

36 packed pages
this month!

February 2014

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

Inside this issue:

Church services	3
What's on	4
Council news	10
Sudoku	15
From the Vicarage	29
Local Contacts	34



Villagers turn out to combat the deluge as floods affect Long Marston and Wilstone

NEIGHBOURS joined forces in January to prevent overflowing brooks and ditches flooding their homes in both Wilstone and Long Marston. Wilstone Brook overflowed where it enters a culvert in the centre of the village flooding Sandbrook Lane, and in Long Marston Chapel Lane was flooded as storm water collected in the area by the War Memorial. There were calls at the Parish Council meeting for action to improve local drainage systems, which villagers said were inadequate. For more reports and pictures turn to: **Council News, page 10** and **Water wages war on Wilstone, page 16.**



Right: Chapel Lane awash in Long Marston.
(Picture: Mel Bayer)

Below: Village action in Sandbrook Lane.
(Picture: John Painter)



Special features

- New salon 8
- Valentine? 9
- Nik's fish 13
- Letters 15
- Andy Ashwell 17
- Village view 19
- Book review 28
- Football picture 36

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

Remembering: Brian Dover, Anne Quartly, Ben Reeves, Daphne Reeves THE lives of four villagers who died in December are remembered inside this issue. Turn to pages 30, 31, 32.

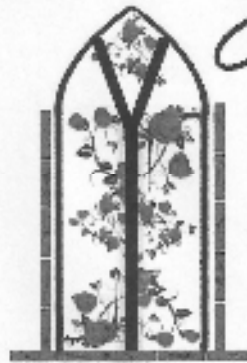
The Pantomime of your Dreams

Sleeping Beauty



BY

NEIL GURNEY



THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 7.30PM
FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 7.30PM
SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 7.30PM &
CHILDREN'S MATINEE 2PM



TICKET PRICES: £6.00
SENIOR CITIZENS: £4.00
CHILDREN: £3.00

BAR, RAFFLE & UNRESERVED SEATING

**A PANTOMIME SPECTACULAR AT
THE VICTORY HALL, LONG MARSTON**

TICKETS FROM: THE QUEEN'S HEAD, LONG MARSTON;
WILSTONE VILLAGE STORES OR MEAD FARM SHOP,
WILSTONE, OR SUNDAYS 2 – 5PM AT THE VICTORY HALL.

ENQUIRIES: 07855 369515

Village News

Editor this month: Phil Buchi

Advertising Manager

Graham Thorpe: 01442 822923

email: villagenewsadvertising@googlemail.com

Editorial Team

Phil Buchi, Colin Davenport, John McCall,
Colin Moore, Ben Lovis, Mark Woodbridge.

email: editorwlp@yahoo.com

Post: 3 Ravens Court, Long Marston, HP23 4AN.

Phone: Phil Buchi: 01296 661339

Distribution Manager

Rob Briant 07802 384151

Finance Manager & Treasurer

Toby Davidson 07970 636168

Pictures of water

THIS month last year our front page carried pictures of... er, yes: water. I hope we don't have to make this a regular feature. Again, villagers have demonstrated that self-help is the most effective defence against the errant flows. In Long Marston and in Wilstone neighbours joined forces and took action. Now a flood defence group is to be set up in Long Marston, and this is a good step forward. In villages worse affected than us, residents have been able to make big improvements to local watercourses with some straightforward actions.

36 packed pages this month!

Thank you for the bumper crop of articles you sent in for this edition! I received an astonishing 68 items for publication. You have give your editor a hard time fitting it all in, even with the addition of more pages. Subjects include *public consultations* (page 11), *local football* (page 36) and the *obituaries* of four impressive local people (pages 30 - 32). I hope you will give next month's editor a hard time too!

Phil Buchi

**Deadline for items for our next issue is
Thursday 20th February 2014.**

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 February

10.00am

All Saints Morning Prayer

6.00pm

St Cross Evening Prayer

3 February

(Monday)

2.00pm

All Saints Toddler Worship

9 February

8.15am

St Mary's Holy Communion

10.00am

All Saints Holy Communion

6.00pm

All Saints Celtic Evening Prayer

16 February

10.00am

St Cross Holy Communion

10.00am

All Saints Morning Prayer

17 February

(Monday)

2.00pm

All Saints Toddler Worship

23 February

10.00am

All Saints Holy Communion

3.30pm

St Mary's Evensong



Tring Rural Parish Council

Notice of public participation

8pm, Wednesday 5th February

at Cecilia Hall, Puttenham (by the church).

There will be an opportunity for members of the public to participate in the discussion on a proposal to grant a lease to **Long Marston Football Club** to use the Long Marston Recreation Ground, to help them secure funding. The proposal will be explained at the meeting.

To take part, just come along to the Parish Council meeting at 8pm.

Read Village News online at:

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

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

What's on...



CANDLEMAS AT ST.CROSS

**Sunday
2nd February
at 6pm.**

CELEBRATE THE TRADITIONAL
FEAST OF CANDLEMAS AT AN
EVENING SERVICE OF MUSIC AND
CANDLELIGHT.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

A PERFORMANCE BY
THE MIDGARD ENSEMBLE
(FEATURING JUDITH SHERIDAN OF SING-WILSTONE)

**THURSDAY 20th FEBRUARY
7.30pm at
ST CROSS CHURCH
WILSTONE**

£5 TICKET
(TO INCLUDE GLASS OF WINE & NIBBLES)

Available from Jo Woodbridge 01442 891444
or Wilstone Community Shop.

Community Shop Wilstone opening hours:

Monday to Friday: 7.30am to 2.00pm
Saturday 7.30am to 1.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am to 12.00noon.

Times for mobile library Route 72

Thursday fortnightly 6th and 20th February 2014.

Tringford (Piggeries Pine)	11.00 to 11.20
Wilstone (The Half Moon)	11.25 to 11.55
Astrove (Astrove 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 5 February, Puttenham Cecilia Hall.

Wednesday 5 March, Wilstone village hall. (This meeting includes the annual Parish Meeting.)

Sunday 2 February

Candlemas service at St Cross, 6pm.

20,21,22 February

Long Marston Pantomime "Sleeping Beauty". 7.30. See ad.

Thursday 20 February

The Midgard Ensemble at St. Cross, 7.30pm. £5, see ad.

Friday 21 February

Wilstone Film Night: "About time". See ad.

Tuesday 25 February

All Saints social afternoon 2-3pm.

Friday 7 March

Cecilia Tea Rooms. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham. 3-5pm.

Friday 7 March

"The story of Wilstone" with John Painter. At Wilstone village hall, 7.30pm. £5.

Tuesday 11 March

St. Cross service to "Launch Lent", and start the annual collection for DENS. Followed by sausage & pancakes. 10am.

Friday 14 March

Quiz night at LMCC. Bookings: M. Keable 07855 154717.

Tuesday 25 March

All Saints social afternoon 2-3pm.

Saturday 29 March

Jumble sale, Cecilia Hall, Puttenham 2pm.

Saturday 29 March

Tennis Club Quiz Night. Long Marston village hall.

Sunday 30 March

Mothering Sunday: special service at St. Cross. 10am.

Wednesday 2 April

Lent Lunch in Wilstone village hall. 12 noon.

Saturday 12 April

Jumble Sale: Marsworth WI. 2pm.

Sunday 13 April

Palm Sunday Service at St. Cross. 10am.

Good Friday 18 April

Raising of The Cross for Good Friday. 12 noon, St. Cross.

Saturday 19 April

"The ultimate Elvis tribute". Wilstone VH. See ad.

Easter Sunday 20 April

St. Cross Easter Day service. 10am.

Monday 21 April

Easter Egg Hunt at St. Cross. 10am.

Tuesday 22 April

All Saints social afternoon 2-3pm.

Thursday 1 May

May Day Madrigals & breakfast. 6am onwards, Puttenham.

(Continued on page 5)

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

Friday 2 May

Community Football Match, Long Marston Rec. 6pm.

Monday 5 May

Aldbury May Fair.

9 and 10 May

"Blue Moon", by the Vale Musical Society.

Saturday 10 May

LMCC Cherwell League fixtures commence.

Saturday 10 May

Jazz lunch with The Jolly Jazzers.

Saturday 17 May

Concert, All Saints Church, Long Marston.

Saturday 17 May

Barn Dance at Wilstone village hall. 7.30pm.

Monday 2 June

MCC Unicorns A v. Northants 2nd XI, at LMCC.

Tuesday 3 June

MCC Unicorns A v. Kent 2nd XI, at LMCC.

Friday 6 June

Cecilia Tea Rooms. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham. 3-5pm.

Sunday 8 June

Wilstone Fete and fun dog show.

Sunday 8 June

LMCC Sunday Cherwell League fixtures commence.

Sunday 15 June

Marsworth Steam Rally.

Tuesday 17 June

Herts over 60s XI v. Leics over 60s XI, at LMCC.

Sunday 22 June

Church Open Day, All Saints.

Sunday 22 June

Midsummer Picnic, Long Marston recreation ground, 1pm.

Sunday 6 July

LMCC fund raising day: President's XI v. Mike Dean XI.

Saturday 2 August

Long Marston Village Show.

3,4 and 5 August

Minor Counties cricket at LMCC. Herts v. Cumberland.

Saturday 30 August

Jumble sale, Cecilia Hall, Puttenham. 2pm.

Sunday 7 September

St. Cross Harvest Service and lunch. 11.30am.

Friday 12 September

Cecilia Tea Rooms. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham. 3-5pm.

Saturday 13 September

Historic Churches, Bike 'n' Hike.

Tuesday 16 September

St. Cross Holy Day service.

Saturday 11 October

October Supper with Neil Gurney. 7 for 7.30pm.

Friday 24 October

Quiz and Curry, All Saints.

Tuesday 4 November

Rosemary for Remembrance at St. Cross. 10am.

Remembrance Sunday 9 November

Remembrance Day services, St. Cross and All Saints. 10am.

The Story of Wilstone PHOTOGRAPHS OLD AND NEW

presented by John Painter.

**FRIDAY 7th MARCH
at 7.30pm**

WILSTONE VILLAGE HALL.

TICKETS £5, INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS,
FROM WILSTONE COMMUNITY SHOP,
PAM (01442 824394) & OLGA (01442 822894).
Supporting Friends of St Cross.

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

JAZZERCISE THE RESULTS.

I CRAVE
my workout

"I crave Jazercise because it makes me feel rejuvenated and stress free."
- Piper, 35

PITSTONE MEMORIAL HALL
Wednesday 7.30 pm

WILSTONE VILLAGE HALL
Monday 9.30 am
Tuesday 6.00 pm Low Impact
Wednesday 9.30 am
Thursday 9.45 am Low Impact
Friday 9.45 am
Saturday 9.30am NEW !!

CHEDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL
Monday 7.00 pm
Tuesday 9.45 am NEW !!

07900 987230
www.jazercise-uk.com JazerciseBucksBedsHerts

Pantomime season with Sleeping Beauty *by Toby Davidson*

2014 is now upon us and the Long Marston & Puttenham Horticultural Society celebrates the new year in the usual fashion by staging our annual pantomime. With the considerable talents of our director/creator, Neil Gurney, who comes to us fresh from directing a very successful production of 'Dr Doolittle' at Pendley starring Alan Munt in the title role, we are presenting 'Sleeping Beauty' at the Victory Hall in Long Marston on 20-22 February during the half-term holiday. This year, all performances will start at 7:30 with a children's matinee on the Saturday afternoon. It is our 27th production and we will also be joined on stage by a very special guest for the children. Tickets are currently on sale in the Queens Head, Long Marston, the Wilstone Village Shop and Mead's Farm Shop on Icknield Way. They are also on sale on Sunday afternoons from 2pm at Long Marston Victory Hall or by calling Kathy Sartin on 01296 662734. With something for all the family, this traditional pantomime is a must and we look forward to seeing you there.

With this being a totally amateur production, in addition to being put through our paces on stage by Neil, we also create our own sets, make our own props and costumes, and ensure the paying public have a thoroughly enjoyable night out via

our front-of-house team. In order to do this, volunteers are actively sought to come and join our group, from wielding a paint brush on Sundays at Wilstone Village Hall to helping sell raffle tickets or serve drinks on the night. With 10 members of the chorus this year, we are especially looking for people who can help create and sew costumes for them. We welcome anyone who would like to help in any capacity. Please contact Vicky Hayes on 07855 369515 for more details.



Call for World War I material for local exhibition *by Shelley Savage*

THE year 2014, the anniversary of the start of the First World War, has created more interest than usual in what happened locally during the period. There have been calls from more than one source for people to research those young men who died and whose names are on memorials. We are also interested in finding out how communities coped in those hard times.

The Tring Local History Museum, whose remit includes the villages around Tring, would be pleased to exhibit any materials which your village historians collect. We are not imposing



An evening with Alvin- The ultimate Elvis Tribute

An evening of fun and the best of Elvis
at Wilstone Village Hall.

Saturday April 19th

From 8 'till late.

Tickets £10 available now
at Wilstone Community Shop.

Licenced bar.

any time scales, because we would very much like to talk to anyone who is putting together such photographs, letters or other documents, but probably sometime during the next four years would be appropriate. We would be able to advise on how and what to display, and would very much like to make contact with researchers in your area.

Contact: Shelley Savage, tel: 01442 827702,
email: savage.shelley@gmail.com.

Ickneild Sixteen singers enhance traditional service

A TRADITIONAL Christmas service of lessons and carols at All Saints, Long Marston, on 8th December was considerably enhanced by the presence of choral group The Ickneild Sixteen. Formed out of the Tring Choral Society, The Ickneild Sixteen is a chamber choir who have been giving concerts locally in aid of church related charities for over 30 years.

This was their first performance at All Saints, and the choir gave a powerful lead to the congregation during the traditional carols, as well as performing a number of items themselves. This was the sort of performance you might expect to hear in a cathedral, and an impressive demonstration of the excellent acoustics at All Saints. The service was arranged and led by Rev'd Jane Banister.

Wilstone Film Nights

Friday February 21st



ABOUT TIME

Starring **Bill Nighy**
Directed by **Richard Curtis**

At the age of 21, Tim Lake (Domhnall Gleeson) discovers he can travel in time. The night after another particularly unsatisfactory New Year party, Tim's father (Bill Nighy) tells his son that the men in his family have always had the ability to travel through time. Tim can't change history, but he can change what happens and has happened in his own life; so he decides to make the world a better place. A very funny, typically Wilstone film night film.



Tickets £6.

Available at Wilstone Community Shop & Meads Farm Shop.

Friday February 21st.

Film starts at 8pm.

Licenced bar opens 7.15pm.

FARM P.E. MEAD & SONS SHOP

Stay Warm This Winter!

Dry Logs
Prompt Delivery

CALOR Gas
Pick Up Only

Pre-Packed Coal

For Open Fires & Multifuel Stoves

Visit Us For:

- Large Selection Of Fruit & Vegetables -
- Extensive Freezer Selection -
- Home Produced Lamb & Beef -
- Top Brand Pet Foods & Animal Feeds -
- Chiltern Cold Pressed Rapeseed Oil -

P E Mead & Sons Farm Shop
Wilstone, Nr Tring, HP23 4NT 01442 828478
www.pemeadandsons.co.uk

Stylish new hairdressing salon opens in Tring

by Fran Flowerdew

TWO local girls, Jaye Smith and Sophie White, have worked hard to open a lovely new hairdressing salon, The Style Cabin in Western Road, Tring.

They grew up living next door to each other in Marsworth from the ages of 5 and 7. Their mothers were always best friends and Jaye and Sophie followed suit and became close too. Sophie took the time to complete her degree whilst Jaye trained to be a hairdresser. She worked for about 5 years in local salons where she learned her trade. Sophie joined her after uni and eventually both girls qualified as hairdressers.

Eventually Jaye had a cabin built at the end of her garden in Aston Clinton where she and Sophie soon developed a busy and varied clientele. 14 months later the girls outgrew this garden cabin and so they took the decision to open up in a shop in Tring which had just become vacant. A local friend had the job of fitting out the shop which he did to a very high standard, turning it into a warm friendly place where anyone entering immediately feels at home. Painted in subtle colours with lovely mirrors and matching accessories, it really is a nice environment where people can relax whilst being pampered! Parking at the rear so no need to worry about traffic wardens either.

They have now taken on a receptionist and nail technician and if things continue to grow as they have done, may indeed need to take on another stylist. Jaye and Sophie cover the normal



The Style Cabin is at 70 Western Road, Tring. Telephone: 01442 826787.

spectrum of styles including colouring, cutting (men, women and children) blow drying, hair extensions and Beox conditioning treatment, wedding parties and up styles. They offer flexible hours Monday to Saturday, including walk in appointments and late night appointments.

Their prices are extremely competitive and they intend to retain the same rates they charged whilst working from the cabin in the garden. I can tell you first hand that the friendly atmosphere together with the finished results are well worth a try!

Who to phone when homes are at risk from flooding

(Published at the request of Tring Rural Parish Council.)

Burst banks of rivers or streams: **Environment Agency - 0845 988 1188.**

Blocked road drains and gullies: **Hertfordshire County Council Highways - 0300 123 4047.**

Blocked drains in the main sewers: **Thames Water - 0845 9200 800.**

Burst pipes and water mains in Council or Council leasehold properties:
Dacorum Housing Maintenance - 01442 228000 or 0800 018 6050.

Luxury Beauty Salon in Wilstone

www.TheChapelRoom.co.uk

or call on 01442 890933

So what is it about Valentine's? *by The Mighty Jugster*

So what is it about Valentine's?
Why should we all go out and dine?
Plan great gestures, loads of Flowers
Even have my annual shower!
The pressures put on lovelorn guys
Seems over-rated I surmise.

Let's take the case of humble Jack
He works quite hard then trudges back
To find Gill crying on the hearth
Because a spider's in the bath!
His bunch of Roses may contain
More Arachnids just the same!

Poor Raymond's cowering in the loo
He just does not know what to do!
His Anne expects to get the works
A trip abroad with all the perks
But Ray's idea of love you see
Is beans on toast and a cup of tea!

Dear George the dreaming Dragon Slayer's
Been reading too much Georgette Heyer!
His thrills for Sue may often seem
To travel on to the extreme
But riding horses, armour-clad
For this young buck will hurt the lad!

Romantics don't look past Jane Austen
As Kate tells Phil far too often
His plans all look a bit too classy –
He dresses up like Mr Darcy!
If coming out the lake shows loving
Does days in bed with flu prove nothing?

There's those like Charles who write a sonnet
Telling Liz to don her bonnet
He knows it's hard to find the time
To put his feelings into rhyme
His sexy words may be uncanny
But will this mean he plays with her... piano?

It looks to me like money wasted
Too much 'slush' is far too hasty
With girls like Gill or Sue or Kate
I'd say I love them every day!
So why raise hope and expectation
When love itself's the only equation!

PAINTING & DECORATING *SUPERIOR STANDARD*

ESTABLISHED & TRUSTED
LOCALLY FOR OVER 20 YEARS

MARTIN J KEABLE

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



The Old Pastures Dog Grooming



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

For prices or to book an appointment call:
01442 824856

The Blindman

Curtain and Blind Specialists

Curtains . Poles . Tie Backs . Cushions
Roller . Pleated . Woodslat . Woven . Vertical . Venetian

Huge choice of fabric
or supply your own

Free friendly advice and quotation in the comfort of your own home

01442 822 055 & 07767 783 955
www.theblindman.uk.com

Underhill Services

For all your home maintenance needs.

Gardening - Landscaping - Decorating -
Groundwork.

Garden clearance, pruning, hedge trimming,
fence painting etc.

No job too small.

Call Gary (Pixie): 07779 497669

From our reporter at the Parish Council meeting

Reports from the December and January meetings.

Call for flood precautions

FIFTEEN villagers attended the January meeting to seek action to prevent further flooding in the villages. Heavy rains caused flooding in both Long Marston and Wilstone during the month. In both villages householders took to the streets with sandbags and brooms to defend their homes assisted at times by Fire Brigade pumps. The worst affected areas were around Chapel Lane, Long Marston and Sandbrook Lane, Wilstone. Keith Foster, a resident of Chapel Lane, told Councillors that the drains were not adequate, and unless something was done about it they would be flooded again next time it rains heavily. Other residents said that they had phoned Thames Water and the Environment Agency for assistance but no help was offered. Mr Foster suggested that neighbours should form an action group to improve drains and ditches, and had ideas which could reduce the risks of flooding in the future. The Parish Council agreed that an action group should be set up, and nominated Cllr. Chris Mann to be their representative.

Activities for youngsters, 8 to16

Two local parents asked Councillors at the December meeting what facilities could be provided in the parish for older children in the 8-16 age group. These children, they said, com-

plained there was nothing for them locally. They were worried that their children did not have anywhere to go and play within the villages and as a result used their bikes and scooters on footpaths and roads, putting themselves in a dangerous position. Parents regularly found themselves shuttling children to parks in neighbouring parishes, for example Aston Clinton, where there is an impressive activity playground. Cllr. Mike Tomlinson said that the Parish Council had a few years previously run a consultation with local children and as a result additional features had been added to both the recreation grounds at Long Marston and Wilstone. He mentioned that the money available to the Parish Council was limited, and a skateboard park had previously proved too costly. Councillors suggested that if residents got a group together to look at various options then the Council would be pleased to have a discussion about the possibilities.

CALA Homes S106 money ...for play space?

With helpful timing, Joe Guiton from Dacorum Borough Council attended the January meeting to discuss using the "S106" money from developer CALA Homes for... yes, play space facilities in the parish. CALA Homes are building 14 new homes at Dixon's Gap, Gubblecote, and the "Condition S106" money is the contribution the developer pays to

Make a Will

& Lasting Powers of Attorney

Your priorities?

BEST VALUE SOLICITORS and professional Will Writers

- Provide the best for any partner or children
- Protect the home from care fees
- Avoid Inheritance Tax
- Expert guidance (since 1999)
- BEST PRICE guarantee



Will Trusts
& Probate
Practice

A wise choice

Daytime
or evening

HOME
VISIT

Call The Will Centre on:

01525 220 644

www.wisechoicewills.co.uk

Problem with your windows?

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

Guarantees on all units fitted

Visit our website for a free online estimate:

www.SmashingWindows.com

Or ring

01296 630650 to arrange an appointment today!

Try our window cleaning service.
Call 07875 534780 for more details.

Dacorum Borough Council towards additional community services. The money is about to be paid, and Mr Guiton has the task of consulting with the community before allocating the cash. Strangely, officials will not say how much cash there is (not exactly *open government*, we think) but rumour has it that it is "a decent amount". Dacorum are proposing an allocation for play space facilities from this money. Another allocation will be for highways. Residents will be able to take part in an on-line consultation, the arrangements for which will be announced at the 5th February meeting of the Parish Council, and publicised in *Village News*. Perhaps then we might be told how much.

Public participation on proposed lease for LMFC

You can wait ages for a public consultation, and then two come along at once. Your views will be sought at the 5th February meeting on the lease the Parish Council is proposing to grant to Long Marston FC to give them some security of tenure to play football at the publicly owned Long Marston recreation ground. LMFC have played there for many decades, but there is no formal agreement with the Parish Council. The purpose of granting a lease is to help the football club apply for improvement grants. To learn about the proposal and take part in the discussion, just come to the Parish Council meeting at 8pm on Wednesday 5th February at Cecilia Hall, Puttonham (by the church). Bring a torch, it's dark up there!

Your Parish Councillors are:

Mr Michael Tomlinson (Chairman) 01296 661 311
 Mr Chris Griffiths 01296 668 257
 Mr Alan Winfield 01296 668 977
 Mr Christopher Mann 01296 668548
 Mr Nick Murrell 01296 668 190
 Mrs Olli Wheeler-Cornell 01296 662 207
 Mr Richard Briant 01442 825 674
 Mr Robert Briant 01442 825 674

The Clerk to the Council :-

Mrs Lucy Bancroft 07590 989202
 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 online at:

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

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

Do you know someone who needs care?

Our Tring Rural team provides specialist live in care – to enable your loved one to remain within the comfort and familiarity of their own home, whilst receiving full-time care.

Working with people of all ages, our live in carers provide one-to-one support, balancing independent living with bespoke care needs.

We can assist with:

- personal care
- companionship
- housekeeping

Find out how we can help you, please call 0808 180 1023 or visit www.helpinghands.co.uk



Helping Hands

Established since 1989

Friendly village pub

Open all day

Food served 12-3 & 6-9

The Half Moon



Wilstone

(off the B489 near Tring and Aston Clinton)

Real Ales • Great Food • Children's Menu & Play Area • Large garden • Open Fire • Heated Patio • Car Park • Dog Friendly • Mobile Top up

Tel: 01442 826410

A warm welcome guaranteed!

Seaton's Catering

Established 1990

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

Please call to order or discuss your menu

tel: 01296 630279/720459

seatonscatering.co.uk

email: seatonscatering@hotmail.co.uk

"A five star hygiene rating"

Mrs. Dittles

PET SITTERS

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

All types of animals.

Member of the National Association of Registered Pet Sitters.

Fully insured.

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

Tel. 01442 822191 or 07967 019031.

Sarah Jane Boutique



We specialise in selling pre-loved designer clothes at a fraction of their original price which include Prom and Evening Dresses, Ball Gowns, Special Occasion Wear, Hats, Shoes and Boots.

We are also the local stockists for 'The Old Bag Co Handbags, Nino Leather Purses and Park Lane Jewellery.

We are open on Wednesday evenings 5-9pm and Friday 10-3pm or by appointment on other days/evenings.

Please contact us via email or mobile for further information on selling and buying through us.

sarah@sarahjaneboutique.co.uk - 07975 920938

The Old Bakery, Mus End Lane, Wingrave, HP22 4PX

MR LEE ELECTRICAL

Long Marston & Tring

**Industrial
Commercial
Domestic**

ELECSA
An Affiliates Group

**Part P
Approved Contractor**

www.elecsa.co.uk

**Electrical Safety
Register**

incorporating
ELECSA **INDEPENDENT** **ECA**
Certification Ltd

Part P registered No. 23060

Tel: 01296 661625

Mobile: 0777 8657655

mrleeelectrical@talktalk.net

L & S SKIP HIRE

Fully Registered

Waste Carrier



Your Local Company

All Sizes of Skips Available

"WE DON'T TALK RUBBISH WE SHIFT IT"

PHONE RICHARD 07831120879

L.L.Heating

Family business over 30 years serving Tring, Long Marston & Villages

**Gas Central Heating, Boilers, Fires & AGAs,
Servicing, Repairs & Upgrades.**

**Power Flushing, Landlords Certificates,
Plumbing & Energy Saving Controls**

Tel: 01442 890750

service@llheating.co.uk
Rocemore House, Woodrow,
Wigginton, Tring HP23 6HT.
www.llheating.co.uk



From counting cash to catching fish

Nik's Fresh Fish, at Mead's Farm Shop (Wednesdays and Fridays) by Peter Walker

THE fish stall you can see at Meads Farm Shop on Wednesdays and Fridays, is a new business recently started by Nik Dove from Cheddington. He has made a big leap, from a well-paid office job in finance up in London, to selling fresh fish from an open-air stall.

OK, so he likes fish, but... why would you want to make such a dramatic change? Says Nik: "Faced with redundancy, you start to re-evaluate your life and what you want to do. We all want to earn good money, but the relentless commuting is tedious, expensive, and working for corporate institutions is not always satisfying. I decided that I really wanted to do something by myself. I wanted my own business, but working for a corporation for so long, doesn't really equip you for starting on your own, so it has been a steep learning curve." Why fish? "Like most of us," says Nik, "I love eating super fresh fish and have been disappointed since the local fishmonger has disappeared off our high streets. Without doubt, the quality of supermarket fish has improved a good deal over the years but there is no way they can get their produce from ship to stall as fast as I do. My fish is caught by inshore Cornish and Devon fishermen, not mammoth arctic freezer trawlers, and I think there is a demand by the discerning customer who wants super fresh fish, whose provenance can be verified. I know exactly where my fish comes from."

So what is usually on the menu? "Obviously it depends on the season and what the boats bring in, but I usually have cod, salmon, and plaice fillets, and whatever else I think my customers would like. I have recently added crab and mussels."



"I know exactly the provenance of my fish."

Is your new business successful? "Well, it is still early days, I am learning what my customers want, and I am getting better at reducing the amount of waste. Obviously I like to sell everything I buy, and it is down to me to judge it right. I am thoroughly enjoying myself. It is hard work, with very early mornings to pick up the fish, but I have really enjoyed engaging directly with people I have had the pleasure to serve."

Jenny Mead said: "We are delighted to have Nik here at the Farm Shop. He adds to the variety of all the fresh meat, fruit and vegetables we have, and provides more of a one stop shop for our local customers."

Nik is at Meads Farm Shop every *Wednesday and Friday between 10.00am and 4:00pm*. You can request special orders by emailing him at niksfreshfish@gmail.com, or by calling him on **07736 462100**.
Peter Walker.

If you, or someone you know, needs help to keep their home warm this winter

call  HertsHelp

0300 123 4044
(local rate) or email info@hertshelp.net

"There is no way a supermarket can get their fish from ship to stall as fast as I do."



Nik's favourite recipe

I think the best way of cooking fish, is don't mess about with it too much. Simple pan frying or steaming brings out the real flavour of the fish, but for a bit of variety, try some halibut, cod or salmon fillets, wrapped in foil with paprika, lemon juice and parsley, or thyme with maybe some garlic. Place in the oven for 30 minutes at about 150°C, 300°F. Simple but wonderful!



**KENNETH BROWN
ROOFING**

Specialist in
Tiling, Slating, Chimneys and Flat Roofing
Guttering, Facias and Building Works.
56-57 High Street, Tring, Herts, HP23 5AG.
Tel: Tring (01442) 823031 Mobile: 07951 220904

**BLOOMFIELD
WINDOWS & DOORS**

Conservatories Hardwood UPVC
Aluminium Secondary Porches

10 Year Guarantee
FENSA Registered

Tel/Fax: 01442 824333 Mob: 07836 640448

**Local
General Builder**

***Do you need a
reliable general builder?***

***Bricklayer by trade,
but can do many more jobs.***

Please call

Darren Paul

***Home: 01296 662168
Mobile: 07581 624008***



**S G H
Pest Control**

**01296 662088
07923 430920**

Tring based company operating locally
offering a discreet and professional service
Domestic Agricultural Commercial

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

Using many control measures within
integrated Pest Management
Traditional and modern



APPLIANCE REPAIR SERVICE

Specialist in the repair of Bosch, Siemens and Neff kitchen
appliances as well as many other leading manufacturers.
Fully trained engineer with over 20 years experience.

Contact Renato on
01494 776554 or
07771 706380

www.appliancerepairservice.co.uk
**10% off call out charge with this advert -
please call for further information.**

WILSTONE STICKS

*Handcrafted by John Evans, Wilstone, Hertfordshire
Member of The British Stickmakers Guild*



Telephone 01442 822115
www.wilstonesticks.com
wilstonesticks44@btinternet.com

Letters...

From Tony Lawrence, Wilstone.

Flood help thanks

Tony and Jane Lawrence wish to thank sincerely everyone that was involved in and who worked incredibly hard to keep the floodwaters out of Sandbrook Cottages during the 7th January 2014.

From Jack Quartly, Linda Andrew and Lesley Lloyd.

Anne Quartly

MAY we please, through your columns, say a big *thank you* for all the wonderful responses from everyone to the loss of Anne Quartly on 11th December 2013. From handshakes to cuddles, over seventy sympathy cards, and the marvellous church and pub choir collections. The sum of £700 has been sent to the Alzheimer's Society, of which everyone can be proud. Thank you all. Anne will be missed by so many people.

Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 81 difficult

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

Start with top left box there is only one square for the 9 now you can fix the 9 in the bottom box and the top middle box. Good luck. **Solution: page 17.**

From Chris Reynolds, Tring.

Archive issues for Village News

AS a historian who helps people from all over the world to research their ancestors, and the places where their ancestors lived newspapers national and local, new and old, are an invaluable source of information because they provide contemporary accounts of everyday life, and often contain articles of considerable historical interest. These sources are so valuable that the whole of the British Library's collection of old local and regional newspapers is currently being scanned so it can be searched online.

There has always been a problem with the most local publications - such as parish magazines - and unless the church has kept a complete set (in suitable archive conditions) few copies of these historically very informative documents survive from the Victorian period, as in general no copies were supplied to the copyright libraries. So onto the *Village News*. Of course it is produced for the benefit of the local inhabitants, including those who advertise in it. I live in that remote town called Tring and only discovered about the existence of the *Village News* because of my wife's connection with Long Marston Church. A few years ago I decided to check whether there were copies of the *Village News* in the reference section of Tring Public Library (which also serves Long Marston, etc.) and on discovering there was not I notified the Librarian that copies of this free newsletter should be obtained (but have never checked whether they followed this up and acquired copies). I suspect there are also no copies at HALS or in the copyright libraries. Shortly afterwards I discovered your excellent publication was available online and readily accessible to people who formerly lived in the area, or whose ancestors lived in the area, and who wanted to know more about the villages and village life in the 21st century. Of course such people are not just interested in the current issue - and will be interested in any general news, and pictures from recent years.

This morning I decided to have a look at something in the September issue and was horrified that there are now only the last three months issues online. Hopefully all the back issues that were produced in pdf form will re-appear online. All that is needed is a list of the month and year with a link to the pdf file, and Google will automatically provide the indexing to allow people to find them. (*Letter has been abridged.*)

Village News Chairman, Phil Buchi, replies

Chris Reynolds is right. Archives do present a problem for village magazines, and I can't pretend that we have devoted much time to finding a solution. Back copies are a valuable source of information, and every so often we get a request from a reader to consult the paper archive we hold. Our principal task is to make the next month's magazine available to readers, and there is no money for much else. The last three issues are published on the TRPC website at no cost to us. We could use some advice from an historian or archivist, and I have asked Chris if he could make some suggestions that would improve the present situation without costing much. If other readers have ideas too, please let me have them.

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

Water wages war on Wilstone Residents' rapid response

by Peter and Jill Walker

ON the morning of Tuesday January 7th, over Wilstone, Long Marston and surrounding villages, the sky went dark and we then suffered an intense deluge, for only about half an hour, but in that time so much water fell that just a short while later, it overpowered drains and ditches. As it drained off the fields with such pressure and volume, it carried with it twigs and leaves which blocked narrow pipes, and overflowed on to roads. Once again, the Rose Barn Lane drain was unable to deal with the volume of water which spilt down Tring Road.

Such was the experience in Wilstone (Long Marston had worse problems), where several properties were threatened by the cascading water, including the Barns and Meads Farm. It is no surprise that Watery Lane lived up to its name.



Residents join forces to divert the deluge in Sandbrook Lane. (John Painter)

In Tring Road in Wilstone, opposite the Half Moon, villagers turned out to aid the flow of water with brooms, trying to push it away down Sandbrook Lane and diverting from the Long Row and the cottages opposite the pub. Damns were built to divert the flow from the threatened houses.

After an exhausting few hours, but fuelled with sandwiches and drinks courtesy of Half Moon landlord and landlady Guy and Abi, Meads Farm delivered straw bales, and Maggie & Gavin from Grange Road provided nearly 200 sandbags.

Eventually the fire and rescue service were called as all the volunteers were getting tired and were not making any progress. The obstructions in the drain were removed and the water then began to dissipate.

The exhausted volunteer team woke the next morning with aching shoulders and arms, and blisters on their hands. But it

was great that so many turned out to help neighbours, for which we, the residents of the houses threatened by the waters, are most grateful. We would especially like to thank Jenny and Simon at Meads Farm for the straw bales, Maggie and Gavin for the sandbags, to Mike and Diane Armson for their impromptu & valuable input, and Bucks Fire Service for providing much excitement. But most especially, we would like to thank our neighbours who wielded brooms for three hours or more.

But the fact is, that actual flooding of houses in Wilstone is unheard of in modern times, so this close encounter of the aqua kind is a rare event caused by a combination of exceptional circumstances. Upside is, the roads have never been so clean, and we all had an unexpected workout.



Time for re-enforcements. Simon Mead arrives with the heavy brigade and straw bales. (Picture by John Painter.)

**LONG MARSTON
AND PUTTENHAM**

FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW SECRETARY NEEDED

The Long Marston Village show has been running a flower and produce exhibition since 1936, but is now looking for a new Show Secretary to run the hall.

This a key position in the community and needs someone who is prepared to help set up and run the Village Hall on show day (the first Saturday in August).

Any interested parties should contact
Martin Winship 01296 662388 or
Margaret Kaye 01296 662975.

Running scared

by Andy Ashwell

I USED TO do a lot of running in my youth. During the winter most of it was on the roads, so to try and give my legs some relief from the pounding, I would go off-road and over the country whenever I could. I enjoyed most of it as long as it wasn't too windy, too icy, too wet or too muddy. Basically, I think that I was a fair-weather athlete who reluctantly endured the ropery conditions in order to build up my fitness for the summer track season which I much preferred. Now that my track days are over I'm much more lily-livered and don't venture out running in even slightly inclement weather.

I first discovered cross-country running at school as the result of a minor misdemeanour. My school was a rugby school and any other sport, apart from cricket, was frowned upon and treated with disdain. So much so that cross-country running, the lowest of the low, was often used as a punishment in place of 'the cane'. (For younger readers, 'the cane' was a punishment that involved a teacher hitting you with a bamboo stick as hard as they could on your bum, the back of your knees or anywhere else that hurt. One of our more sadistic teachers even used to take a run-up to make sure that you got the full benefit of the punishment!). The usual cross-country punishment-route was one that involved the aptly-named Muddy Lane: a course that was always a quagmire, even during the hottest of summers.

Being quite slight in stature – some say skinny – I found that playing rugby and getting tackled by a 20-stone forward was infinitely more painful than getting the cane. Running up Muddy Lane was also much cleaner than playing rugby. If you are being squashed under a scrumful of hulking, great forwards you get mud everywhere: in your hair, in your mouth, in your eyes, in your ears, and up your nose. A cross-country run, even in Muddy Lane at its worst, was really quite luxurious in comparison. As I did more running – usually as a punishment for cowardly behaviour in the face of snorting goliaths doing their best to kill me – I actually started to enjoy it. My house-master, a former Varsity Match player, eventually tired of trying to toughen me up and reluctantly let me go running with the other "useless cissies", as he put it, instead of playing rugby.

So when Florence announced her intention to join the school running club I was initially very keen. My enthusiasm started to wane a little when I remembered that it was winter; it nosedived completely when I found out that it was a before-school club that started at five to eight in the morning. Now, although I still do a fair amount of sport, I take all my exercise in the afternoon once my joints have stopped creaking and my muscles have stopped aching. It's not wholly an age-related thing as I've been like this since my early twenties. So, fearing that I would have to take part and get shown up by a bunch of enthusiastic, pumped-up infants, I started to try and dissuade her from joining.

Despite my efforts, she still seemed very keen and when we received the news that she had been accepted into the club she

was over the moon. Resigned to a future of early-morning pain and ridicule, I took her to Sports Direct to get her kitted out with some suitable, cheap gear. Although Sports Direct does do cheap stuff, I was stopped from buying it by my fashion-conscious wife. Twenty minutes and 65 quid later a smiling Florence left the shop desperate for 7.55 on Monday morning to arrive.

Unfortunately, or fortunately – depending on how you look at it – I injured my knee playing squash a few days before Florence's debut run and had to hobble with her to rendezvous at the football hut. That early in the morning it was difficult to tell whether my limp was down to the time of day or to my



dodgy knee. I limped home and on the way back met plenty of excited athletes eager to get to the hut and get out running. When challenged by their accompanying parents about my lack of participation, I shrugged, pointed at my knee and exaggerated my limp.

So perhaps next week, knee-permitting, I'll join in. But before I do, I think I'll have to have a strong cup of coffee with plenty of sugar and Ibuprofen first if I'm going to have any chance of avoiding last place and complete humiliation.

Sudoku solution

No 81 solution

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

News from the LM & P WI

by Sue Barraclough

2013 proved to be a good year for members of the Long Marston and Puttenham WI with lots of things to interest us. At our meetings we have enjoyed a variety of speakers and demonstrations. It was with enthusiasm that we participated in an interesting and delicious Thai Cookery demonstration, a glamorous Sari trying on session, and a prickly workshop in Christmas Wreath making. We had talks on Local History, Crime and Punishment and the English Concertina and in addition to these there was Cheese and Wine tasting, a couple of Garden visits, an indoor Garden Party complete with cream tea and our Christmas Party where we enjoyed cocktails, delicious food, wonderful singing from the Local Vocals and lots of fun and all of this was just at our own local meetings. Add to this outside events which included an amusing and stimulating talk by Michael Portillo at our AGM, an early morning visit to Covent Garden Flower Market, a visit to an Embroidery Exhibition and various theatre trips, walks and lunches and you can see we have had a busy and fun year.

2014 is looking equally interesting with a really diverse programme. In addition to our normal outings and walks, theatre trips and lunches some of the subjects to be covered will be How To Improve your Feng Shui, the Amber Room at the Catherine Palace, St Petersburg, the Secret History of Nursery Rhymes and a Taste of Sri Lanka.

The year starts however with our January meeting at which we shall be given a "hands on" demonstration by Hilary Gatehouse in the craft of felt making and hopefully be able to depart with a piece of our own handiwork. Also later in January we shall be enjoying our annual dinner which will be held at The Bell, Aston Clinton and, weather allowing, our bi weekly walks will continue.

As you can see we have a varied programme to interest and stimulate our members and our membership continues to grow. If you feel that you might be interested in joining us please take the opportunity to come along to a meeting, you will find us a very welcoming and friendly group.

For more information please contact Sue Barraclough on 01296 668272 or Jude Roust on 01442 890327.

Long Marston Cricket Club

by Paul Dumbleton

VERY wet at Marlins as it is throughout the area after the unprecedented rainfall around the turn of the year. However winter jobs are going ahead. Fixture lists are being compiled, equipment is being refurbished and aching limbs and muscles are being exercised as the new season nets programme gets underway. A new venue for us this year as we try out the facility at Waddesdon School.

The new league season is eagerly awaited after the four promotions last year. All Cherwell League Fixtures get under way on Saturday 10th May when our 1st XI travel to Challow, our 2nd XI entertain Challow 2nd's and our 3rd XI travel to Witney Mills.

The Chess Valley league is later getting going. Due to a reorganization we have gone up three divisions, so some very entertaining Sunday cricket is promised. Our campaign gets underway on Sunday 8th June when we entertain Enfield.

Major events at Marlins for the year are:

Friday March 14th Quiz Nite - all welcome of course (Martin Keable 07855 154717 taking bookings);
Saturday 10th May - Cherwell League fixtures commence and run through to Saturday 6th September;
Monday 2nd June - MCC Unicorns A (national non contracted players team) v Northants 2nd XI in the ECB 50 over Trophy;
Tuesday 3rd June - MCC Unicorns A v Kent 2nd XI in the same ECB 50 over trophy competition;
Sunday 8th June - Sunday Cherwell League fixtures start at home v. Enfield (usually alternate Sundays at home);

Tuesday 17th June - Herts over 60's v Leics over 60's;
Sunday 6th July Fund Raising Day - Presidents XI v Mike Dean select XI;
Sunday 3rd, Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th August - Minor Counties Championship - Hertfordshire v Cumberland;
Wednesday 26th November - Annual general Meeting in the clubhouse.

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

The ivy has been disconnected

FOR some time the telephone box located at the junction of Tring Road and New Road in Wilstone has suffered the encroachment of ivy making it virtually unusable. This has now been removed by the Village Warden, Colin Reedman.



Before...

...and after.

VILLAGE VIEW

BY LIZ YOUNG



Ancient patterns emerge from the fields, picked out in water. Liz Young took these pictures at Long Marston, looking towards Astrope Lane. (More "village views" from readers are welcome. Ed.)

Versatile volunteers vary shop-talk to the beep of barcodes

Community Shop chatter by Diana Crapnell

ANOTHER year is upon us and we thought it would be interesting for all you readers to have a glimpse behind the scenes of our Community Shop. I'm sure you've noticed that we have a different team of valiant volunteers for each day of the week. We hope the daily change in volunteers offer a different shopping experience for our customers. The plus point is that our volunteers are experts on a wide range of topics, not just the shop, and are always happy to share their talents and expertise.

Variouly, depending on which team you meet, you can get advice and information on topics as varied as fishing, IT, forestry, chicken farming, baking of all description, amateur dramatics, horse husbandry, dogs, cats, kitchen design, maths, plus all aspects of local knowledge going back over 40 years and much, much more. So when we talk about shop talk, it really is! If you want to find out about pretty much anything the shop is always worth calling into, if we don't know the answer we may well between us know someone else who does! We're always keen to add to our well of knowledge, so if you're interested in joining the team just ask in the shop – particularly if you're someone who doesn't mind getting up early!

Not only that but we are also busy learning new skills as well. Running the shop has meant all of us getting to grip with food hygiene, stock control, cash control, the dreaded documentation and much, much more. Now we're deep into EPOS – that's electronic point of sale to the uninitiated, which we all pretty much are. Sadly our 'Arkwright' till, which has been very forgiving to all of us as we've learnt, is coming to the end of its days. So the gentle beep of the barcode will soon be heard echoing in the shop – please bear with us whilst we

mourn the loss of an old friend and get to grips with the future!

Our next major milestone is our first Annual Meeting of shop shareholders. If you bought one or more of the £5 shares in the Industrial and Provident Society that is Wilstone Community Shop Limited – and our thanks to all of you who did – then you will shortly receive an invitation to the meeting along with details of what it will cover. If you haven't bought a share but would like to in order to support the shop and participate in some of the decision making processes, then £5 membership shares are still available with forms at the shop; via the website www.wilstonevillageshop.org.uk or by sending an email to info@wilstonevillageshop.org.uk.

The 100 Club winning numbers for January were:

£100	number 50
£50	number 58
£25	number 46

Congratulations to our lucky winners.

Most people have been allocated the same number as in previous 100 club, but if you don't know your number please enquire at the shop or directly with Graham on 01442 822923, or email g.thorpe@btinternet.com.

Community Shop Wilstone opening hours:

Monday to Friday: 7.30am to 2.00pm
 Saturday 7.30am to 1.00pm
 Sunday: 9.00am to 12.00noon.

Berkhamsted Carpet Cleaning Ltd

Carpets • Oriental Rugs • Upholstery

- High quality professional service
- Residential and commercial
- Excellent value and fully insured
- Free consultation and quote
- References available

01442 876622 • 07884 058795

Berkhamsted Herts HP4 3ZQ
www.berkhamstedcarpetcleaning.co.uk

Skells Joinery

Bespoke Joinery & Carpentry

Over 25 years of joinery and carpentry experience.

Home consultation and competitive rates.

6 Ravens Court
Long Marston
HP23 4AN

Paul Skells
Tel: 07740 997885
paul.skells@btinternet.com

ASTROPE GARDEN SERVICES

LOGS FOR SALE



Seasoned, dry and split logs. Free delivery.

Bulk Bag £60.00 (approx. 0.6m³)

(Delivered in a tidy storage bag, to be returned with your next delivery).

Truck load £85.00 (approx. 1.2m³)

We also provide tree work, hedge cutting, fencing, driveways, paving, pressure washing and general garden maintenance.

Please contact Glenn on 07951 126534 or glennansell@gmail.com



Travel Expressions

Thinking about your next holiday?

With over 30 years experience, we offer independent advice and a personal service. We understand that no two holidays are the same and whilst we may not have visited all four corners of the world, we do know someone who has, and would like to share their experiences with you. Your holidays are booked only with fully bonded tour operators ensuring financial protection. You can contact us by phone or email, alternatively please visit our office to discuss your travel ideas over a tea or coffee.



Travel Expressions

Suite 12, George House, 64 High Street, Tring, Herts HP23 4AF

Tel: 01442 890265 • enquiries@travelexpressions.co.uk
www.travelexpressions.co.uk



The agricultural story line...

by David Mead

Where does all the water go? Here's where.

WELL, where does it all come from? Well I came up Watery Lane on Saturday - that's where it's all going. I will try to answer the question. There are a series of springs along the base of the chalk hills. West of Bulbourne, Tring and Miswell, Tring Ford, Drayton, and small ones in between. These all drained towards Marsworth and on to Long Marston. Others ended up, via Wilstone, to - yes you've guessed it - Long Marston. The canal company arrived in the 1700s. They needed as much water as possible at the summit, so reservoirs were built, pumps installed. So all land below the spring line could now be cultivated. The main water courses still exist. With more water than the canal people can deal with, it has to get to the River Thames. If you drive to Oxford you can see it has a rest the other side of Thame. In my youth reservoirs used to overflow. Waters from Marsworth and Startops and Little Tring rushed along to the B489 where it could be directed to Wilstone reservoir or to join the old water course to Gubblecote and Long Marston. The river people used to clean out the water courses but now the ditches and culverts have silted up. The culverts are the old brick ones, cleverly made but in need of replacement. Some water is diverted at Gubblecote to go across fields to join the Wilstone 'river' down Watery Lane. I heard my Father say that he was told a diversion board could be put in the Wilstone Brook at the beginning of Chapel End Lane, Wilstone, to take excess along the ditch there. The roadside ditch certainly falls away from the Tring Road towards the river course across the field. The canal boys can control the outlets from the reservoirs but such heavy rain overstretched the existing system. With flooding of houses, something must be done.

Simon, Jenny and the shop personnel have all been for open day in Nottingham to be introduced to new tills. A challenge, we'll see. I heard the words "touch screens" mentioned. Words like: "That can't be right", will be heard. We're getting an expert. With four tills this week, he'll be kept busy.

Where have all the pigeons gone? Last year they did a lot of damage to the oil seed rape, this year none, just a few locals seeming to be quite happy with the odd berry and clover leaf.

I'm still doing my log deliveries. The logs are fine but the delivery boy is having trouble with his memory. A load to Tilsworth caused problems. I asked two people, thank you very much. Oh My God, I've been there at least a dozen times. I've got to go to Wallingford, the Old Post Office, I will be following the old spring line I mentioned earlier. It's strange,



This is where some of it went. Flood waters in Chapel Lane, Long Marston.

(Picture: Mel Bayer)

but all our water goes under the road bridge at Wallingford on its way to London and the sea.

Chris Mead and Nick Murrell are both showing off their new knees. Chris is walking several miles a day and should be driving shortly. He was given a film of his operation, close up and gory. His other knee is alright, honest!!

The gardens are well ahead this year, my Aconites are in bloom, still the odd rose and daffodils are in bud. Gardeners are very competitive. Come on. Who in our patch and daffodils out in January (not these ones grown in pots)? Are there any lawn mowers for mowing under water grass? We are only six weeks away from lambing. That's it. Hibernation is a must.

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

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

Tall Story *by Martin Winship*

IN an age of Political Correctness it may surprise and distress some readers to learn of a form of discrimination and prejudice which still happens, and goes unchallenged, by and large. It is a scourge to which I am a long-suffering victim; the curse of heightism.

I have always been above average in stature; built to heroic proportions is how I like to put it. I was an unusually large baby (I had to be born in instalments) and the first job my father had was to cut two holes in the end of my pram for my feet. At school I was recorded for a time as a Sikh, in consequence of having my head bandaged through repeated and frequent collisions with low doorways. Later on, I tore a small boy off a strip for carelessly dropping his books on the school stairs, only to discover (too late) that he was, in fact, a new teacher.

I have always felt as though the world around me was designed and built for Munchkins; everything is too small or too low. Aircraft seats are so close together I have to have my knees raised - to such an extent that from behind it looks as though there are three people occupying my seat. I tried to learn to fly at the Kent Gliding Club once. I went up with the instructor in an open cockpit. He was alright - he was a normal small person - but my head and shoulders stuck up above the tiny windshield into the slipstream. I could not see, hear, or speak.

Cars are just as bad. I had to steer my MG with my knees, and even in the Landrover I frequently inadvertently washed the windscreen or turned on an indicator with my legs. The completely inappropriately named "headrests" generally give me a good massage somewhere between my shoulder blades. The best car I ever had (for my height) was a Cortina estate. It had a sunroof, and with this open I could drive along quite comfortably with my head sticking up out of the car.

Hotels present challenges too. My main bugbear is the shaving mirror. It is always fixed at a height suitable for ten-year-olds. How many ten-year-olds shave for pity's sake? I have to stoop, and twist my neck, which causes a ghastly distorted kind of leer on my face, which often scares me so badly I can't shave anyway. Hotel beds are almost always too short. My feet stick out at the bottom end and my wife will keep hanging her towel and tights and other gubbins on them.

Allotment news... for February

I'VE had this slot planned for months as to what I was going to write and it was to go something like this; this month has seen more than a foot of snow and the earth is well insulated and hard. Obviously because of the weather I haven't been able to set foot on my allotment so I have been sat in front of my fire roasting my toes (if only I had one)...

Hey ho, well that idea failed and the weather hasn't been too bad for us so here we are on the allotment; I say we but as I haven't actually set foot on my allotment this month it must mean the royal 'we'! My patch of earth now looks wonderful and that's all thanks to Stan who has kindly dug it over, fenced



Noticeably above average in stature?

Being big means that people often don't notice me. No, really. I suppose they think I'm part of the building, or a tree maybe. People lean on me, and let their dogs sniff speculatively at my ankles. Sometimes they even seek shelter from the rain under the overhang of my large (but handsome) nose. (A good friend of mine also is blessed with a fair old snozzle; when we stand back-to-back we resemble a pickaxe.)

And the mention of more than adequate noses brings me to Tony Hancock. In one of his half hours he describes how as the atmosphere of our suffering planet runs out, it will be people like him, tall blokes with big hooters, who will be there, hoovering up the last few molecules. And I reckon he's right.

So eat your hearts out small folk;

I am the future of mankind...

it in and given it a gate. So now I can get in and out of my plot without treading in a pile of weeds - excellent. As recommended (by Stan) I have left my allotment well alone for it to 'rest' - not only me then who deserves one. I am planning that this year there'll be more activity on my allotment and I will actually succeed in planting and cultivating my own produce rather than feeding the many birds, snails, slugs that seem to take up permanent residence. Although I'm not physically on my plot at this time of year there are still many a hard folk who are and tendering their land lovingly.

If only I had all the time in the world (and a lot less stress) I may be down there a good deal more. Oh well something to look forward to for when I retire; only another 20 odd years then!!

Rachel Friedli.

F.R. Jeffery & Son
Coal Merchant



**Coal & Smokeless Fuels
 Logs & Compost**

Also spare parts for solid fuel appliances
 Delivered to your door at low prices

Contact Us on: **01296 661258**

Chris Griffiths
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

Domestic, Commercial
 & Industrial

For **ALL** your Electrical Requirements
 No job too small

Telephone 01296 668257
 Mobile 07768 222127




Painting Tiling	Plumbing Plastering	Locksmith Services Small jobs welcome
--------------------	------------------------	--

Call now for a fast friendly service.
 Gavin direct on: 07731 047439 Office: 01442 380287
 bhpropertyservices.co.uk

CURTIS CARPET SERVICES
 Parsons Lane, Bierton

All types of carpeting supplied & fitted
 at excellent rates.

Adaptions - Domestic & Contract.

Phone David Curtis: **01296 482652**
 Mobile: **07773300054**
 Why Pay Shop Prices?

J B SERVICES

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

NO JOB TOO SMALL
TEL: 07799 398335
OR 01442 826648 (EVENINGS)

Do you want a local reliable

PLUMBER

that you can trust?

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

**Call John Byrom
 in Pitstone
 07860 340130**

www.johnbyromplumbing.co.uk

ALAN BOULT (Light Haulage)
'MAN WITH A VAN'

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

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

Tel: 01296 427182 Mobile: 07770 237745
 Email: boult586@btinternet.com

NEUROPHYSIO BERKHAMSTED

SPECIALIST NEUROLOGICAL PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Amy Goss & Claire PeplowBSc (Hons) Physiotherapy HPC Registered

We can help you if you have a neurological deficit affecting your movement including

Stroke, Parkinsons Disease, Multiple Sclerosis and Balance Problems.

Tel: 07786 363638 / 07909 982569

Email: physio@neurophysioberkhamsted.co.uk

Website: www.neurophysioberkhamsted.co.uk

Tuition



- 11+
- Literacy Support
- Numeracy Support
- Key Stage 1, 2, & 3
- Special Educational Needs



Jemma Boulton (20 years experience)
Specialist Teacher; Language Disorder

Mobile: 07803 068531

Email: boul586@btinternet.com

M.D.SPRING AUTOS

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

MOTs available on site (class 4 & 7)

Welding -

Tyres -

Wheels balanced -

Batteries -

Exhausts -

Diagnostic Tuning -

**Air Conditioning servicing
and repairs**



Phone: 01296 662280

New Fax: 01296 662347

Mobile: 07860 847328

Unit 9, Airfield Industrial Estate,
Cheddington Lane, Long Marston.

French GCSE's?

Do you need a boost for school exams?

Individual or small groups
Tailored to suit your needs

For more information contact:

Linda Ellis on 01296 661136

or email:

linda@nildram.co.uk



Marsworth Pre School



Marsworth Millennium Telf. Village Hall, Marsworth HP23 4LR
Tel: 07506 179658 Email: info@marsworthpreschool.org.uk

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 07506 179658 or visit our website www.marsworthpreschool.org.uk

Kumon's maths and English study programmes are tailored to your child's individual needs, nurturing their independence and enthusiasm for learning.

To unlock your child's potential, contact your local Instructor for a Free Assessment.

Tring Study Centre
Louise Ogelman 01525 378 840

Develop
your child's
independence

KUMON

kumon.co.uk



The Old Pastures

Luxury accommodation for dogs



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

VISITING, KENNELING AND COLLECTING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Luxury heated accommodation for your dog with a personal touch giving your dog the extra attention they deserve. All dogs are walked twice a day.

In association with Mrs. Doolittle's Pet Sitters

Tel: 01442 824856

10 years at The Queen's Head

by Toby Davidson

ON 17th February, Jon and Beckie Reeves celebrate ten years as landlords of the Queen's Head in Long Marston. They then got married 11 days later. During this period, they have continued to serve the local community, providing a parcel collection service and a sweet shop as well as good food and a warm welcome.

The pub is now the last surviving of 4 pubs that once existed in the village following the closure of The Boot in 2009. In recent years, it has had a major facelift both inside and out whilst trying to maintain the character of the pub that was built around 1498. When replacing the pub sign in autumn 2012, research showed that the Queen on the throne when the pub was built was Elizabeth of York, the wife of King Henry VII and mother of King Henry VIII. This in turn inspired their latest burger menu. Now, when you come and try their locally-sourced burgers, you can get a history lesson thrown in for free courtesy of their informative menu. They also offer home-cooked food on request as well as a CAMRA accredited selections of beers.

With Jon as a professional accountant, he also organises a well attended networking group and coffee morning on the last Tuesday of every month from 10-12 in the pub. They also host various local groups like the Long Marston Gun Club and the Horti, whose meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month.

Jon and Beckie would like to thank the villagers of Long Marston and the surrounding area for their continued support over the last 10 years and hope to continue to serve not only as a pub but also as a contributor to the local community. To that end, as well as offering free wifi, two fully-equipped bed and breakfast rooms and a parcel 'take-in' service, they have recently opened a 'small shop', where you can buy essentials like tea, coffee, milk, eggs, etc as well as a wide variety of sweets.

In order to keep up with what's going on at the pub, including a planned party to mark their 10th anniversary, locals are encouraged to follow their facebook page:

www.facebook.com/QLMPUB

News from All Saints

WE would like to thank the children of the school Gardening Club who planted up the flower tubs for us before Christmas. Your colourful plants have been much admired and the bulbs you planted, in the grass, are coming up now. Thank you. Our Christmas services were well attended particularly the Crib Service when it was standing room only! A big thank you to Michaela for playing the piano for this service and also encouraging the school choir to join us - their singing was lovely.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP At All Saints we welcome children at all of our services. The area at the back of the Church is child friendly and enables younger members of the congregation to be "entertained" during services with toys and drawing etc. while parents can participate in the worship.

TODDLER WORSHIP takes place on 1st and 3rd Mondays each month from 2 - 3pm. Jane Bannister leads this hour long

'service' for the younger children with songs, prayers and craft followed by a drink and biscuit. If the present arrangement of day and time does not suit you do contact Jane as it is possible to change this.

As always our church building does require a lot of maintenance. We have to continue fundraising to keep money coming in so please support us during 2014.

Dates for your diary.

Friday 2nd May: COMMUNITY FOOTBALL MATCH raising funds for Long Marston School, Pre-School, Village Hall, All Saints Church and Football Club. Food, drink and football; sounds good doesn't it? Do put date in your diary, more details later.

Dates for February:

Toddler Worship 3rd and 17th;
Social Afternoon 25th, 2-3pm.

Carole Harrison 01296 668526.

TRING SHOWSTOPPERS

Performing Arts for 6 - 18 year olds

Our workshops are taught by professionals, with classes in drama, singing and musical theatre, ensuring every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

To find out more about what we offer in Tring and surrounding villages email

kate@tringshowstoppers.co.uk, visit our website
www.tringshowstoppers.co.uk

or call Kate on 07790 487 022



LONG MARSTON VILLAGE SHOW FIELD TEAM NEEDED

The Long Marston Village show is the highlight of our calendar. We continue to look for alternative ideas to stage on the recreation ground and are keen to hear from anyone who would like to suggest what we could put on in the central arena and then set it up and run it on show day. (Saturday 2nd August).

Any interested parties should contact:
Martin Winship 01296 662388 or
Sean McEnery 01296 660334.

The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

Cecilia Tea Rooms

Open for full afternoon tea

FRIDAY, 7th MARCH – 3p.m. until 5 p.m.

£3.50 per head

You are welcome to just drop in, but booking your seat would greatly help with catering. Tel: 01296 668337. Proceeds to local charity.

JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY, 29th MARCH – CECILIA HALL - 2 p.m.

Your donations of jumble would be much appreciated. Please leave in the porch at Cecilia Hall or telephone Christine – 01296 668337. Also, any offers of help for sorting and on the sale day.

ST.MARY'S – CHURCH CLEANING & FLOWERS

The rota for 2014 is under construction. If you have helped us in the past, we do hope that you will continue, but if you are willing to give it a try for the first time (it is not a heavy load), please contact Christine: 01296 668337. Your help will be appreciated.

Our Puttenham Social Programme for 2014 – please note the dates in your diary.

Friday,	7 th March	Cecilia Tea Rooms, 3 - 5 pm.
Saturday,	29 th March	Jumble Sale, 2 pm.
Thursday,	1 st May	May-Day Madrigals & Breakfast, 6 am onwards.
Saturday,	10 th May	Jazz Lunch with The Jolly Jazzers.
Friday,	6 th June	Cecilia Tea Rooms, 3 – 5 pm.
Saturday,	30 th August	Jumble Sale, 2 pm.
Friday,	12 th September	Cecilia Tea Rooms, 3 – 5 pm.
Saturday,	11 th October	October Supper with Neil Gurney, 7 for 7.30 pm.
Saturday in	November	Cecilia Concert (final date to be confirmed).

Plants needed for Ashridge spring plant fair *by Jane Poole*

SPRING is on the way and the gardening year will soon begin again. Once you have taken the first faltering steps towards reacquainting yourself with the beds and borders, you might find time to think about what to do with any unwanted plants or surplus stock available from your garden. If you do have plants to spare, the Friends of Ashridge Estate would love to hear from you.

The National Trust at Ashridge is holding its annual Spring Plant Fair on 11 May 2014, 11am until 4pm, and sells donated plants from the public to raise money exclusively for the upkeep of the Ashridge Estate and maintenance of the mobility vehicles, access paths, etc. The volunteer organisers would be happy to receive any number or variety of plants. Most commonly we receive perennials, grasses and shrubs, and vegetables are popular too. We ask that the plants come labelled, noting the colour of the bloom if ornamental.

To donate plants, find out further information, or if you need assistance in potting-up any surplus material, please contact John Cartwright on 01442 864984. Last date for plant donations is 4th May. Pots and compost can be provided.

The Fair is situated at the top of Monument Drive. Come early as queues form!





Domestique
CLEANING EXCELLENCE

Weekly or Bi-Weekly
From £11.25 per hour

FIRST CLEAN FREE*
* Some reasonable terms apply

Tel: 01442 625 775

<http://leightonbuzzard.domestique.co.uk>

Chiropodist

Wendy Hilliard MSSCh MBChA

HPC Registered

Member of the British Chiropody
and Podiatry Association

For a home visit, telephone
07969 741792 or 01296 630189

Logs

Mixed seasoned logs for sale

Toyota pick-up size load

Full load £80 Half load £45

Phone Richard on 07831 120879

Berkhamsted Oven Cleaning Ltd

All ovens hobs and extractors

- Professional service
- Excellent value and fully insured
- Free consultation and quote

01442 876622 • 07884 058795

Berkhamsted Herts HP4 3ZQ
www.berkhamstedovencleaning.co.uk



CHILTERN CHIMNEYS

THE POWER SWEEPING SPECIALISTS

Local Professional Clean Efficient

CHIMNEY SWEEP & STOVE INSTALLATION / SERVICE

Certificates Issued for House Insurance

Flues Lined - Chimney Pots and Crowls Fitted - Firebacks Replaced
Member of the Institute of Chimney Sweeps. HETAS Registered.

Call Steve Jackson on

TRING (01442) 890041

07921 847317



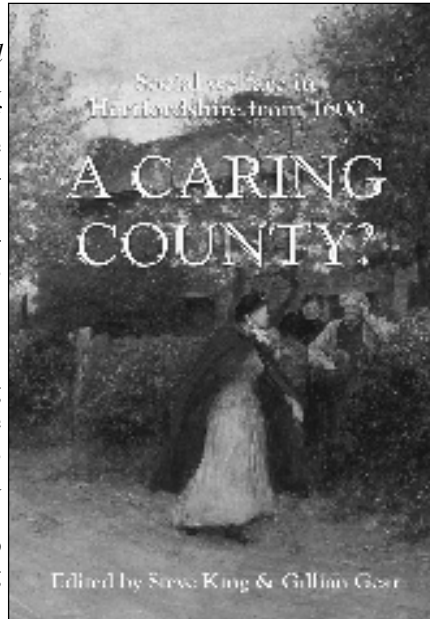
New volume of Hertfordshire history from the University of Hertfordshire Press

A Caring County? Social Welfare in Hertfordshire from 1600

OUR latest volume of Hertfordshire history, just published, is *A Caring County? Social Welfare in Hertfordshire from 1600* and gathers together new research into aspects of care for the sick, poor, elderly and vulnerable in Hertfordshire across four centuries. Focusing on towns and villages across the county, including Ashwell, Cheshunt, Hertford, Pilton, Royston and St Albans, the book asks how well Hertfordshire cared for its needy.

With chapters on madhouses, workhouses, certified industrial schools, the Foundling Hospital, pensions and medical care, the book covers a broad range of topics. It seems that Hertfordshire was relatively nimble and sensitive in discovering and treating its people's needs and evidence is beginning to emerge that it was in essence a 'caring county'.

Co-edited by Prof. Steven King, Director of the University of Leicester Centre for Medical Humanities, and Gillian Gear of the Hertfordshire Association for Local History (HALH), the



book's chapters have each been written by a local researcher, making this an unusually collaborative volume. The book was launched at the HALH annual symposium and we were delighted to be joined by almost all the eleven authors.

The painting on the cover of the book is *Our Village Nurse* by Sir Hubert von Herkomer. Painted in 1892, the painting was purchased by Bushey Museum and Art Gallery with the help of the Art Fund and is a portrait of Bushey's nurse of the time making her house calls. Sir Hubert helped raised funds to pay for Bushey to have its own village nurse.

You can buy the book direct from University of Hertfordshire Press (call Gill Cook on 01707 284654) priced £16.99, or order it from any bookshop or online

book retailer. For more information, see our website, www.herts.ac.uk/uhpess.

Jane Housham, Publisher.

RELIABLE GARDEN SERVICES

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

FOR REASONABLY PRICED WORK
DONE WELL, CONTACT

Mark Lee
07914 355180



Garden Genie

Creating the garden you wish for

- Maintenance, both regular and one off
- Design and advice service

Call Genie on 07931 307912

gardengeniel@gmail.com

garuogenie1@gmail.com

RHS qualified

Paddock Services

Paradise Farm, Long Marston, Hertfordshire

Ditching & Fencing	Hedge Cutting & Planting
General Clearance	Mobile Welding
Grass Cutting & Topping	Paths & Driveways
Manure Clamps	Brickwork & Patios
Waste & Rubbish Removal	Mobile Puncture Repairs
Creosoting & Steam Cleaning	Digger & Dumper

Jonathan Michell

T: 01296 709450 M: 07950 110537

SBH GENERAL MAINTENANCE

For all property repairs and maintenance

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

No matter how small the job
call for a free quote

Telephone 07739 985923 or 01442 382078

SBH, 50 Lakeside, Tring, Herts HP23 5HN

From the Rectory

by Rev'd Jane Banister

I have a theory...

I HAVE a theory – and it isn't a new one – that you are either a born optimist or a born pessimist – do you see the glass as being half full or half empty? Sometimes people are easy to define – we pessimists always give ourselves away by saying it is not pessimism but realism. We believe we are just being honest about what might happen, and the fact that what might happen is always bad is not our fault. The fact that I often imagine the worst possible scenario does mean that I am often pleasantly surprised, but it also means that I waste a lot of energy worrying.

I would like to be more optimistic about life, but I don't know that I want to go as far as Pollyanna. If you remember the book and/or the film, she was a girl who did not have much in life but who changed the lives of many people around her because of her unrelenting optimism and her ability to play the "glad game". That meant she always looked for the best in what happened, no matter how terrible it was. I do feel that I could only have spent a limited amount of time with her before wanting to run screaming from the room, but I have also been known to say to the family "we need to be more Pollyanna about this" when I discover that they are inheriting my bad traits and thinking the worst.

There are some things that make my pessimism worse, such as certain newspapers or programmes which do their best to tell us that we are going to hell in a handbasket (I do love that expression) and that our country or society or young people are getting worse day by day and that it used to be so much better and all we need are the right people in charge. But there are other things that make it better, or rather that make me more optimistic, and those are usually other people. I hate the so called self help books that tell you to rid yourself of all the negative things in life including people as that seems so selfish, but I cannot but agree with the ones who say find the people who make you feel good about the world. For me, many of those are the people I meet at church.

They are the people who start out by asking others how they are, and by listening to the answers. They don't necessarily play the glad game all the time, but they are very aware of all the blessings they have in their lives. Many of them do not have vast amounts of money and possessions, but they have friends and they know what makes them laugh and what makes them happy. And many of these people have seen a lot of birthdays come and go, and it has made me realise that our personalities don't change with age, but become clearer. So if I don't want to become a grumpy old lady, then I need to stop being a grumpy middle aged one.

I know that I won't ever manage that completely, but I need at least to rejoice in my natural talent of realism, and more than that, follow the example of the good people I meet.

There are a multitude of quotes about optimism that I could have used here, but many of them were too cheesy or too sickly or both, which is a very bad combination. And I should probably use a Bible quote, but sometimes God uses other ways to communicate. So I will leave you with a choice of Winnie the Pooh or Eeyore, and just in case you didn't know, the one you prefer will make it clear whether you are an optimist or pessimist (realist)!

"What day is it?"

"It's today," squeaked Piglet.

"My favourite day," said Pooh."

"It's snowing still," said Eeyore gloomily.

"So it is."

"And freezing."

"Is it?"

"Yes," said Eeyore. "However," he said, brightening up a little, "we haven't had an earthquake lately."

With love, Jane.

LONG MARSTON DOG TRAINING CLUB



Victory Hall, Long Marston.



Long established friendly club,
catering for all dogs.

Any age - puppy through to pensioner.

Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme offered.

Qualified instructors.

01296 668752 or 01908 502272

www.longmarstondogtraining.co.uk

Rose Cottage Kennels

26 Mill Lane, Wingrave, Bucks, HP22 4PL



Holiday? Weekend away? Day out?

Relax and enjoy your holiday knowing your pets are enjoying theirs! Rose Cottage is a fully licensed and long established family owned boarding kennels in an idyllic setting with extra large kennel accommodation and spacious paddocks, where personal attention is given to your dogs.

**NOW OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND
Including Christmas Holidays!**

Please contact Danny or Jane for further information.

Tel. (01296) 681306

Website: rosecottagekennels.weebly.com

Email: rosecottagekennels@petlover.com

Obituary: Anne Quartly 1938 - 2013

MANY generations of local school children have benefitted from the talent and enthusiasm of Anne Quartly, who died on 11th December 2013 age 75. Anne had been suffering from Alzheimer's for the last few years. Over 130 people attended her funeral service at St. Cross, Wilstone, on 30 December which was conducted by Rev'd Jo Wetherall. A collection for the Alzheimer's Society has enabled a donation of £676 to be made in her name. Anne was buried in Wilstone cemetery next to her son, Timothy, who died in 1994.

Born in New Road, Wilstone, Anne was part of a large family. Her parents were from local families. Her father, Harry (Dick) Bateman, worked as a farm hand for Meads and her mother, Daisy, was from the Wilson family. Anne lived in Wilstone all her life and her twin sister, Jill Johnson, also lives in the village.

Anne Bateman attended Wilstone School, and her first job was at Silk Mill, Tring, where she worked for a manufacturing company making metal lipstick cases. She did not much like it, and soon got another job - this time in the bookbinding department of Hazell, Watson and Viney in Aylesbury. It turned out to be a life changing move, because across the street in the print shop worked two young men, Bryn Johnson and Jack Quartly. In 1958 there was a printers' strike, and the two men found they had a bit of time on their hands. Bryn was keen on courting Jill Bateman, who also worked at Hazell's and he persuaded Jack to come along and meet her sister, Anne. It was a hot summer and Jack recalls a number of outings to go swimming at Wilstone Reservoir - Anne was an excellent swimmer.

Jack and Anne were married at All Saints, Long Marston, on 2nd April 1961, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a party at Wilstone village hall in 2011. Their first home together was in the Long Row, Wilstone. Linda was born in 1962, and Timothy in 1964. For a while Anne worked at - what is still referred to by some as - "Mead's Stall", which today has somewhat expanded to become the Farm Shop and Tea Rooms. After a spell at Dean's Farm Eggs, she got a job at Long Marston School and a new era of her life opened up. Working as a classroom assistant she harnessed her knowledge and enthusiasm for nature and her skill at crafts. Anne had always been interested in flowers and birds particularly, and became something of an expert on orchids and ornithology. She was able to communicate this enthusiasm to generations of children, and led innumerable field trips to poke about

for insects and crawly things, and of course to spot the birds. (Curiously, she never overcame her well-known dislike of frogs.) She worked at College Lake nature reserve as a guide, and showed many newcomers to the village the delights of bird watching at the Wilstone reservoir. Holidays in Norfolk would revolve around wildlife and tales of exotic visiting birds spotted. Back at home, the view from the front window is like

watching a Bill Oddie TV programme. Jack and Anne have encouraged so many local birds to flourish and become regular visitors to the garden.

Her extraordinary dexterity with craft materials was put to good use at school as she showed the children how to make all sorts of things from felt, paper, clay and glue. She and Jack were members of the Aylesbury Dolls' House Club, and Anne could make the tiniest objects to complete a dolls' house. A particular speciality was miniature fruit and vegetables for the dolls' garden. Cabbages and carrots a few millimetres across, with individual leaves and stems. Amazing. Anne and Jack brought the Dolls' House Club to Wilstone village hall for its annual exhibition a few years ago, so many of us have seen their work. She also loved Christmas, and many villagers will also have seen the festive displays at home which would have done justice to Selfridges' window.



Anne Quartly (Bateman), age 21.

The death of Timothy in 1994 was a great tragedy for the family. Tim had suffered from Cystic Fibrosis. Anne continued to work at Long Marston School until she retired in 2008, age 70; an impressive record of service to the community. She will be remembered by hundreds that she helped at school, and baby-sat in the evenings. Anne Quartly made a big impact on the community through her work with the children of the villages, and by passing on to the next generations her enthusiasm for the natural world around them. *PB.*

Anne Quartly; born Wilstone, Hertfordshire, 14th November 1938. Died 11th December 2013.

Brian Dover

IT was sad to hear about the death of Brian Dover on 14th December 2013. When he was born, his life expectancy was not long and his parents were then told he would never walk and talk. Brian survived through this to complete his schooling and worked at Thistlebrook and Broadmead Farms. He then moved on to Lowfields Distribution in Tring. He finally ended up as a cleaner at Friars Square, Aylesbury for 16 years before being made redundant. In his later years, Brian was a keen member of the local community, volunteering not only at the

'Save the Children' charity shop in Tring, but also helping out at the Long Marston Village Show and the fireworks display.

Valerie and Ken would like to offer sincere thanks the villagers of Long Marston, especially Callum Purdie, who was instrumental in administering heart massage on the day, as well as the emergency services who attended him. They would also like to thank Jon and Beckie Reeves for all their help with the funeral and all the people who attended and then returned to the Queen's Head afterwards to pass on their condolences.

Toby Davidson.

Obituary: Daphne Reeves 1931 - 2013

Daphne Reeves' daughters, Jacqueline and Christine would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support over recent weeks, in particular the WI who provided such lovely refreshments after the service. The collection raised over £300 for church funds and part of this will go to buy some new hymn books in Daphne's memory.

Daphne was born in the Lockhouse at Marsworth, where she enjoyed a childhood in the country side with her sister Gladys and their parents Arthur and Violet. Their home has now become the Bluebell Tea Rooms and she and Gladys were invited back to open them.

During the war Daphne, along with her family, welcomed refugees to live with them, and it was shortly afterwards that she got her first job working for Goodliffe's the greengrocers, where she learnt a host of skills that she passed on (including how to make a perfect package with brown paper and string but of course no Sellotape!)

She lived with her parents until she married John in 1952 at Marsworth Church and they set up home in Long Marston where she lived ever since, first in the Red House as John worked for Gregorys. They saw the Victory Hall being built next door. They raised their much loved daughters Jacqueline and Christine there, and joined in with all aspects of village life, growing prize vegetables in their vibrant garden and an array of beautiful flowers such as freesias (a particular favourite of Daphne's) and roses. Daphne also continued her gardening when she moved to Bromley and loved to be out in the sunshine.

Daphne was a member of the WI for over 50 years and every month she would attend meetings and look forward to the special events. She was also a very skilled housewife who supported her family. The back door was never locked and there was always a cake baked and a kettle on the Aga ready for whoever called. She passed on many of her talents, in particular her baking and cooking skills, and taught both her daughters and grandchildren lots of tried and tested recipes – two of the favourites being Gran's crunchies and chocolate Viennese shortcakes. Daphne was also proud of her cheese scones which won first prize one year and she also enjoyed them

when her daughter made them. She was also of the generation who never wasted a moment of time, so another hobby was crocheting and knitting.

One of Daphne's favourite evenings out was to go to the theatre, especially musicals, singing along to CATS and South Pacific. The radio was always on at home and she sang along to it. She was also a great fan of Formula One and wouldn't stay to coffee at church if it was Grand Prix Day. Nigel Mansell also held a special place in her heart.

She enjoyed many seaside holidays with her family and travelled to Canada to visit her cousin Ruth to whom she was very close. They sent each other newspaper clippings of things that had amused them, and Ruth came to visit her here. She also enjoyed visiting Guernsey to see the flowers there and to visit friends, and a holiday to Malta. She and John often went out with friends Sylvia and Ken - Daphne and Sylvia had been at Marsworth School together. Daphne had many good close friends in the village and kept up her friendships - there are those no longer with us whom she much missed such as Beryl - and there are those of us left who will miss her greatly.

Daphne and John were a good partnership together and it was great sorrow when he died 17 years ago. The family, both children and grandchildren have been at the centre of her life. Later in life, Daphne came back to church and she was a vital part of our congregation, caring, regular and always ready to laugh. It is one of the joys of this church that the more mature members have a much fresher attitude to life than those of us somewhat younger. It is also testament to this that the children of the congregation have grieved for her as much as the adults have. She was a wonderful role model, and her faith was just something that was part of her life, along with her gardening and her cooking and her family.

So we take comfort from two things: from our faith and from the way Daphne lived her life. Our faith teaches us that death is not the end, that Jesus came to bring us hope and life and we hold on to that. And Daphne's life teaches us to love and to laugh and to be together. And when in doubt, put the kettle on and get out the cake.

Jane Banister.

Daphne Reeves; born Marsworth, Buckinghamshire, 1931. Died 19 December 2013.

Obituary: Ben Reeves 1920-2013

BEN REEVES, one of Wilstone's grand old men, died quite suddenly on 11th December. He narrowly missed his 94th birthday which would have been on 14th January. His funeral, led by Rev'd Jo Wetherall, was held at St. Cross, Wilstone, on 2nd January. Although he suffered from failing eyesight in recent years, he was otherwise blessed with a robust constitution and was quite able to take his regular walks in the general direction of the Half Moon until a few days before he died. A fine figure of a man to the end and a powerful presence in any company, friends were taken aback by his sudden departure. It was easy to forget that Ben was over 90 years old. His final public engagement was to lay the wreath of poppies at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, 10th November. He was one of our last Veterans, and had represented servicemen and women at Wilstone's D-Day commemoration fly-past in 2009.

Always popular with the ladies he perhaps did little to discourage their attentions, and he had a particular soft spot for Wilstone Showgirls. (He had twelve to choose from.) In recent years he had moved his official seat at the Half Moon from the (inside) Toilet Table to the (outside) terrace, where he would receive a steady stream of ladies keen to pay their respects. In truth, he also sought to include everyone in the conversation, and was particularly welcoming to newcomers to the village.

Ben Reeves was born in the Long Row, Wilstone, in 1920 just after the First World War and was one of seven children. The Reeves family had already been in this area for many generations by then. His father, Francis, was a gamekeeper on the Rothschild estates. His mother, Ellen, was a member of another long established local family - the Badricks. Ben attended Wilstone School, and initially followed his father's trade by becoming an assistant game keeper before training as a plasterer.

But in May 1940 things changed dramatically for him - as it did for many young men and women of his generation - when he joined the Royal Artillery as a driver. In November 1940 Gunner Reeves was posted to Libya. This was the beginning of a remarkable story of overseas service which continued without a break until he returned to the UK in April 1945. Attached to the 13th Light Ack-Ack unit his first job was to haul the guns up to the front. When the Long Range Desert Group was formed Ben was posted to them as a jeep driver, a job which he said involved being shot at a lot. In March 1941 the British sent an expeditionary force to Greece to oppose the German invasion of that country, and he became part of that.

The expedition was not a success. Athens fell to the German forces on 27th April. Wounded in the hand, Gunner Reeves was in hospital in Athens that day, and alerted by the gunfire,

just got out in time only to find his unit long gone. He and other British stragglers made their own way south to the port of Piraeus without rations, arms or equipment, where eventually they were picked up by a Royal Navy frigate. Evacuated to Crete just in time for the German invasion of that island too, a second evacuation took him to Egypt. By now he had completely lost track of his unit so he did driving duties for whoever would provide his rations. Back home his family had received a "missing in action" letter. Eventually he was re-united with his comrades, in time for the Battle of El Alamein, and the advance to Tripoli. Having already served in Libya, Greece, Egypt, Palestine and Syria, in 1943 his unit became

part of another invasion force - this time of Italy - where they spent two years in a gruelling struggle until the end of the war. When posted back to the UK he was assigned as a staff driver for his colonel. Typically, Ben turned this job to good use by persuading the colonel to give a lift to an attractive girl who was with the Seaforth Highlanders. The girl was Hilda, and they were married in 1947.

Ben never said he was a hero; indeed he said the opposite and had a good many funny stories about his years as Gunner Reeves. Nevertheless he was very proud when in 2011 the government of Greece awarded him the Greek War Medal for his service to their country back in 1941. This was added to his 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal and War Medal.

Demobbed in 1946, Ben returned to the building trades, and when he and Hilda got married they lived in Wilstone. Their daughter Carole was born a year later. He was for many years Clerk of Works for the Ministry of Defence at RAF Halton, a post he held until his retirement in 1985, age 65. Hilda died in 1998, and since then Ben benefited hugely from the support and care of his daughter Carole. A father, grandfather, and great grandfather, he had the pleasure of seeing the next three generations of his family grow.

For many of us, Ben was a venerable and respected elder of the village community. One of the few remaining members of an amazing generation who got us through the war, and the difficult years that followed. A keen supporter of today's community activities, he gave encouragement to organisers and always turned out for village events. His own generous birthday parties at the village hall were not to be missed. A mischievous good humour made it fun to be in his company, and he will be greatly missed by his many friends. *PB.*

*Benjamin Reeves;
born 14th January 1920,
Wilstone, Hertfordshire.
Died 11th December 2013.*

Right: Gunner Reeves



Ben Reeves pictured at his 25th wedding anniversary celebration.



On Ben Nevis of Reeves

by *Lawless Kenn*

A FEW words as a tribute to a dear man who has just passed away. Ben Reeves, whom I christened Ben Nevis of Reeves, was totally a people person and an example of what true community village life is all about. A huge character in Wilstone. He had a presence about him. He knew all about the village and likewise it knew him. Well. He had what so many of us, are looking for. Peace of mind, friends galore, and a loving family at his beck and call. A truly marvelous position to be in.

I can recall having just moved here I was tidying the front lawn when we first met. It was general chit-chat. He told me his daughter Carol and son-in-law Peter lived: "At the end of my garden". He looked very dapper that day and I asked him

where he was off to. He immediately replied: "Church", and added he went there twice daily. After he walked off I thought isn't that brilliant. Talk about a regular church-goer. I truly believed him - until I mentioned it whilst chatting to his daughter Carol some days later. She assured me Dad's church was the Half Moon pub in the village, but I had however got the number of visits correct. It was twice daily. Regular as clockwork. And the fact of the matter is this. Right up to a week or so before Ben passed away he had kept his visitation rights spot-on.

A figurehead representing Queen and Country at all Remembrance Day events in the village, yes he will surely be missed. But being cherished and in the hearts and thoughts of so many is so much better. At the end of the beautiful St. Cross Church funeral service how lovely was it to hear that final piece of music made famous by Vera Lynn which will remain with me for a long time in memory of Ben. *LK.*

The Whitchurch Morris Men:

A new year begins

HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone, and I trust that all of you are looking forward to great things over the coming months. Unfortunately as the old year closed there was some sad news in Morrising circles. Steve Adamson who had spent some time as the Ring Treasurer and for many years Keeper of the Morris Shop died unexpectedly in December. A skilled whistle / pipe player for Boar's Head Morris and more recently Great Yorkshire Morris, Steve was an all round good bloke. Known for his love of Yorkshire Tea, he was often seen at events with his Morris Man marionette. He helped me out with music for my teaching last June and was a keen supporter of the 18 - 30's side.



Secondly, I hear that the Aynho Apricots have folded. A ladies Morris side formed in 1987, they took their name from the fruit grown around the village. I have been driving through Aynho for the best part of 40 years and never knew they grew apricots there. It's amazing what you find out when you're Morris Dancing. I'm unsure as to their current status but I've heard that 3 of their members are now dancing with Owlswick. If there are any of you ladies out there that want to escape the household drudgery, husbands snoring in front of the TV or children screaming, I'm sure you'll find that the contact details will still work. www.aynho.org.uk/apricots.

I find Christmas Day so tiring. Working up till the last minute, taking wife to work at 5 a.m. because people need their shopping, ringing for Midnight Mass, ringing for Christmas Day, the lazy get up for Boxing Day is/was a relief. The weather was nice and a good crowd appeared including some chap called Dave plus an extended family of a former working colleague of mine who joined in prior to a woodland walk. Some good dancing at the front of the pub was a great way to celebrate the Feast of Saint Stephen's. I was out again on New Year's Day to The King and Tinker with the Etcetera Morris who are a Cotswold side. What a day for rain though. The three sides managed about two dances outside before rain

stopped play. We retired to the warmth of the pub.

I have had feedback from a reader who would prefer that her husband didn't get the urge to join us as all we seem to do is eat and drink. No, no, no. The food is a scientifically balanced diet specially developed to enhance the endurance of the athlete and the ale helps balance the body's electrolytes following extensive physical exertion. You have to be fit to dance.

Meanwhile, someone suggested that Morris Men always seem to be associated with beer. Let's not forget that in Europe, you couldn't drink the water. Remember only drinking bottled water on holiday? The only way to purify water and make it fit to drink was through the fermentation process. Even during the Second World War, many farms only provided cider or perry for the labourers and many households still used grey water. Drinking potable water is a very recent practice. Besides, have you seen what fish do in it?

Wassail! John King.

theWI Marsworth WI
INSPIRING WOMEN **Jumble Sale**

2pm Saturday 12th April

After a very successful Jumble for the Church I have been asked to organize one for the WI. I'm sure with your help we can do it again. I will need Jumble kept on one side or any other house clearance items.

(No big items, wardrobes etc.)

For more information you may contact me.

Josie Kempster 01442 825057.

Local names and numbers

Herts Police non-emergency number: 101

Local Police Officers (in emergency dial '999')

PC Steve Hunneyst 01707 354192

PCSO Lee Clements 01707 354192

Fly-tipping reports

Call Dacorum Waste Services 01442 228000

Call the police if you see a crime being committed.

Cecilia Hall (Puttenham)

Christine Rutter 01296 668337

Brownies

Rachel Friedli 01442 827577

Guides

Sheila Hill 01442 823463

Beavers

Sarah Hodgson 01442 823787

Cubs

Jane Dawson 01442 827410

Scouts

Kate Blanchard 07971 404465

LM&P 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

Lucy Bancroft 07590 989202

Villages Warden

Colin Reedman 01442 822031

Long Marston Victory Hall

Hall hire: Liz Ayling 07973 786389

Long Marston Cricket Club

Paul Dumbleton 01296 662849

Long Marston 1st Steps Pre-School

Abigail Livermore 07966 154570

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

Sing-Wilstone

Jo Woodbridge 01442 891444

Village News

Phil Buchi 01296 661339

Whitchurch Morris Men

John Bush 01296 641382

Wilstone Allotment Assn.

Jane Waterhouse 01442 826813

Wilstone Village Hall

Bookings: Tony Short 01442 823096

Wilstone Toddlers

Jane Cole 01442 828272

WI

Sue Barraclough 01296 668272

Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

Thank you ...

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

**Distribution enquiries to:
Rob Briant 07802 384151.**

Village News

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

Advertising enquiries:

Graham Thorpe

01442 822923

villagenewsadvertising@googlemail.com



Send your editorial contributions, articles, event notices, news and pictures to:
editorwlmp@yahoo.com

**Deadline for items to go in the next issue is:
Thursday 20 February 2014.
Colin Davenport will be your editor.**

**You can read Village News online at:
www.tringruralpc.org.uk (Click on Village News)
www.wilstone.me.uk (Click on Village News)**

New Year, new hobby? Learn to ring church bells at All Saints' Marsworth

AS well as ringing before Church services, weddings and for special national occasions (such as the opening of the Olympic Games or the Queen's Diamond Jubilee), the practice of ringing our ancient Church bells provides a surprisingly addictive hobby for over 40,000 people in the UK alone. Unlike bells in many other countries, English Church bells are commonly mounted on rotating wheels up in the belfry, enabling the ringer below to slow or speed up the pace at which their individual bell rings making it possible to change the order in which each bell strikes and create musical patterns in the ringing (known to ringers as 'methods'). All ringers start off by learning first how to handle a bell, then ring in rounds (descending scales), and 'call changes' where one ringer from the group will give verbal instructions as to which order the bells are to be rung in, creating a musical effect. Many people then enjoy the further challenge of learning 'method ringing' which provides a mental challenge and becomes a real team.

Ringers can be of any age – usually starting from about 9 upwards, and there is a growing trend for people of retirement age to take up ringing. It's a very sociable and inclusive hobby which involves people of all ages and backgrounds.

In 2013 All Saints' Church in Marsworth became a recognized teaching centre, accredited by the Association of Ringing Teachers. All the experienced tutors at the tower are trained and DBS checked, and they believe that learning to ring on their 6 easygoing bells should be fun. Learners are registered on the 'Learning the Ropes' programme which is a progres-



sive scheme beginning with basic bell handling and continuing into more advanced ringing if desired.

Introductory courses can be run at any time really, although it's much more rewarding to learn to ring in a group, so we try to co-ordinate dates where several people can make it.

If you would like to discuss learning to ring, please telephone Richard Booth on 01296 662520 or email cmmbelfries@gmail.com.

Richard Booth, Tower Captain, Marsworth.

Spotters' Corner No. 302: Steam service at Whipsnade *by David Prosser*



David Prosser took this splendid picture at Whipsnade Zoo last October. Excelsior 0-4-2 saddle tank (built 1908) with the regular steam passenger service on the Great Whipsnade Railway. Definitely worth a visit to the zoo, we think.

Wilstone FC in the 1920s: do you know these players?

by Les Casemore



Wilstone FC in the 1920s. Can you identify these players?

(Picture: photographer unknown.)

CAN any readers help me with information about this team? I was born and bred in Wilstone village - born in 1943 and left in 1964 when I got married. I lived in the Long Row and also in the last house on the right in New Road backing onto Mead's Farm land. A good friend of mine George Brackley who is also an ex Wilstone boy gave me a photo of a Wilstone Football team who played in the late 1920's apparently.

What I'm trying to find out are the names of some of the players in the team. We have established some of the names as follows:

Back Row From Left To Right

Maurice Brackley, George Brackley, 'Fairy' Saunders, Ainsworth?, unknown, unknown.

Front Row From Left To Right

'Scrapper' Saunders, Herb Reeves, Fred Jeffrey, unknown, unknown.

George Brackley was my friend's dad, and Maurice was his uncle. Fred Jeffrey, with his brother William, owned the small holding by the bridge over the canal which I believe is now derelict. I believe Herb Reeve's brother still lives in the village.

I do hope some of your readers can identify the players' missing names and what field did they actually play on? Where did they get changed for the games? During the 1950s they played in a field in Tring Road not far from the cemetery. This field was given to them by Meads (farmers) but I do not think they played there during the 1920's.

The Editor adds:

Thanks for sending us this wonderful picture Les. Readers can contact the Editor with any information they have, and we will pass it on to Les. Contact details are at the top of page 3.