Village News: Wilstone, Long Marston, Puttenham, Gubblecote

March 2010

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

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Readers' contributions are welcome. Send them in!

Review: Dick Whittington by Neil Gurney (LM&PHS)

Rats sink the leaving ship in role reversal drama

by our man in the stalls, Luke B. Hind-Yew

HOW many people does it take to transform a village hall into a pantomime? More than sixty apparently, and that is only those whose names were credited in the programme. No doubt there were others too. The curtain drew back on the amazing Mr Gurney's 23rd production for the Long Marston and Puttenham Horticultural Society, Dick Whittington, to reveal a set of astonishing quality. People around remarked upon it. Art Director John Betts and his team of jobbing painters and decorators have excelled themselves. The backdrop of Olde London Town, with the shadow of St. Pauls glimpsed through the murk, could have been borrowed from the Turner Collection at the Tate. And goodness knows how many man hours were spent on the beautifully painted detail in the toyshop scene. First class, and brought to life with clever lighting, and by the cast of course, who quickly asserted their traditional right to be the main attraction and launched into a robust and entertaining performance.

Dick meets Cat and Alice (Vanessa Iley) in Olde London.

The sailors' chorus set sail for Morocco.

A fine Dame from Martin Winship, here cosying up to the cat (Danielle Lewis).

(Pictures: Village News)

Report continues on page 2 with a photo of the finale.

Village News is supported by Tring Rural Parish Council www.tringruralpc.org.uk

Continued from page 1

Apparently someone called Richard Whittington Esq. (David Severs) travels from an obscure country village, possibly Astrope, to seek his fortune in the big City only to find he has arrived during a recession and the place is overrun with squeaking rats. By chance (?) he falls in with a large cat (Danielle Lewis, also acclaimed for her 'Priscilla the Goose' in 2007) who proves very useful at rodent removal. Just as well, as the evil King Rat (Chris Hodges) has a cunning plan to take over London - and Morocco too evidently. (Is there a connection here?) A big cheese in The City (Toby Davidson) has a splendid ship and all can sail off to garner new riches, but the rats get there first and sink the ship in a very realistic storm - complete with pyrotechnics - by chewing through the bottom. This does not bode well for the travellers, but thankfully all souls are saved, the cat sees off the rats, and Mr Whittington becomes Lord Mayor (though no evidence of election returns is produced to justify this appointment). Dolly Dimple (Martin Winship) was a first class traditional Dame, and King Rat maintained an alarming aura of evilness throughout. Combined with a delightful Chorus, Neil as a one-man orchestra, and enthusiastic audience participation this was a highly entertaining performance. How do they manage to do all this in only six weeks? Your reporter has no idea, but it must be seriously hard work. "Do we suffer from silliness?" said someone. No, we enjoy every minute of it. (Pictures: Village News.)

All ends well in the City. Even King Rat (right) is invited to the finale.

What's happening at the Wilstone shop this Easter?

IT seems amazing to be talking about Easter when it only seems a couple of days since Christmas. Must be something to do with age! At the Wilstone shop this Easter we are delighted to be offering the following for you to order: Chickens and ducks from our acclaimed Chesham butcher, hot cross buns, and bread to ensure you're not disappointed over the holiday period. Please call in for an order form. Plus our usual delicious deli items and the full range of shop products. Our Easter opening times will be:

Good Friday: 7.30am - 1pm
Easter Saturday: 9am - midday
Easter Sunday: 9am - midday
Easter Monday: CLOSED, but newspapers will be delivered.
Tuesday 6th April: 7.30am - 1pm.

We look forward to seeing you over the coming weeks and wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Liz and Ron.

Village News

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WE are fortunate to have such active and polished performers in our villages as can be seen from the photographs on the front and back covers of this issue.
The Pantomime was, as always, a big draw and a huge success thanks to that very talented man Neil Gurney. A full report is printed elsewhere along with some excellent photographs.
Wilstone's Cabaret Night was a sell out from early on, so much so that a repeat performance is planned for the Autumn. Congratulations to Maggie Buchi for being the driving force behind the show and to all the performers and background helpers.

With so much varied talent in the Parish, one would think that it would not be a problem getting an additional editor to assist with the production of this Newsletter, so how about it you budding journalists. Just contact Phil Buchi, the main editor, address and telephone number above.

Colin Davenport

Deadline for items for our next issue (April) is Thursday 18th March 2010.

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!

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Church services

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

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

28 February
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion and Sunday Club
3.30pm All Saints Evensong
6.00pm St Mary's Evening Prayer
6.00pm St Cross Evensong

1 March (Monday)
2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

7 March
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer
6.00pm St Cross Evensong

14 March Mothering Sunday
8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion
10.00am All Saints Family Service
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

15 March (Monday)
2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

21 March
10.00am St Cross Holy Communion
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

28 March Palm Sunday
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion and Sunday Club
3.30pm St Mary's Evensong
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

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...

Cheese and Wine Quiz

Cheese and Wine Quiz

8pm
Saturday 27th March
At
Wilstone Village Hall
Come and sample Peter Kemp's wonderful selection of 6 very special cheeses and 6 wines to compliment them from around the world.
Tickets £15 in advance from the Wilstone village shop and Meads farm shop.

Easter Egg Hunt

EASTER MONDAY
5TH APRIL 2010

WILSTONE CHURCH

10.30am PROMPT START

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND HOT CROSS BUNS TOO!

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)
The public are welcome to attend these meetings.
Wednesday 17th March, Wilstone village hall.
Wednesday 21st April, Puttenham, Cecilia Hall.

24, 26, 27 February
Donizetti's "L'elisir d'amore". Aylesbury Opera Group. At the Court Theatre, Pendley. £15. *(In English).*
Saturday 6 March
Butterfly conservation talk. Cecilia Hall.2.30pm See p.24
Sunday 7 March
"Music brings the church to life" A unique concert at St Peter and St Paul, Tring.3pm Tickets 01442 825644
Sunday 7 March
Dance lessons. LM hall. 3pm Waltz
Tuesday 9th March -WI: Making a Garden for the BBC Gardener of the Year Competition, illustrated talk by Edwin Rye. 8pm LM Victory Hall - £3 to include refreshments. See page 22
Sunday14 March
Dance lessons. LM hall. 3pm Quickstep
Saturday 20 March
Tennis Club quiz night. LM Victory Hall. Tables of 8.
Tuesday 23 March
Social afternoon at All Saints church, 2pm to 3pm.
Friday 26 March
LMCC Quiz at Marlins. 7.30pm
Saturday 27 March
Cheese and Wine Quiz. 8pm, Wilstone village hall. £15.
Saturday 27 March
Tring Choral Society and Orchestra Easter concert. Rossini and Verdi. St Peter & St Paul Tring, 7.30, £11. 01442 824784
Sunday 28 March
Dance lessons. LM hall. 3pm Rumba
Monday 5 April
Easter egg hunt. 10.30 am Wilstone church

Wilstone Village Shop opening hours
Monday to Saturday: 7.30am to 1.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am to 12.00noon.

Times for mobile library

Thursdays, fortnightly: March 11th and 25th.

Tringford (Piggeries Pine)	**11.10 to 11.30**
Wilstone (The Half Moon)	**11.35 to 12.35**
Astrope (Astrope Lane)	**13.15 to 13.35**
Puttenham (Church Lane)	**13.40 to 14.40**
Long Marston (Queen's Head)	**14.50 to 16.20**

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

Tuesday 13th April – WI: Ribbon Floral Art by Doreen Kempster. 8pm LM Victory Hall - £3 to include refreshments.
Sunday25 April
Dance lessons. LM hall. 3pm . Recap of all three dances.
Tuesday 27 April
Social afternoon at All Saints church, 2pm to 3pm.
Saturday 1 May *(tbc)*
"May-Day" madrigals & breakfast 6:00am, Puttenham.
Sunday 2 May
Tennis Club Open Afternoon 2pm
4 -8 May
'Pirates of Penzance'. Vale G & S Society at the Court Theatre, Pendley, 7.30pm. £8 to £12.
Saturday 8 May
"Horti" May Ball, at Cheddington VH. Tickets £35.
Tuesday 25 May
Flower arranging with the one and only Neil!
7.30 Wilstone village hall.
Saturday 29 May
Jumble Sale, 2.00pm. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham.
Sunday 30 May
'Paganini and a little Britten'. Tring Chamber Music. At St. John the Baptist, Aldbury, 7.30, £13. 01442 822732.
Sunday 6 June
Wilstone fete: Hi de Hi seaside holiday camp, from12.30.
Sunday 20 June
Marsworth Steam Rally.
Sunday 20 June
"Beethoven's Five" Tring Chamber Music. Church of St Peter & St Paul, Tring, 7.30, £13. 01442 822732.
Saturday 17 July
Fun Day. Wilstone church garden. 2-4pm
Saturday 7 August
Long Marston village show.
Saturday 25 September
'Mozart by Candlelight'. Tring Chamber Music. All Saints Church, Long Marston, 7.30pm, £13. 01442 822732.
Saturday 2 October
Jumble Sale 2:00pm. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham.
Saturday 30 October
Supper & Auction 2:00pm. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham.

Your local event details can be included here for free.

Keep up with **Long Marston Cricket Club** progress and events by visiting www.lmcc.org.uk

East Herts Eco **FilmFest**, Saturday 24th April 2010 at Castle Hall, The Wash, Hertford, SG14 1PS. 1.30pm to 9.30pm. FREE Entry. A family programme of entertaining, provocative and inspiring environmental films and children's creative workshops. Presented by East Herts Council and East Herts Eco Groups. Refreshments.
See www.transitionhertford.ning.com for further details or email transitionhertford@googlemail.com

Cllr. Abby Fermont with cubs, brownies and helpers at the recent Wilstone "Big tidy up"

CONCERT, 24th April 2010, 7.30 p.m., All Saints Church, Long Marston

The Ridgeway Chorale and friends will be giving a concert to raise funds for the Hospice of St. Francis, Berkhamsted. The choir will be joined by the *'Four-Tune Cookies'*, a group of talented instrumentalists, and by Colin Stevens, who will accompany various vocal pieces on the organ and keyboard. The programme will be made up of short items, sacred and secular, serious and funny – something for everyone to enjoy. Also we shall be celebrating, in song, the anniversaries of composers, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (b.1810) and Samuel Barber (b.1910).

For tickets – priced **£7**, (u 18's free)
ring **01296 661071** or **01442 822915.**
Refreshments served during the interval.

The Hospice of St Francis
Reg. Charity No. 250525

‘Hi de Hi!’ at Wilstone Fete holiday camp

COACH loads of happy campers are expected for this summer’s Wilstone Fete on Sunday 6th June. A vintage coach will be bringing the ‘Hi de Hi’ staff to open this recreation of a 1960’s seaside holiday camp (in Hertfordshire?) Gladys Pugh, Spike, Peggy, Barry & Yvonne and the rest of the staff will be there to give villagers the seaside camp experience. The fabulous Wilstone Showgirls have also agreed to visit the holiday camp for the afternoon.

The Fete Committee have managed to find in their midst an ex-Butlin’s Redcoat and a Butlin’s Beaver (then age 9) to give technical advice. Let’s hope they don’t insist on re-creating the canteen-style mass catering for which Messrs Butlin and Pontin were also famous. It’s going to be a mad, mad afternoon with fun and games throughout, and a fun dog show too. So look out your bucket and spade and put Sunday 6th June in your diary. If you would like to help with the fete this year, organiser Jill Walker would be pleased to hear from you. Contact her on 01442 827891.

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Esther Matthews on 01442 827237
esther.matthews@barkingmad.uk.com

Wanted - Puppeteers

THE famous Wilstone puppet group, last seen performing a James Bond epic at Long Marston School Autumn Fair (2003), seeks two ‘actors’ to assist with a performance at Wilstone Village Fete, on Sunday June 6th, 2010.

No experience required, but the ability to put on funny voices would be useful and a sense of humour essential. Need to be able to learn some words, attend rehearsals and fit in a small space. Adults only, please

Call John Kaye for more details on: 01296 661549

Non-stop village run for Haiti

DID you see two boys dancing along Tring Road on a cold foggy Saturday morning at the beginning of February ? Well, they were part of a seven strong team who got out of bed early, not to watch television but to run in a non-stop two and a half hour relay around Wilstone village. The team of Charlie Woodbridge, Ryan Bowhay , George Brown, Sam Rabagliati, Harry Cozens, Ben Lovis and James Lovis (James came up with the idea) ran a circuit starting at the village shop, through Grange Road and back along Tring Road past the Half Moon to the shop. All this activity raised money for the Save the Children charity. Friends and relatives sponsored the boys and village residents kindly donated via the green frog in the shop and in the collection bucket outside the shop on the day. Liz and Ron from the shop and Maura next door generously provided refreshments for the boys and the supporting parents.

The boys recovering after their tremendous effort.

Children in Haiti are in desperate need after the worst earthquake to hit the Island in 200 years and Save the Children are providing shelter, clean water, food and medical assistance to help save children’s lives. It looks like the boys raised £500 altogether. £180 from donations in the orange bucket on the day, over £40 from the green frog in the shop and the rest from sponsorship. Thanks to everyone who generously gave to the charity. A cheque has been posted off to the Save the Children charity to provide some extra help to children in Haiti **Picture:Mark Woodbridge**

Letters...

Kart club recollections

I WAS talking to a colleague at work recently, and I mentioned that I lived in Long Marston. My colleague surprised me by telling me that he used to come to the village when he was a young man in the '60s to drive go-karts. He said the track was in a field on the left up Cheddington Lane, about half way to the airfield on the opposite side. Sure enough, checking the large scale OS map, a track is clearly marked at the spot. He also told me that Roy James (aka "The Weasel") - at the time a successful Formula 2 driver - visited the club occasionally to race karts. James was reputed to have beaten the great Jackie Stewart, and was aspiring to move up to Formula 1, but could not get sponsorship, so went for a life of crime. He became a get-away driver, and it was in this role that he was involved in the Great Train Robbery. Could he have been using the go-karting as a cover, while he was "casing the joint", as the robbery rook place just up the road past Cheddington Station?

If anyone has any more information about the go-kart club (which my colleague thinks was called "Three Counties Kart Club") I would love to hear it. This is a bit of Long Marston history that could be forgotten and lost.

Martin Winship, 01296 662388.

Volunteering opportunities at College Lake

We're building a brand new eco-friendly Visitor Centre at College Lake, a Berks, Bucks and Oxen Wildlife Trust nature reserve, near Tring. We are looking to recruit teams of people to undertake a variety of voluntary roles when the centre opens in April.

Cafe volunteer
Providing refreshments to our visitors is a big part of making their outing to this exciting reserve an enjoyable experience. If you are a cheerful, friendly person with an interest in making sure our visitors are comfortably fed and watered, we'd love to hear from you!

Meet and Greet volunteer
If you are a friendly, outgoing people-person and want to help ensure our visitors have a great experience at this flagship reserve, this could be the role for you!

There are also opportunities to assist with marketing, administration and events. To find out more or to express an interest please contact:

Katie Shaw, Centre Manager, 01442 826774
Katieshaw@bbowt.org.uk

LONG MARSTON DOG TRAINING CLUB

Long established friendly club, catering for all dogs. Any age: puppy through to pensioner.

In addition to Pet dog training we offer the **Kennel Club Good Citizens Dog Scheme**.

Monday evenings (except Bank holidays) from 7 p.m. onwards at the Victory Hall.

Additional Courses offered on a **Wednesday** evening on a variety of different doggy activities**.**

Your Instructors are Mike Ward and Evelyn Chapman. Both are Members of the British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers, Mike being Affiliated and Evelyn being an Advanced Member.

Evelyn is also a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers.

Contact Evelyn Chapman on 01908 502272 or 07743722926

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Places are available for children between 2½ and 5 years old.
We are open 4 mornings a week from 9.15am to 11.45am
We have a great team of Fully-Qualified Staff
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For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact our Playleader: Teresa Giddings on 07925 185311

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Everyone Welcome. Come And Meet Some New Faces:
Wednesday mornings (term time) 10-11.30am
Victory Hall, Long Marston
£1.50 per child (50p additional children over 1 year)
Sally Smith: 01296 661689

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Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 47 Easy

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

Another fairly straight forward puzzle Start with the top 3 boxes and the 1. There is only one place for it in the top right box. Easy, now just do the rest. Result on page 19

Fame Double Workout in aid of Sport Relief - Saturday 20 March 2010 @ 9.30am!

WE are planning a big event to raise money for Sport Relief. It will be a double session class (two 1 hour sessions), with all instructors teaching. The theme will be Fame, so look out those leotards, leg warmers and leggings - we want a sea of lycra ! We will be using music from the 70's & 80's for the routines too !

The event will be at the Grange School in Aylesbury on Saturday 20 March 2010, so for those of you with a long way to travel, we'll try and sort out some car-sharing as it would be great to have people from all the classes, especially the new Winslow people.

To raise money, we will be charging a £5 entry fee, but I'm hoping you'll agree it's for a fab cause and I can guarantee you'll have a fab time ! Kids & partners are also all welcome on the day - the more the merrier (children aged 8 and up can come for free. Not suitable for kids under 8). There will also be a raffle on the day.

In aid of a great cause, I am prepared to completely embarrass myself in public. So, for those of you that want to see what it looked like first time round, check out these awful pictures of me on. .http://www.jazzclass.co.uk/custom8.php

.... and yes, I really did think all the outfits looked great !!

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Here come the girls!

GET READY FOR A GIRLS' NIGHT OUT WITH A DIFFERENCE

GIRLS, it's time to grab your friends, dust off your trainers and get down to Hemel Hempstead School on Saturday 19th June for a very special night. This year's Hospice of St Francis midnight walk is in its fourth year and promises to be as fabulous as ever - and just as pink!

Whether you've walked with us for the past three years or you'll be joining us for the first time, we'd love to see you there under the stars. Walk on your own or walk in a team alongside women of all ages and fitness levels as you 'Walk with the Stars' on the 5 or 11 mile routes.
Fran Martin, event organiser says: "It's a wonderful way to get fit, to make friends or to remember a loved one - and all while supporting the care of local patients and families.
"It's just £15 to register. When you register you'll receive your fabulous 2010 pink t-shirt and a fluorescent wristband - and we'll make sure you have a well-deserved cuppa with your delicious breakfast at the finish line
Every penny we raise will go directly to support the care of patients and families at The Hospice of St Francis, so we hope you'll raise as much sponsorship as you can! Girls, we know you're amazing - so join us for another amazing night this year. Every step you take will make a real difference.
And we have a few surprises up our sleeves this year - watch this space for more exciting news about the event itself. We promise it's going to be a night to remember."

The Hospice of St Francis is still looking for local businesses to help sponsor the event to ensure all the money raised goes directly to patient care, rather than organisational costs.
Certan Duggan, general manager of the newly revamped Red Lion at Water End said: "We're delighted to be working with the hospice in support of this event to help make June 19th a night to remember. We'll also be giving all the walkers a little thank you of our own for taking part too so we urge you to join up now!"
Fran adds: "If that's not enough to tempt you into your trainers, Champney's Tring's Health Resort has donated a voucher worth £2000 for two people to stay in a suite and enjoy two hours of free treatments plus each and every walker will receive a discounted relax day voucher."

If you can marshal on the night, can support the event or for more information please contact Fran Martin on fran.martin@stfrancis.org.uk or call 01442 869555 or log onto our website www.walkwiththestars.org.uk or email stars@stfrancis.co.uk

WALK YOUR DOG TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE HOSPICE

TAKE your dog for a beautiful country walk while raising money for the Hospice of St Francis. On Sunday 18th April the Lions Club of Berkhamsted is hosting its 9k Sponsored Dog Walk in aid of the Hospice and Lions local charities.

The route starts at Ashlyns School in Berkhamsted and goes through country paths. Registration costs just £5 per dog with a suggested minimum sponsorship of £50 per dog.

For more information email berkodogwalk@hotmail.co.uk or call 01442 875417.

Claire de Silva
PR Officer, The Hospice of St Francis
01442 869555 ext 213 (Mon and Tues)
For urgent media enquiries at other times please call 07515294632
Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/hosfherts
Please support our work today by making a regular commitment to the Hospice. It means you will be helping our staff who are prepared to work tirelessly when time is precious. Call 01442 869555 today to find out how you can make a real difference.
The Hospice of St Francis, Spring Garden Lane, Off Shootersway, Northchurch, BERKHAMSTED, Herts. HP4 3GW. Tel: 01442 869555 Fax: 01442 879191

Long Marston Parent & Toddler Group

DO you have a youngster who is not yet at school? If so, why not pop along to Toddler Group at the Victory Hall?

We meet every Wednesday morning from 10am – 11.30am during term time and all children who are not yet at school, and their parents or carers, are welcome. There is always a craft activity for them to do and toys to play with, as well as somebody for you to talk to.

So if you find yourself at a loose end and your children need to let off steam, why not come along. For £1.50 you can enjoy a morning of tranquility whilst the junior members of the family have fun in a safe environment.

Contact Sally Smith on 01296 661689 for further information.

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

The Half Moon

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BALLROOM DANCE LESSONS

Learn the Waltz, Quickstep & Rumba in 4
Sundays from 7th March ready for May Ball*
7th March - Waltz, 14th March - Quickstep
28th March - Rumba, 25th April - Recap of all three dances
Lessons at Long Marston Village Hall commence 3 p.m.
Followed by Tea and Practice Session from 4 p.m.
£6 each lesson per person
Limited Crèche Facility Requiring Reservation

———————-

*MAY BALL

Saturday 8th May 2010
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Parish Council news

by Phil Buchi

Footbridge replacement

IT looks likely that the closed canal footbridge at Wilstone will be replaced in the summer. Herts County Council have responded to requests from the Parish Council to keep the canal crossing open, and have nearly (though not quite) agreed to fund the £12,000 cost of a new wooden bridge, with British Waterways paying for the installation costs. This will no doubt come as a pleasant surprise to local walkers who use the canal crossing regularly. It was feared that the temporary closure would become permanent as there are other bridges nearby. The existing wooden bridge had to be closed last year as it had become unsafe, with the structure coming to the end of its useful life. The Footpaths Officer for Herts CC is considering designs similar to that used on the Wendover Arm of the canal. If final approval is given, the new bridge would be built in the summer. This would surely be a good excuse for a grand opening party - bridges are not often built in this parish.

All aboard

AFTER extensive consultations with (much) younger villagers, a wooden boat has been ordered to replace the train at Long Marston recreation ground. Councillors had previously decided that the train was becoming a maintenance liability and was best replaced altogether. (Maybe they can sell it to Midland Mainline.) The change of transportation from land to sea will, they hope, be welcomed by playground users. Will Long Marston now perhaps be able to put in a challenge for the Americas' Cup? The new boat will be delivered at the end of February and has been entirely paid for by a grant from the Dacorum Communities Fund obtained by Dacorum Cllr. Christopher Townsend. Cllr. Townsend said he was delighted to have been able to secure the grant, and looked forward to seeing the new boat launched into service.

Airfield applications

THREE more planning applications have been lodged by Skim Milk Supplies Ltd for changes of use on Marsworth Airfield. This in spite of a 2008 ruling by the Planning Inspector that refused previous applications on appeal. The new applications are all for change of use to light industrial B1 classification, and have been registered with Aylesbury Vale District Council. Local residents have observed a big increase in vehicle movements at the airfield recently. The Parish Council decided to object most strongly to these latest applications, and to point out the earlier ruling by the Planning Inspector which resulted in similar applications being refused.

Foul dog owners to blame

VILLAGERS from across the parish have complained to Councillors about a big increase in dog fouling in public open spaces. One resident said it was of epidemic proportions and that this anti-social behaviour was a real health hazard, particularly to children playing on the recreation grounds. All Councillors agreed that they had noticed an increase in the problem recently. Advice would be sought from the Dacorum dog warden on actions that they could take on prevention and on enforcement of penalties for this offence.

That's closed it

OK. That's what you call closed. After some weeks of uncertainty about the closure of the damaged canal bridge at Dixon's Gap, Wingrave Road, the authorities left drivers in no doubt with a series of barriers that would defy the Normandy landings. But the good news is that work to repair the damaged parapet of this Grade 2 listed historic structure is progressing well, and is expected to be finished by the time you read this. The Village Warden, Colin Reedman, told *Village News* that traditional materials including lime mortar had been specified for the repairs by English Heritage, and the engineers were hoping for some frost free nights to complete the work. The Parish Council are to press for weight restriction signs to be re-instated at the bridge. There is a weight limit, but apparently the signs disappeared some years ago.

(What about a weight limit on the Wilstone bridge? Ed)

Repair work underway at Dixon's Gap (Picture: Village News.)

Tring Rural Parish Council official notice

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

KIM DEATHE has resigned from the Parish Council as she has moved to the North East of England. She has done much for our Parish and we wish to thank her for all her efforts. However that does now leave a vacancy which we must try to fill either through co-option or a by-election.
Councillors are expected to:

- Attend monthly Parish Council Meetings,
- Attend certain other Local Authority or Organisation Meetings by rotation or under delegated powers on behalf of the Council,
- Carry out occasional maintenance, inspection and small project works on behalf of the Council,
- Read and comment on the documents which are circulated to Parish Councils,
- Observe the Parish Council's Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations and other statutory responsibilities
- Be open minded and not act out of self-interest

Anyone who wishes to be considered for this vacancy, should apply, in writing, to Dawn Slade (Parish Clerk), at Miswell Farm, Tring, HP23 4JT giving details of date of birth, name, address, length of time resident in the village and telephone number before the next Parish Council Meeting on 17th March 2010. Prospective applicants are welcome to attend the next meeting or discuss the role with any of the Councillors.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Mr Michael Tomlinson (Chairman) 01296 661 311
Mr Chris Griffiths 01296 668 257
Mr Alan Winfield 01296 668 977
Mrs Abby Fermont 01442 825 352
Mr Nick Murrell 01296 668 190
Mr Peter Foster 01442 825 282
Mrs Jill Finlan 01296 661 716
Vacancy

The Clerk to the Council is:
Mrs Dawn Slade 01442 824 138
Email: clerk@tringruralpc.org.uk
***The Village Warden is*:**
Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822 031

Parish Council website: **www.tringruralpc.org.uk**

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

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The agricultural story line… *by David Mead*

Young Mr Grace gets lost

WILSTONE'S Cabaret Night came and went. All those nerves vanished with the audience's reaction. The dancers, singers and the sketch were all well received. I was Young Mr. Grace in a scene from "Are You Being Served". I had been shut in a cupboard with the nurse "for months".
Most of the questions afterwards were about what did you

Young Mr Grace does very well in cabaret.

"talk" about? The ceiling needed painting. Could we get a new kitchen in that corner? Was it a green or black bin week for the rubbish? The colour scheme for the nursery was not mentioned. There is talk of a repeat performance in the Autumn. Lines will have to be re-learnt but with the new stage curtains paid for we will all be inspired.
I hope the dreary weather will improve for the lambing season which starts for us in March. Last year we didn't lose a single ewe. Two have succumbed already this year. They are moving into the lambing yard week beginning the 22nd February.

They look so happy lying on a bed of dry straw. The older ones will often wait by the empty pen when things are happening.
Chris would like to get on with some arable chores as soon as it is dry enough. The oil seed rape and wheat will need some feed and I expect there will be some black grass and other competitors to eliminate. The ground has got to be prepared for the spring sown crops, maize, beans, barley etc., but as anyone with a garden knows it's best to keep off wet soil.

Simon had a call from the police regarding the armed robbers just before Christmas. They are not proceeding with any more enquiries. My thoughts are unprintable.

A couple of years ago Margaret and John Noakes showed great interest in the Black Poplar trees in our parish. The W.I. and local farmers were galvanised into action. Volunteers counted the trees and authorities were encouraged to help. In mid February Nick Murrell and I were invited to a Black Poplar convention in Green Park. People were there from all over the place. The Forestry Commission, local Councils, politicians were all there. A man interested in saving the lime tree came to seek advice. It got a bit technical when speakers talked about D.N.A. of individual trees. I believe all our Black Poplars have the number 35, the great majority being male. I think I understood there are 3 female black poplars in the Vale of Aylesbury. With the preservation of the Black Poplar so well established the expression "big trees from little acorns grow" definitely applies. Margaret and John had better pack their bags for stays in Brussels or Strasbourg.
Finally I would like to wish Sarah and Paul a very happy springtime, both were performing in the Cabaret.

Local Home Guard on parade

READER Ian Rance has provided this picture of the local Home Guard on parade in response to David Mead's article on the Hertfordshire Home Guard in our November issue. The unit pictured is probably No.4 Platoon, C Company, and they are parading in very smart kit in the field opposite Jeffrey's bungalow in Wilstone. The pollarded Black Poplars in the background confirm the location. More information on this picture is welcome if you know anyone in it. Ian has kindly provided a number of pictures which will appear from time to time in future issues.

Going downhill fast

by Andy Ashwell

AFTER all the snow over Christmas and all the ensuing chaos that it brought with it, you might find it strange to hear that we were secretly hoping for more. Not here in the UK, though, but in Austria where we had booked to go skiing. Even if our local snow in Long Marston was suitable for skiing, our local geography certainly wasn't.

The last time that Florence went abroad she was only four-months old and, although she had to have her own passport (49 quid, thank you very much), she didn't need her own seat on the plane because she could sit on my lap instead. This time her passport was still valid, despite the fact that she looked nothing like the photo in it. Unfortunately she is now too big to sit on my lap so we had to pay the full price for her seat. The only plus-side to this, apart from reducing my risk of DVT, is that we could take advantage of her baggage-allowance and hence accommodate all Mummy's extra clothes.

Being on the aeroplane was an exciting experience for Florence and as soon as she sat down she immediately started to investigate her surroundings and fiddle about with everything nearby. The in-flight safety card caused a bit of a stir: As I was explaining to Florence for the umpteenth time what we had to do when the plane crashed, an irate man in front of me turned round and told me to shut-up because all my 'plane-crash talk' was making his wife feel sick.

It was snowing when we landed and after all the recent practice I had had of driving in the snow back home, I felt confident in my ability to drive the 80 miles to the hotel quickly… and safely. Having said that, at one stage, just as I was trying to push the pace a little in the rapidly deteriorating conditions, a bus behind flashed and tooted at me – and then overtook.

But the most noticeable difference between their roads and ours, apart from having to drive on the wrong side, is the complete absence of any potholes. Rather than using road-ruining salt and grit to clear the roads, they use snowploughs and snow-blowers instead. In fact, virtually every house appeared to have its own mini snow-blower in the same way that we all have our own lawnmower.

The hotel also had its own snowplough and snow-blower and they were both in action when we arrived. Unfortunately the driver of the snow-blower inadvertently pointed the nozzle in our direction and we all got covered in snow. This upset Florence who consequently ran for cover whenever she saw another one.

As regards the skiing, Florence was a little slow to catch the bug, but this may have been partly down to the incompetence of her ski instructor and official photographer. As Mummy released her down a minor slope towards me I was so preoccupied with videoing her first downhill success that I forgot to catch her. Having not yet learnt how to stop, she swept past me and went headfirst into a two-metre-high snowdrift. My quip of "That's 250 quid from You've Been Framed" went straight over her little snow-covered head and didn't raise a smile from Mummy either.

We moved on to the less challenging children's slopes where I put my camera away and concentrated on my catching skills. Florence's skiing improved immeasurably and she soon got to know some of the other kids who were having official skiing lessons nearby. In fact, the next day when a new instructor took over the group, he also included Florence by mistake. Being unable to speak any German, other than to order a large beer, I couldn't tell him about his mistake. When I tried to remove Florence from his class he actually told me to "Gehen Sie bitte an die Seite!" (or similar) which, I'm told, roughly translates to "Get out of the way and stop interfering!"

Florence at the incredible speed of 12 kph.
Photo: Andy Ashwell

When Mummy – who can actually 'Deutsch sprechen' quite well – returned from her bout of skiing, she was too embarrassed to enlighten the instructor about his error, so I left her to watch Florence's illicit progress and went off skiing. As the snow was perfect and the sun was shining, I decided to have a go at the timed speed-run. I recorded a very frightening 78.6 kph (48.9mph) which is approximately the speed at which the lunatic Olympic ski-jumpers leap off the end of the ramp. Feeling rather pleased with myself I watched smugly to see how slow the next person would be compared to my amazingly quick performance. When the display showed 82.7kph I felt a little less smug; when I discovered that it was an eight-year-old girl, I felt acutely embarrassed.

I returned to the beginners' slope to regain my composure by showing off to the three-year-olds and found Florence skiing confidently at well over 12kph. When you consider that the Olympic down-hillers hit more than 130kph, she's got a long way to go. But if she continues to get free skiing lessons it won't be long before she's out-skiing me and, who knows, perhaps she'll be the next Vreni Schneider or Lindsey Vonn.

Tring Parish Men's Society
by Leslie Barke

A journey towards ordination

THIS was the title of **Jo Wetherall's** talk at the first ever joint meeting of the Men's Society and the Mothers Union. In spite of it being a cold and wet February evening, about three times the usual number of people turned up.

Many have asked Jo why she became a vicar, and in her entertaining talk she explained how until very recently that was the last thing she had wanted.

But Jo has always been to church, and remembers going to Sunday school in Northampton although the family moved house when she was just four years old. She has always felt comfortable in church, and with thoughts of God. God was "sidelined" as she put it during her teenage years, but she married Simon in church and they had their daughters baptised.

When British Aerospace relocated Simon they had to move to Cheshire, and Jo joined the village church as a place to get to know people, and get involved socially. But she noticed something different about the congregation at St.Georges, Poynton – they spoke about Jesus as if they knew Him, and even social events began with prayer!

Jo wanted this difference for herself and during a church mission week she gave her life to God. It was a very loving church, and when Simon was made redundant they prayed for Simon to find a job in a way that would suit his unassuming character. He got a job with just a chat and without a formal interview.

The job, however, was in Farnborough, so the Wetheralls moved back down south to Godalming. The local Anglican church proved to be a culture shock, as they were moving from an evangelical, and possibly charismatic church to an Anglo Catholic one.

Eventually Jo settled in St.Peter & Paul, Godalming, an "established" church but lacking two things – learning from the Bible and prayer outside of Church. Jo tried running a home group, but she needed to be a member rather than leading one. During this time they discovered Spring Harvest, and went annually for its Bible teaching, worship, latest songs, and activities for the girls.

One year Jo hoped that Spring Harvest would confirm her decision to leave St.Peter & Paul, but instead God had a word for her through Jeff Lucas, one of the speakers. Go back, apologise and ask how you can help! Other things confirmed the message, but Jo had many excuses for not going on a training course – too old to be a youth leader and too young to become a Reader.

She agreed to apply for training knowing that she would be turned down by the three day selection conference. However she then realised that this was what she wanted and the conference said yes.

The next problem was at the ecumenical Salisbury Bible College. Teaching is at degree level and she had no A levels and had never written an academic essay. But after a few essays things became a little easier and the college proved to be an amazing place with people from diverse church backgrounds, aged from mid 30s to 68 (with one *international* student from Jersey!)

Jo then described how her interest in spirituality grew. Again it was doing what she did not want to do – facing six hours of silence on a quiet day. But through this Jo learnt how to meditate, concentrating on just a couple of verses. Jo also had a spiritual director at college, a Franciscan sister, and learnt much from her.

She also learnt from practical activities, like prison visiting, and discovered how liberating spirituality is for prisoners who are so physically confined. During her training Jo also spent three months with St. Clares church on a deprived council estate, creating a safe space where people with problems, who would not come into church through the front door on Sundays, would enter by the back door on Tuesdays.

But what would happen after ordination, as she had never wanted to have a permanent vicar's job, but to remain non-stipendary in part time positions; as earlier she had worked in a hospital and school without being a "proper" nurse or teacher.

To change to being full time and paid required another selection process, not a three day conference but odd days all over the country. The decision on this – and whether she would be accepted as vicar of Aldbury were due on the same weekend in September 2008.

The rest is history in the making, as the Bible has no back cover.

St Tiggywinkles

ST. TIGGYWINKLES responded within 20 minutes to a call from Peter Soper of Grange Road, Wilstone who had been told of an injured swan covered in blood on the canal by a young girl who knocked on his door. Within 50 minutes the swan had been captured, tucked up safely in a harness and was on its way to St Tiggywinkles for treatment. Many animals are being treated at this time of the year and it is not just hedgehogs that St Tiggywinkles look after, so donations are vital to keep this wonderful organisation going. See www.sttiggywinkles.org.uk for more information and details of where to send donations.

St Tiggywinkles is based in Haddenham, AYLESBURY, HP17 8AF

Pre-School News

FIRST Steps Pre-School is held at Victory Hall, Long Marston every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.15am – 11.45am during term time, with lunch clubs on Tuesday and Friday until 1.15pm. We welcome all children aged between 2½ and 5 and as a result many children stay with us until they 'cross the road to big school'. We have places for 24 children per day and, particularly during the summer term, we are often at capacity.

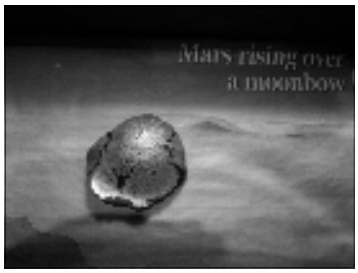
We said goodbye to Indie Oxley at the end of last term as she began the next step in her education adventure, but were delighted to welcome James Wallace to both pre-school and the village as he and his family moved in just before Christmas. We hope that he will be very happy at First Steps.

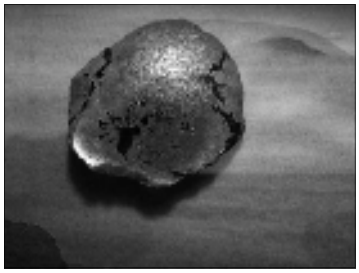
After half term we will again be taking part in the Sainsbury's Active Kids campaign which helped us obtain a large quantity of sports equipment last year. This year we are hoping to obtain gardening equipment so that the children can learn more about how plants grow. If you shop at Sainbury's and are 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.

If you would like to know more about Pre-School, come and look round, or 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 Chair, Sally Smith, on 01296 661689.

Mystery object

JUST to keep you guessing for a little while longer, the answer to the mystery object may be revealed next month!





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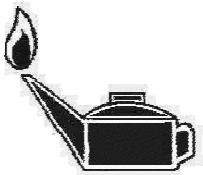

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Recipe page

by Anna Ashwell

Hot Cross Buns

With Easter just round the corner, Hot Cross Buns are appearing everywhere. If you fancy making your own instead, here is one of Delia's that I have used for many years. I like them toasted with butter but you can also add jam if you prefer. Any surplus buns can be frozen.

Ingredients:

- 450g plain flour
- 1 tsp caster sugar
- 150ml hand-hot water
- 1 level tsp salt
- 50g cut mixed peel
- 50g butter, melted
- 40-50ml warmed milk
- 1 level tbsp dried yeast
- 1 rounded tsp mixed spice
- 75g currants
- 50g caster sugar
- 1 egg, beaten

A greased baking sheet.

For the glaze:

- 2 tbsp granulated sugar
  2 tbsp water

Method:

- Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 7, 435°F, 220°C
- Stir one teaspoon of caster sugar into the 150ml of hand-hot water, then sprinkle in the dried yeast and leave it until a good frothy 'beer' head forms
- Meanwhile sift the flour, salt and mixed spice into a mixing bowl and add the sugar, currants and mixed peel
- Then make a well in the centre and pour in the yeast mixture plus 40ml of milk (again hand-hot), the beaten eggs and the melted butter
- Now mix it to a dough, starting with a spoon and finishing with your hands (add a spot more milk if it needs it)
- Then transfer the dough onto a clean surface and knead it until it feels smooth and elastic – about 6 minutes. Now put it back into the bowl, cover the bowl with a lightly-oiled plastic bag and leave it in a warm place to rise. It should take about an hour to double its original size. Then turn it out and knead it again, back down to its original size
- Divide the mixture into 12 round portions, arrange them on the greased baking sheet (allowing plenty of room for expansion), and make a deep cross on each one with a sharp knife
- Leave them to rise once more, covering again with the oiled plastic bag for about 25 minutes
- Then, while they're cooking, melt the sugar and water over a gentle heat, and brush the buns with it, as soon as they come out of the oven, to make them nice and sticky
- Note: If you like, you can make more distinct crosses with strips of dampened shortcrust pastry, lightly pressed into each bun before baking

Sudoku solution No47

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

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Odd Jobs… *and all the ones you hate!!*

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Relax and repair at Rosebery Remedies.

By Franzella Flowerdew

FROM time to time this newsletter covers new businesses, and Rosebery Remedies is a new and exciting venture. It is an osteopathic and complementary health clinic based in Mentmore. I visited the studio recently and found the setting to be idyllic! Not only are the treatment rooms beautifully designed but the view from their windows is sensational! It makes the whole experience of having a treatment or class even more enjoyable as you have a sense of 'getting away from it all'. The therapists and secretary are very helpful and friendly and I really enjoyed chatting with them over a cup of herbal tea.

Together, the therapists, Jacqueline Crane, MSc (Hons), Lucie Smith BSc (Hons) and Alice Wilkins BSc, have over 30 years experience in working with patients suffering from pain and discomfort caused by injury, medical conditions or postural problems. They work as a team to provide a complete range of treatments and training to meet patients'/clients' needs.

Alice attained a bachelor's degree in Osteopathic Medicine and diplomas in Osteopathy and Naturopathy from the British College of Osteopathic Medicine and graduated in 2008 after four years of full time study. Since joining Lucie and Jackie at Rosebery Remedies, Alice has developed as a practitioner, adding new skills such as medical acupuncture and cranial laser therapy. Alice believes that patients at Rosebery Remedies benefit greatly from the clinic's multi-disciplinary approach.

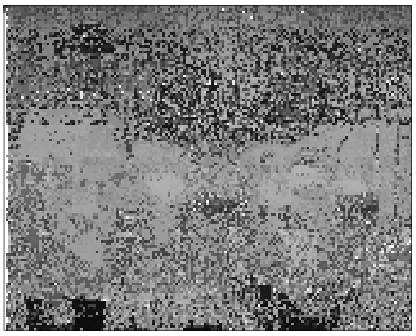
Jackie Crane BSc (Hons) MSc is a qualified personal trainer and Pilates instructor who has been working and teaching in the fitness industry since 1990. Jackie now focuses on Pilates rehab exercises to provide long term benefits, not just within the rehabilitation of acute or chronic back disorders but also to provide a complementary form of exercise for all. More recently Jackie has also specialised in personal training for special groups such as diabetics, those suffering from osteoarthritis, and athletes in training. Jackie feels Rosebery Remedies has provided a haven where her expertise in personal training and Pilates goes hand in hand with the osteopathy provided by Lucie and Alice to give benefits to all their patients.

Lucie has been working as a registered osteopath and naturopath since 2007 when she graduated from the British College of Osteopathic Medicine. Previously she worked as a consultant for the English Institute of Sport (EIS) mainly with the Olympic judo and shooting teams. Her main role during the 6 years she was in this position related to strength and conditioning training, optimal nutrition and diet, injury prevention and rehabilitation. Lucie believes that the best approach to address her patients' ailments needs to be a holistic one to support the body's own healing ability. She takes a detailed history of the patient's problem or injury, as well as their medical history which is then followed up with a physical examination. After that, the patient is given the most probable diagnosis and cause of the problem and if appropriate hands-on treatment. The treatment plan includes advice on hydrotherapy, diet, lifestyle, work ergonomics and exercise (that is where Jackie comes in).

Jackie, Alice and Lucie met in Mentmore Golf and Country Club where Lucie set up her first clinic 3 years ago. They very quickly realised that they have similar work ethics and beliefs and wanted to extend their professional experience by amalgamating their respective skills under one roof for the benefit of all their patients. When the opportunity of taking on new premises arose the decision to take it on and create a truly holistic clinic where people can come for treatment, exercise or just relax, was an easy one. And so Rosebery Remedies Osteopathic and Holistic Health Clinic was born on 16 March 2009.

The clinic has two treatment rooms and a small Pilates studio offering a broad range of treatments including osteopathy, Pilates, (small classes or one-to-one), personal training, naturopathy, reflexology, aromatherapy, sports and remedial massage, Reiki, Indian Head Massage, Hopi Ear Candle Treatment, and nutritional advice.

If someone is unfortunate enough to have suffered an injury they are assessed by the Osteopaths, Lucie and Alice. An appropriate treatment plan is then put together, complemented by specific Pilates exercises determined by Jackie, based upon that individual's fitness needs.



Lucie, Jackie and Alice with a companion! Photo:Village News

Osteopathy is a system of diagnosis and treatment for a wide range of medical conditions. Osteopathy recognises the importance of the link between the structure of the human body and the way it functions. Osteopaths focus on the body's skeletal and joint action along with the underlying muscles, soft tissue and internal organs. Osteopaths use touch, physical manipulation, stretching and massage to increase the mobility of joints to relieve muscle tension, to enhance the blood and nerve supply to tissues, and to help the body's own healing mechanisms. The Osteopaths may also provide advice on posture and exercise to aid faster recovery, promote health, and prevent symptoms from recurring.

Pilates classes focus on providing a fitness system that strengthens your core, increases flexibility, improves posture, mobilises shoulders and builds stability and balance. Following a Pilates session you will recognise imbalances within your body, where perhaps one side is stronger than the other, or more flexible. Addressing these issues and working towards a more balanced posture helps you to achieve better overall fitness, increased strength and endurance. These, together with increased flexibility and balance, result in fewer injuries.

For more information and prices please contact Rosebery Remedies at care@roseberyremedies.co.uk or 01296 661081. Even if you are not suffering with a current injury why not visit Jackie, Lucie and Alice to create a program to improve your overall health and fitness, as prevention is the best form of medicine.

W I News

Making a Garden for the BBC Gardener of the Year Competition

Tuesday March 9, LM Victory Hall, 8pm

DO YOU love beautiful gardens? Would you like to be more creative with the plants you use in your own garden? Then come and be inspired by Edwin Rye when he gives an illustrated talk entitled 'Making a Garden for the BBC Gardener of the Year Competition'.

Edwin, whose *Magic of Moonlight* garden helped to win him the much coveted title 'BBC Gardener of the Year', has the most stunning garden in Wendover which is open to visitors through the National Garden Scheme.

The entry in the NGS Yellow Book describes his garden as having mixed borders of colourful herbaceous perennials, a special show of David Austin roses and named delphiniums, a cool hosta walk and a tremendous variety of plants in a small area. A white garden with peaceful arbour *The Magic of Moonlight*, created for the BBC, has many unusual plants and interesting planting schemes.

Edwin Rye trained in horticulture at Writtle College and the University Botanic Gardens & Botany School, Cambridge, prior to working for three years in the Parks Department, Auckland, New Zealand. He has recently returned from lecturing in South Africa.

The entrance fee for the talk and wonderful cakes afterwards is £3.

Exotic Butterflies, February 9th

A GOOD crowd turned up to see the amazingly exotic butterflies Peter Bygate had photographed on a visit to Ghana. The local rain forests, home to by far the largest number of butterfly species in the world, are he explained,, slowly being eroded by illegal logging. The two men he photographed carrying a chain saw and newly cut planks did not look to be the sort of characters with whom you would want to get into conversation!

The large butterflies, 11cms in width across their wings, come in every imaginable colour combination, the males being more flamboyant than their mates. The blood red Glider's female is for instance totally white. Among the many species he showed were black ones edged in purple, purple ones with white, green ones and almost transparent ones looking like cellophane.It was encouraging that the many visitors included several men.

Stride out with the WI

WALKS lasting about a couple of hours are organised twice a month on the first and third Tuesday of each month starting from LM Victory Hall at 10am.This is a good way of taking some exercise and getting away from the household chores.

If you would like to come on a trial basis please contact Margaret Kelland 01296 668314 or Lynn Foster 01296 662466.

Village View

by John Painter

"**Daffodils in January,** Chapel End Lane, Wilstone"

The Village View this month has been chosen to remind you that spring is (hopefully) just around the corner. This photograph was taken on the 21st January in 2007 when this little cluster of daffodils did indeed flower in January. This year it is already a month later and they are only just beginning to show some buds. However we are assured by those that know about these things that when the spring flowers do finally show their colours it should be a spectacular sight as they will all flower at once!

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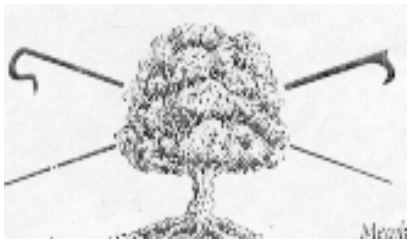

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The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

REPORT on the "PIE & JAZZ" supper evening on the 6th Feb.:

Our thanks to "The Jolly Jazzers" who provided us with a wonderful evening of entertainment, and word coming back seems that the meat pie was a success too.

The Jolly Jazzers play to raise funds for the St.Francis Hospice in Berkhamsted and we were able to support them to the sum of £200. The charity from the floor, nominated by Mr. Ken Crawford, was the Air Ambulance who will receive £150.

The Annual General Meeting of St.Mary's District Church Council
Will take place on Monday 8th March at 8 p.m. commencing with the "Vestry Meeting" to elect the two churchwardens, followed by the AGM. Anyone interested may attend and vote at the Vestry Meeting, but only member of the Electoral Roll may vote at the AGM.

If you wish to become a member of the electoral roll, do please contact our Electoral Roll Officer, Miss Rosemary Thorpe-Tracey.

Puttenham Trust continue Sponsorship

VILLAGE NEWS treasurer John Harrison has been able to announce that the Puttenham Trust are to continue their sponsorship of *Village News* in 2010. For several years the Trust have pre-booked the equivalent of a full page ad in the village magazine whether they use it or not. Ken Crawford, chairman of the Puttenham Trust, has confirmed that this arrangement is to continue in 2010. Editor Phil Buchi said: "We are delighted to have this valuable support from a respected local organisation. Although advertising revenue meets about 80% of the cost of printing *Village News*, we do rely on sponsorship to make up the rest and this sort of financial support makes a huge difference." This year six of the ten issues will have a full colour cover.

News from All Saints

Mothering Sunday, 14th March at 10am
WE are looking forward to seeing Scouts, Cubs and Brownies and their families at our Family Service. Everyone is welcome to join us as we say thank you for all those who "mother".

Carole Harrison
01296 668526

Saturday March 6th at 2.30

Cecilia Hall Puttenham

Come and spend an afternoon with Herts & Middx Branch of Butterfly Conservation, where you can enjoy the experience of summer yet to come.

We will be hearing about ongoing butterfly projects as well as enjoying some beautiful butterfly photography.

(and you might even be able to enjoy tea and cakes too)

Details Margaret Noakes 01296 660072

Local names and numbers

Herts Police non-emergency number 0845 33 00 222
Local Police Officers (in emergency dial '999')
PC Stephen Hunneysett 0845 33 00 222
PCSO Emma Lennox 0845 33 00 222

Fly-tipping reports
Call Dacorum Waste Services 01442 867858
Call the police if you see the crime being committed.

Cecilia Hall (Puttenham)
Christine Rutter 01296 668337
Beavers
Jo Woodbridge 01442 891444
Brownies
Claire Fordham 01296 668088
Cubs
Tony Short 01442 823096
Guides
Sheila Hill 01442 823463
Scouts
David Colvin 01442 381544
Horticultural Society
John Kaye 01296 662975

Rector
Rev'd Huw Bellis 01442 822170
Vicar
Rev'd Joanne Wetherall 01442 851200
Churchwardens
Long Marston All Saints:
Angus Munday 01296 660303
Wilstone St. Cross:
Andrew Minter 01442 823605
Puttenham St Marys:
Christine Rutter 01296 668337
John Barron 01296 631351

Tring Crime Prevention Panel
(Neighbourhood Watch) 01442 381793 & 824593
Tring Rural Parish Council - Chairman
Cllr Michael Tomlinson 01296 661311
Clerk to the Parish Council
Dawn Slade 01442 824138
Village Warden
Colin Reedman 01442 822031
Long Marston Victory Hall
Hall hire: Mags Severs 01296 661021
Long Marston Cricket Club
Paul Dumpleton 01296 662849
Long Marston 1st Steps Pre-School
Sally Smith 01296 661689
Long Marston Baby & Toddler Group
Sally Smith 01296 661689
Long Marston Tennis Club
Margaret Kelland 01296 668314
Long Marston Football Club
Daphne Bateman 01296 668054

Long Marston School 01296 668386

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Wilstone Village Hall
Bookings:Tony Short 01442 823096
Wilstone Toddlers
Jane Cole 01442 828272
Women's Institute
Lynn Foster 01296 662466

Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

Thank you .....

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

Distribution enquiries to:
Carole Harrison, 01296 668526.

Village News

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

Your editor for April will be:
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Our advertising managers:
Alison & Matthew White
01296 660402
villagenewsadvertising@googlemail.com

Deadline for the next issue is Thursday 18th March 2010.

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

From the Vicarage

by Rev'd Jane Banister

May we help you?

THIS is the time of year when we get lots of telephone calls (and now emails) from people wanting to organise a hatch, match or despatch, otherwise known as a baptism, wedding or sadly, a funeral. It therefore seems helpful to let you know how these things work, partly because rules have changed, and partly because it is always useful to have some knowledge before hand.

Baptism (which is the same as christening)

Anyone who lives in the parish can be baptised in the parish, which includes the churches in Tring, Aldbury, Long Marston, Puttenham and Wilstone. The only caveat is that the person concerned if an adult, or in the case of a child their parents and godparents, need to be able to make the promises with confidence. Infant baptisms include a thanksgiving at a Sunday service some weeks before the baptism which provides an opportunity for the family to meet the congregation. For some people who are less certain what they believe, the thanksgiving alone is enough and we are delighted to see people for that. The baptism service can be part of the Sunday morning service, or happen at another time as we do appreciate the practicalities of getting family and friends together. Godparents need to be baptised Christians (not necessarily Church of England) but it is possible to have a sponsor as well if they are not baptised themselves.

It is more complicated if you want to have a baptism in a church where you do not live, and involves making contact with your parish priest/minister/vicar/rector (we like to make things complicated!) at both churches. This is so that there can be pastoral contact from your parish. While we appreciate that you may have an attachment to the church in which you were married, the baptism promises are about bringing your child up with an understanding of faith and you will need your local worshipping community for that. Don't forget the practicalities too – it is much easier to organise something on your doorstep!

There is no cost for a baptism.

Marriages

You can get married in any one of the team churches if you live in the parish, if you are a regular worshipper although not living here, and there are also now new categories which make it possible if you have a qualifying connection. This means if you lived here as a child, if your parents live here, if you were baptised in one of the churches and a few other categories. The legal process is to have banns called for three Sundays before the wedding which means announcing the details in church so that any opposition can be voiced (I have never known it happen!). If the bride or groom is not a British citizen, then a licence is needed but it is not a complicated-process. If either has been divorced, it is possible to get married in church but it will involve an honest – and confidential – conversation with the priest. We do have marriage preparation but it is not a scary thing: we need to know that couples understand what a lifelong relationship means, that they talk to each other about the big issues, and that they have not got caught up in having "the perfect day" which is a very dangerous road to go down.

The basic wedding costs currently work out at about £420.

We are delighted to have a blessing of a wedding if you got married abroad, and to hold a service to celebrate an anniversary. Last year we celebrated Silver, Ruby and Golden weddings which were very moving and joyous occasions. Even if you are not sure what you want, but know you want something, then talk to us – **we really do want to help.**

Funerals

This is something most of us know little about until called upon to organise one, and you suddenly have to learn a lot of things in a very short and emotional time. Funerals can happen at the church or at the crematorium and our local crematoriums are at Watford and Amersham. Some families choose to have a service at church and then go on to the crematorium. Even if you are not churchgoers consider using the church – we are not there to ram religion down your throats but rather to stand alongside you at a difficult time, to offer what support we can, and to pray for you. Again, the practicalities of not having to travel too far can make a big difference. We can also be more flexible on timings than the crematoriums are able to be. Do talk to us – **we are there to help.**

It is still possible to be buried in the parish – Long Marston and Puttenham churchyards are open, and Wilstone has its own cemetery. It is worth knowing that there are restrictions on what type of gravestones and memorials can be used, which are important to find out before you make your choice. Costs go through the funeral directors.

This may all sound like an advert and I suppose it is in a way, but the main message we want to get across is that we are there to help, to listen and to support. Sometimes that can mean asking difficult questions, but that is because the truth is important. So if there is anything you want to know or are unsure about, remember – **may we help you?**

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Review: Maggie's Cabaret Club - ***by our arts and culture reporter***

Impressive showcase for fun local acts

"BRILLIANT !". The assessment of many villagers leaving Wilstone village hall at the end of an evening of top class entertainment from local amateur acts made up of the villagers themselves. The descriptions 'local' and 'amateur' do not well convey just how good the entertainment was, or how much effort was put into staging the event to be a complete cabaret show. Top of the bill on this special 'glam rock' evening were the Wilstone Showgirls performing two numbers from Pan's People, Top of The Pops 1975. Several (male) customers were heard to comment that it was worth the ticket price just to see the girls in their Pan's People costumes, and they did look

Ziggy and "His Groupies" Picture: Jenny White

great. But that was not all. Ziggy Stardust (Toby Roberts) was awesome - the audience gasped when he made his entrance. The Abba Toir (Angie, Ben, Katy and Paul) recreated the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest. Elton John and Kiki Dee (Paul and Katy) were hilarious in "Don't go breaking my heart". The Grace Brothers Players performed an new episode of Are You Being Served (written by Peter Walker) revealing some hidden talents among us - the audience particularly appreciated the contribution of guest star David Mead as Young Mr Grace. A big hit of the evening was an energetic performance by the female backing group The Wilstonettes, appearing by kind permission of Showgirl Productions, and this time helping Roy along with his 'Mean Woman Blues'. Another big hit was the excellent supper, prepared by Chef de Jour Caroline Beevers.

An impromptu performance at the end of the show by members of the audience as "The Village People" Picture: John Painter

Cabaret Club organiser Maggie said: "We are all delighted that everyone enjoyed the show and the supper. When the village hall committee staged this event last year, it was quite hard to sell enough tickets. This time everyone wanted to come and we could have done with a bigger hall! But I am pleased to say that everyone who rang me and asked to go on the waiting list for tickets did eventually get one. We are thinking of running a repeat performance in the autumn, and work has already started on a new cabaret show for 2011."

See back page for more photographs.

Members of the audience mixing with "The Stars" after the show. Picture: John Painter

Wilstone village hall committee

AS THE editor for this month, and also the chairman of the Wilstone village hall committee, I must say how proud and privileged I am to be associated with such a brilliant team. The effort put into everything that the committee puts on from this show, the fete, the wine tasting, the quizzes and the film nights, etc. is always tremendous. The main protagonists for the social events are Maggie Buchi and Jill Walker ably assisted by their husbands Phil and Peter who, although not on the committee, are always to the front when it comes to helping and being the MC for a particular function.
The remainder of the committee, without whom it would not function so successfully, all have their own individual roles. Thank you all.

Colin Davenport

Wilstone's Cabaret Night

Photos by John Painter

David "Mr Grace" Mead & Roger "Mrs Slocombe" White

Organiser Maggie Buchi with MC Peter Walker

"Roy Orbison" with the fabulous Wilstonettes

Katy "Kiki Dee" Evers and Paul "Elton John" Dollah

Toby "Ziggy Stardust" Roberts

Star of the sketch Roger "Mrs Slocombe" White

Wilstone's very own "Pan's People" the Wilstonettes

Paul Dollah, Anj Jowitt, Katie Evers and Ben Jowitt as "AbbA Toir"

Niki "Miss Brahms" Burgess and Jill "As *Two soups* in the wrong show" Walker

Steven "I'm Free" Warner as Mr Humphries