



September 2012

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

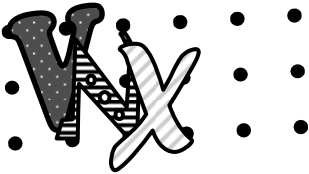
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Village News Extra!

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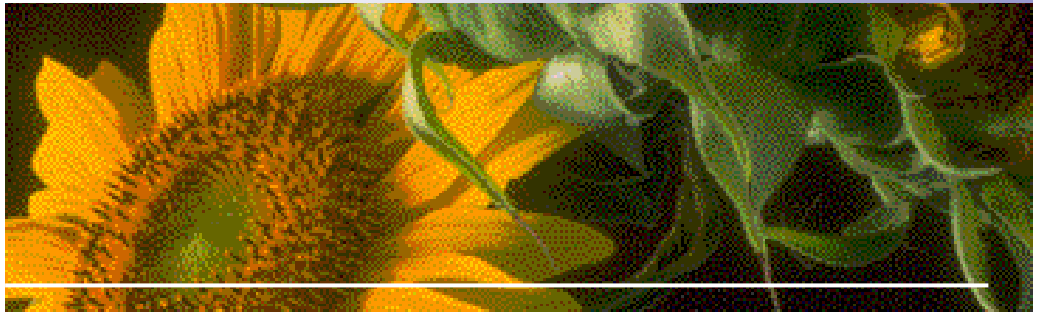
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We depend on readers' articles and pictures.

So let's have them!

Village News: Long Marston, Puttenham, Wilstone, Gubblecote



The sun always shines...

Summer of sport at the Long Marston Show

by our outside broadcast team

THE old adage seems to hold true. Even this year. They say here that the sun always shines on the Long Marston Show and to everyone's surprise - it did. This year the Show day was bang in the middle of the Olympics. Could this sports enthusiasm account for the threefold increase in the number of entries for the egg and spoon race? (They had to



Egg and spoon hopefuls are briefed by MC, Chris Mann.



Fierce faces! Talia and Lucas Williams.

organise heats!) Certainly the prospect of medals at Stratford did not seem to discourage villagers from turning out at Long Marston recreation ground, where the start of the show was announced loudly by the bugles and drums of The Steadfast Association as they paraded through the village. This impressive marching band - formed by former members of the Boys' and Girls' Brigades - later gave a performance in the arena. Showgoers were also entertained by the rock and blues band "Friends of the Blues", and by an energetic demonstration of Jazzercise. The village hall was filled with entries for the fruit, veg, flower, art and domestic categories and the judges had a busy time during the morning affixing stickers and awarding prizes. The whole event was organised by the Long Marston and Puttenham Horticultural Society, and our pictures show the sunny result. (Pictures: Village News.)

More pictures on back page.



Having bags of fun at the show.



The drums and bugles of The Steadfast Association.

Award for 40 years in football

DAPHNE BATEMAN, Treasurer and Fixtures Secretary of Long Marston Football Club, has been honoured with an award from Hertfordshire FA for more than 40 years service to football. Nominated by members of the FA staff, she was presented with a medal and certificate to mark her contribution to the sport at an awards dinner at Knebworth House.

Daphne was just 14 when her association with Long Marston football club began. Her father, Jack Winfield, was on the committee and used to take her along on match days. She began by helping with the teas at half-time and has been a part of the Club ever since, serving as an officer for the last 29 years. During that time she says the amount of administration has increased, but she still enjoys watching the games - home and away. She is proud of the Charter Standard achieved by the Club, and the improvements that have been made to the ground at Long Marston. LMFC play in the Aylesbury and District League, 1st Division, and the reserves play in the 3rd Division.

Of course girls did not play football when Daphne began her 40 year association with the sport (*but look now at the excellent GB women's team at the Olympics*) so Daphne played tennis instead. She also keeps sheep and a magnificent garden - but with a fence to keep the two interests apart. There is no intention to ease off her work for local football though. She is leading a project to improve the changing rooms at the Long Marston recreation ground, providing showers and additional toilet facilities, and looking forward to next season's football.



Growing for Gold

FOLLOWING reports in the Tring Gazette and exposure on YouTube, the now infamous torch bearer and Running Man of Wilstone has been awarded a gold medal for his stamina in the athletics in the Olympic games. As Wilstone's only medal



winner, we can be proud of his valiant effort of standing on one leg since early June.

He was originally discovered by talent scout Colin Weedman, who was taking refreshment one evening outside the Half Moon, after an exhausting day of neighbourhood watching. Said Mr Weedman, "I saw him leaning against the wall of the house opposite the pub. He had been hanging around here for some time. He had grown a lot since I last saw him, and I could immediately see his potential, so I brought him to the attention of trainer Peter Walker."

"It has been tough getting him into shape", said Mr Walker, "but shedding a bit of weight, we have been able to knock him into shape and he is now quite trim. He has taken a leaf out of the book by Alan Titchmarsh, and branched out a bit."

Asked why he was so much bigger than his Russian counterparts, Mr Walker strenuously denied rumours that any performance enhancing substances had been taken. But witnesses later testified that it was true. Mr Walker, who is a hedge fund manager, has since admitted that it was he who had taken performance enhancing liquids, and that the Running Man was clean, except for a few dead leaves and an empty nest. Asked what was next for the Running Man, Mr Walker said, "I don't know what the root cause is, but he has gone to seed a bit since the Olympics, so I am afraid he is for the high jump".



Village News

Editor this month: Colin Davenport

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: **editorwllmp@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

WELL, that's the Olympics over for another four years and probably the last time in this country for the vast majority of us, if not all. What a wonderful event it has been. I know of many people who claimed not to be interested in sport but spent hours and hours in front of the television.

I personally have never watched so much daytime television. Let's hope that the Olympic legacy can continue and that more people will talk to each other although this is not normally a problem in the villages.

This is a bumper edition of *Village News*. It is the first time we have had to go to 36 pages aided by the fact that there was not an edition in August but nevertheless there have been many and varied articles submitted by you, and because of it several regular features have had to be left out, keep it up.

We are looking for a new treasurer and distribution manager so if you feel you can help please contact the editor.

Colin Davenport

**Deadline for items for our next issue
is Thursday 20 September.**

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 **Lonsdale Direct Solutions**

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.

2 September

10.00am

All Saints Morning Prayer

11.30am

St Cross Harvest Service

9 September

8.15am

St Mary's Holy Communion

10.00am

All Saints Holy Communion

6.00pm

All Saints Evening Prayer

16 September

10.00am

All Saints Morning Prayer

10.00am

St Cross Holy Communion

23 September

10.00am

All Saints Harvest Service

3.30pm

St Mary's Evensong

30 September

10.00am

All Saints Holy Communion



All Saints, Long Marston

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What's on...



AMAZING DANCE PARTY!!!

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WILSTONE VILLAGE HALL

on

SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2012

7.30 PM – MIDNIGHT

Tickets only £5 from Wilstone Village Shop

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Ever watched jiving and thought “I wish....”? During the evening, a qualified instructor will be giving lessons on the basics of modern jive along with extra free tuition if required – no previous experience or partner required! Or, if you'd prefer, just come along, watch and do your own thing! For more info, telephone Rog and Jen on 01296 688806.

WILSTONE VILLAGE HALL

Friday 28th September

At 7.30 p.m.

AN ILLUSTRATED TALK ON THE HISTORY AND RESTORATION OF THE WENDOVER ARM CANAL

Ticket £5 incl tea/coffee/biscuits
from

Pam (01442) 823605 or on the door

Proceeds to the friends of St. Cross

Times for mobile library Route 72

Thursdays, fortnightly: 6th and 20th September.

Tringford (Piggeries Pine)	11.00 to 11.20
Wilstone (The Half Moon)	11.25 to 11.55

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)

The public are welcome to attend these meetings.

Wednesday 19 September Long Marston village hall

Wednesday 17 October Puttenham Cecilia Hall

Sunday 2 September

Sunday 2nd September Harvest Festival 11.30 starting from Mead's pond to the Church followed by lunch in the village hall - booking essential

Saturday 8 September

Historic churches Trust Bike and Hike 10 a.m. 6 p.m. all our Team Parish churches will be open for visitors and refreshments.

Saturday 8 September

Amazing Dance Party – Wilstone village hall. 7.30pm

Tuesday 11 September

St Cross Patronal Festival 10a.m. for a short informal service followed by refreshments.

Tuesday 11 September

WI talk by Dru Ellis “Fabrics, fashion and furniture through the ages.” 7.30pm Long Marston village hall. Visitors welcome.

Friday 21 September

Quiz night Wilstone village hall 7.30 for 8pm . See ad. p6

Tuesday 25 September

All Saints social afternoon 2pm-3pm

Friday 28 September

Great Macmillan coffee morning. Wilstone shop 10am-12

Friday 28 September

A talk on the restoration of the Wendover arm canal. See ad on this page. 7.30pm Wilstone village hall

Saturday 29 September

Jumble Sale at Cecilia Hall, Puttenham. 2pm.

Saturday 6 October

Wilstone allotment well inauguration 11.30

Tuesday 9 October

WI talk by John Noakes. “The gardens of Sweden and their ancient waterway” 7.30pm Long Marston village hall. Visitors welcome.

Saturday 13 October

Puttenham's October Supper with John Bly.

Friday 19 October

Film Night. Wilstone village hall, 8pm. Doors open 7.15. “Best Exotic Marigold Hotel”.

Friday 19 October

Quiz and curry night LM village hall 7.30pm for 8

Tuesday 23 October

All Saints social afternoon 2pm-3pm

Saturday 3 November

Jumble sale Wilstone village hall 2- 4pm in aid of the Wilstone shop fund

Friday 16 November

Film Night. Wilstone village hall, 8pm.

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

Wilstone Film Nights

Announcing our new season of films starting Friday Oct 19th

THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL



Tickets £6, available from Wilstone Village Shop and Meads Farm Shop. Tickets will go on sale on **Saturday September 29th**. Film starts at 8pm in Wilstone Village Hall. Bar opens at 7.15pm

Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

Raising funds for your church



Saturday 8 September 2012
10 am to 6 pm

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For More Information Please Contact:-

Long Marston	Carole Harrison	01296 668526
Putonham	Christine Rutter	01296 668337
Wilstone	Mary Minter	01442 822605

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Bike 'n Hike in association with the national [bike andhike](http://www.bikeandhike.org.uk)

All Saints Church

?

**Quiz
and curry
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by Huw)**

?

**Toby Davidson
Quizmaster**

Friday 19th October 7.30 for 8.00pm
(in Victory Hall, Long Marston)

Tickets £12
Teams of eight. BYO Drinks

Contact: Carole Harrison - 01296 668526

Tuesday 27 November

All Saints social afternoon 2-3pm.

Friday 30 November

Tring's Christmas Festival. High Street from 6.30pm

Friday 14 December

Film Night. Wilstone village hall, 8pm.

Friday 18 January 2013

Film Night. Wilstone village hall, 8pm.

Friday 22 February

Film Night. Wilstone village hall, 8pm.

Friday 22 March

Film Night. Wilstone village hall, 8pm.

Wilstone Allotment Association

invite everyone to come and celebrate the renovation of the Well and the Allotments

on **Saturday 6th October**

from 11am at the Allotments, Rosebarn Lane.

There will be an

official inauguration of the Well

at 11.30am.

Tea, coffee and bacon butties too!

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

QUIZ

NIGHT

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

Wilstone Village Hall
Friday 21 September

Questions start at 8pm

£5 per person

Up to 8 per team

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Tickets from 35 Tring Road, Wilstone
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or call Neil on (01442) 823579

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In brief...



Jubilee party *was* in Chapel Lane!

WE are very sorry that there was an error on page 1 of the July issue, when we mistook what was clearly Chapel Lane, Long Marston for Chapel End Lane in Wilstone. Plain as day to all

who were there, so we can only apologise. Good job we are not in charge of Korean flags too. Thanks also to Melanie Bayer who sent in those smashing pictures, including this one. *Ed.*

Not amused. A Royal reprimand for our Jubilee error. (Emma Brough as HM.)

Neil Gurney, BEM

OUR congratulations to Mr Neil Gurney, who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's birthday honours list. Neil is regularly mentioned on our pages, particularly in connection with his amazing panto productions for the Long Marston and Puttenham Horticultural Society, and his artistry with flowers. A Wingrave resident, Neil is also well known for his energetic work for charity and the community. We can't think of a more worthy recipient. (*The BEM award was re-introduced this year after being discontinued in the 1990's.*)

Royal garden party honour for *Village News*

Village News editor Phil Buchi was invited to a Royal garden party at Buckingham Palace in the summer to recognise the contribution to the community made by the village magazine. Afterwards, Phil said: "It was a lovely sunny afternoon and Maggie and I thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. The Queen and Prince Philip did a great job talking to people, and were on their feet for hours. There was an amazing selection of people there: diplomats in exotic dress, all sorts of military uniforms, mayors with their chains of office, Lifeboat crews, Scout and Guide leaders, and I counted three bishops too. I particularly enjoyed listening to the two excellent military bands that played all afternoon. It was an honour to be invited to spend the afternoon in such eminent company and I was delighted to represent the *Village News* team."

A first for Bayer at Whipsnade

LOCAL athlete Joe Bayer (16) came in first in the Whipsnade Zoo 2km fun run earlier in the summer. Joe was also featured at the Olympic Stadium in the June edition of *Village News*. Competitors of all ages ran a course around the zoo to raise money for Whipsnade. Our photo shows the family entry - and they all finished. L to R: Melanie (13m 1s); Joe holding the trophy (8m 17s); Ben, age 11, (11m 47s); Sammy, age 7, (11m 56s).



Play boat dismantled

THE play boat at Long Marston recreation ground has been damaged by "deliberate misuse" it was reported at the August meeting of the Parish Council. First, the helm wheel was broken off and stolen, and in a second incident the mast was brought to the ground. The mast has since been removed to make the boat safe to use. Cllr. Mike Tomlinson said that it was very disappointing that some were willing to act in this way and spoil the fun for the many children who enjoyed this popular play boat. The incidents have been reported to the police.

Wilstone smell

SINCE mid August I have been noticing the return of the Wilstone Smell emanating from the pumping station in Sandbrook Lane. I have called Thames Water about this and registered a complaint under reference 20820991009. They promise to look in to it and revert.

However...the more people who call and report the smell the more likely action will be taken...so PLEASE call too when you smell it. 0845 9200 800 option 1 then option 3drains...I got through quickly.

Thanks

Graham Thorpe.



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Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 69 Moderate


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

You are own your own with this one!
Solution on page 33



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From our reporter at the Parish Council meeting

Opposition to Wilstone affordable housing

SIXTEEN villagers attended the July meeting of the Parish Council for the opportunity to question developers about revived proposals to build affordable homes in the centre of Wilstone, adjacent to Grange Road. Representatives of Hastoe Housing Association and Dacorum housing department told the meeting that they intended to re-submit the original scheme that had been abruptly abandoned in 2010 by the previous developer, Aldwyck. Bev Alexander from Hastoe Housing Association said that her organisation specialised in rural housing and were used to working with parish councils to meet local needs. They had a technical solution to the drainage difficulties that had defeated the previous scheme because they had encountered this situation before, and had developed their own system which she said would work here. They also had the funding available, and the support of Dacorum housing department. Answering questions from residents she confirmed that the same plans for eight homes that had previously received planning permission in 2009 would be submitted, and that they were also willing to carry out the previously agreed scheme to improve parking in Grange Road by creating nine

additional car spaces for Grange Road residents. Several villagers questioned the need for more housing and said there was no local need. One voiced concern that people would just be shipped in from other parts of the Borough who had no connection with the villages. The representatives confirmed that people with local connections were the priority. The Parish Council asked to be a part of all subsequent discussions. The proposals still have to go through the full planning application and consultation process.

Gubblecote and the S106

THOUGH it seems to have taken an awfully long time, the planning application to develop the Dean's Farm Eggs site in Luke's Lane, Gubblecote has received formal approval. 26 homes and 4 business units will be built there. (The application was supported by local residents.) The question of the developer's cash contribution to community services - the so called 'S106' conditions - having thus been agreed, the Parish Council at last could be told what it was. The sum includes contributions of £81,000 towards primary education and £68,000 for secondary education. The money actually goes into the County Hall pot though, and getting it for Long Marston School was another matter. *(contd. on page 11)*

THE CHAPEL ROOM WILSTONE

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Cllr. Mike Tomlinson said: "There are urgent practical reasons why we should have that money in the parish." Councilors agreed they would continue to make a nuisance of themselves at County Hall and lobby for the money to be spent here.

Verge mowing to be 'devolved'

AFTER many months of negotiations between Parish Councillors and Hertfordshire Highways, agreement has been reached in principle to devolve the task of mowing the grass verges to the Parish Council. HH will transfer £1,652 of taxpayers' money to the Parish Council to pay for the work, beginning in April 2013. Cllr. Chris Griffiths, who has led the negotiations, said that the terms of the agreement are only what the Parish Council expected to do anyway, but this way there will be full local control of the work and a much better job would be done. "Residents won't now be paying twice", he added. The Parish Council have already appointed their own contractor to do the job. This may sound a small victory for 'localism', but it is perhaps something of a revolution. Dogged persistence pays off.

Police Commissioner election

THERE is to be a presentation and opportunity to ask questions about the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner at the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 19th September, 8pm, Long Marston village hall. All welcome. (The election will be held on 15th November.)

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

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A bit more information on Neighbourhood Plans...

by Abby Fermont

Gleaned from an *Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning Event* run by BALC (Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils)

NEIGHBOURHOOD plans (NPs) have sprung from the government's localism agenda with the idea of pushing planning power down as far as it can go. The coalition government has an agenda for housing growth, which it sees as the key to economic growth and one way of sweetening the pill of development is to give people the opportunity to say where the new development goes in their local community.

NPs help decide what kind of development is suitable and where it is best placed in a local area. It must be compatible with the local plan and cannot seek to reduce the number of planned houses for any particular area, although it can influence location. It is about shaping development, not stopping it.

The local council has a duty to assist with the production of a NP and there is funding available.

The main difference between a Parish Plan and a NP is that a NP is a legal document and has statutory weight. As we already have a Parish Plan, there is no need to reinvent the wheel; our NP could be an appendix to the current Parish Plan.

The steps are as follows:

Apply for a Neighbourhood (neighbourhoods can cross parish and county boundaries), with the Parish Council taking the lead.

Work with the community and the local authority to put together a draft plan.

Submit the plan.

Plan is submitted to an independent examiner (who the local authority appoints and pays for).

If approved by the examiner, the plan is put to a local referendum. If 51% or more of the electorate who turn up, vote in favour then the plan is adopted.

In order to be successful the examiner must be satisfied that there has been rigorous community engagement. This means consulting all members of the community; young, old, disabled, travellers, businesses, landowners etc.

A lot of this is theoretical, as NP's are still very new and at the time of the training event none of the front runners had successfully completed their plans.

The overall message that we took away with us was that NPs should not be seen as overly onerous, nor as something which communities have to undertake, but definitely something to consider doing depending of the level of growth anticipated for in your local plan.

Dacorum Borough Council's Core Strategy is in the final stages of consultation, but it allows for 420 new homes to be built in 'the countryside' up to 2031. It may be worth decid-

ing, if any of these new homes are to be within our Parish, where exactly we would like them to go.

Affordable housing: links with the community are important

by Brian Prior, Wendover.

SOME of your readers may remember that I had the privilege of serving T.R.P.C. for over 25 years and I am pleased to see that many of my Councillor friends are still serving. I have been following with interest the reports concerning "affordable housing", and I am reminded that during my term we carried out two surveys on the need for such housing. Our concern at that time was the difficulty that young people faced in remaining in the villages because of housing costs. These ever increasing costs also prevented those who had moved away from returning. However on both occasions the results of the survey indicated that there was no outstanding need. It appears now that as a condition of planning approval, affordable housing must be provided regardless of whether it is required or wanted by the local community. Therefore it follows that the housing is to be provided for people from outside of the area, who may not have any real interest in or link with the community.

From my knowledge of the problems of such arrangements here in Wendover, on the old RAF Halton Hospital site, I would highlight of the need to have a strong housing association in control of tenant selection. At Wendover it is alleged that "face to face" interviews were not required when applying for a house; "on line" applications from all over the south were deemed acceptable, allowing applicants to be 'frugal' with the truth. These affordable houses were dispersed within very expensive houses and my friends in the local police force now spend disproportionate amounts of time protecting the vast majority of law abiding residents from anti-social behavior including loud music through the night, cars speeding round the streets and general loutish noisy behavior. I stress again that very vigorous vetting of applicants is essential to protect the quality of life enjoyed by so many of us, past and present, in Tring Rural". It is, in my opinion, critical that the Parish Council endeavor to impose some ground rules with the housing association before tenant selection takes place.

Tring Rural Parish Council Notice

2012 Police Reforms:

Elections for a Police and Crime Commissioner

There will be a presentation and questions session about the election for the new post of Police and Crime Commissioner at the next meeting of the Parish Council
8pm Wednesday 19th September
at Long Marston village hall.

All welcome to attend this open meeting.

(The election will be held on 15th November.)

A Neighbourhood Plan?

Do we really need one?

by Jean Fox

PLEASE take 5 minutes to read about boring council policies!

Tring Rural Parish Council are considering a 'Neighbourhood Plan'

The 2011 Localism Act introduced new rights and powers to allow [communities to shape future development](#) by coming together to prepare [neighbourhood plans](#).

Parish councils can use new neighbourhood planning powers to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood. These are described legally as 'neighbourhood development plans.' Once approved, communities can use these plans to permit the development they want to see without the need to submit planning applications. Neighbourhood plans cannot be used to *prevent* development.

It would appear though that this all comes at a price. It is reported that on average a Neighbourhood Plan will cost a Parish Council in the region of £30,000, money which normally has to come from the parish precept (our taxes). On top of that, the Local Authority will also need to find approximately £20,000 to have the plan formally inspected to ensure that it conforms to regional and national policies and if so, subsequently pay for a parish-wide referendum. If there is a majority vote in favour of the proposals, the local planning authority is under a legal duty to bring them into force.

Many parishes have to date completed something called a **Parish Plan**. Our Tring Rural 2005 plan sought views from residents about:

Environmental Issues
 Countryside Access
 Transport and Voluntary Services
 Housing
 Leisure and Community Facilities and Activities
 Crime and Antisocial Issues.

Like many of the plans put together by other small villages and settlements in the country, ours identified amongst other things, a desire for a small number of new homes for local people, limited new development and a wish to maintain a range of meeting places/sites to support local village activities. These can all be achieved under current Local Plan/Core Strategy policies at Dacorum without the considerable expense of a neighbourhood plan. Should we lower our sights a little?

Many village schools, shops, pubs and community assets across the country are closing weekly and if any of ours were to come up for sale on the open market, they may be redeveloped we might lose them permanently. A list of assets in the parish can be registered with the local authority now. Assets like: the church, the pub, the village shop, cricket pavilion, village hall, a piece of land, allotments etc., that is a significant and important part of the character and make-up of the village. By registering, under the new **Community Right to Bid** Act, if any of the assets were put up for sale on the open market, we would have the right to ask for a delay in the sale in order for us to raise funds and purchase it to run as a community enterprise.

The newly introduced **Community Infrastructure Levy** (CIL), charges the equivalent of a 'roof tax' on every new home built and again we should be providing the Borough Council with a list of our priorities to be considered for CIL. These might be a school extension, road improvements, traffic calming/parking measures. If we don't tell them, we don't get put on the list for consideration.

Central Government pay local authorities a **New Homes Bonus**. It is the equivalent of approximately the average Band D council tax for 6 years for any new homes that are built and any long-term empty (over 6 months) properties brought back into use by the council. These are quite substantial figures and the bonus was aimed originally at local communities to decide where the money was needed. It is unlikely that we will receive any NHB if we don't tell them we need it for something.

Relevant

Parish Plan
 Dacorum Core Strategy Policies
 Community Right to Buy
 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
 New Homes Bonus

The Localism Act gives us, the community, the power to shape our own future and the Parish Council should give serious consideration to a short survey, posted to every household, to identify our local assets and priorities.

Before we initiate a potentially expensive Neighbourhood Development Plan I would suggest that we firstly need to satisfy ourselves that such a plan is the only, or at least the most suited, method to achieve the Parish's requirements.

Jean Fox.

Wilstone allotment diaries

August 2012

by Jane Waterhouse

WHAT a summer it's been !! In between the deluges of rain there have been some lovely days of warmth and sun and this has been enough for our allotments to do some serious growing.

Many of us have now managed to beat the thistles into submission and of course the more we plant the less room they have to grow. Sadly though some plots are still more thistle than crop and these are causing a problem to the other plots as they are going to seed. Some have been strimmed by the Association to try and reduce the damage to all plots but more needs to be done. The time it takes to get a new plot into shape is considerable, and for some, who are working full-time or have families, finding the time to devote to it is hard. The idea of growing your own is very different from the reality when there are different pressures on limited time. So I am thinking there may be some plots coming up for rent this Autumn – if you are interested please contact me and you can be notified if a vacancy comes up.

Some of us are now living on a diet of home grown vegetables and I have to report that they are just the tastiest things. The flavour of a freshly pulled carrot, dug potato or podded pea is

so different from those air-miled, bland things I used to buy.

For me there is no going back to them, but I have to learn so much to be able to produce all year long. Lessons learnt so far :-

1. Don't do your regular peas and your sugar snap peas in the same bed – you'll forget which are which and either chew your way through your pea pods or pod the ones that you don't need to!
2. Sow a row of carrots every couple of weeks rather than all at once – you can have too much carrot and coriander soup! Likewise lettuce.

The list goes on and on but I'm not going to disclose all my learner's blunders and am sure there will be an even longer list as we go into the Autumn!

If anyone has surplus crops they want to be rid of, we are selling them in the shop to assist in keeping the shop afloat. Now the shop is to become one of the many Community Shops that are springing up nationally, it is good to think that they will be stocking a range of local fruit and veg. grown by villagers for villagers. Please either take surplus to the shop or leave it on my doorstep (No 54 Tring Road) and I will ensure it gets displayed and sold.

We are planning to have a **well opening event in October** (see ad. on page5) and hope that you will come and join us and have a look at the work we have done so far.







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News from the WI



DURING the summer we deviate a little from our usual meetings. In **July** we had a 'fun' evening with competitions, quiz and blindfold tastings. Can you identify the flavour of a crisp when you can't see the packet or detect the smell of different herbs? How about feeling unusual items and deciding what they are when they are hidden in a bag? Most of our members certainly found it difficult. We also had cake, craft and floristry competitions.

August found us unable to use the village hall, as the new heating was being installed, so we all tramped off to Puttenham where the members (instead of the committee) ran the evening.

A very interesting speaker from the new Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury told us about the architecture of that building, and how the design had evolved from a woodland walk. She told us how visiting companies set up the stage there and why different pieces of equipment are named. Did you know that in times gone by sailors worked on the stage, hence 'rigging' and 'stage crew' and other nautical terms came to be used. We were so keen after her talk that we aim to go on a 'back stage tour' in the autumn and are already planning several show outtings.

Well done to the 'members' for a great evening which was rounded off by an excellent supper.

The next WI meeting will take place on Tuesday 11 September. Dru Ellis will give a talk on Fabrics, Fashion and Furniture through the ages. Visitors are welcome, we meet in Long Marston Village Hall at 7.30pm.

How would you cope in an emergency?
Why not join us on a First Aid Course

Long Marston and
Puttenham WI are hosting
First Aid courses
run by The British Red Cross



**Tuesday 25 September
Everyday First Aid**

**Tuesday 23 October
Save a Life**

both courses will be held in Long
Marston Village Hall
7.30 - 9.30pm

Why not join us, the course is **FREE**
but places are limited.

To book your place please contact
Margaret Noakes 01296 660072

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Wilstone Allotment Association

invite everyone to come and celebrate the
renovation of the Well and the Allotments

on **Saturday 6th October**

from 11am at the Allotments, Rosebarn Lane.

There will be an

official inauguration of the Well

at 11.30am.

Tea, coffee and bacon butties too!

Long Marston Cricket Club

By Paul Dumbleton

WITH just three matches left in the Cherwell League season (where has the summer gone), both our first and second elevens face relegation battles to stay in their current divisions. The next fortnight will determine where our sides play in 2013, also dependent on relegation and promotion numbers from surrounding divisions and leagues. The third eleven have played consistently in their division and are comfortably placed in mid table at this time.

A great success has been our Sunday XI playing in the Chess Valley League with our side in second place and pushing hard for promotion. Sunday 19th saw a club milestone passed as our side beat Harrow St Mary in a second v third clash at Marlins. The previous club scoring record (161 by Neil Foster in 1995) was well and truly smashed by Matt Shepherd who scored a magnificent 187 not out. He has certainly raised the bar by several notches and I feel it will be some considerable time before anyone approaches this figure for Long Marston. Matt and James Beesley have been regulars in the Bucks Under 19 side this season. On the day in question they should have been playing for Bucks in a national competition in Cornwall. Fortunately (for us) that fixture fell foul of the weather, allowing him to play and set a new club record high for batting. Saturday 18th August saw a very enjoyable and well supported hog roast at Marlins on what turned out to be the hottest

evening of the year so far (always best to arrange these events on the first day of the football season!!).

Due to bad weather earlier in the season we are to play our Coronation Cup semi final against Wing at Ascot Park on Saturday 15th September at 12md. If successful we will follow that with a final against Cublington at 1530 the same day.

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

Congratulations to Sarah and Phil Gregory from Wilstone who were married at St Michael's Church in Halton on 26th July followed by afternoon tea at Pendley Manor. Sarah wore a beautiful silk turquoise dress with a yellow rose bouquet. Jane, Virginia and Heather attended the short but beautiful service.



Whether you're a senior, newcomer, pregnant or just prefer low impact, this class is for you!
Tuesday 6pm & Thursday 9.45am
 Wilstone Village Hall

Regular Jazzercise classes available on many days and times and at many locations - call for details

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jazzercise1@hotmail.co.uk

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Marsworth Pre-School, held at Marsworth Millennium Hall, is a very popular village pre-school with an outstanding reputation, attracting children from a wide area.

Sessions available for ages 2 to 5 years, FULL or PART days:-

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
 Morning Session:- 9.00am - 11.30am
 Lunch Club:- 11.30am - 12.30pm
 Afternoon Session:- 12.30pm - 3.00pm

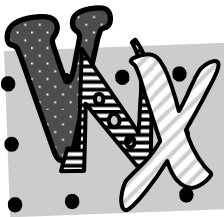
For further information, details of funding, session availability or to arrange a visit, please call 07595 179658 or visit our website www.marsworthpreschool.org.uk



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Village News Extra!

Edited By Harriet Rogers



HELLO! Welcome to this exciting edition of VNX! This summer's been great with the Olympics and Paralympics, so here is an equally great edition of VNX to match! This month there is news of a fantastic show, an Olympic re-view and follow-ups to some of sporting interviews! If you'd like to see your face in the next VNX please email editorwlp@yahoo.com with your stories!

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WEST SIDE STORY!



Tring Festival Company Present a Youth production of West Side Story at the Court Theatre Pendley, Tring from the 4th—8th September. West Side Story tells the world's greatest love story, Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet, but takes to the streets in this classic Broadway musical.

The cast of over 60 talented young singers, dancers and actors have rehearsed since March to put on an un-miss able show with amazing dance routines, songs and costumes!

To get a sneak peak of the show go to:
<http://www.deetv.tv/#westside-story>

And book your tickets NOW on
www.courttheatre.co.uk/moreinfo.php?event=TFC12004





VNX REVIEWS: THE OLYMPICS



Daisy Fermont

The Olympics occurs once every four years, and each year the hosting country is determined to host the best and most sustainable Olympics ever. As everybody knows, London hosted the Olympics this year.

When I went to see the Olympics the first thing I noticed was the amazing environment of happy smiles and all of the games makers saying hello to me. Even though it was freezing cold and early in the morning everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves, and that atmosphere automatically makes you happy and excited to be in the Olympic Park.



Daisy supporting team GB at the Olympic park!

As you're walking through the Olympic Park you really get a good glimpse of how amazing the buildings are. Not just their size, but I loved how every building has its own unique shape-almost giving it a personality. It was a really inventive idea and really added character to the park.

Another thing I loved at the Olympics was the shops. Even though when I went most of the stores had huge queues outside it was definitely worth the wait. The Olympic shops sold really lovely souvenirs that would remind you of the Olympics forever. They also sold lovely items of jewelry for good deals and had a flag of most countries so you could really get into the spirit of the Olympics.



The spectacular Olympic Athletics stadium!

Altogether, I think the Olympics were brilliant. The games makers put so much effort into keeping people happy and made sure they were enjoying themselves during the day. The food was delicious, there were plenty of food stands that sold all different types of meals-from Indian to Cornish Pasties...

The Olympics was an incredible experience and I can't wait until the Paralympics!

By Daisy Fermont, Wilstone

VILLAGE SHOP LOGO COMPETITION

The Wilstone Village Shop opened a competition to design a new logo. The entries so far have been fantastic but there is still time for you to get your entries in!

The deadline for entries is **SEPTEMBER 21st**, drop your designs into the box in the shop. The age categories are: 7 and under, 12 and under and 16 and under, remember to keep you designs to two colours and make it simple, clear and with as much impact as possible! The prize is to get your design 'polished' by local Wilstone artist Phil Madely as well as a £5 voucher to the winner of each age category! Good Luck!

OCTOBER'S STAR OF THE MONTH!

Do you know a young local talent who you'd like to nominate for the October edition? Or have you recently achieved something special? Please email your nominations to editorwlmv@yahoo.com marked for Harriet at VNX.

Thank You!



PROJECT GHANA!



On 27 July, our World Challenge group (16 of us from Year 9) left Tring School at 6:45am for Heathrow Airport where we met our World Challenge leader, Ade. Ade had spent 25 years in the army and was now working for World Challenge now that he had retired. We were unfortunately delayed for 2 hours at Heathrow. We eventually took off for Lisbon where we were meant to wait for 2 hours but due to the delay we were put on a plane to Accra, Ghana's capital city, right away!

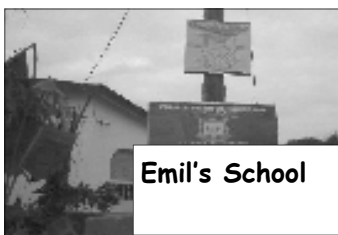
When we arrived in Accra, we were immediately shocked by how humid it was. Once we had got our bags we exchanged our money into cedi (pronounced CD) and left to get our private bus, before we realised someone had left some of the team equipment bags behind! So our leader, rather panicky, ran back to get them. Meanwhile we headed to the bus where some of our team members were scammed into giving money as a "tip" for the bus driver even though they didn't work for the bus company (which our group members were not aware of)!



We then stayed at a horrible hostel for the night in Accra as it was too late to go to our next destination. The next morning we headed to Elmina to stay at Stumble Inn for 2 nights. While we were there we went to the market to buy our cooking equipment and our food for the next few days. To start with we weren't great at cooking for ourselves as our first meal proved perfectly when we had undercooked rice and a horrible tomato puree diluted with some water!

To get to our project site we took a bus which took about 15 minutes. It was called

Emil's School Complex which during the holidays was a day care centre for about 30 children. After pitching our tents, we found out that we were to build a summerhouse classroom. We had to level the ground, dig a circular moat for the foundations. We had to make the concrete for this, pour it in and then lay the bricks on it (about 6 rows). Another project given to us was painting other classrooms with information for the children such as mathematical symbols, the alphabet, a number caterpillar,



clothes, weather and key words. We also had to repaint the desks and chairs. We were also asked to build an outside toilet but we couldn't start this (other than dig a 12 foot hole!) until the carpenter arrived - he was 2 days late! So, during those 2 days we had to find other jobs - we cleared a vegetable patch, repainted their playground, cleared weeds from a path and started putting up the structure of the summerhouse.

Continued on page18





PROJECT GHANA CONTINUED...



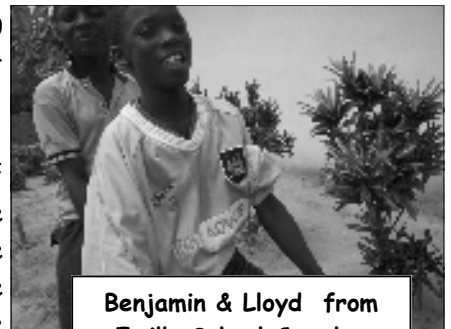
Another painting

After about a week, it was time for a bit of rest and relaxation! We travelled by bus to Kakum National Park about 40 minutes north of the Cape Coast. We went on a night walk through the rainforest AND IT RAINED!! We also did a canopy walk which was very, very high. We then all got rather excited as we had booked rooms in a hotel - luxury!! The following day we went back to our project site and had one day to complete the toilet! We managed it with 20 minutes to spare which we spent

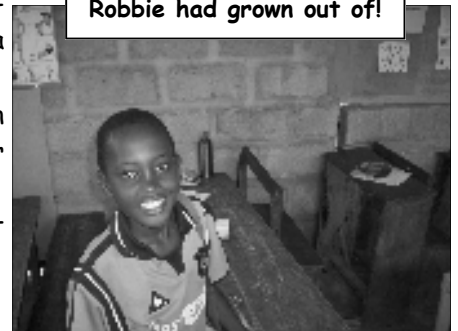
taking photographs.

We spent our last night in Stumble Inn on the coast before setting off for home. It took us about 3 hours to get to the airport in Accra and we then waited in the wrong terminal for about an hour! When we were walking to the correct one we saw a couple of people running out of the airport. We weren't sure what was going on and then a load of people started running out shouting "bomb, bomb, bomb" - we obviously started panicking and running about but we found out that it was only a fire extinguisher exploding! After no more mishaps we got back to Heathrow, via Lisbon, the following morning about 10.30 to be greeted by our families. We hope you enjoy reading about our World Challenge experience in Ghana. We would like to thank everyone who kindly helped us raise our funds for Project Ghana. It was an experience that we will never forget. Also a big thank you to Mrs Baiden and Miss Purdue from school who went with us.

Robbie Cogger and James Lovis



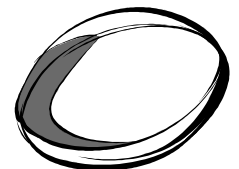
Benjamin & Lloyd from Emil's School Complex wearing Man City kit that Robbie had grown out of!



CATCH UP WITH A SPORTS STAR!



Our February Sports Star, Vicci Cogger, told us how she was hoping to go to Hartpury College in Gloucester in September to do her A levels and an AASE in Rugby. I am pleased to say Vicci achieved the GCSE results she needed and will be going to Hartpury at the start of the academic year! She actually started pre-season training on Monday and is just loving it! Vicci is being coached by England women's rugby player Danielle Waterman!



A big thank you to all this month's contributors! The deadline for the October edition is Tuesday the 18th September so if you want to see your face in the next edition of VNX please Email the editor at editorwlmpp@yahoo.com marked for the attention of Harriet at VNX!

Harriet :)

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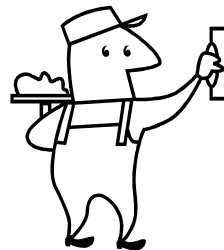
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Wilstone Shop – read all about it!

THERE'S been a lot going on over the last couple of months since Liz and Ron Faulkner announced that they wanted to step back from the day to day running of the shop. Support from around the parish has been fantastic, enabling a committee to be set up to work out the way forward. The plan is to take over the running of the shop from Liz and Ron at the end of October, although they will, of course, still be helping out from time to time and available for no doubt much needed help and guidance. So where are we now?

Working with The Plunkett Foundation

The Plunkett Foundation is the only national organisation supporting community-owned village shops across the UK. There are now over 260 community owned shops trading in England, Scotland and Wales. Most of these have been established through their support.

From the outset of the committee's work we have benefited from their immense knowledge and experience and it is through their guidance and support that we have been able to move so far and so quickly.

You can find out more about what they do at www.plunkett.co.uk or take a look at Plunkett News at www.plunkett.co.uk/newsandmedia.

FSA Application for Community Shop

The paperwork has gone in to the Financial Services Authority (FSA), and from 1st October this year we expect to be set up as an Industrial and Provident Society (IPS)

owned by the Community – wow! This creates the business entity that underpins Wilstone Community Shop Limited.

Save the Shop Fundraising

On the financial side fundraising to obtain the initial £5,000 required for Wilstone Community Shop Limited to take over the assets is going very well and we are on target to complete this by October 2013. Our '100 Club' has proved very popular indeed, with people winning prizes of so far up to £100, and the shop funds have benefitted well too.

Community Ownership

Once Wilstone Community Shop Limited has become established the ethos is for the business to be owned by the community for the benefit of the community and for you to have your say in the way that it is run. Since it will be registered as an IPS you will be able to become a member and community owner through an exciting share offer with the shares priced at £5 to make it available to anyone. We will be telling you more at a later date about how you can participate.

So plenty of activity so far, and our thanks go to everyone for all the amazing support that is being shown. It is brilliant to know that we will shortly be joining a growing band of community shops springing up across the UK who recognise that a community needs a heart; and shops, along with pubs and churches, help to keep that heart beating. Do please call in and see us if you haven't done so yet, I'm sure you'll be very pleasantly surprised by what's on offer, and we will strive to improve our services to you as we go forward together.



Diary Dates:

WILSTONE Shop will once again be supporting the Great Macmillan Coffee Morning on the 28th September. Do come along and join us from 10am-midday for coffee (or tea) and cakes and help support the fantastic work done by Macmillan nurses.

There will be a Jumble Sale on the 3rd November in Wilstone Village Hall from 2pm-4pm in aid of the Wilstone Shop Fund. There will also be a festive element to it as by then Christmas will be, shock horror, looming on the horizon. More details to follow but do please put the date in your diary. Jumble contributions of good quality clothes and other items would also be warmly welcomed nearer the time so do please save items for us.

Your Village Shop Needs You!

WITH a 7 day a week operation to run from the 1 November, Wilstone Community Shop is seeking more volunteers. Help is particularly sought for Thursday, Friday and Saturday 7.15-1pm, broken down into shorter time slots if that fits in better for the volunteer, i.e. 7.15am-10.00am, 10.00am-1pm, and also Sunday 8.30-midday. For Saturday and Sunday we have the aim of having enough volunteers so people only have to be on duty one week in three, unless of course they are keen to do more.

Most volunteers work in the shop itself but we would also welcome people who could help with cash & carry runs, which generally happen once a week on either Monday or Tuesday.

If you'd like to find out more about becoming a volunteer, and it really is a lot of fun and a fantastic way of getting to know people in the parish, then do pop into the shop and have a chat with us.

SAVE WILSTONE SHOP '100 CLUB' WINNERS

THERE has been a fantastic response with 100 numbers now allocated.

This is brilliant because it means that we are now well on the way to achieving the fund raising target. A big big thank you to all participants

WINNING numbers:-

	1 st Prize	2 nd Prize	3 rd Prize	To SWS fund
	£100	£50	£25	
July Draw	20	14	100	£325
August Draw	29	24	99	£325

All players have been notified of their number either by email, phone or post.

If you have forgotten or don't know your number then please contact Graham Thorpe g.thorpe@btinternet.com 01442 822923 or 0774 3896800

Friends of Ashridge

IT'S probably raining and blowing another gale as you read this, but it really is summer! How do I know this? - because the Friends of Ashridge May plant fair is now a distant memory and we've already set the date for next year's. So if you've never been to this huge event, with 1,000s of plants for sale from private gardens and small commercial growers, make a note of Sunday 12 May 2013. This is the Friends' major fundraising event of the year, this year raising over £6,000 which will be used solely for the upkeep of the National Trust Ashridge Estate.

Despite the weather, Ashridge is still a wonderful place to go for a walk and there are two volunteer-led organised options to choose from.

Brian and Siân Barton lead the Gentle Strolls, up-to-2 hour informal walks observing the wildlife in different parts of the National Trust Ashridge Estate. Dates for the remainder of the season follow:

Wednesday 19 September 10.30am Meet B4506 road end of Monument Drive Map ref SP 979 127

Tuesday 16 October 10.30am Meet B4506 road end of Monument Drive Map ref SP 979 127

Stout waterproof footwear recommended. All welcome - no booking required. £2 per person on the day. More information: 01442 823 727

Kath Hardy will lead longer walks on the following Saturdays: 8th September, 13th October.

All start from the Visitor Centre at 10am and are about 5-6 miles. There's a charge of £3 on the day, no need to book.

National Trust staff also organise a full programme of walks, which you can find on the newly-revamped website: nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge.

And now to really cheer you up, it's never too early to start thinking about Christmas! - the 'Ashridge at Christmas' fair is on Sunday 2 December this year, with a great variety of local craftworkers and producers already booked to attend.

It all happens around the Visitor Centre by Monument Green, Monument Drive, Ringshall from 10am to 4pm.

Enjoy the summer! Thank you

Ann Lang Publicity, Friends of Ashridge

Festival Celebrates Chilterns Countryside

THE National Trust and Chilterns Conservation Board will be bringing countryside fun to the magnificent Ashridge Estate on Sunday 16th September. Mouth-watering local produce stalls, fascinating craft displays, forestry demonstrations and children's activities are just some of the things to discover.

The Chilterns Countryside Festival is open from 10am - 4pm. Parking is free and admission is £3 for adults with children under 16 free (must be accompanied by an adult). There will be a small charge for some activities.

Contd. On page 24

Wilstone village shop opening hours are:

Monday to Saturday: 7.30am to 1.00pm

Sunday: 9.00am to 12.00noon.

Re Cycling by Andy Ashwell

FLORENCE can ride a bike quite confidently but until now has never shown any real inclination to ride further than the playground. Suddenly, and completely out of the blue, she announced that she wanted to ride somewhere, somewhere further than the playground. When I optimistically suggested the farm shop her eyes lit up – mainly I think because of the prospect of getting an ice cream at the far end.

I must say that I was more than a little surprised by her request because a week earlier she had been involved in a disastrous Padstow-to-Bodmin cycling experience. It went wrong almost as soon as we had begun the return leg of our 20-mile jaunt. Feeling a little bloated after a delicious lunch and ale at a pub just outside Bodmin, I wasn't relishing the prospect of the 10 miles back to Padstow and especially not with having to pull Florence behind me on a tagalong. My situation wasn't helped when Anna whizzed past with a shout of "Race you back" and promptly disappeared into the distance.

I raced after her as best I could and Florence, bless her, tried her utmost to help by also pedalling as fast as she could. After about a mile as we were negotiating a particularly bumpy bit I heard a strange crack followed by a little squeal. I looked round just in time to see Florence, her eyes wide open in horror, doing a wheelie on the unhitched tagalong before keeling over and falling into the muddy verge. I quickly rushed over to check that she was alright because from the sound of her hysterical screams and the intensity of her frenzied theatricals you would have thought that she had broken a leg or, at the very least, ruptured her spleen. Fortunately her agonising distress was swiftly cured with a quick cuddle and a bag of chocolate buttons.

Having sorted out the invalid, I examined the damage to the bike. The bolt that was supposed to hold the tagalong to my bike had disappeared. The good news was that the rest of the coupling seemed to be intact. As I didn't have any tools with me – other than the bike-hire company's puncture-repair kit which consisted of one rusty tyre-lever, two perished patches and a tube of dried-up glue – we were in a bit of a fix.

After a bit of a protest – quite a bit of one, actually – I managed to convince Florence to remove her leggings so that I could use them to bind the tagalong to the seatpost. So with Florence perched on the crossbar of my bike and the tagalong strapped on and leaning at a curious angle we made the remaining nine miles home without further ado.

As regards to getting to the farm shop, there isn't a child-friendly cycle-route from our house but the least hazardous and most scenic one is along Astrope Lane and down Watery Lane. Although Astrope Lane can get quite busy, we didn't have any particular issues with traffic because Florence has developed the worrying knack of wobbling alarmingly whenever a car approaches. I have personally used this technique myself on occasions as it unsettles even the most impatient motorists and encourages them to slow down and give you a wide berth.

We arrived at Mead's in a leisurely 31 minutes and 48 seconds which for 2.18 miles (according to my satnav watch) is far from earth shattering. The return journey, however, after one of their special, sugar-charged ice creams, took a record-breaking 22 minutes and 17 seconds. With improvements as phenomenal as that, I think it will be only a matter of time before Florence is stepping into the shoes of Laura Trott or Victoria Pendleton.

Children and dogs

SADLY, we are all familiar with the news reports of children being attacked by dogs. Often it is a dog that is being owned by the wrong sort of owner and is a 'status dog'. But how do you go about ensuring that the normal family pet and all children, any children, get on well together?

The first thing that comes to mind is that the owner should take the dog to training classes. 'A trained dog is a happy dog.' Secondly, parents need to teach their children the correct way to approach a dog. Thirdly, parents need to know where their children are and what they are up to!

With this in mind, Long Marston Dog Training Classes would like to offer you the opportunity of bringing your child or children down to the Victory Hall to learn the correct approach to dogs and the correct behaviour when in the proximity of dogs. To make an appointment for your free visit to the Classes, please telephone Evelyn on 01908 502272.

We have puppies and older dogs which would love to be stroked and cuddled, so come on down.

Festival celebrates Chilterns countryside continued from page 23

Now in its sixth year, the Festival demonstrates the various activities, crafts, industries and wildlife associated with the Chilterns countryside.

There will be over 100 stands packed with locally produced food and crafts and displays from a host of local environmental organisations. There's plenty for kids to do with craft activities and story telling and firm favourites include ferret racing, live owls and sheep shearing demonstrations.

A new attraction this year is the music stage, sponsored by Launchpad Live Music and Entertainment. Local acts will include Sparkies Jazz, Brian Heywood, Palmerston, Kirsten Lutz and Julian.

For more information, call the National Trust Ashridge Visitor Centre on 01442 851227 or the Chilterns Conservation Board On 01844 355506.

Letter from Aachen (and Chiltern Oil sighting too!)

by Nikki and Chris Burgess

Nikki and Chris Burgess lived in The Mill, Wilstone, for eight years. Earlier this year they moved to Germany as a result of Nikki's promotion. They both love travelling and thought the move was an opportunity see much more of Europe. So, on a cold winter's morning in late January, they packed their bags and headed for Dover to begin a 3-year adventure in Europe. Here is their dispatch from Aachen.

WE must explain the photo. Friends have been kindly sending us copies of *Village News*, which we consume avidly here in Germany. A couple of months ago we saw an article about Chiltern Rapeseed Oil from Mead's Farm shop spotted in the Scottish Isles! What a great idea we thought! We have a bottle of this great oil in our cupboard so we took it for a little trip. Nikki carefully placed a bottle in the hand of a statue near Aachen Cathedral and I took a picture. We did get a few strange looks from people who were around - particularly a German tour group. So, we think this may be the furthest yet this Wilstone product has travelled, but would be pleased to see someone top this!

Let us tell you something about Aachen. It is in the north-west of Germany right beside the Dutch and Belgian borders. In fact it is about five miles west to the Netherlands and an equivalent distance south-west to Belgium. This has a number of benefits. Nikki is a keen runner and, whilst she misses the beautiful canals and countryside around Wilstone, is able to quite legitimately say: "I ran to Belgium today". We regularly visit all three countries in a day - taking advantage of Belgian food shops (which are great) and furnishing our new apartment from the nearest IKEA - which is in the Netherlands! It does lead to some confusion on our part though with French being widely spoken in Belgium (although the area near

Aachen is actually still German speaking) and obviously Dutch in the Netherlands. We are finding it difficult enough to cope with German without even trying to think about the complexities of Dutch! The Dutch city of Maastricht is only 40 minutes away and is a hidden gem well worth visiting if you are in the area. Liege in Belgium is an equivalent distance away. The large Rhine cities of Cologne and Dusseldorf are less than an hour away and the former West German capital of Bonn only a little bit further. So, we really feel we are at the centre of Europe!

Aachen is a city with a population of about a quarter of a million people. It has a large and well known university (the best place in Germany to study engineering) and so has a large student population. It is also a spa town having several geothermal springs, which also mean it gets called "Bad Aachen". No, it is not as bad as it sounds - "Bad" in German means bath! It has a large and elaborately decorated Cathedral where Charlemagne is buried. Speaking of history, Aachen also has the unfortunate distinction of being the first German city to be captured by the Allies in the Second World War. I say unfortunate in that Hitler decreed that Aachen should be fortified and defended to the last man. This in turn meant that the Americans had to fight for Aachen street by street leading to huge casualties on both sides and resulting in more than 70% of Aachen's buildings being destroyed or damaged. The legacy of this is all around. This has led to a 'hotch potch' of architecture although, where possible, old building facades have been saved and renovated and there are some beautiful boulevards.

There are many interesting and different things about living here in Germany. However we do so miss the community of a small village and say a big hello to all our friends and neighbours in Wilstone. We miss you all and will return!
Nikki and Chris.



Dog-gone!

IN THE last edition of Village News, we reported that six Cocker Spaniel puppies had been born on the day of the village fete. Since then, they have grown up and we are pleased to tell you that all have found new homes, and all bar one will stay in the locality.



One goes to a new home in Wilstone, another to Gubblecote, two to Cheddington and another one to Berkhamsted. The sixth one has moved a long way away to Manchester.

The Wilstone puppy, Monty, is pictured below loving his new home with proud owners, Sally and Graham Thorpe. Graham said "We are absolutely loving Monty; he is everything we wished for in our puppy. Rita and Ian (and Gemma of course !!) have done a wonderful job in raising him in their house and as a consequence he has a wonderful temperament and has settled in easily and quickly. He truly is a bundle of joy".



But that is not the end of it. Another one of Ian and Rita Magowan's Cockers, Maddie, has now delivered five healthy puppies, last weekend.

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The agricultural story line...

by David Mead

MORE farming news required. Well, at the moment it's a bit depressing. The combine harvester, with Simon at the controls, has kept going. The wheat that Callum brings back to Chris's drier is the worst quality and the lowest yields, apparently this is a nation wide position. Colin, the lorry driver who takes wheat into Heygates, mentioned £200 a ton for milling wheat, we shall have to see if any of our wheat passes the milling tests. Last winter Simon sold a small amount of this year's harvest for £130, a good price at the time.

On the plus side - the grass has kept growing, with a large heap of wrapped silage in the yard. Some good hay was made when the better weather kicked in, so the horses won't go hungry. They are very particular beasts, I daren't mention the owners - I might have to cross that out !! Even before we've finished combining, ground was cultivated and next year's oil seed rape crop has been drilled. Callum has had two tractors on the go, drilling and rolling, in between taking loads of wheat back to the drier.

Chris has admitted he doesn't know which way to turn. Today he has minded the drier, pushing up the heap of wheat, loaded several lorries, turned some second cut hay. There are times I think he would like to throw his mobile phone into the heap of wheat.

I check the cattle in the morning, not very eventful you would think, until one day I take two pallets of wrap to Eaton Bray and come home to be told the 35 cattle, below Long Marston, have got out and have visited Michael Gaymer's. His environmental headlands were so well maintained that the cattle preferred to wander round them and not into his beans and wheat.

David and Nick Murrell, along with helpers from Thistle Brook, Michael and gang and our complement, slowly drove the vagrants back. The fence was repaired. No more trouble until today, or so I thought. In another field, down at Boarscroft, 31 Black cattle could not be seen. I walked down to the Windmill field, which is halfway to Aylesbury, and they were no where to be seen. I was a bit concerned, if cattle get on the old railway line they could find themselves walking up Aylesbury High Street. I walked back to the first field, thinking over plans for their return, in the early morning shadow of a thick hedge something moved. A shadow gained 4 legs. Suddenly 124 black legs appeared, all present and correct. A bored 'Minty' and tired master returned to the van, telling no one of our embarrassment.

I did escape last weekend. Lawrie and Margaret came up from Kent for a couple of days. They lived in No.1 The Green, Wilstone, leaving 15 years ago. After a good day at Lords we had another visit to the Half Moon. This feels like Lawrie's local. He remembers several people and is made to feel very welcome. I went up to Lords again on Sunday. Was it hot!! Well, perspiration has to be replaced. I went with John from across the field and Anthony the cider drinker. Lords was not prepared, the cider ran out!! Because of signal problems we travelled on 3 types of trains. We all thought 'someone's been at the copper cable again'. It's the only time I go to London so it's all an adventure.

The log man and his dog have started his deliveries. It's a pleasure this year because they are good and dry, no really. would I tell a lie?

The Friends of Long Marston School announce the return of the

Scarecrow Competition



and Hog Roast...

Date: Saturday, 8th September
Time: 5 - 8pm
At: The Paddock, end of Chapel Lane, Long Marston

It's time to enter a scarecrow(s)!

Join in the fun before the day by making your scarecrow to deter birds eating up crucial Long Marston wheat crops. To help you get started we have some ideas...

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Bring your scarecrow, with your entry number attached, to the paddock on Saturday, 8th September...

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PLEASE NOTE: BOTH A SCARECROW AND A HOG WILL BE REQUIRED FOR PRIZES

Entry forms (with entry no's attached) available at:

The Queen's Head, Long Marston or Wilstone Village Stores

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The Puttenham Page compiled by Christine Rutter

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Proceeds towards the Team's £10 challenge.

Beds. & Herts Historic Churches Trust annual sponsored “Bike ‘n’ Hike – Saturday, 9th September. If you wish to cycle for St.Mary's, please contact Christine:01296 668337. Whichever church you are cycling for, don't forget to call into Cecilia Hall, Puttenham for your refreshments. We cater for “mid-morning, lunch-time and afternoon tea”, or maybe you just need a drink and a break !

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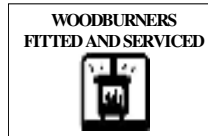
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From the Vicarage

by Rev'd Jo Wetherall

AS I write the August Bank holiday is just over the horizon , the forecast is for showers, heavy showers which might turn to prolonged rain and high winds possible reaching gale force. Perfect! we are going camping...

We are going to Green Belt. Green belt is an arts and literature festival with a strong Christian element to it. I love it because, along with the type of contributors you would expect; preachers, theologians, priests, there is also lots of opportunity to listen to, among others, rabbis, humanists, politicians, journalists and sociologists.

It isn't often we get to engage in meaningful dialogue with people who have a different world view from our own , we either argue or we politely ignore our differences, maintaining social codes and not wishing to rock the boat. Neither approach actually enables us to step towards each other and to see the value or reason behind a different opinion.

We all carry labels of identity which lead people to draw conclusions about us, it is one of the ways we negotiate our way through life. Unfortunately these labels often prevent us thinking that first and foremost this "label" is another human being trying really hard to negotiate their way through a delightful, but confusing world.

So I am looking forward to a weekend of listening to people with a whole range of life experiences and outlooks, I know I will learn things and hopefully I will take some steps closer to understanding the reason and value in lives and views different from mine.

News from All Saints

I WOULD like to thank everyone who donated cakes for our stall at the Horticultural Show. We all managed to produce a lovely selection, yet again, which made a nice profit towards Church funds. Many thanks also go to the helpers on the day. As part of the Parish Team fundraising we have a Picnic hamper raffle. Tickets are £2 each or 6 for £10 available in Church or from Carole Harrison. The prize winning ticket will be drawn at our Harvest service on Sunday 23rd September.

Sponsored Bike 'n' Hike Saturday 8th September. We've all been enthused by the Olympic Games so how about supporting this event by cycling or walking between churches – sponsor forms are available. For those of us less active we would appreciate some help in the Church welcoming on the day.

QUIZ AND CURRY NIGHT Friday 19th October 7.30 for 8pm. After the success of last year's event, Rev Huw Bellis has volunteered to cook again and Toby has offered to be our Quiz master. Please start organising your team. Tickets are £12 per person. Bring your own drinks.

Social afternoon Tuesday 25th September 2 – 3pm. Everyone welcome.

Carole Harrison 01296 668526

Bishop's visit to St. Cross

THE 30th anniversary in July of 'The Friends of St. Cross' in Wilstone was marked by a service of thanksgiving led by the Bishop of Hertford, The Rt. Reverend Paul Bayes. 'The Friends' have been responsible for raising funds and organising the many improvements to the fabric of the church over the last three decades. The Vicar, Rev'd Jo Wetherall, welcomed the Bishop and villagers to a packed church for the service. Bishop Paul, filling the tiny church with his fine stentorian tones, commented that St. Cross may be at the edge of the diocese and the county but it was clearly at the centre of its community. He cut an anniversary cake after the service, which included a blessing for St. Cross Church.



The Rt. Reverend Paul Bayes, Bishop of Hertford, with Rev'd Jo Wetherall, Alison Cockerill (Secretary), Andrew Minter (Treasurer) and the anniversary cake.

(Picture: Village News.)

Sudoku solution No 69

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

Local names and numbers

Herts Police non-emergency number: 101

Local Police Officers (in emergency dial '999')

PC Steve Hunneysett 01707 354192

PCSO Lee Clements 01707 354192

Fly-tipping reports

Call Dacorum Waste Services 01442 867858

Call the police if you see a crime being committed.

Cecilia Hall (Puttenham)

Christine Rutter 01296 668337

Beavers

Jo Woodbridge 01442 891444

Brownies

Claire Fordham 01296 668088

Cubs

Jane Dawson 01442 827410

Guides

Sheila Hill 01442 823463

Scouts

David Colvin 01442 381544

Horticultural Society

David Severs 01296 661021

Wilstone St Cross

Vicar

Rev'd Joanne Wetherall 01442 851200

Churchwardens

Andrew Minter 01442 823605

Ken Martin 01442 822894

Puttenham St Mary's

Rector

Rev'd Huw Bellis 01442 822170

Churchwardens

Christine Rutter 01296 668337

John Barron 01296 631351

Long Marston All Saints

Clergy

Rev'd Jane Banister 01442 822170

Keyholder

Carole Harrison 01296 668526

Tring Rural Parish Council - Chairman

Cllr Michael Tomlinson 01296 661311

Clerk to the Parish Council

Dawn Slade 01442 824138

Village Warden

Colin Reedman 01442 822031

Long Marston Victory Hall

Hall hire: Mike Tomlinson 01296 661311

Long Marston Cricket Club

Paul Dumpleton 01296 662849

Long Marston 1st Steps Pre-School

Lindsay Armitage 01296 661017

Long Marston Baby & Toddler Group

Ali Driver 01296 662482

Long Marston Tennis Club

Margaret Kelland 01296 668314

Long Marston Football Club

Daphne Bateman 01296 668054

Long Marston School 01296 668386

Member of Parliament (House of Commons)

David Gauke 0207 219 4459

Or to make an appointment call: 01923 771781

Pet Dog Training

Claudia Cox 01296 668752

Evelyn Chapman 01908 502272

Village News

Phil Buchi 01296 661339

Whitchurch Morris Men

Nigel Cox 01494 481478

Wilstone Village Hall

Bookings: Tony Short 01442 823096

Wilstone Toddlers

Jane Cole 01442 828272

WI

Lynn Foster 01296 662466

Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

Thank you ...

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

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Graham Thorpe

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Send your editorial contributions, articles, event notices, news and pictures to:
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Your editor for October is: Phil Buchi, 01296 661339.

**Deadline for items to go in the next issue is:
Thursday 20 September 2012.**

You can read *Village News* on line at:

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

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

Olympic match report:
France 1 - Japan 2 (Semi-final)

Three cheers for: women's football *by The Glazier*

SIXTY THOUSAND people turned up at Wembley Stadium to watch this game of... yes, ladies football. As if that wasn't impressive enough, an astonishing 80,000 football fans were present for the final of this wonderful competition within the London Olympics. And without doubt they got their money's worth. It was a delight to watch the game played as it should be. Brilliant ball play, fast moving and full of commitment and enthusiasm. But some things were missing. Among the absentees were foul play, shameful gamesmanship, bad language and altercations with officials. What a pity we have come to expect these as part of the men's professional game. Take note: it does not have to be like this - we have been shown the way.

This close fought game for a place in the final was played skillfully by teams that wanted to win, encouraged by an enthusiastic crowd, who were clearly all delighted to be a part of the Olympics. Japan had more supporters in the stand than France - indeed I sat next to a Japanese family, complete with flags, though they told me that they were temporarily living in London. They say that throughout the Olympics the crowds had an affect on the result, and perhaps that was an omen here, as by the end Japan were clear winners - and no penalty nonsense either.

But the overall winners were the London Olympics and women's football - brought to a new audience here in the magnificent setting of Wembley. A feature of the Games has been the nightly interviews with dozens of charming, articulate, passionate, enthusiastic, modest and just plain nice young athletes. (I was delighted to meet one on a Central Line tube train, so greetings to Luuka Jones from Tauranga, New Zealand, a slalom canoeist who finished 14th overall in her competition.) What a contrast to our usual media diet of moody millionaires and bogus celebrities. The astonishing achievements of all the athletes, and the GB team in particular, have cheered us all up. Even France v. Japan had the same effect. Glad I went. Glad all over, in fact.



France win the battle of the national anthems (no contest), but the game went the other way. (Picture: The Glazier)

All the fun of the Fun Day

By Jo Woodbridge



WE DID actually have a dry and fairly sunny day in

July. St Cross Fun Day was well attended and great fun.

Cream Teas were very popular with customers able to sit outside. We were pleased that we were able to use a fantastic marquee kindly loaned by John Barron. The magnificent bric-a-brac and nearly new stalls were also located in the mar-



quee. There was the usual array of stalls for punters. Includ-

ing Bag Tombola, Bowling,

Beat the Goalie and Guess the

Name of the Bear. Plenty of

locals joined in the fun together

with several passing cyclists

who enjoyed a rummage in the

bric-a-brac. A big "Thank you"

to everyone who gave up their time to help. We had a fantastic afternoon.



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The Long Marston Show

More pictures by Village News



London 2012" arrangement by June Spencer.



This beautiful miniature garden on a tray was entered by the children of Hill Top Farm.



"Olympic Gold" won a First for Margaret Row, and a Certificate of Merit.



Colourful cone cup cakes Poppy Shepherd.



Veggie creatures in the children's classes.



Cup winners Jane Murrell and Alan Winfield with a fine collection of silverware for their prize vegetables.



This fine pair got a First for Alan Winfield.

