



March 2012

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

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Village News Extra!

Pages 15-18

It's Cinderella with a difference

IT'S February half term in Long Marston so it must be the Horti's annual panto. This year's production, Cinderella, written as always by Neil Gurney, marked the 25th production and starred the 'usual suspects' including Serena Williams as Cinders, Elizabeth Eyvindsson as Fairy Godmother MA. Ugly sisters Hernia and Ganglia were played by veteran dames Alan Munt and Chris Hodges, Martin Winship was Baron Broke and Ian Nicholls a 'bonzer' Buttons.

Neil's plot also managed to involve a detective badger, Bob, played in 'Hooray Henry' style by Vanessa Iley and an evilly camp baddie, Poison Ivy, played by relatively new-boy Ben Watson. Toby Davidson was his horticultural sidekick Mulch whilst the goodies were augmented by Sally Smith as Dan-de-lion (groom to David Severs' nice-but-dim Prince Charming). For reasons known only to Neil, Superman, Wonder Woman and Peppa Pig also made an appearance but were a great hit with the audience.

Propping everything up of course was the brilliant nine-strong chorus: Izzy Aylwin,

Claudia Blankertz, Maisy Driver, Taryn Hayes, Ruby Haynes, Adam and Ellie Jackman, Edie Sartin, and Dan Smith.

The plot. Broke Baron hits the euro millions jackpot, keeps schtum, but buys favourite daughter Cinderella a posh frock. Stepsisters Hernia and Ganglia are jealous of their step-sibling and her glam new outfit. Mulch overhears Baron Broke telling Cinders of his lottery win and tells Poison Ivy who decides to liberate the lolly for himself.

Prince Charming, meantime, is not best pleased that his Dad, the King of Fairyland, has decreed that he must find a wife within a month, but cheers up when he meets a beautiful young girl in the forest. Cinderella, for it is she, is equally smitten but, with PC disguised as a French Groom (courtesy of a string of garlic, a horse blanket and a nose bag provided by the ever resourceful Dan-de-lion) remains unaware of his royal status.

Cinders disappears before PC finds out her name. He is devastated but, at the suggestion

Continued on page 2 and 32

Special features:

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



of Dan-de-lion, decides to throw a Grand Royal Ball, inviting “all the girls in the land” in the hope that his lost love turns up. If Hernia and Ganglia have any say in the matter, she won’t and when they rip Cinders’ new dress to shreds, along with her invite, things look bleak.

Fortunately Cinderella’s Fairy Godmother, MA, rides to the rescue on her Unicorn. She magics up a coach, an invite, a designer ball gown and some spraucy slippers, and sends her off to the ball, along with a stark warning that her ball gown and coach will disappear in a puff of smoke as the clock strikes midnight.

Hernia and Ganglia have been bribed by Poison Ivy to help him steal Baron Broke’s millions, but their incompetence and a timely intervention by Bob the Badger, Superman, Wonderwoman and Peppa Pig (are you following this?) foil PI’s dastardly plans.

The Prince and Cinders are having a ball at the ball, but their fun is curtailed when the latter has to do a rapid runner as the clock strikes twelve. PC still doesn’t know Cinderella’s name and has only the slipper she left behind. In a flash of inspiration the Prince decides to scour Fairyland to find the girl who fits the slipper and marry her. A risky gambit but, fortunately, Hernia and Ganglia’s massive feet cannot be made to fit the slipper. Cinders’ foot does though, and she and the prince live happily ever after.



Yes they are certainly ugly.

photo J Kaye

Litter pick report

By Abby Fermont

IT was a frosty but sunny morning on Saturday 4 February for the Annual Parish litter pick, and we luckily managed to miss the snow by about 8 hours! A team of around 10 villagers were joined by members of Tring Anglers who picked up and down our stretch of the canal. Amongst the strangest items found this year were a pair of walking boots, a large saucepan and a very large cylinder, found by Jo Woodbridge and slightly too big for the litter pickers! All in all, 26 bags of rubbish and recyclables were collected in and around Wilstone. The bag-count was lower in Long Marston, as the picking was undertaken by just two residents; next year it would be lovely to have large numbers of litter-pickers out in both villages. The aim of the litter pick is to get the community together to blitz local litter ‘hot spots’ and support the work of our Village Warden, Colin, who litter picks throughout the year and keeps our villages look-



Litter picking volunteers assemble at Wilstone village hall for this year’s pick.

Village News

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As our local farmer, regular contributor and weather expert predicted last month we had sudden cold snap, at least it felt a little more like winter for a short time.

On page 12 we have the latest on the Arla Foods development at Aston Clinton. This information has been provided by Arla and represents their viewpoint, but I felt was of sufficient general interest to be included.

It's that Panto Season again, and as you would expect, well reported in this issue. We have also a taste of the fete season to come with Wilstone's own Olympics! Not to mention the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. So we have a lot to look forward to in the coming months.

However if we don't soon get those reservoirs full we will not be holding an 'Armada' down the cut. The dredging and banking work continues along the Aylesbury Arm and I hope it will not adversely affect the summer fishing.

Some of you may have noticed in last month's magazine that random pages were not printed correctly. We don't think that all copies were affected but we hope this did not interfere with your enjoyment of *Village News*. Apparently it was the precursor to a major machine failure at our printers and they have conveyed their apologies.

Village News is written, edited, produced and distributed entirely by local volunteers. Only the final printing is done by a commercial company. We aim to be local, interesting, informative, fun and a good read.

Let us know if we are not!

Printed by **Express Printing**

Denington Estate, Wellingborough, NN8 2RA. 01933 228855.

Church services

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

You are most welcome to join us at any of the services.

4 March

10.00am

All Saints Morning Prayer

4.00pm

St Cross Messy Church

6.00pm

St Cross Evening Prayer

5 March

(Monday)

2.00pm

All Saints Toddler Worship

11 March

8.15am

St Mary's Holy Communion

10.00am

All Saints Holy Communion

6.00pm

All Saints Evening Prayer

18 March

Mothering Sunday

10.00am

All Saints Morning Prayer and

Christening

10.00am

St Cross Holy Communion

19 March

(Monday)

2.00pm

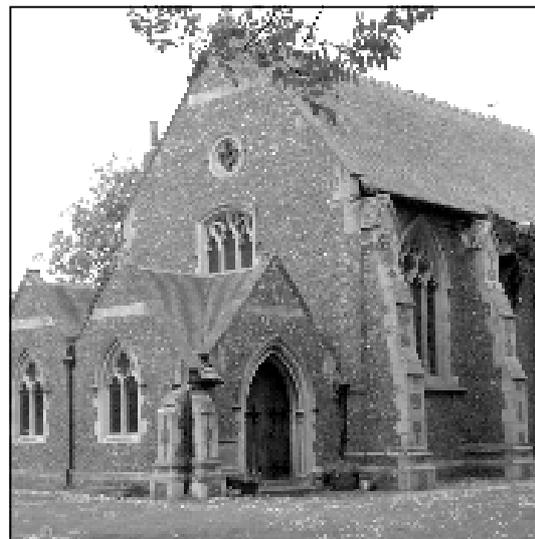
All Saints Toddler Worship

25 March

10.00am

All Saints Holy Communion

and Sunday Club



All Saints, Long Marston

Read Village News on line at:

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

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

What's on...

Ashridge Events

ASHRIDGE is a countryside property and it is part of the National Trust but is a self funding property which manages and conserves the areas of woodland, down land and the chalk grasslands.

This years events range from hunting a butterfly to being totally batty with bats or just walking round to learn about the archaeology and history of the place. Regular guided walks are organized and being run to help you discover more about the Ashridge Estate.

- Spring time walk - Saturday 5th May 7pm.
- Plant Fair - Sunday 13th May.
- Chilterns Countryside Festival - Sunday 16th Sept.
- Deer Rut walks - 13 & 14 October 7am.(very popular - so book now to avoid disappointment).
- Halloween walk - Wednesday 31st October as part of a walking festival 2012 for 100 people.

If you are interested in knowing more about Ashridge or would just like to enjoy a guided walk, this is one of the best ways to really appreciate what is special about the place. Ashridge is a very unique place and you are sure to enjoy yourselves.



World Challenge
Project Ghana

We are Robbie Cugger and James Lewis and we are trying to raise £1,700 each to take part .
If you have any odd jobs we could do for you such as washing your car, raking leaves in your garden, walking your dog, babysitting we will happily undertake them for a donation to our World Challenge fund.

Please contact James 01442 827193 Robbie 01442 827021

Times for mobile library Route 72

Thursdays, fortnightly: February 9th, 23rd, March 1st.

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 21st March - Wilstone village hall.

Saturday 3 March

Pie and Jazz Lunch - Cecilia Hall 12.30pm.

Saturday 10 March Tennis Club Quiz Night 7.00 for 7.30pm LM Victory Hall

Tuesday 13 March - WI - a talk 'Country Superstitions' 8pm at LM village hall - £3 to include refreshments.

Tuesday 27 March

2 – 3pm All Saints Social Afternoon.

Friday 30 March

LMCC Quiz Nite. 7.30pm Marlins.

Tuesday 10 April

WI - A demonstration of handmade bobbin lace. 8pm at LM village hall - £3 to include refreshments

Saturday 21 April All Saints Church: spring clean.

Sunday 22 April LM Tennis Club Open Afternoon from 2pm.

Tuesday 24 April

2 -3pm All Saints Social Afternoon

Saturday 28 April

Jumble Sale-Cecilia Hall 2pm

Sunday 10 June

Wilstone village fete

Tuesday 12 June

Herts over 60's v Berkshire over 60's 13.00 at Long Marston Cricket Club.

Sunday, Monday & Tuesday 8-10 July

Minor Counties Championship Herts v Suffolk 1100 am at Long Marston Cricket Club.

Thursday 26 July 2012 ECB Trophy

MCC Unicorns A v Derbyshire 2nd XI 12.00am at LMCC

Friday 27 July 2012 ECB Trophy

MCC Unicorns A v Warwickshire 2nd XI 12.00am at LMCC

Saturday 4 August

Horti show Long Marston

Sunday 12 August

St.Mary's Patronal Festival

Saturday 29 September

Jumble Sale - Cecilia Hall 2pm

Saturday 13 October

October Supper with John Bly

Your local event details can be included here for free. Just email details to the editor. See page 3.

Wilstone village shop opening hours are:

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

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

Queen announces 'Alternative Olympics'

QUEEN Jane of Wilstonia sat pondering recent events. The Olympics were soon to be held in a neighbouring country but she knew that many of her loyal subjects were bitterly disappointed at not being able to get tickets to see this great event.



What could she do to lift their spirits? All of a sudden it came to her: why, they could have their own Olympics here for all to enjoy!. Their annual fete would take place on 10 June and it would provide the perfect opportunity to hold them. But it would need something to make it a little different. What could that difference be (*apart from the lack of world class athletes, that is – unless you know something I don't!*)?

Of course, she mused, we can hold an 'Alternative Olympics'. We can still have a torch procession and opening ceremony. Medals can be won and award ceremonies held, but we can give it all our own unique - some might say bizarre, but I couldn't possibly comment - Wilstonia twist.

Problem solved, thought Queen Jane - My subjects can be at ease and happy once again. More on this anon.

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Sunday 17th June 11am-5pm

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Get Involved

All enquiries should be made by email

This years show promises to be bigger and better than ever!

We're looking for enthusiastic people to help on the day. Can you spare a few hours? it would be very much appreciated. Volunteering is a great way of meeting new people, please do get in touch.

Any local groups, organisations and businesses that wish to get involved, hold a stall or stand, provide an activity or entertainment please contact the organisers before the end of May to book your spot...

Info@MarsworthSteamRally.co.uk or call us on 07770 725461



The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Wilstone village hall, Sunday June 3rd from noon

Here is advanced notice of some the plans the Wilstone village hall Committee is working on, to celebrate the Jubilee.

- A Big Lunch open to everyone, as suggested in the official web site for the Diamond Jubilee. (www.direct.gov.uk/diamondjubilee)
- Celebration food and licensed bar
- Games and activities for all age groups.
- Big screen live TV coverage of the Queen's pageant in the village hall.
- A competition for under 13 year olds to win commemorative souvenirs.
- A new village photograph, as the last one was taken 5 years ago. If you missed being part of it, put this date in your diary; Sunday June 3rd!

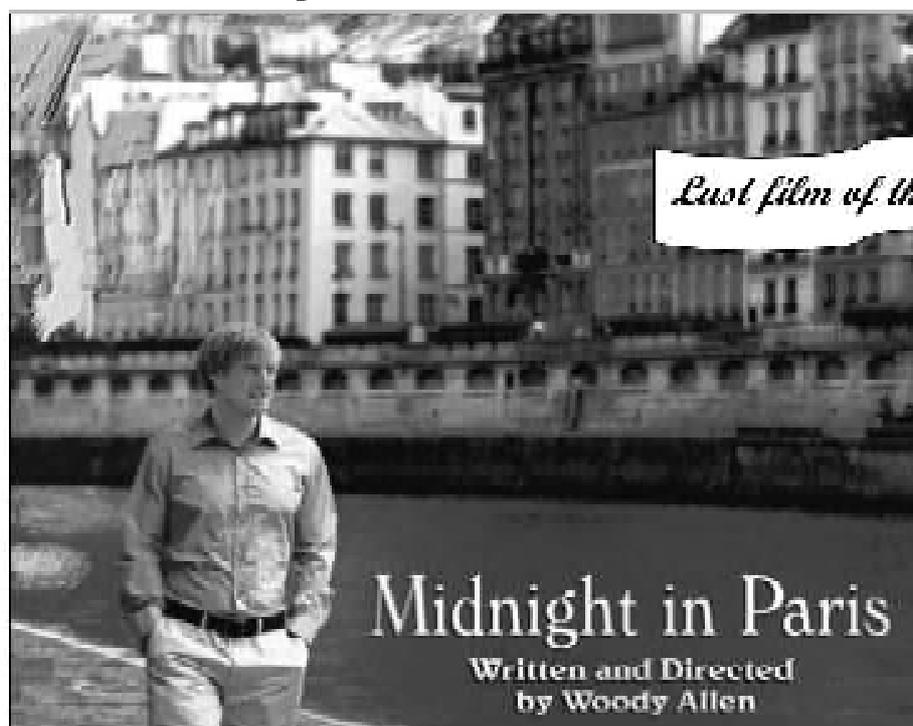


If you have any ideas to contribute or would like to help on the day, please email: jillmarywalker@btinternet.com

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

Wilstone Film Nights

Friday, March 23rd, 2012



Starring Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams and Carla Bruni

Midnight in Paris is a romantic comedy about two young people who are engaged to be married, and have magical experiences there that change their lives. It's about a young man's great love for the city of Paris, and the illusion people have that a life different from theirs would be much better. Love Paris, love this film.

Widely acclaimed as Woody Allen's best film!

Friday, March 23rd, 2012

TICKETS £6

Available now from Wilstone Village Store & Meads Farm Shop

Film starts at 8pm. Licenced bar opens at 7.15pm



Jazzercise for sport relief!

JAZZERCISE are planning a massive event at Grange School Sports Hall, Aylesbury, 9.00am to 12.30pm Saturday 24 March to raise money for Sport Relief. It will be a triple session workout (three 45 minute sessions) and the theme will be the Olympics. There will be 12 instructors taking the sessions.

Registration for the event is £5 per person, with all the money going to Sport Relief and then the choice to get sponsored to raise even more money. There is an amazing program of events lined up, not just for the Jazzercisers, but for the whole family as well! We will have craft stalls, fundraising stalls, Jazzercise t-shirts and other items for sale, refreshments, kids' activities and entertainment etc, so make sure you book this date for your whole family to come along. There will also be a raffle with fantastic prizes such as a Fortnum & Mason hamper, Go Karting session, and restaurant vouchers. If you want to just come and browse the stalls, then entrance is free.

U3A

On 6th March, Northchurch & Berkhamsted the most recently opened branch of the *University of the 3rd Age* in this area - will hold its first AGM. The emphasis now is to expand the membership. With an annual fee of just £15, now is the time to join. Tuesday meetings are held in The Social Centre, Bell Lane, Northchurch, which has a large car park. Several Interest groups are already up and running and future trips will include The London Museum's Charles Dickens's celebration. Details from Anne on 01442 865308, or come along at 10am, for a taster.

For budding authors

Local publishing company Mardibooks are running a writing competition until end of March. Below is the link to the rules of the competition. The winner gets their book published. Use the following link to get the entry rules.

<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/35335347/mardibooks%20competition%202012.pdf>

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New swing for Long Marston

Photo by Andy Ashwell



The new swings being enjoyed by a couple of happy youngsters. Thanks to the generosity of The Puttenham Trust and a private donation the new swings were able to be installed.

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A ridiculous journey

by John Noakes

IT was cold. Very cold. A powerful icy weather front was coming from Northern Europe on Saturday 4th February to be met by another front of mild air coming from the Atlantic. Snow was forecast for that evening.

We had tickets for the opera in London that night. Should we drive, should we go by train? We still had to drive to the station. Should we go at all?

A somewhat acrimonious discussion took place. Finally a decision was made to drive to the station at Wendover and then take the train. Neither of us was entirely happy about the decision. It was as though the decision had taken a life of its own and we were dragged along with it.

At the station the booking office was shut. A ticket machine had to be negotiated. A daunting impersonal thing for me but I had no option other than to attempt to tackle it. I keyed in for two returns to London and then couldn't find "senior rail-card" so had to start again. I glanced over my shoulder as I was aware of some heavy breathing. There was a queue of people also wanting to negotiate the machine. They were somewhat restive as the train was due in a few minutes. A kind teenager helped me through the complexities, treating me as her granddad. We managed to obtain two elderly return tickets. Triumph but short lived, I had forgotten the car. It wasn't coming with us but had to be tucked up in the car park at considerable expense, so back to the start!

Murmurings from the queue behind me grew louder. "I think I'm going to miss this train" came a voice inputting his mobile. "The next train is not for another 30 minutes" came another. I kept my nerve and then, wonders, I somehow conquered this problem. A sigh of relief wafted over my shoulder, together with a few ironic handclaps. The car was sorted for the evening and the half dozen people behind me negotiated the machine in just a few seconds. All of us boarded the train and I tried to sit and be invisible.

Arriving in London we were surprised to find the road outside the station had been dug up and our normal bus stop had disappeared and been diverted elsewhere. It wasn't apparent as to where "elsewhere was". After some searching around in subzero conditions we found the well hidden bus stop. Fortunately a bus arrived after a few minutes before rigor mortis had set in. Surprisingly we had an uncomplicated journey to

the Opera House. However our surprise was quickly overtaken by panic when we entered. There was nobody there. Had we got the wrong time? It was 6.30pm on the tickets and it was now 6.00pm but then absolute horrors - we discovered it was the wrong day! How could I be such a fool? Well, easy - I had just demonstrated that at the ticket machine earlier! What to do? Nearby was Bertorelli's, - they always lay on good food and we had been there many times. Only a few paces away but the door was shut, no lights and there in the doorway was a prominent notice stating they had gone into receivership! If we were having a bad day, theirs was worse. So on to another Italian restaurant and what is more, in business. Cannelloni and a pizza and half a carafe of wine made us feel marginally better.

By the time we had finished our meal the promised snow was falling. We slithered to our bus stop and thence to the station with a warm and comfortable journey to Wendover. By now it was almost blizzard conditions as we sought our slumbering car. Having de snowed it I turned the key in the ignition and awoke it from hibernation. We set off gingerly through Wendover and Halton.

All so far had gone well; few other cars were about and in keeping at 10mph in second gear we made good progress. Then we met Halton Hill, not normally a problem incline but ahead of us were flashing lights and angry red brake lights. Several cars had stalled and couldn't get going again. One car ahead of me managed to get by the gaggle of cars that were in difficulty but then slithered all over the road and mounted the pavement. I knew that I just had to press on in second gear so I slowly overtook him and kept going up the slope keeping in second gear, wiggling the wheel to left and right in order to get more traction. I was particularly tense as we had only taken possession of the car one week previously. A large Range Rover with his 4 wheel drive came past, making me feel foolish and inferior. Traction was beginning to run out and we felt we were going to be benighted. Thankfully the slope levelled out. We had made it!

From then on it was downhill and then level, but oncoming cars and drifting snow still posed problems. It was a great relief to arrive back home after a journey which was needless, expensive and potentially dangerous. The whole episode was ridiculous!

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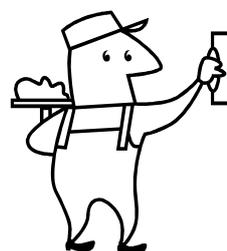
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'Navvies' needed for canal restoration camp in July

THE Waterways Recovery Group helps local canal societies to restore disused canals and make them navigable once more. They are running a one-week restoration camp for the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal, and are looking for volunteer 'navvies'.

The Wendover Arm camp is from 14th - 21st July 2012. Last year volunteers exposed the wharf walls and archways of the Arm's derelict Whitehouse's Pumping Station. In 2012 the camp will rebuild the Pumping Station's wharf wall and culverts. Volunteers will also be engaged in a bit of archaeology investigating the coal storage areas and foundations of the building. This camp, set in the beautiful Hertfordshire countryside, is a great camp for all abilities, whether you are a complete beginner or a more experienced 'navvy'.

Location: Tring, Hertfordshire. Accommodation: basic. Activities: bricklaying, waterway archaeology. Cost is £56 per week to cover food and accommodation. Applications to join the camp can be made on the Waterways Recovery Group website: www.wrg.org.uk.

The Grand Union Canal was the 'M1' of its day with boats transporting farming products, coal, timber and other materials to and from the London markets. To ensure that the canal functioned efficiently, a large number of reservoirs

were built around Tring in Hertfordshire. The Wendover Arm was primarily built to supply water from these reservoirs to the locks at Marsworth and Cow Roast. The Wendover Arm Trust has been restoring the canal which is now navigable as far as Little Tring.



The arm was closed in 1904
photo Wendover Arm Trust

Nautical odes:

To the bowline



The bowline is the king of knots, or if you like it, bends
A bowline on a bollard is the best of journey's ends

And, as long as men are mariners, I think it safe to say
This is a thing that never will be done another way.

Anon. Taken from the cover of the British Waterways boat safety regulations. Reproduced with acknowledgement.

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The agricultural story line...

by David Mead

Armchair travels!

I always tell young folks to travel if you can, you learn so much. For instance, did you know that the corncrake, a leggy brown striped bird in the summer likes to frequent grass fields in Norfolk, well it does! Now a man in Whipsnade is rearing the youngsters in an incubator and when they are old enough after a few months will release them into the wild. Now corncrakes fly to Africa for the winter and these reared birds did the same. But the following spring these little fellows arrived back in Whipsnade, not Norfolk!. The Whipsnade man thought they used the stars to navigate. So the next year he covered the rearing pens and kept the youngsters covered until they were released in Norfolk. What happened? After wintering in Africa, the next spring they flew back to England, to Norfolk. I had travel all the way to Drayton Beauchamp to hear that tale, well worth all the effort.

It was going to be the warmest winter on record. The 'global warmers' were smiling again and then - well we all know what happened, cars banned from the streets of Rome, snow on the palm trees in the south of France, rugby stopped in Paris. Just got use to the white stuff and now it's like spring again.

When this is read the ewes will be back in the lambing yard. The 'mums to be' are looking well. The shepherds are keen, there will be a full report next time, mind the language.

Jessica caught her connecting Air France plane in Paris with 10 minutes to spare and arrived safely in Madagascar and her

baggage was on the plane, much to her relief. I hope we get the promised monthly report. What did I say about travelling? Surely there must be some coral in Wilstone reservoir?

A new river appeared down the back road which has become a tributary of the Thames, a similar new river sprung from the top of the canal bridge at Slapton, this time a tributary of the Ouse. I don't expect the good people of Cheddington get a choice. When they leave a tap on, will the water flow under Tower Bridge or glide past Boston stump?

Jenny, as part of her birthday celebrations, is off to see the Northern Lights, the Norwegian variety. I hope we get a full report. The lights can be a bit temperamental: fog, snow and intense cold can make things a bit unreliable.

Now honeymoons, who cares about the weather?. This is written before the great day. Teresa and I wish Ryan and Lauren a very happy wedding day. May the sun shine on their life together. Ryan is so sharp on the computer he must know the right button to push to guarantee some sun throughout his married life.

I took some logs to the Mill, the eating house at the other end of Berkhamstead. The last time I went there I'm sure I was still in shorts and food rationing was the order of the day. Poached eggs on toast was selected, very good.

I'm still travelling but I've got a David Attenborough to show me round, very good but I don't get that excitement of looking over that next hill, that wanting to migrate and then return.

Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 65 Easy

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

This is another easy puzzle . So I don't really need to give any hints Good Luck! **Solution on page 22**





S G H

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There's lots going on at the Wilstone Shop

SPRING is always a busy time, and that's certainly true for the Wilstone Shop.

Mother's Day is 18 March so come in and see our selection of cards and chocolates.

Next up is Easter when the shop will be open as follows:

Good Friday: 7.30am – 1pm	Easter Sunday: 9.00am – midday
Saturday: 7.30am – 1pm	Easter Monday: Closed



As always we have a range of seasonal goodies including Easter Eggs and greeting cards, but you may also want to place an order for Hot Cross Buns or bread. Also available to order from our fantastic Chesham supplier are turkeys, free range chicken, beef, lamb or our famous farmhouse ham. Just pop into the shop and ask for details or you can give us a call on 01442 891167.

Last year the shop hosted a box for any items you wished to donate for the tombola stall at the Wilstone Fete. It proved to be so successful that we are delighted to do so again this year. Please bring along anything you think will be suitable or, if you've nothing currently to spare and would like to help, you may wish to make a small purchase from the shop to pop in the box. Anything you can donate will be most gratefully received by the Fete Committee.

Finally, a very happy Easter to all our customers from Liz, Ron and all the Volunteers.

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Arla dairy on track

ARLA Foods is on track to create hundreds of new jobs in Aylesbury Vale, after getting the green light to construct a £150 million, state-of-the-art dairy in the district. They also have outline planning for a business park, on a 35-hectare site near Aston Clinton

Councillor Michael Edmonds, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, said: "The Arla development will generate many skilled, permanent and temporary jobs, which will be of major benefit to Aylesbury Vale. It will be one of the biggest employment investments in the Vale for many years and a huge boost to the local economy."

Tim Evans, Senior Director at Arla Foods UK, said: "This will be a state-of-the-art dairy which will bring many opportunities to the area; creating 700 new jobs and a £20 million annual wages bill, much of which is likely to be reinvested in local shops, leisure outlets and services. We are seeking to be a good long-term neighbour and have incorporated a multi million pound package of mitigation measures to effectively reduce or remove the effect of bringing the dairy to this site. We have also created a liaison group so we can continue to work closely with the local community. If you would like further information or have any points you would like to raise at the liaison group please contact your parish council."

Arla is expected to shortly appoint a contractor to build the dairy and then start talking to sub-suppliers as well as contacting local firms who have asked to be considered for potential contracts.

Archaeological work has been completed and an open day has been organised to allow local residents to view the archaeological finds.

A spine road into the site is under construction and the main work of constructing the dairy will start shortly and will take approximately one year to complete.

Work will start soon to create the landscaped embankments around the site. Arla aims to plant as many trees as possible in the next planting season once the embankments are complete. Species include: native and locally occurring species such as oak, ash, silver birch and the rare black poplar. In addition, evergreens such as scots pine have been included.. Edging species include hazel, holly, maple and buckthorne.

Arla will be looking for people to work at the dairy in the following departments: production, despatch, logistics, driving, environment, health and safety, laboratory, quality control, engineering and planning. If you are interested in applying for any of our opportunities or would like to register your interest, please apply online at www.arlafoodsjobs.co.uk. Arla Foods is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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Mrs Dawn Slade 01442 824 138
 Email: clerk@tringruralpc.org.uk

The Village Warden is:

Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822 031

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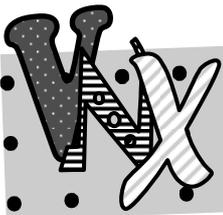
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Village News Extra!

Edited By Harriet Rogers



HELLO! Welcome to this exciting edition of VNX! Yet again we've had some great contributions! You'll be able to read about the fantastic Tring School production of Romeo and Juliet starring a host of local faces and an exciting story about sheep! If you'd like to see your face in the next VNX please email editorwlp@yahoo.com with your stories!

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MY PANTO EXPERIENCE!

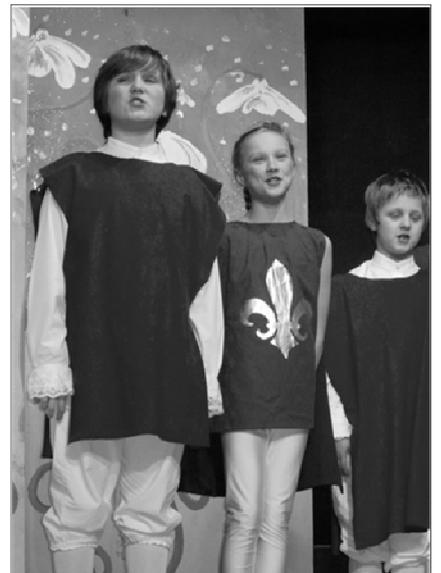
Hi there, my name is Izzy Aylwin and I am part of the children's chorus for the Long Marston Panto, Cinderella, this year. Altogether I've been to six three



'Cinderella shall go to the ball!'

hour rehearsals, although the rest of the chorus have been to eight. Neil Gurney is in charge of the Panto. He's quite demanding but very funny, especially on the nights of the show! I've done one show so far and

there were a few quick changes which are tricky but nothing too drastic! I'm really looking forward to the rest of the shows and so are my friends! If you came to see us I hope you enjoyed the shows as much as I did!



Izzy Aylwin (centre) in the chorus of Cinderella

By Izzy Aylwin, Age 11, Long Marston





What light through yonder window breaks?



This Month's Star; Grace Simmons!

In January of this year, Tring School put on the production of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet at the Court Theatre Pendley, Tring. It was an outstanding show performed by a fantastic cast. The cast was full of local faces including Elliot Turnley, Long Marston, Grace Simmons, Gubblecote and Ben Reynolds a former Long Marston School pupil.

What part did you play in Romeo and Juliet?

I played the part of Lady Montague, who is Romeo's mother.

What was the audition process to get the part?

I had to partner up with someone who had also turned up for the audition and we both had a little time to act out a part of the script the director had given us. We had to perform our rough piece in front of everyone else in the audition. During the rest of that night, we had to do certain activities to test whether we could control our laughter under pressure, or if we could keep eye contact with someone etc. A few days after that audition, people were given call backs and I was one of them. We had to collect part of the script for a character that the drama department thought would suit us and we had a day or two to learn the lines. It took a while to get to grips with the Shakespearian script but once I had memorised the lines and had found out what it all generally meant, I felt confident with my performance. We then had to perform in front of everyone else who had been called back and also we had to watch everyone else perform.



First rehearsals on the stage

How long did you rehearse for?

We had been rehearsing since September, 3 nights a week. Some weekends were 7 hour rehearsals and those were the worst!! You came out of the drama room and wanted to rip your hair out!! By December things started coming together and started to look somewhat good but we were still far from being good enough to perform to an audience. At the beginning of January we started rehearsing at the Court Theatre. We had just gotten around all our lines and now we had to get used to the space on stage! As we had seen it so many times, we didn't see any improvement. It got close to the dreaded week and the week of the show, we started rehearsing with the crew. It was a slow process then but soon sped up. The weekend before the show and it was all day Saturday and all day Sunday. We had two run-throughs both days - Saturday with the crew and Sunday as a full dress rehearsal.



Working with the technical team and lighting

What was the performance experience like?

On Tuesday night, everyone's nerves were getting to them as it had come round so quickly. I was still in shock at what the director had made me wear!! We were called downstairs to get into our positions and no one could keep still!! The lights went out and the show started! It was probably the most amazing night I've ever had. The show went so well and I couldn't believe we had managed to get it to that standard!

(Continued on Page 18)



A congratulations gift for the cast from the director

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



Furry Tails



Keep an eye on your cakes!

Hi there! My name is Rufus and I am a 1 year old golden retriever living in Long Marston with my wonderful family the McMunns. I love being taken out on long, exciting walks and playing with all my friends! Another thing I love is food; I often try and get my paws on anything that's available. For example, the other day I spied some freshly made pancakes on the side. I knew I shouldn't have them but I just couldn't resist, so I jumped up and nabbed them all! I'll eat anything: cakes, chocolate, cereal,

bread, except one thing I despise, carrots! Another hobby of mine is getting brushed. After a long hard day of walking, eating, thieving and sleeping, I love relaxing while my owners brush me. Anyway, I'm off for a walk now, hopefully I might see some of you out walking too! Just keep an eye on your cakes...



Jake and his sheep

Hello I'm Jake, I am 13. For Christmas this year I got 4 sheep and with the money I got from Christmas and some savings I had, I bought 4 more.

Do you have any names for your sheep?

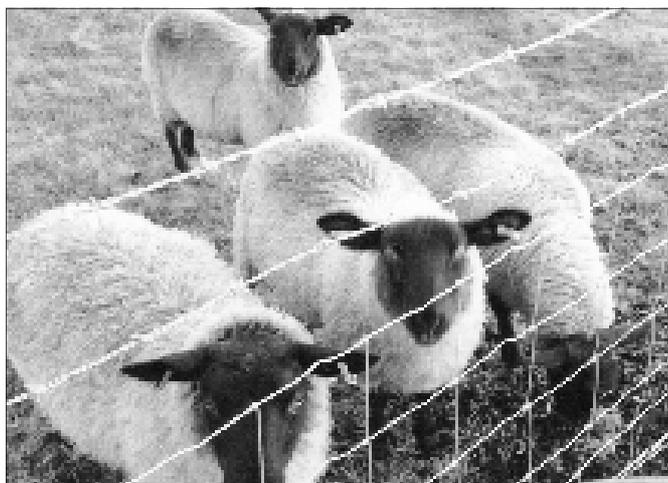
We don't have names for them (although my sister has her own names for them! I dread to think what she has called them, probably Tinker, Tinky, Perky and Pinky!!) We do have our favourites. We can tell them by their colouring and that they are the only two who will run up to us when they see us coming and will eat food from our hands and let us touch them. Otherwise they are very jumpy and once one runs off they all follow!

What is the best thing about keeping sheep?

I would say the best thing about keeping sheep is when they are in lamb. We will be putting ours in lamb later this year as at the moment they are too young and not quite ready. When they are in lamb this is when the work starts. As yet there is not a great deal to do and we do not want to feed them as they will get too fat and that is not good for them.

How much time do you have to spend with your sheep?

When they are in lamb I shall have to check on them every morning before school and after school to make sure they have plenty of food and water and that they are doing well.



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



Grace Simmons' interview...continued from page 16

...Each night was amazing and everyone was on such a high with the response we were getting! Every night sold out to 150 people!! On the last night everyone gave it their all. Through the last scene everyone backstage was silent. When everyone went on to bow, we had a standing ovation and tears were filling up everyone's eyes!! It was the most incredible, painful experience I've had!! I've made new friends and I have a much better connection with all the teachers involved and I hope to be in many more like it!!

What was the best part of being involved in Romeo and Juliet?

My favourite part of the experience was the fact that I got the chance to do something that I want to pursue as a career! It was also great to be able to perform at the Court Theatre Pendley, with full audiences.



VNX REVIEWS: ROMEO AND JULIET



Romeo and Juliet was bursting with love, thrill and excitement. The five star standard performance at Pendley Theatre! A marvellous Tring School production! Starring Elliot Turnley as the handsome Romeo, and Izzy Hogarth as the gorgeous Juliet—the sensational, believable couple!



What really amazed me is how organized, motivated and courageous the students were! They seemed to organize everything all by themselves (with a little help from teachers of course), and there was not a single slip-up for the entire performance! They clearly knew their characters' personalities like the back of their hand and played them like professionals! It was also fantastic to see them all working as a team and putting everything they had into the performance.

Izzy and Elliot: the superstars of the show! I feel they fitted perfectly into the characters' positions, and showed their feelings very evidently.

The body language in the performance was also very clear and interesting. They had some outstanding dance moves! And just to add the final touch, there was a perfect song choice for every event, that really got your feet tapping and your hands clapping!

Overall I would rate this play 5 star! A perfect night out for the family.



By Daisy Fermont



Thank you to all this month's contributors! I would like to encourage all you readers who haven't sent anything in to email a story, or a picture to go in next month's edition. It would be great to hear from you! The deadline for the next issue is Tuesday 20th March so please get writing!

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

Harriet :)

First steps

By Lindsay Armitage

THIS term the children have been learning about "All about me" which has involved lots of activities looking at healthy eating, hygiene, the body, being special, our family and much more. The seasonal snowy weather has also been of great interest to the children so far this term! After half term our focus will turn to Animals and our play will be based around mini beasts, farms, zoo and woodland animals, dinosaurs and mammals.

Thanks to parents registering their support with the Haven Fun & Fitness campaign we have now received a box of new sports equipment so the children will be enjoying new tennis and cricket bats, balls, footballs, stilts and beanbags.

After half term we will again be taking part in the Sainsbury's Active Kids campaign which helped us obtain a large quantity of cooking, gardening and sports equipment last year. If you shop at Sainsbury's and are able to donate vouchers towards our target we would be extremely grateful to receive them. Please either hand them in when pre-school is open or put them in the red post box outside the Victory Hall.



First Steps Pre-School is held at Victory Hall, Long Marston every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am – 12pm during term time, with lunch clubs on Tuesday and Friday until 1.30pm. We welcome all children aged between 2½ and 5. If you would like to know more about Pre-School or wish to put your child's name on our waiting list, please contact either Teresa Giddings, pre-school leader, on 07925 185311 (during pre-school hours) or our chairperson, Lindsay Armitage, on 01296 661017.

Long Marston Baby & Toddler Group opens 10-11.30am on Wednesday mornings (term time) at Victory Hall, Long Marston, everyone welcome. For more information, ring Ali Driver on 01296 662482.



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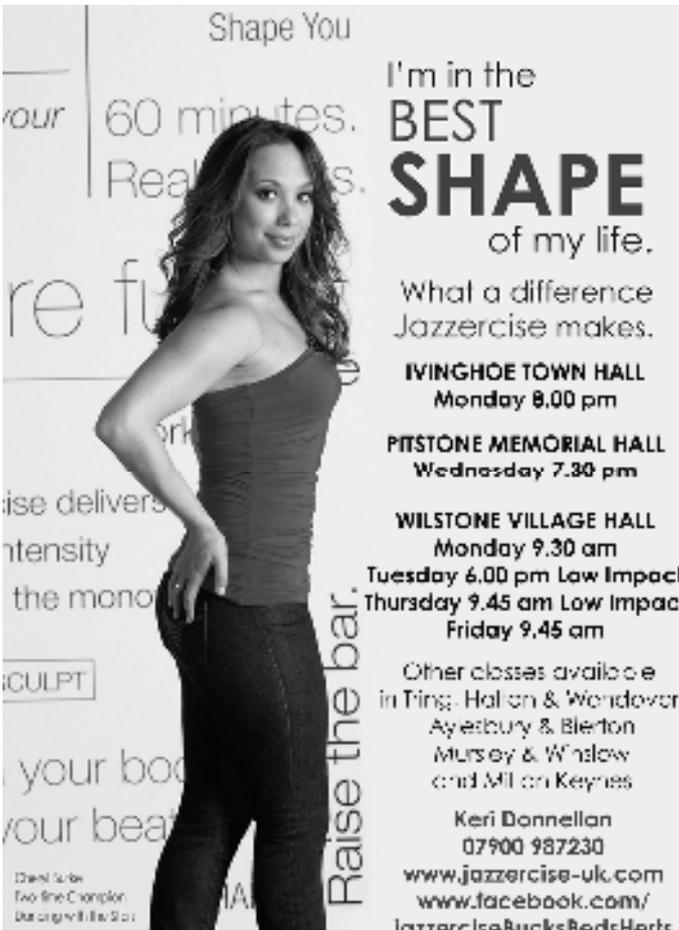
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Recipe of the month

by Anna Ashwell

Leek and Potato Soup

I have been making this Delia version of this traditional soup for many years. It is great for warming you up after a winter walk or can be eaten cold in the summer when it is known as Vichyssoise.

Ingredients:

4 large leeks	2oz (50g) butter
2 medium potatoes, peeled and diced	2 tablespoons cream
1 medium onion, finely chopped	1½ tablespoons fresh chives or parsley
1½ pints (850ml) chicken stock	Salt and pepper to season
½ pint (275ml) milk	

Method:

Trim off the tops and roots of the leeks and discard the tough outer layer. Split them in half length-ways, slice them up quite finely and then give them a good rinse in clean water

In a large thick-based saucepan gently melt the butter. Add the leeks, potatoes and onion, stirring them all around with a wooden spoon so they get a nice coating of butter. Season with salt and pepper, then cover and let the vegetables sweat over a very low heat for about 15 minutes

After that add the stock and milk, bring to simmering point, put the lid back on and let the soup simmer very gently for a further 20 minutes or until the vegetables are soft. Be careful because if you have the heat too high the milk in it may cause it to boil over

Liquidise the whole lot into a purée. Check the seasoning and adjust if required. Stir in the chopped chives and add a swirl of cream just before serving

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Do you caption your photos?

By Liz Young

DO you ever get around to putting names and dates to your photographs? The reason I ask is because one day in the distant future generations of your relations might like to know what they are looking at.

I have been rebinding three Edwardian albums with fascinating photographs of ladies playing golf in long skirts, jackets and large hats. In another they are dressed as if going to Ascot or a wedding, but on close inspection they are holding guns and the caption reads 'shooting rabbits'. These books are filled with scenes of family life resembling the early episodes of Downton Abbey. The sad part is that very few of the cast are named. There are some dates and the names of places and houses, but very few of the people. The last of the relatives who might have been able to provide identification died before leaving the albums to a nephew who now has the task of researching the family. Interest in genealogy has been growing apace and programmes such as 'Who do you think you are?' have helped to fuel interest.

I heard a talk by a school archivist who was busy cataloguing old photographs and was lamenting the lack of captions to identify pupils. "I get requests from people researching their ancestors who know a relative was in, say, the first cricket XI at a certain date. I can pull out the photo but with no caption that is as far as I can help."

I recently discovered my own father's team photographs from the 1920s which are, surprisingly, all annotated and I am get-

ting them digitally copied as the archivist at his old school says she is delighted to have such records. One problem with his albums is that he started to add captions to family photos when he was in his 90s and his memory was not as sharp as it had been. Having spotted some obvious errors I just wonder how reliable his information is! I had better get cracking on mine quite soon.

You may well be guilty, as charged, of not captioning your photos. Worse still, you probably don't even print them up. It is all too easy to take masses of photos on your instant camera or phone, log them into a computer and forget about them. Will anyone be able to retrieve them in say 50 years time? When photography was a relatively expensive hobby, compared to today, I think we had more respect for the prints we collected from the photographic shop or chemist and carefully edited them, with scissors, before putting them in albums. You only record happy events – there are no tears and tantrums – so they are fun to look through and provide endless amusement to the grandchildren.

Sudoku solution No 65

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

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Wilstone allotment diary

by Jane Waterhouse

SINCE the meeting in January to share out the allotments the site is taking shape. It is incredible how much work some people have completed considering the weather conditions. The first shed went up within days of the meeting and there are now several to be seen, along with a greenhouse and many rows of raised beds.

I believe we have found a new type of gardener; along with the 'fair weather gardener' and the 'keen gardener', in Wilstone we have the 'extreme gardener'. Even with snow on the ground and arctic winds they can be found digging their plot or lugging timber across the icy field to erect raised beds, sheds and rabbit fencing.

Headway is being made getting the funding bids for the perimeter fencing, thanks to an experienced fundraiser who is giving up her time and energy for the project. The well is being researched by another kind volunteer and we are hoping to get an expert to make some recommendations on

how to make it safe and usable. In the next few weeks some will be in a position to start thinking about crops and starting seeds off. Let's hope that this warmer weather really is the start of spring and we can all get outside, not just the extreme gardeners!



The new allotments begin to take shape

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The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 6TH MARCH – 8 p.m.

All members of St. Mary's Electoral Roll are entitled to attend and vote for your Churchwardens and DCC members for 2012/2013.

Wine & Nibbles will be served during the evening

ST. MARY'S CHURCH CLEANING & FLOWERS

The cleaning and flower rota list for 2012 is being compiled. If you would like to join us, please contact Christine 01296 668337. The cleaning is simple and you don't need to be a "Floral Lady" to arrange the flowers. There are only usually two services a month, so it is not a major task, but can be most enjoyable.

We still have a few months unallocated – why not give it a try?

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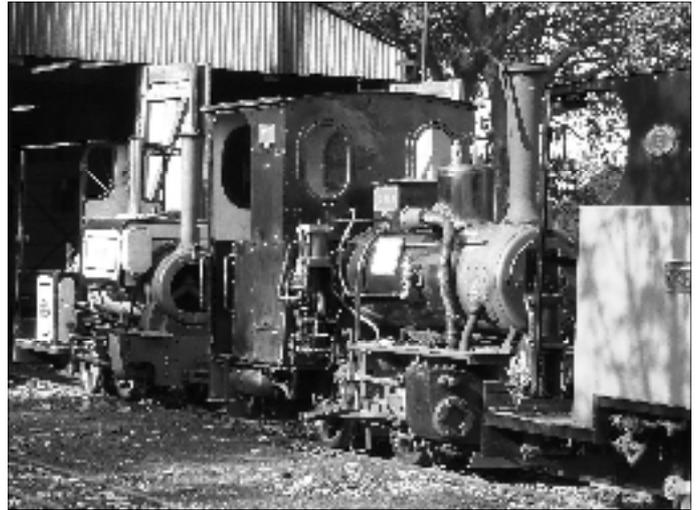
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Locomotive picture!

IN for repair at the Leighton Buzzard Railway workshops is No.11 'P.C. Allen' (centre), an 0-4-0WT locomotive built in Germany in 1913 by Orenstein & Koppel A.G. A diminutive 7 tons, this delightful little engine spent its working life in Spain but is now pulling passenger trains at Leighton Buzzard. Steam-hauled services on this fascinating 70-minute round trip begin in April. Details from www.buzzrail.co.uk.



Or is it Thomas the tank engine?

(Picture: A. Spotter).



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Church news

News from All Saints

CHURCH Cleaning - we are delighted that the Brownies are going to 'lend a hand' on Thursday 1 March. They are wonderful, leaving everywhere well polished and smelling lovely. As always we'd love to hear from anyone who could help us with keeping our Church clean and welcoming; do 'phone Carole if you could spare an hour or two.

Saturday 21 April 9.00am – 12 noon; we are having a spring clean. Everyone is welcome to join us during the morning – it doesn't have to be for all the time. As usual we'll supply some sustenance – please come and help.
Social afternoon – Tuesday 27 March, 2 to 3pm.

Carole Harrison 01296 668526

St. Cross Wilstone

ST. CROSS will be holding several celebrations during the next few months and, as usual, most of them will be accompanied by refreshments.



Tuesday 28th February at 10am. The monthly Tuesday service will include 'launching' the boat, and starting to fill it with items for DENS (Action against homelessness). Rather than the traditional approach of 'giving something up' for Lent, St. Cross is 'giving something to someone else', a more positive and beneficial interpretation of Lent. Maintaining the Tring Team tradition, sausages and pancakes will be served after the service as part of the weekly coffee morning.

Wednesday 7th March at 12noon-2pm. The annual Lent Lunch will be held in Wilstone Village Hall; a frugal lunch of soup, bread and cheese, plus tea/coffee to remember all those people across the world who have very little, if anything, to eat. There is no charge for the lunch, but donations for Christian Aid would be very much appreciated.

Sunday 18th March at 10am. A special service, with baptism, on Mothering Sunday.

We look forward to welcoming you to St. Cross.

Lent films 2012 *pilgrimage.*



February 26th

THE WAY Martin Sheen stars in this film about pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela



March 4th

THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES The story of the young Ernesto Guevara as he travels across South America



March 11th

STRAIGHT STORY David Lynch's film - Alvin Straight's journey across Iowa and Wisconsin on a lawnmower



March 18th

BROTHER WHERE ART THOU? George Clooney stars in this film which is loosely based on Homer's Odyssey.



March 26th

LOURDES Christine has severe multiple sclerosis and is in wheelchair, makes a journey to Lourdes.

All the Sunday evening films start at 6.30 pm in the Chapter House at Aldbury Church. Tea, coffee, wine and popcorn will be available. There will be a short reflective evening service at 6 pm in the Church.

Lent 2012 Bible study

There is still an opportunity to join in the Bishop of St Alban's Bible Study each week in St Peter and St Paul's Church, Tring. We meet on Fridays at 12 noon and repeat the sessions on Mondays at 8 pm. Next meeting Friday 9 March.

Baby sitting

Hi, my name is James Lovis and I live in Wilstone. I am a responsible 14 year old boy and I am trying to raise money for a world challenge trip to Ghana. On this trip I will be mainly doing community work for the local people e.g. helping build a house or school.
My prices are £5 per hour and £6 per hour after midnight.



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Tell me the cold, cold story.

By Andy Ashwell

AS I write this sitting next to a roaring log-fire, it's fairly chilly (-6°C) outside and there is snow on the ground. But this is nothing compared to what we experienced on our recent skiing trip to Austria. Day one was rather cold (-9°C) and foggy, but as it was our first day we didn't let that put us off going skiing. As it happened, halfway up the mountain on the chairlift we emerged from the fog, actually low-lying cloud, into glorious sunshine. I must say that it is quite amazing to see the mountains poking through a sea of fluffy cotton-wool clouds.

After skiing around in the sunshine for a good while we reluctantly headed back down the mountain to the hotel for tea. This fairly straightforward procedure turned into a nightmare for me. I had chosen to wear my new, ultra-cool, prescription-reactolite sunglasses instead of my more sensible but totally un-cool, enormous, post-cataract-op-style, over-goggles. This was a big mistake because, although the new cool shades looked the part and had worked well in the bright sunshine, they became as good as useless as soon as we disappeared into the cloud.



The problem was that I couldn't see the bumps or tell which way was down (or up) – which, as any seasoned skier will tell you, is not a good situation to be in on a ski slope. Consequently I ended up snowploughing extremely sheepishly and rather fearfully (scared) for two miles behind Florence and Anna, neither of whom seemed unduly bothered by the poor visibility or my own terrifying predicament.

Back at the hotel as I related details of my heroic descent to anyone who would listen, a couple of sympathetic spectacle-wearers informed me that they always wore goggles in foggy

conditions. They told me that the yellowy-orange lenses block out the blue light which improves the contrast and makes the bumps stand out better. The next day I wore my embarrassing, rose-tinted mega-gogs and, hey presto, my normal eyesight (poor as it is) was resumed.

As the week progressed, it became colder and colder. As if minus 9°C on day one hadn't been cold enough, Day two dropped to minus 11°C and on our last skiing day it had plummeted to an extremity-tingling minus 20°C – or even lower with the wind-chill. On that particular day we spent almost as much time drinking hot chocolate and defrosting our noses in the mountainside cafés than actually skiing.

After days like that, it is always nice to get back to the warmth of the hotel (I dread to think what their heating bills are like), to have a steaming-hot bath followed by a pint of Egger beer and a traditional Austrian meal – Wiener Schnitzel, spätzle and the like. However, one evening there was something unfamiliar on the menu called Filet vom Strauss. It sounded Austrian enough to me; probably something rustled-up by Johann's mother while he was busy composing another ditty, I imagined. Whatever, Florence and I scoffed ours enthusiastically, blissfully unaware that it was actually ostrich. Not particularly traditional perhaps, but delicious nevertheless.



Brrr - that's chilly!

On the morning of our departure the temperature had dropped even further and there had been more snow. Fortunately our car was parked in the hotel's underground car park (a balmy minus 9°C) but as we drove down the mountain to the airport the dashboard thermometer registered minus 23°C. When we landed at Heathrow it was barely below freezing and the sky was a little overcast; halfway home it started to snow. By the following morning two inches of snow covered the ground and there were reports of record temperatures in Chesham (minus 18°C). So maybe we were lucky that it hadn't been even colder in Austria and perhaps our frosty antics in the mountains weren't quite as heroic as we thought.



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Editorial contributions, articles, event notices, news and pictures to:

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Your editor for March will be: Mark Woodbridge

**Deadline for items to go in the next issue is:
Thursday 22nd March 2012.**

You can read *Village News* on line at:

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

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

Early birds and early bulbs

WHILE attempting to write an article for the Village News I stared vacantly out of my study looking for inspiration. Snow had fallen and a few snowdrops and aconites were bravely spearing through the ice. Then inspiration arrived in the form of a large flock of birds in our front garden. They settled under an ornamental apple tree. This tree *Malus huphensis* has wonderful white flowers in the spring and then produces a bonus of sealing wax bright red berries later in the year. The birds until now had ignored them and many were falling down forming a dull red mush underneath the tree. It was these berries that the birds now found attractive as they had exhausted all others.



Many familiar birds were there, blackbirds, robins and two song thrushes. Many more were Scandinavian visitors, fieldfares and redwings, relatives of the thrush family. The fieldfares are quite large and aggressive with a chestnut and grey back while the redwing not only has an orange patch under its wing but a very prominent eye stripe. These were a welcome sight on a dull winter's day. It took them only a few days to eat the mashed up berries and then to completely strip the tree. Then they were gone.



Fieldfare a winter visitor

Sadly our smallest British bird, the goldcrest, has been absent

from the garden and churchyard recently. The severe winters have caused the population to crash. Such a small bird cannot build up enough energy stores to get it through a long cold winter night. The issue is compounded as the short winter days limit the time for feeding even if it can find food.



Redwing

In a previous year one of these birds exhibited really strange behaviour. It perched outside the study window, from which today I was staring out for inspiration. It then proceeded to peck violently at the glass completely ignoring me. Later when I went out to the car it was doing the same thing to the wing mirror. It then became even bolder and perched on my arm using me as a launching pad to attack the mirror. I can only assume that he saw his reflection as a rival male and was trying to fight him off. He stayed for a few days but then was gone and sadly has not been seen since.



Britain's smallest

However I did manage to get a photograph of him.

It has been a bad winter for some of the early bulbs. Snowdrops have been laid on their back like drunken soldiers but some like a yellow one and another like a small lampshade seemed to have coped. Hopefully if we get a thaw other bulbs such as these aconites, irises and cyclamen will emerge.

Village view

by John Painter

A nice winter scene of Wilstone reservoir John described it as "awash with geese".



Panto fantasy

photos by john Kaye

