this was an opportunity for residents to say what they do want in their village and to take the initiative rather than just react to events. She said it was particularly relevant at the moment because of the numerous development proposals in and around the parish, from Dixon's Wharf to the Arla dairy. The local referendum is a new feature of local democracy, and gives the approved plans more status in the official process. The Parish Council agreed to initiate the process with Dacorum BC, and now need villagers to come forward to help. More than one plan can be drawn up at a time, and it depends on local involvement. The Council thought that Wilstone and Long Marston would be good places to begin, but residents may have other ideas. Everyone interested in helping should contact Cllr. Abby Fermont, 01442 825352. *(There will be more on this subject in future editions of Village News. Ed.)*

Further developments

Hastoe Housing Association representatives will be attending the Parish Council meeting on 18th July *(8pm, Puttenham Cecilia Hall)* to present proposals for re-starting the affordable housing scheme in Wilstone. The development of affordable homes, on land owned by Dacorum BC in the centre of Wilstone, was abandoned by the previous developer (who said it was too wet). A petition against the development was handed in.

The terms of the 'S106' funding contribution provided by the developers of the Dean's Farm Eggs site at Gubblecote were no clearer, and the Parish Council had not been able to get any information from officials at Dacorum. Effectively, the Parish Council has been locked out of the process. Hardly a shining example of a transparent and democratic process, or in the spirit of the Localism Act. Will someone be called to

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account?
The developer at Dixon's Wharf, Cala Homes, has written offering inducements for the community - which were noted without comment.

British Waterways has agreed to join forces with Tring Rural Parish Council to get a weight restriction imposed on the historic Dixon's Gap canal bridge. The bridge was damaged again last month.

We can expect plans for the expansion of Luton Airport, Councillors who attended the recent briefing at Marsworth reported. The feeling is that expansion will go ahead - backed by the Government and Luton Borough Council - so it was suggested that the best tactic is to try and influence *how* it develops. TRPC will consider their response. Interestingly, these villages get the flying displays usually when the wind is in the east - which is about 30% of the time apparently. The things you find out at Council meetings!

Village shop co-operation

The newly formed community co-operative which aims to take on the Wilstone village shop has asked the Council to consider the possibility of re-locating to the village hall at some point in the future. Wilstone village hall committee have also asked the Council to consider this option. Representing the community co-operative, Diana Crapnell said that the shop expected to be able to continue in the present premises in the foreseeable future, but alternatives needed to be considered now given the long lead times involved. She said they wished to work closely with the Council and the village hall committee as things progressed.

Verges to be cut - again

The bad job made of the verge cutting by contractors working for Herts Highways was a good example of why the Parish Council is seeking to take over the task, Councillors agreed. The Parish Council would now pay for the job to be done again, using the contractor they selected, and that would be a good trial run for the new arrangements. The bill will be sent to County Hall.

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

You can view and comment on planning applications at
www.dacorum.gov.uk/planning
www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

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

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The Horti page

Sponsored by
The Long Marston and Puttenham Horticultural Society

THE Long Marston Village Show is upon us! The theme of this year's show is 'A Summer of Sport' which will be reflected in the hall and on the show field. You will soon have the show schedule posted through your door, detailing a large variety of differing classes that anyone can enter in the Village Hall. A lot of them are horticulturally-based as you would expect, like five onions, six radishes or maybe the obligatory odd-shaped vegetable! For budding florists, why not enter the single rose category or maybe, rather than outdoor flowers, you've grown a cactus in a pot! However, my recommendation would be to try one of the slightly more quirky classes at the end of your show schedule. I'm sure each household has a keen amateur chef and the show gives you the opportunity to show off your skills. How about having a go at baking this year's cake, a Victoria Sponge, or maybe a Quiche! There are classes for jams, cakes, and home-made wine. Finally, we move onto the arts and crafts section, full of classes catering for all styles and ability. We cover such items as knitting, photography, and painting. We even have a complete section for children at the end which is free to enter! With such a wide choice, why not pick one and have a go.

On the field, things continue a-pace. We have all the usual stands, like the book stall, coconut shy and skittles. As always the tent will house the bar and afternoon teas and we are also putting the Pimms stall inside with the ice creams. The pony rides are back as well as the ever popular plant stall. However, the stage area could well steal the show this year as not only will we have a live band, but the show will be opened by The Bugles & Drums of the Stedfast Association who will be marching up from the Queens Head and we also have a Jazzersize Exhibition with audience participation! So why not come down and have a go!

On a much more serious note, these events cannot take place without the generous help of those people who give up their time to run stalls and help with stewarding etc to make your day as enjoyable as possible. It's a mammoth task but one which the horti members thoroughly enjoy (allegedly). We do need to spread the load, though (our members seem to get older every year!) so if you have a little time available on the day and are willing to get involved as a helper – even if it's only for an hour or so, we'd love to have your support, helping to set up in the morning, or clear up at the end of the day. For example, at the end of the show we auction off all of the items left in the hall. Whilst this is going on you may have noticed the 2/3 men who are trying to clear up the field after the day's activities. They could really do with your help for an hour and the more people the merrier! Whether you are participating, watching or helping, please join in and help perpetuate this timeless village event. We look forward to seeing you there.

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And the show goes on

by Andy Ashwell

Florence as a little dragon

SINCE moving to Long Marston one of our annual summer jaunts has become the Wilstone Show and this year was no exception. Our first visit was when Florence was still in nappies and barely able to walk. The show had a medieval theme and visitors were invited to dress as knights, princesses or dragons. Florence was the only person dressed as a dragon and when it came to the judging we, like all parents, thought that our little princess – or dragon, in this case – should have won.

The following year had a cowboy theme and as I had been painting the windows during the morning and intended to continue after the show, I hadn't bothered to change out of my grubby jeans and paint-strewn, checked shirt. Anna said that she was embarrassed to be seen out with such a scruff until a builder friend of ours saved the day: he thought I'd come dressed as a 'cowboy' builder and said that it was 'very fitting' considering my innovative DIY techniques.

A couple of years later I reached the pinnacle of my local fame. As you may well, not even vaguely, remember, I was crowned 'Mr Wilstone 2010' by winning the knobbly-knees competition. If you were there or have ever had the misfortune of seeing my naked knees, then you will know exactly why I won. The trophy is now displayed proudly on the mantelpiece but, having said that, it doesn't seem to be there at the moment – probably been put away somewhere safe, I don't doubt.

This year we arrived too late to participate in the Olympic procession and as Florence's bike has a puncture, she couldn't have cycled anyway. However, the Wilstone Showgirls were preparing to start their first set when we eventually got there but 'unfortunately' my finely-honed, selective-hearing completely missed the call for the audience participation bit. After all, Mr Wilstone 2010 doesn't need any more sycophantic admirers than he's already got - two, including me, is quite enough.

After the dancing we sat and watched the dog show which is always quite amusing. During the interval we took a stroll around the rest of the arena and investigated the various stalls. One stall that caught my eye was the plant stall: it had some very healthy-looking tomato plants which were already in flower. My own tomato plants – and all my other veg too, actually – have been struggling against the variable weather to get going. As a 'proper' gardener friend puts it, "there are only two seasons in the year: too hot, too cold, too wet, too dry and too windy."

There is also the other minor fact that the chickens escaped from their pen for an afternoon when somebody (not either Mr Wilstone or his young fan) left the gate open. They seemed to find my veg patch the most appealing part of the whole garden, possibly because of the alluring sight of the bright blue slug pellets which, ironically, meant that their chances of finding any juicy slugs were down to almost nil.

Resisting the urge to admit defeat and buy one of their healthy specimens, we moved over to the other side of the field where Florence spotted the fluffy-toy-tombola stall. She wasn't happy when she didn't win a fluffy-toy, partly because she didn't fully appreciating the tombola methodology and partly because she is a six-year-old girl who loves fluffy-toys. I was relieved because she already has 107 fluffy-toys and any more would mean that I will have to put up a new shelf in her bedroom.

Towards the end of the afternoon as we were sitting in the hall enjoying a drink and some homemade cake, Phil Buchi, the MC, collared Florence to help him pick the winning raffle tickets and, strange as it may seem, there was no mention of her being the daughter of Mr Wilstone 2010.

Anyway, despite her best efforts she didn't pick us a winner but that didn't seem to bother her because, just prior to her going on stage to help, Phil had announced that the fluffy toy tombola stall was flogging off their fluffy toys at two for 50p. Unfortunately, Florence now has 109 fluffy-toys and I have a shelf to sort out.

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The agricultural story line… *by David Mead*

WELL I thought the BBC commentary of the Jubilee Thames procession was a disgrace. The people in the boats completed their task and were only 10 minutes overdue, putting up with cold wind and rain. The commentators have had two years to gather some facts – where have they been? The three opera singers singing with the rain streaming down their faces showed the spirit that was required, Rule Britannia.

Now the commentary on the Trooping of the Colour was a different kettle of fish. Huw Edwards bombarded us with facts, at one point describing the colour of the horses, various shades of dun, which should prepare him for the Olympics when Horse Guards Parade will be sanded over and full of delightful ladies all shades of dun!

No mistakes for the Wilstone festivities. I would like to thank and congratulate all who helped to put on the musical evening, the Jubilee celebrations and one week later the Village fete. Weren't we lucky with the weather?

Now I've put myself on the spot, I can't complain about the rain. It's time to cut some grass, rap and stack. This is ensure we have food for feeding the cattle in the winter, with the contract work there are a fair few acres, sorry hectares to do. There will be some barley to cut at the end of July with oilseed rape before or after. We've had the longest day; it's an age thing - years only last six months.

Simon and Chris must know something they reckon on a hard winter to come. There are stacks of corded wood every where, Minty the dog and I had better look out the chains for the van's wheels and for a few orders in the meantime.
I had a conversation with a very knowledgeable bird man and he agreed that there are too many predators in the animal world with no one allowed to control them. If we want a diverse population of birds and animals something must be done. A pair of coots has brought off a family of five on the pond. They have been successful because there are no pike and plenty of places to hide from herons and foxes. A man is appointed to control the number of deer in Ashridge. An expert could do some culling just to keep the balance and protect birds like skylarks and lapwings. Some years ago a survey was carried out on some lapwings that nested in a field near Buckland. Nests were marked and the eggs counted, carrion crows also new the site, flying up and down bombing each nest. When asked, the bird people said they couldn't interfere. We now rarely see a lapwing and the skylarks have disappeared.

John, from the Green and I are off to see some cricket at Lords. I really enjoy the day. I spoke to a member and he said the Archers will ruin the square when they have the Olympic Archery there. It is a lovely place to hold the event but fingers will have to be crossed.

As the Olympics approach one realises what a huge event it is, a lot of organising, let's hope basic things like enough trains, adequate parking and the allocations of tickets all work out.

I hope they can turn up the volume for the National Anthem!

Sudoku Corner

by Colin Moore

No 68 Moderate

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

You should be able to quickly complete the centre left square

Solution on page 25

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Long Marston Cricket Club

by Paul Dumpleton

MIXED fortunes for the club in league matches this season with many games affected by the weather in this really wet early summer. At the time of writing all of our three teams are around the midway mark in their respective divisions of the Cherwell League but the competition is tight and a couple of wins put them all back in the top two or three.

We progress well in the two cup competitions entered. On Friday 22 June we play in the Coronation Cup semi final against Wing at Ascot Park, Wing. Progress in that match will take us into the final on Friday 6 July against the winners of the Cublington v Eaton Bray semi final.

We are through to the fourth round of the Aylesbury cup following a close win at Bledlow on Monday 18 June. The draw for the next round is awaited.

The Herts over 60's game against Berkshire at Marlins has been re-scheduled to Tuesday 31 July, it having fallen foul of the weather on the original date.

The club looks forward to hosting the Minor Counties game against Suffolk on 8, 9 and 10 of July and also the two ECB 2nd XI trophy matches between the Uniciorns A side and Derbyshire and Warwickshire 2nd XI's on 26 and 27 July.

Fancy joining us for an evening of fun and hog roast at Marlins on Saturday 18 August?
See the 'What's on' section on page 6 for details.

Marsworth Pre School

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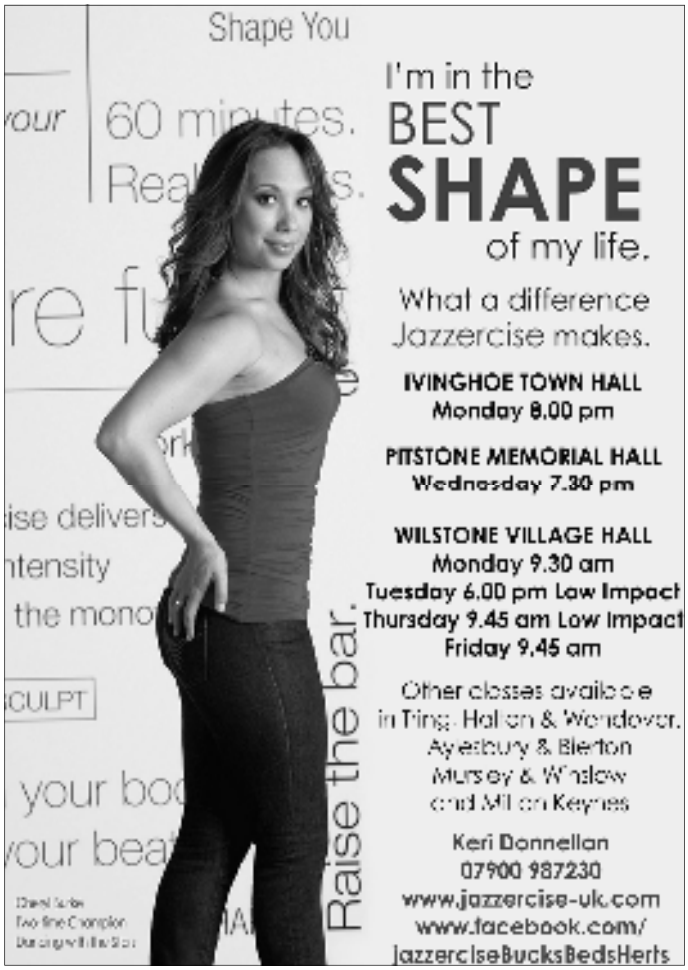

Wilstone events go ahead despite dire weather predictions

Ian and Rita McGowan devised a brilliant treasure hunt which forced some stalwart villagers into the rain, up and down Tring Road, looking for clues. Alice Beeney and Vicky Cogger, who got all the questions correct, won a commemorative mug each for their sharp-eyed skills. Oh, and Ian and Rita also created a jelly baby tasting competition, and yes, apparently they do taste different.

A fantastic cake was made and donated by Wilstone resident Julie Marshal; it was raffled and won by Steve Iley.

Several children were delighted to receive a complimentary commemorative Jubilee coin, engraved with the date and the Wilstone name. *If you are a resident of Wilstone and have children under the age of 13 who have not previously received a coin, we have a few remaining which we are pleased to offer free, whilst stocks last. We need your name, address & the name of your child or children), and we will get the coins to you. To claim email Neil Williams, treaurer@wilstonevillagehall.org.uk*

As you can see below, despite the rain, everyone turned out for the village photograph, precariously taken by John Painter who was left to wobble on a scaffold rig. Black and white or colour photographs are available at a cost of £7 each, which is a special offer from Jessops, but it will not last long. Framing at Picture Box in the High St in Tring will cost from £24. Call John Painter on 891876 to order your prints
A woodwind quintet from Long Marston, actually six of them, provided some classical renditions whilst tea was being served. finally retiring because their lips and fingers were frozen.

The final part of the programme was the dedication of a commemorative tree, a Sorbus Commixta, which was funded by the Parish Council. The weather then redoubled its ruinous efforts, by providing torrential rain during the dedication service, lead by the Revd. Joe Wetherall. The service, not the rain.

After the Jubilee, all the marquees were left standing and in anticipation of poor weather, the equipment had been weighted down and lashed together, On the Thursday night before the fete, violent winds lifted the marquees and other tents as if they were made of cardboard. They ended up in a mangled heap in the middle of the recreation ground. At 11pm that night, in a howling wind, Jo and Mark Woodbridge with Jill and Peter Walker, made them safe from further damage by weighing them down with straw bales. Considerable damage was done to the equipment. Thanks to young Charlie Woodbridge for raising the alarm, further damage was averted.

The weather forecast for the weekend was not looking any better. Serious consideration was given to cancelling the

event altogether, as so much repair work and reinstatement was required. Thanks in part to Rick Spratt who repaired the damaged steelwork the next day, we did at least have sufficient equipment to run the fete. And thank goodness we didn't cancel. Despite all the predictions, we awoke on Sunday morning to a beautiful day, and by lunchtime, the fete was busy with a huge turnout of villagers and visitors alike. This was a busy fete and the dog show had a record number of entries. In the procession, the showgirls, together with a very slim looking, and very much alive, Barry White, followed Queen Jane in her carriage pulled by donkeys Pogge and Pilchard, assisted by Jockey Steve Warner, (marked for life with a well placed horseshoe kick on his posterior). Queen Jane was additional assisted by two lifelong friends, Marjorie and Kerry.

The Wilstone Showgirls provided a stunning dancing routine and got the audience on their feet.

And there was plenty for kids, young, and older, with well employed, and very heavy, sumo wrestling outfits.

Special thanks are due to all those who played their part in organising or participating in the jubilee and fete events, which was particularly hard work this year to the weather conditions.

The fete resulted in a profit of around £3,500. A good return, especially given that we nearly cancelled the event altogether, which would have cost us several hundred pounds. However, it was evident that the effects of the recession were to be seen even in a village fete. Spend per head was clearly down on last year, so, given that and the weather, we have been really lucky to have had such a successful event, and the other activities, despite everything that was thrown at us, and on us. We hope we have provided some fun, enjoyment and a greater sense of community, which are the only reasons for doing it.

Wilstone Fete Dog Show results

by Jill Walker

WILSTONE Village Fete Committee would like this opportunity to thank Evelyn Chapman and her team from The Long Marston Dog Training School for running the Dog Show once again for us, making it a great fun event to watch and to take part in. We had over 50 dogs enter the various classes, our best year. Thank you all again.

Class 1 Junior Handler
1st Timmy Turner with jazz
2nd Amber Graham with Poppy
3rd Lottie Gordon with Boo
4th Daisy Fermont with Phoebe
5th Dylan Ireland with Pepper

Class 2 The Dog the Judge would most like to take home
1st Gay Granger with Larni
2nd Candice Clarke with Dotty
3rd Cliff with Taz
4th Ben Bayer with Tinker
5th Shirley Andrews with Honey

Class 3 Most Handsome Dog
1st Dash Macdonald with Alfie
2nd Doug Freckeston with Bruno
3rd Callie Covenant with Bay
4th June with Ben
5th Ben Lovis with Eddie
Highly Commended Helen Stevenson with Charlie

Class 4 Prettiest Bitch
1st Lottie Gordon with Boo
2nd Georgia Martin with Pippa
3rd Karina Patel with Bella
4th Carol Gurney with Charlie
5th Katie Johnson with Peppa
Highly Commended Lindsey with Jess

Class 5 Best Trick
1st Timmy Turner with Jazz
2nd Shirley Andrews with Honey
3rd Kya Moorcroft with Skyler
4th Carol Gurney with Charlie

Sausage Eating Race - Final
1st Amy McMunn with Rufus
2nd Matthew Brooks with Buster
3rd Doug Freckleton with Bruno
4th Candice Calrke with Dotty
5th Heidi Ward wit Jeep
6th Daisy Fermont with Phoebe
7th Kristina Moorcroft with Skyler

Mini Agilty
1st Carol Gurney with Charlie
2nd Amy with Lucy
3rd Erin with Lucy
4th Carol Gurney and Charlie
5th Helena with Phlomis

A thank you to our sponsors.

We are grateful to all the local companies, organisations and individuals who helped or donated prizes:- Altered Image Hair Salon, Coasters, Fancy That, House Of Cards, Jazzercise, Mazda, Mentmore Golf and Country Club, Prezzo, Rex Cinema, Royal Palaces, Totality Day Spa, Tring Shoe Repairs, The Half Moon, Wilstone Village Shop, Tracey Moreland, The Chapel Room, Wilstone village hall and special thanks to Meads Farm, Long Marston Dog Training, Phil Madley for the Fete logo and Brian Allen (Printique Ltd) for printing our programme free of charge. Thank you all.

Anyone for a picnic?

A picnic table from the recreation ground appeared in the middle of this field.

Is this a new manifestation of the crop circle phenomenon?

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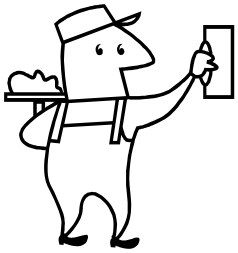

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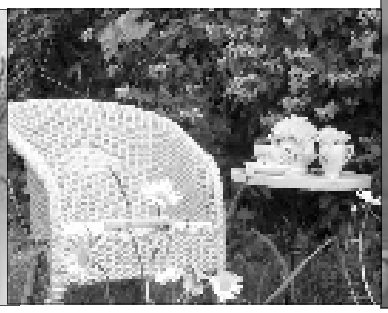
Florist arrives in Long Marston

NEW arrival to the village of Long Marston, *Portia Potts Floristry* , offers a bespoke floral design service Founded by Sarah Devereux, services include flowers for weddings, small or large scale events, corporate contracts, and sympathy tributes. With a varied career history spanning 20 years - 12 of those as a merchandiser in the fashion industry - Sarah completed her floristry course with the Tallulah Rose Flower School and quickly decided to abandon the daily trudge into London for even earlier mornings at the flower market selecting the best quality blooms and foliage. During the last few weeks Sarah has been making the most of the mature garden and home grown flowers, in this, her first summer here in Long Marston.

Some of Sarah's work was recently photographed at The Queensberry Hotel in Bath, where pink and red ranunculus were held in boxing gloves and burgundy cordyline leaves, chosen to match the colour of the furniture, were rolled into a rose shape - colour pictures can be seen on the website. As we all know, flowers can transform a work space or a home and whatever your requirements *Portia Potts Floristry* will endeavour to capture your individual message, creating floral designs that can make a large stunning impact, or simply form a subtle backdrop.



Sarah Devereux and examples of her art

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Recipe of the month

by Anna Ashwell

Pea and mint soup

NOW is the perfect time to cook with fresh peas. They are available in some supermarkets but why not pick your own.

Ingredients:

- 1 bunch spring onions, trimmed and roughly chopped
- 1 medium potato, peeled and diced
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 850ml vegetable or chicken stock
- 900g young peas in the pod (to give about 250g/9oz shelled peas)
- 4 tbsp chopped fresh mint
- large pinch caster sugar
- 1 tbsp fresh lemon or lime juice
- 150ml buttermilk or soured cream

Method:

- Put the spring onions into a large pan with the potato, garlic and stock. Bring to the boil, turn down the heat and simmer for 15 minutes or until the potato is very soft.
- Add the peas to the soup base and simmer for 5 minutes - no longer, or you will lose the lovely fresh flavour of the peas.
- Stir in the mint, sugar and lemon or lime juice, cool slightly then pour into a food processor or liquidiser and whizz until as smooth as you like.
- Stir in half the buttermilk or soured cream, taste and season with salt and pepper.
- To serve the soup cold, cool quickly, then chill - you may need to add more stock to the soup before serving as it will thicken as it cools.
- To serve hot, return the soup to the rinsed-out pan and reheat without boiling (to prevent the buttermilk or soured cream from curdling).
-

Serve the soup in bowls, garnished with the remaining buttermilk and a few fresh peas.

A thought after June.

By Lawless Ken

WITH the inclement weather conditions we experienced recently distributing an abnormal amount of rain it was inevitable that the arranged diviners meeting at the Table by the toilets in the Half Moon pub and fine eatery in Wilstone village had to be cancelled, commiserations to all those who turned up. Luckily enough there had been no need to get the sticks out and by a stroke of luck for all the allotment folk the hose pipe ban may be lifted soon.

Nevertheless and bucket down as it did in June the hazardous conditions haven't prevented our eldest statesman and committed villager attending court twice daily at the rear of the Half Moon - no way José. How many of us complain about having a task to do or moan when expected to take man's best friend walkie's or even grizzle when asked to pop to the village shop etc. when bad weather prevails in earnest. 'Tis a situation that rarely arises with you know who and possibly should be rewarded by say, some sort of commemorative medal in this Queen Elizabeth Jubilee year. It would in effect be worthy of services rendered on two sides of the equation and documented in village folklore as well as an addition after the festivities enjoyed on Annual Fete day or a convenient time later on. This is just a thought, however when the committee meet to discuss village news it may spark an idea. I'm not suggesting kowtowing as it's a long way to look up from the floor to Ben Nevis of Reeves yet by acknowledging his devotion to punctuality it would enhance his position in Wilstone village life. Mind you let's not forget the fact that he is somewhat blessed by having in his employment a female Jeeves accompanied by an on site Chef de Cuisine which no doubt helps in his endeavours to obtain a consistency in punctuality .

There are time pieces which we spend vast amounts of money on. With respect you can set your clock by him.
Like all villagers he was looking forward to enjoying the Annual Wilstone village Fete whilst reminding many to form an orderly queue whilst visiting Phil Madely at his open studio at 50 Tring Road. He even reminded me it was open 10am till 6pm but closed Mondays and Thursday's. What a Phenomenal character, maybe Magdaleana de Buchaise is his choreographer - who knows? Just a thought after June which was 'bursting out all oh oh ver'.

Allotment diary

by Jane Waterhouse

WELL the theme of the month on the plots has most definitely been thistles. To be precise, sow thistles, absolutely every inch of the plots have been covered in them. All *allotmenteers* have spent many hours of their month pulling, digging, spraying, kicking and jumping up and down on them trying to eliminate the things. Every time one lot is removed another seed seems to germinate and through they come again! If we can all make sure that they don't flower and go to seed we stand a chance of having less next year. I feel certain that if there was a prize for growing sow thistles we would have won!

At last though, when thistles are removed, there are crops to be seen – potatoes, lettuces, peas, broad beans are squeezing their way through the weeds to the few sunny days we are enjoying. As always there are some *allotmenteers* going the extra mile to assist in the maintenance of the site, Stan Smith is always there offering to do things for us all, he has spent his precious time strimming the paths ridding them of the thistles.

Our stall at the village Fete was very successful and we made about £350.00, again many people helped in the preparation, setting up and the running of the stall on the day and I think we all enjoyed all the hard work involved in making the day a success. Thanks to everyone involved.

In the last few days the well pump has been fitted, this was not without its drama though. The recent rain has meant the site and surrounding field has been waterlogged – leading someone to comment on the possibility of us growing rice as a crop! Weatherheads, the well engineers, arrived on the field in their truck to install the pump shortly after the very wet weather and found themselves in mud up to their axles when they attempted to leave the site. Fortunately Pat was on hand to suggest that the Meads might be able to tow them off with a tractor. The Meads were contacted and immediately came to the rescue and managed to tow them off. Further site visits from Weatherheads to complete the work found them parking in the lane and barrowing all equipment to the well. The well head has been raised with extra brickwork by a kind villager and we just need to engage the services of a local metal worker to have the job completed. We are very fortunate in having a village full of skilled workmen who are willing to assist with the jobs necessary to make the allotments function easily.
The perimeter stock proof fencing is the next job to be tackled making the site less likely to be stripped of produce by passing deer and rabbits. Sadly, it seems that even they don't want to eat the sow thistles!

Jane testing the new pump

Maybe July will bring the sun with it and we can enjoy some time on the plots watching vegetables growing rather than weeds.

Mike finishes off the well head while the foreman looks on

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Neighbourhood Plan

by Abby Fermont

TRING Rural Parish Council has decided to progress the idea of producing a **Neighbourhood Plan** for our Parish. This is a very new and exciting opportunity which came in with the Localism Act 2011. For the first time, local people will have a major statutory say in helping to shape development in the areas in which they live.

Neighbourhood plans

- focus on the needs of a local area and give residents the opportunity to improve and shape the place in which they live, work, shop and go to school.
- are led by local people, in conjunction with the Parish Council. They are a powerful tool for shaping the development and growth of a local area. They are not just re-stating the council's plan but setting out the community's views on the development and use of land in their neighbourhood.
- can be powerful documents that sit alongside the Council's planning policies and plans. To be adopted by Dacorum Borough Council as local policy, the completed plan must be agreed by local people and be in line with national and local planning guidance.

More detail will be given in the September magazine, but at this stage it would be helpful if anyone interested in being involved in this process could register their interest with Abby Fermont via *abby.fermont@tiscali.co.uk* or 01442-825352. I would like to stress that the more people involved from all parts of the Parish the better, as this is not something that the Parish Council could undertake without the involvement and enthusiasm of the local community.

Happy Birthday Dear Ms Lollipop

The school lollipop Lady, aka Ms Jeffery, celebrated a milestone-birthday on the 20th of June. Although she wouldn't divulge her true age to our reporter, our photographer took this snap of her before she realised that her lollipop had been doctored (perhaps this explains why people still persist in speeding through our village). Happy Birthday from us all at *Village News*.

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Growing up in the village shop Long Marston

by Gill Allen

MY parents, Di and Don Dean purchased the shop when they married in 1930, my mum ran it for 35 years and had four children, Audrey, Neil, Jim and myself. We were all born in the house and grew up there.

Mrs Di Dean and daughter Gill

The shop opened Monday to Saturday, with a half day closing on Wednesdays. My memories are many, my dad in the evenings boning the sides of bacon, ready for slicing on the machine. At first this was manual and you had to turn a large handle on the front but later on there was an electric one.. I can remember the strong smell of the large rounds of cheese when it was first taken out of the crate with the rind on and wrapped in muslin. My dad delivered grocery orders in his Austin Westminster and later in his Austin Princess, to Astrope, Puttenham and other households around the village on Friday evening, not unlike Tesco online deliveries today! All this after working all day in his own business, the egg packing station at Gubblecote, then known as Dean Brothers.

There was certainly not as much packaging in those days. Many items had to be weighed out, such as flour and biscuits, including broken biscuits which were just a few pence a pound. In the early days sugar and butter had to be weighed. All items were either wrapped in greaseproof paper or put into white or brown paper bags and in the case of sugar and flour into much stronger blue bags.

Sweets came in large jars and had to be weighed. Many sweets such as Cadburys chocolate buttons and Smarties were sold by the ounce and very easy to scoop some from the box under the counter a handful at a time and drop them into your palm.

Everything was sold, all general grocery items, knitting wool, buttons, paraffin and bread which was delivered by a Tring bakery. If she sold out of bread early on a Saturday my mum would send my dad to Tring to buy more so that village people had bread for the weekend.

Ice Cream, my uncle had a shop in London, just off the Edgware Road in Church Street, where they made their own ice cream, and he drove from London most Sundays with ice cream packed in dry ice. I am sure many villagers remember Taylors' ice cream. In the summer ice cream would be sold from a side window in the shop including Sundays. We were alerted that there were customers when they rang the hand bell placed in the open window.

At Christmas the room behind the shop that for the rest of the year was our dining room, would be cleared and set up with gifts and decorations, and then on Christmas Eve all had to be cleared so that the room was ready for us all to have our Christmas lunch.

Most evenings after closing time you could guarantee someone would be knocking atthe back door wanting something they had forgotten. They were never turned away. My mum worked very hard, although she had two shop assistants to help, but she also had four children to look after as well, but I think she loved every minute of it. In later years the shop was also a sub post office, and I remember my mum spending Saturday evenings balancing the books before sending off the information.
My parents sold the shop in the 1960s.. My brothers, sister and I still live in or on the outskirts of the village.

Signs of things to come!

Get that brolly up

READERS may have noticed the recent proliferation of new road signs around the area. These are not, as many people might think, anything to do with the recent road-works but are part of a new weather-alertness scheme being introduced by the Met Office in response to the recent spate of unforecastable weather.

"These signs warn people to take precautions during this variable weather," said a spokesman, "Although the signs are similar to those used to warn about road-works, this similarity makes them cheap and simple to produce: with just a few bits of black, insulation-tape and a road-works sign becomes a weather-warning sign."

The spokesman was also keen to point out that the same sign could be used to alert people to both rain (umbrella) and drought (parasol) conditions (see illustration).

Sudoku solution No 68

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

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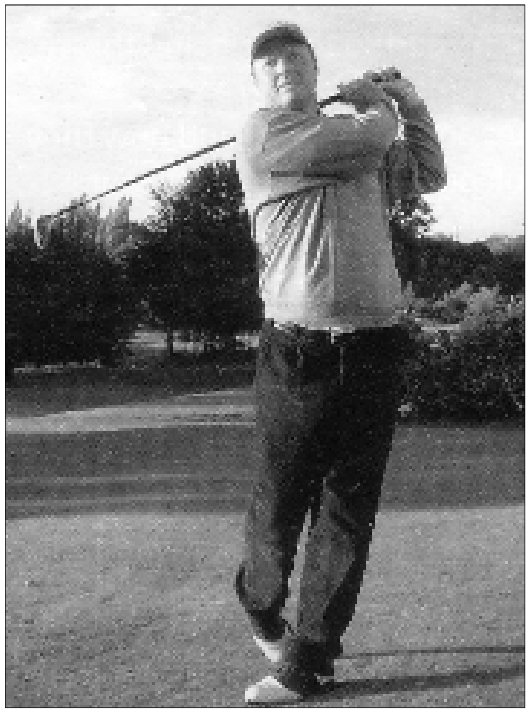
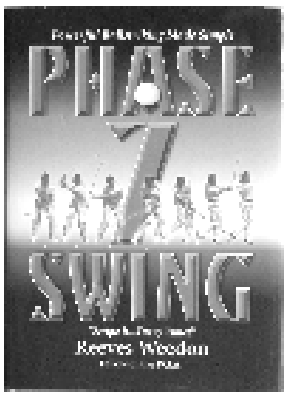
Local Man writes Golf book



Reeves Weedon at Hartsbourne

WILSTONE born Reeves Weedon, head professional at Hartsbourne Country Club has written *'Phase Seven Swing* - powerful ball striking made simple' a Golf instruction book elaborating on his own unique teaching philosophy. The book published in the United States and released in May is due to hit around 500 stores this summer with plans for publication in Japan. Reeves recently flew to New York to promote the book with signings and media appearances.

It is another career highlight for Reeves who is a Fellow of the PGA and a Golfing Machine instructor, and has spent two and a half years completing the project. As a teenager he gained international honours but didn't become a PGA professional until the late 90s.



The forward to the book is written by world record long drive champion Joe Miller and he concludes "if you want to improve your overall game and to increase your distance and accuracy- off the tee and elsewhere on the golf course use *Phase 7 Swing*. I am a world champion and I know it works."

In Reeves' own words "The hardest thing in writing the book was to articulate some complicated ideas in a clear and easy to understand way. The golf swing is really complicated and scientific but in essence the book was an opportunity to make scientific laws into seven really simple phases." And you even get an explanation of some of those basic laws of physics to drive home the poin or the ball..

The book will appeal to golfers of all abilities. Ian Clark *Fellow of the PGA* said "For the novice Golfer *Phase 7 Swing* is a map; for the experienced player, it is a compass."

New tree for the Jubilee

A Sorbus Commixta, a species of rowan native to Japan, funded by the Parish Council was planted as part of the Jubilee celebrations

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From the Vicarage

by Rev'd Jane Banister

AS you may know, I have been working voluntarily in Tring School since last autumn as the school chaplain, and it seemed important to let people know what I have been doing! Tring School has always been a Church of England School, and Anglican schools are among some of the best performing in the country. It has 1500 pupils but there is no great preference given to specifically Christian children – there is scope for 10 places a year to be given to those who have a religious commitment but that is to any Christian church, not just the Church of England. I should also make clear that the 1944 Education Act, followed by the 1988, made it compulsory for all schools to have a daily Act of Worship, although parents can choose to remove their children from that. Teaching Religious Education is also compulsory, although not as an examination subject unless the student chooses it, and at Tring, as at all schools, this is done with regard to all religions. So for example, year 10's course is on poverty and wealth, how and why they happen, how they are viewed by different religions, and how we exercise charity.

While it is common for private schools to have chaplains, it is less so for state schools. Hospitals still have chaplains, and interestingly, the two posts that every prison has to fill are that of governor and a chaplain. The role varies depending on organisation, but the best role model I have settled on is that of being a vicar to the school. I am there to support staff and students, to listen, to help, to meet specific needs, and above all to help people to think for themselves about what it is that they believe. I cannot stress enough that I am not there to convert people. Yes, I am there to show them options, but above all, what I want to do as a priest is to help people think about whom they are and what they believe and what role they have to play in the wider world. I meet too many people whose spiritual life is stuck at what they learnt at primary school.

But I am sure you want to know specifics. We have had two memorial services in school for a member of staff and for a student who had both died in very different circumstances. It was not possible or appropriate for everyone to attend the funerals, so services in school filled that need. Following on from that, I have been taking a class with year 7 on grief and loss. This is a topic that many people find very difficult to deal with, but because of that, our children are ill equipped to deal with one of the certainties of life. We teach them about sex, drugs and alcohol – it is vital that we also help them to deal properly with grief and death. I help with Christian Union which is for those students who do have a faith, which is tough for them to express in the current teenage culture.
I also provide links with the local community: the local churches have supplied and will be supplying mentors both for students who need encouragement academically, and those who need support in job hunting. The local churches will, we hope, be acting for concert venues for many of the musical students (a strong tradition at Tring school). On a different note, when there was some mild vandalism in Tring church, our links meant that we were able to use restorative justice with the perpetrators ie they had to come and help church volunteers on a particular occasion.
In the navy, the chaplain takes on the rank of whoever he or she is talking to and that is another role model that I find helpful. The students are well supported pastorally through form tutors, student support, and counsellors, but there is far less there for staff. Teachers are under huge pressure these days from government, from Ofsted, and from parents, and it is good to have someone there who can listen, who is a safe person to talk to, and who cares. Chaplains in some schools are also teachers, but we have made the decision not to combine those roles, partly because I am not a teacher, and partly because it puts me within the system. A vital role of all clergy is to be prophetic, is to ask communities why it is they do what they do, and it is easier to do that (although much lonelier for the minister) if you are outside of the structures.

I am doing this voluntarily at the moment, but cannot do this for ever, as I am sure you understand. The hope is that the Tring Team Parish will be able to employ someone properly when they have the funding in place, and the job will be advertised. Not everyone is happy with how we are doing that (which is through using church property rather than asking others for money), but as a church, we have to use our resources properly and well. It is sad that people feel that the role of the church is to capitulate to everyone else's wishes, rather than to challenge them. We live in a world that values money and success, which says individual happiness, is important rather than the wider picture. For us, the wider picture is our young people and those who educate them, and we want to be able to support them.

I also cannot stress enough that I am delighted to talk to anyone who would like to know more about chaplaincy, but I would always prefer to do this face to face than through gossip, and rumour, and social networking sites. It has been distressing to read some of the personal accusations levelled at myself and my husband about why we are doing this. This is a commitment made by the Tring Team parish to the young people of Tring and the surrounding area. We want them to be as well prepared as they can be for the world they will go into, we want them to know that they are loved, and not just by their families.

Please contact me if you would like to know more – I am always happy to talk and to listen.

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Your editor for September is Colin Davenport.

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

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

A Jubilee Pageant and RIB to remember

by Joan Dean

LIKE the rest of the UK I imagine I had two ambitions for 2012. One was to be in the front row in the Olympic Stadium for the Opening Ceremony of the Games and the second was to be sipping champagne on a balcony overlooking Tower Bridge for the Queens Jubilee Pageant.

In your dreams my oh so sensible husband predicted and how right he was. Forget even getting tickets for the Opening Ceremony let alone the front row. Getting tickets for the diving was the height of my achievements and I gather that in spite of applying for about 8 events, according to my friends, I am very lucky to be going to that. But will I see anything that will be the challenge, perhaps a speck in the distance that the commentator will tell me is Tom Daley, but I WILL BE THERE and that is the triumph (again I am assured) watch this space.

But I digress, back to the Thames Pageant. After nobbling Boris at a lunch at the London Assembly building overlooking Tower Bridge, which I felt would be quite perfect for my requirements, and receiving a rather frosty response. I had to lower my sights and retreat up river to friends flats and balconies, however, I was still out of luck. I was offered a rather dubious invitation in Battersea, but I was not at all sure that a balcony overlooking Battersea power station from the rear was quite what I had in mind, although I was assured that if you peered through the chimneys you could see the river in the distance.

But help was near at hand a friend had a boat and was going to be in the flotilla! How exciting was that, not your average onlooker, but actually taking part and would we like to join them - does a pig have trotters? A quick *yes please* was emailed back.

Little did I know what I was saying yes to, not your covered in passenger liner complete with loos and all the mod cons, yes you have guessed it – a dinghy with an outboard motor, for those that know about these things, it was a RIB.

Enough said, getting to the river was actually ok, we had to muster at Dove pier in Hammersmith all very civilized, seats, loos and a pub overlooking the Thames where all the rowing boats were gathering so that was lovely. Our boat arrived and my heart sank, there were 10 of us in this small rubber craft, but we did have cushioned seats and we were provided with wet suits and life jackets. We embarked at around l.30pm and proceeded down river to Putney Bridge and moored whilst the boats passed by. We did see the pageant. In my darkest moments I imagined us at the back seeing nothing at all. In the event we were just in front of the Royal Philharmonic orchestra with that amazing choir.

As we moved out midstream the heavens opened. We were wet and cold, not a good combination, the wind howled round us, but as we proceeded towards London Bridge we forgot all the discomfort, the crowds were amazing cheering us every inch of the way, the music was superb. And of course the icing on the cake was the Queen and the rest of the royal

family still standing and waving to US – what a day to remember we wouldn't have missed it for the world. And I still have the cough to remind me!

Late for the Dog Show!

ON the day of the village fete, Ian and Rita Magowan, after a busy day jelly baby tasting at the village fete, had to stay up all night to deliver seven puppy cocker spaniels, from three year old black and tan Gemma.

All went well, though they lost one of the puppies on Wednesday last week, which is a sad but not uncommon occurrence in the doggy maternity world. So four black and tan and two golden spaniels join what is already a well populated Cocker Spaniel village.

If you have gone all gooey at this picture and want to see the puppies, please call Ian or Rita on 01442 823294

Wilstone's alternative Olympics

Pictures by John Painter