Village News: Long Marston, Puttenham, Wilstone, Little Tring

April 2009

Your vibrant village magazine - delivered free to every home in Tring Rural Parish.

Inside this issue:

Church services	*3*
What's on	*4*
Council news	*10*
Puttenham page	*14*
Rectory news	*25*
Local contacts	*26*

Sunshine for village shop opening

THE village shop in Wilstone opened its doors again and let in the sunshine on Monday 16th March. A good turnout of villagers crowded in to see what new owners Tim and Jenny had done to the shop during the weeks that they have been fitting out. Free tea and coffee in the morning made it a pleasant social occasion, and many villagers commented on how nice it was to meet people through visits to the shop - something much missed during the months of closure. Shoppers were not disappointed either. Tim and Jenny have filled the place with a big selection of goods and did a brisk trade on the first day - the milk delivery arrived just in time to replenish supplies. They are keen to hear from customers what they would like to buy. As well as a wide range of tinned goods, groceries and useful household items, there are specialist food selections (great pasta and olives), fresh bread, milk and eggs, sandwiches, frozen foods, baking ingredients, lots of gift ideas, greetings cards at reasonable prices, sweets, chocolates and soft drinks, stationery items and cigarettes. Off-licence items will be available shortly.

New owners Tim and Jenny (left) with some first day customers. (Picture: Village News.)

Open seven days a week, the shop hours are: 7.30am to 7pm Monday to Friday; 8am to 2 pm Saturday; 10am to 1pm Sunday. These are the longest opening hours offered for many years, which gives more people opportunities to use the village shop. Tim and Jenny have got off to a good start, so it's up to us now. We can recommend a visit if you've not yet had the opportunity.

Dolls' houses on show

by Phil Buchi

Jack Quartly with one of his detailed miniatures: yes, it's him. Is he making an exhibition of himself?

TO add to the considerable variety of activities available in these villages, the Aylesbury Dolls House Club is bringing its annual charity exhibition to Wilstone village hall on Saturday 18th April. This is a major display of miniatures, dolls houses and other subjects made and furnished by members of the club. All the proceeds will this year go to the Pepper Foundation, which is the paediatric arm of the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home.

The show is coming to Wilstone this year at the suggestion of villagers Anne and Jack Quartly. They have been members of the Aylesbury based club for some years, and suggested Wilstone when the search was on for a suitable venue.

Both Anne and Jack are skilled in the craft, and you may have seen some of their work at Wilstone Open Gardens, and the 'heArt of Wilstone' exhibition. Members of the club work in miniature in extraordinary detail and the show is sure to be of interest to all ages.

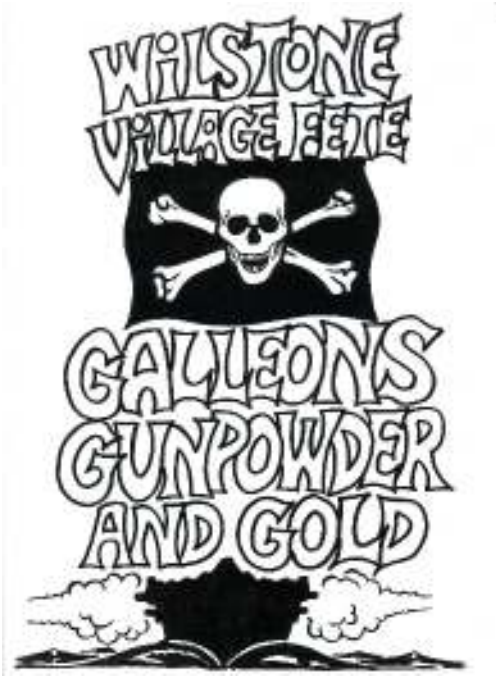
(Continued on page 2)

Special features:

- History of Horti Ball 9
- Sudoku 15
- Letters 17
- Agricultural 17
- Recipe 20
- Andy's tales 22

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

The 2009 Wilstone Village Fête and Dog Show



Saturday 6th June

Ahoy there all pirates, smugglers, and brave Jack Tars.

Be it known that your committee will need:

Children dressed as pirates, smugglers, sailors, mermaids, castaways, princes and princesses. There will be prizes!

Volunteers to help set up from 9am on Saturday 6th June. (Report for orders to Commander Jill Walker at the village hall on that morning.)

Your **bric-a-brac and books** for our stall. (These items will be collected in the week before the fête.)

(*Dolls Houses continued from page 1)*

Open from 10am to 4pm the entrance fee is a modest £2 for adults, £1.50 for students, 12-18s and seniors, with accompanied children under 12 free. There will be refreshments, trade stands, sales table, tombola and raffle. Further information from Barbara on 01296 415826.

Poets Corner

Spring eternal

by Jon Lill

Red sky in the morning –
a shepherd's warning?

Lambs begin to dance so
alive in the frosted fields-
a golden light upon the pond
where ducks and geese
and one white swan -
glide and squabble.

And the sun -
like a fiery ball -
climbs from behind
the Chiltern Hills.

We have come through -
we have come through
the night.

Red sky in the morning -
a shepherd's warning?

Birds sing in the new light so
alive in the silhouetted trees -
and two swans cry in flight
where one lone dog
barks at the sun.

And that incessant pecker bird -
hammers hardened wood
for a nesting home.

We have come through -
we have come through
the winter.

Red sky in the morning -
a shepherd's warning?

Grey skies gather
like an army -
marching cloaked and clouded
so determined to defeat
the morning rise of sun.

But with spring -
always eternal -
these blackened miseries
cannot win.

We will come through -
we will come through
the fearful times.

Wilstone Village Stores Opening hours

OPEN 7 DAYS

Monday to Friday: 7.30am to 7.00pm
Saturday: 8.00am to 2.00pm
****Sunday: 8.30am to 12.00 noon****

Village News

Editor this month: John McCall

Email: **editorwlmp@yahoo.com**
Post: Editor, 27 Tring Road, Wilstone, HP23 4PE.
Phone: 01442 890599

Editorial Team
Caroline Beevers, Phil Buchi, Colin Davenport, Fran Flowerdew, John McCall, Colin Moore.
Advertising Managers
Alison & Matthew White 01296 660402
villagenewsadvertising@googlemail.com
Distribution Manager & Secretary
Carole Harrison 01296 668526
Finance Manager & Treasurer
John Harrison 01296 668526

WHAT a wonderful last few days of weather! It really does feel that spring is here. The daffodils are in full bloom, the birds singing their hearts out and some people have been spotted walking around in shorts—hardy souls!

There are a lot of local events being planned and many feature in this edition so all bodes well for another enjoyable season.

Isn't it great to have the village shop open again! It features as our front page story and the opening day was very well attended. I am sure that everybody realises that it depends on us for its survival, so let's support it as well as we can.

Deadline for items for our next edition (May) is Thursday 16 April 2009.

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 these services.

29 March
10.00am St John The Baptist Aldbury Team Service.
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer.
5 April Palm Sunday
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer.
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer.
6.30pm St Cross Evening Prayer.
6 April (Monday)
2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship.
6, 7 and8 April
8.00pm All Saints Compline.
9 April Maundy Thursday
8.00 All Saints Holy Communion and Vigil.
10 April Good Friday
2.00 All Saints Good Friday Worship.
12 April Easter Day
8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion.
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion.
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer.
19 April
10.00am St Cross Holy Communion
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer
20 April (Monday)
2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship
26 April
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion and Sunday Club
3.30pm St Mary's Evening Prayer
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

All Saints, Long Marston.

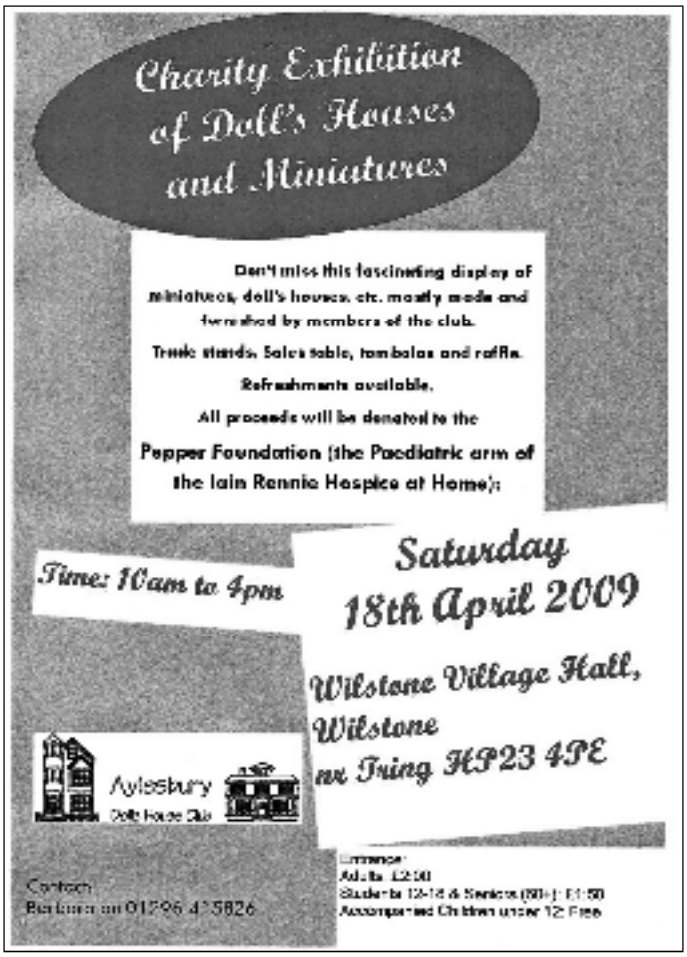
What's on...

WILSTONE GARDENS OPEN DAY SUNDAY 28 JUNE

Wilstone residents
longing to get their hands on their trowels currently lying dormant in their greenhouses, and those who enjoy the delights of strolling around their village gardens on a summer's afternoon
SUNDAY AFTERNOON 28 JUNE
WILL BE THE NEXT
WILSTONE GARDENS OPEN DAY

If you would like to open your garden please contact

Janet Painter 01442 891876
j.j.painter@btinternet.com
or
Gill Glasser 01442890300
glasser@btinternet.com



Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)
The public are welcome to attend these meetings.
Wednesday 15 April Puttenham village hall.
Wednesday 20 May Long Marston village hall.

Tuesday 7 April
WI open meeting "The Galapagos and Darwin" - a slide show by John Noakes.
Monday 13 April
Easter Egg Hunt — St Cross Church Wilstone 10.00am
Saturday 18 April
Doll's House and Minatures Exhibition Wilstone VH. 10am-4pm
Monday 27 April
An evening of expert flower arranging with Neil Gurney. Marsworth Millennium Hall.
Friday 1 May
May Day Madrigals, plus breakfast. Puttenham.
Sunday 3 May
Tennis Club Open Afternoon from 2pm.
Monday 4 May
Aldbury May Fair.
Saturday 9 May
Jumble Sale at Cecilia Hall, Puttenham, 2pm.
Family Fun Day, St Peter & St Paul, Tring, 10am-4pm.
Tennis Club Quiz Night. LM Village hall 7.30pm
Sunday 10 May
Spring Plant Fair – 11am-4pm. Ashridge. Free entry.
Saturday 16 May
May Ball. (LM&P Horticultural Society.)
Sunday 17 May
Cheddington Bowls Club open afternoon, 2pm-5pm.
Saturday 23 May
Plant Sale, Horseshoe Cottage, Church Lane, Marsworth.
Saturday 23 - Monday 25 May
Tring Canal Festival, Little Tring.

Times for mobile library

Thursdays, fortnightly: April 9th and 23rd.

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**

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

Saturday 6 June
Wilstone Village Fete: Galleons, Gunpowder and Gold.

Sunday 14th June
Marsworth Steam Festival.
Tring Anglers charity match, Bulbourne.
Wednesday 10 June
Big Band Concert with Jazz 3000. All Saints Marsworth.
Sunday, 14 June
Marsworth Steam Rally.
Sunday June 28
Wilstone Open Gardens,
Sunday 12 July
Family Games - The Puttenham Trust.
Saturday 25 July
LMCC Summer Ball.
Sunday 9 August
St. Mary's Patronal Festival. Puttenham.
23, 24, 25 August
County cricket at LMCC. Herts v. Northumberland.
28, 29, 30, 31 August
Marsworth Flower Festival, All Saints, Marsworth.
Saturday 5 September
Jumble Sale at Cecilia Hall, 2pm.
Saturday 3 October
Supper and Auction - The Puttenham Trust.

WI news

April 7, 8pm. Galapagos and Charles Darwin

This being the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, the WI are looking forward to a slide lecture by John Noakes on the flora and fauna of the Galapagos Islands which Darwin visited on his journey with Captain Fitzroy aboard the "Beagle."
Everyone is welcome to attend. LM village hall.

Free light bulbs

Two free energy saving light bulbs are available on request, courtesy of e.on, the power company. To qualify, one member of the household must be 70 or over. The WI has been asked to distribute these bulbs; the problem is that as everyone looks so young these days they do not know who to approach!
If you would like a free sample please contact Pam Edmonds, 01296 661370

The Long Marston & Puttenham Horticultural Society Presents

MAY BALL

Saturday 16th May 2009
7.30 p.m. to Midnight
Cheddington Village Hall
Dancing to Live Band
Dancing for All
Ball Room, Latin and Modern Dances
Champagne Reception with Canapés
Superb Supper and Licensed Bar
Black Tie Event Tickets £30
Reservations & Information call
Margaret on 01296 662975

SUNDAY BEGINNERS DANCE LESSONS AND TEA DANCE PRACTICE SESSION

19th April Waltz, 26th April Quick Step,
3rd May Rumba and 10th May Recap.
Lessons Commence at 3 p.m.
Tea Dance Practice Session 4 to 5.30
Beginners Lesson & Tea Dance £6
Tea Dance Practice Session only £2
Free Bottle of Wine at Ball for each Couple who attends all four Sunday Sessions
Limited Hall Crèche Facility Requiring Reservation, call Vicky on
01296 661586

Avast there, shipmates - our village fete needs you!

With our village fete only a couple of months away, plans are stepping up a gear or two. With this year's theme of ***Galleons, Gunpowder & Gold*** we envisage a bit of a battle as we endeavour to get our precious treasure safely through the village and into the hands of our grateful Queen.

This is where we need your help.

Do you fancy being one of the brave sailors battling through with the treasure, or one of the nefarious pirates out to steal it from under their noses? If you do, then please let the Fete Committee know by calling Diana Crapnell on 01442 826043.

Who and what's required? Anyone, male or female, aged 10 – 100. You'll need to come along on the big day dressed as either a pirate or a loyal sailor – roles will be assigned; come to a short rehearsal before the big day – just to make sure we all emerge unscathed the other side! – and take part in the procession and the fete opening show. That's it - apart from your energy and enthusiasm – and that's already a given from any villager in this Parish!

We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Feeling the urge to Spring clean?

Well I guess you could, like me, lie down in a darkened room until the feeling passes! However, if you do get stuck in and need to dispose of surplus items, please keep in mind that the bric - a - brac stall at the village fete will be most appreciative of anything you no longer want.

We'll be coming round to collect items about a week or so before the fete, or you can drop them off at the village hall on the 5th June.

We'll gladly help you 'declutter' - its a service we're happy to provide!

Wendover Arm request

VILLAGE NEWS has received a request from Professor Timothy Peters of Birmingham University for information about the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union canal at Little Tring. Professor Peters is an engineer whose researches formed the basis of an article in our February edition, "Historic asphalt discovered on Wendover canal". He writes:

*"I am doing some further research on the Wendover Arm, in particular the **Whitehouses** site. This is the patch of scrub land on the off side of the Arm between the two new wooden bridges. The site is of interest and will need sympathetic restoration, not least as it has an important sluice. Whitehouses was, in the early 1800s, the site of the first beam engine pumping water up from the original Wilstone reservoir. It was subsequently converted into two cottages for canal company workers and lastly used by the Banfields as a refuge hostel during the last war. I am interested to put some flesh on this basic outline and would welcome any suggestions, reminiscences, photographs, etc. of the site.*

*The **Woodhouses** were a distinguished family of civil engineers who over five generations did much of the engineering for the canal company. I am researching the Woodhouse family; some of whom may still live in the Tring area. I would be very keen to make contact with them to share their memories and any information they may have of the family."*

If any readers can help Professor Peters with his research, please contact Phil Buchi on 01442 890599 and he will put you in touch.

Tring Together - Tring Spring Fair

by Abby Fermont

Following on from a highly successful Christmas Festival, join us now for Tring Spring Fair from 2nd – 16th May 2009.

The Spring Fair kicks off with 'Walk for Wellness' on Saturday 2nd May. This is your opportunity to get active, explore Tring and the surrounding area and benefit a local group or charity. To get involved, come to Tring Market Place on 2nd May between 9.00 am and 12.00 noon, and for a £5 donation collect your copy of the Tring Days Out booklet (and other Tring goodies), and then complete one of its six illustrated walk/cycle routes that make the most of living in Tring! If you can't get to Tring on 2nd May, the booklet and goodie bag will be available throughout the two-week period from Jane Randrup. Jane can be contacted on 01442-828920 or by email tringtogether@hotmail.co.uk.

On Sunday 3rd May at 10.30 am Jo Woodbridge will be leading a group on 'Itinerary Four – Tring by the Water' starting off from Wilstone War Memorial, with proceeds to Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Simply turn up, pay your £5, receive the booklet and goodie bag and enjoy a walk around our beautiful countryside. Please contact Jo direct if you would like further information on 01442-891444.

Other highlights of the two-week programme are as follows:-
Saturday 2nd May; Local History Museum Exhibition, Spring Animals and Special offers in selected Tring shops.
Sunday 3rd May; 2pm Guided historic walk around Tring town centre
Saturday 9th May – FOTCH Family Fun Day, 10-4 St Peter & St Paul Church Tring,
Get Cycling, basic bike training, Tring Market Place 10-12 noon and 1-3pm.
Sunday 10th May, another opportunity to catch the guided historic walk around Tring town centre, 2pm
Saturday 16th May, Tring Farmers Market 10th Year Anniversary celebration.

Leaflets containing full details of the above events will be available from local shops from the second week in April.

Friends Of Ashridge - Gentle Strolls in 2009

by Ann Lang

Gentle Strolls in 2009 – These informal strolls, led by Brian and Siân Barton, are always popular. They provide a chance to discover the wildlife in different parts of the Ashridge Estate, to look for animal tracks, deer sightings, birds and flora. The strolls take up to two hours and are mostly over more level routes, except in the Steps Hill area where hills can't be avoided. Wear stout, waterproof footwear and just turn up with £2 per person on the day.

Tue 21 April 10.30am - Meet Visitor Centre on Monument Green . Map ref SP 971 131

Thu 14 May 2.30pm - Meet Ling Ride car park off Beacon Road . Map ref SP 982 143

Thu 18 June 10.30am - Meet Steps Hill grass car park off Beacon Road. Map ref SP 963 159

Tue 14 July 2.30pm - Meet Toms Hill car park on road from Aldbury to B4506. Map ref SP 969 119

Wed 19 Aug 2.30pm - Meet car park opposite Hill Farm on B4506. Map ref SP 979 101

Thu 17 Sep 10.30am - Meet B4506 road end of Monument Drive. Map ref SP 979 127

Wed 14 Oct 10.30am - Meet B4506 road end of Monument Drive. Map ref SP 979 127

See the National Trust website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk for more events or explore the Friends of Ashridge's website at www.friendsofashridge.org.uk, which has lots of information to make your next visit to Ashridge even more interesting.

Go again for 'Parish Go Extreme'

by Phil Buchi

TEN local children, equal numbers of girls and boys as it happened, turned out to help the Parish Council shape the next phase of their 'Parish Go Extreme' project to provide better facilities for young people in the parish. They heard that the Council's extensive investigations into the costs of a skateboard ramp had shown that the costs were too great, and also that they took up so much space that it would be difficult to site one at either Long Marston or Wilstone. This news was accepted by the children, who have taken a very practical approach to costs and benefits throughout the project. They pointed out that in any case there were skateboard ramps at Aston Clinton and Tring that they could use.

In phase one, now completed, a five-a-side goal and basketball hoop were provided at Wilstone, and a five- a-side goal and a 'zig zag twister' at Long Marston. These are all well used, and the 'zig zag twister' is particularly popular. The meeting discussed what else could be done now that the skateboard ramp was off the agenda. A lively and highly informed debate among the children resulted in a short list of suggested facilities. There was quite a lobby for things which encouraged fitness too. The suggestions will now be costed by the Council who will report back at a future meeting when final decisions can be taken. Suggestions covering both Long Marston and Wilstone include: a 'zig zag twister' for Wilstone, a birds nest swing, a roundabout, and a fitness trail in the woods. A local youth club would also be welcome, they said.

Friends of Long Marston School "100 Club" Monthly Draw

1st Prize £15 Ticket No 54 Alex Dickinson.

2nd Prize £10 Ticket No 28 Stephanie Millar

3rd Prize "Key Ring" Ticket No 32 Wendy Maybourne

Subscription is £10 per year but a reduced subscription is available if you join during the year. All proceeds help our village schoolchildren.
Ring the school (01296 668386) if you wish to join.

Flower arranging - not to be missed

ON Monday 27th April at 8.00pm Neil Gurney will present an evening of expert flower arranging in his own inimitable and amusing style at Marsworth Millennium Hall, Vicarage Road, Marsworth HP23 4LR. The flower arrangements will be raffled at the end of the evening.

Tickets are £8 to include tea and cake and are available from Annette Botting, 01296 662007 and Ken Longhurst, 01296 660711.

More dates for your diary:

Saturday 23rd May: Gill and John White's amazing plant sale at Horseshoe Cottage, Church Lane, Marsworth. Free entry and you're sure to find something to add a touch of colour to your garden.

Wednesday 10th June: Jazz 3000 will make a welcome return for another Big Band Concert at All Saints Church, Marsworth. Tickets are £8 and are available from Annette Botting 01296 662007, and Ken Longhurst, 01296 660711.

If you would like to become involved with this year's Flower Festival in any way, please contact Ken Longhurst, 01296 660711.

The 2009 Marsworth Flower Festival Committee.

Village News AGM

Plenty of papers, pencils and discussion—but only one (empty!) glass on the table.
What a sober lot we are!

F.R. Jeffery & Son
Coal
Smokeless Fuels
Logs
Garden Compost
Dean Jeffery- Lawnmower Service
& Repair & Sharpening of garden tools
Delivered to your door
Low prices
Tel: 01296 661258 (Marsworth)

CYPRUS
LUXURY DETACHED 3 BED VILLA SLEEPS 5
STUNNING SEA AND MOUNTAIN VIEWS
QUIET VILLAGE LOCATION
14 MINS AIRPORT/BEACH/GOLF
20 MINS PAPHOS
PRIVATE SWIMMING POOL
FULLY AIR CONDITIONED
FROM £400 WEEK
TEL: ROGER 01442 824228
EASYJET FLIGHTS AVAILABLE

History of the "Horti Ball"

by Oliver Mathews

IN 2001 and before "Strictly Come Dancing", a number of the Horti Committee members decided it would be nice to have a May Ball with all its grandeur but at a break-even cost. The only problem was, nobody could dance! Dance teachers Joanne and Gordon were found and lessons organised, leading up to the first ball in May 2002. The whole thing was a big gamble as there were fixed costs of over £1500 and we had no idea what the take up would be. We were pleasantly surprised when at the first lesson, Long Marston Hall was filled to capacity with over 50 hopeful dancers.

Puttenham Church hall was chosen for the ball, as it is both pretty and in an idyllic setting. In order to accommodate the number of dancers, an additional large area for sitting and dining was necessary, which was provided by a marquee adjacent to the hall. The marquee arrived on the Friday morning and until Saturday afternoon the time was spent beautifully decorating the hall and marquee with flowers, balloons and ribbons. At last it was time for the ball and the dancers arrived in their coaches (a modern version, I'm afraid); the ladies in their long dresses and the gentlemen in their evening suits. At nine o'clock dinner was called and all sat down to a superb supper. By this time a glass or two had calmed the nerves and all worries had been left behind Unfortunately midnight came too quickly, but everyone had enjoyed themselves immensely. The May Ball was held every year until 2006 when just before the beginning of this ball a sudden downpour put one end of the marquee under water and part of the dance floor awash. A quick repositioning of two of the tables, some mops and a few wet feet kept nearly all the dancers ignorant of the panic. However this potential problem, the high cost of the marquee and a desire to keep the ball ticket price down, put an end to the Puttenham event. It was therefore decided not to hold another ball until a more suitable venue could be found.

At the beginning of 2008 Cheddington hall was investigated. It was plenty big enough to not need a marquee so it was decided to re-launch the Ball. The only suitable slot was at the end of June, so for the first time a mid summer ball was held. This year the Ball is back in May and will be in Cheddington. It is now some time since dance lessons have been held, so in order to get new arrivals in the villages and those that missed out last time up to speed, there will be a short series of dance lessons on Sunday afternoons leading up to the ball. So as to offer the best chance of success, only three dances will be taught: the waltz, the quickstep and the rumba. Also only basic steps will be taught, but sufficient to get everyone round the floor.

For the more experienced and beginners wishing to try out their new steps, a Tea Dance practice session will be held immediately after the beginners lessons. To enable those with small children to take part, a limited, reservable crèche facility will be provided.

Hope to see you there?

Let Pilates help you achieve your sporting goals

Pilates is effective for developing core strength to encourage peak performance and reduce injury for any sporting activity, from tennis, horse riding to running & golf.

Pilates Fitness for Life specialises in 1-1 lessons & small group classes for more individual attention.

Call Karen on 07971 400558

www.pilatesfitnessforlife.co.uk

Member of Body Control Pilates Assoc & Register of Exercise Professionals

THE CHAPEL ROOM
WILSTONE

A SELECTION OF 'CRYSTAL CLEAR' FACIALS
AROMATHERAPY AND SWEDISH MASSAGES
HAND AND FOOT TREATMENTS
'ST. TROPEZ' TANNING
'HIVE' WAXING
A VARIETY OF EYE TREATMENTS
GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

☆ NEW! CALGEL NAIL SYSTEM

HELEN LISHMAN
FULLY QUALIFIED
BEAUTY THERAPIST AND AROMATHERAPIST

9 CHAPEL FIELDS, WILSTONE, TRING,
HERTFORDSHIRE, HP23 4SL
TEL: 01442 890933

CRYSTAL CLEAR ST. TROPEZ The Ultimate Tan JESSICA

Parish Council News

by John Painter

Traffic in Long Marston

The Chairman reported that traffic through Long Marston was becoming a serious problem, in particular along Cheddington Lane. Heavy trucks that use that stretch of road are a real danger to pedestrians who also have to use the road because there is no footpath. It was noted that there are no warning signs and nothing to slow the approaching traffic - it is "an accident waiting to happen". TRPC have already asked for something to be done to make the road safer and DBC have asked for information to be gathered. The parish council are conducting a survey of traffic movements in the village. An informal count on two days of the number of cars passing through the crossroads at Long Marston in one hour during the lunch time, recorded 170 on the first day and 205 on the second day, and there were also 28 heavy trucks in the same period on one of the days. The Parish Council are awaiting results of the full survey in order to report back to DBC. It was suggested that a chicane at the entrance to the village on Cheddington Lane might be one way of making the lane a little safer. The Parish Council agreed that they would continue pressing to get something done to make this stretch of road safer.

Tring "Tip"

The dumping of rubbish along verges in the parish continues to be a problem and there is concern that the closing of the Tring Tip will only make the problem worse. The council have been told that the tip will remain open until the Aston Clinton tip is fully operational; it was thought that it could still be many months before that happens. In the meantime the council will look at measures to discourage fly-tipping and help catch those responsible. Local residents are asked to report if they see any illegal dumping (the phone number is given in this magazine).

Road Repair

The Chairman reported that many roads in the parish had been badly affected by the freezing weather over the winter and that the Borough Council was receiving additional funding to effect repairs throughout the district.

Flood update – *a special report by Ava Glades*

Although the perma-flood in Astrope Lane may appear at first sight to be a complete disaster area, it is, in fact, part of the Highways Agency's 'Operation Noah' which is being piloted in Long Marston.

Once a flooded road is identified, a highly trained repair man is quite quickly despatched - sometimes within weeks – to the problem area. Having arrived, he will survey the scene from his van, shake his head and, if required, have a cup of tea. Only then will he carefully drop a 'Flood' sign near one end of the pond. Should the flooding be exceptional, the man may have to take more extreme action and use a 'Ford' sign instead.

In recognition of this ground-breaking advance in road maintenance, Village News is now delighted to offer its readers a 'once in a lifetime' chance to purchase, for only £7.99, a commemorative model of a fully equipped road-repair man. The man comes supplied with sign, cone, ladle and bucket and if positioned correctly will stand motionless for hours at a time.

AWJW SERVICES

All Garden Work Carried Out
Borders - Lawn Care - Shrubs - Roses
Hedge & Tree Work - Paving & Turfing
All Types of Fencing and
Gates Supplied and Erected
Paddock Maintenance - Rolling, Topping & Harrowing
Grass cutting - domestic, public, commercial areas

Alan Winfield
Ivy Cottage, Cheddington Lane,
Long Marston, Tring, HP23 4QP.

Tel: 01296-668977
Mobiles: 07803 058655 & 07778 919333

Email: ivy-cott@supanet.com
Fully Insured.
Established Over 20 Years.
New Inquiries Welcome.

Planning Regulations

The planning officers at Dacorum are continuing the process of enforcing planning regulations at a number of locations in the Parish where the planning laws are being breached. The procedure takes time and the enforcement officers are asking that residents affected be patient while they follow the appropriate procedures.

Parish Plan

There is to be a review of the Parish Plan with an open evening on Wednesday April 15th 2009 at Cecilia Hall at Puttenham at 7:30 pm. All residents are invited to attend and express their views.
This is a great opportunity for all residents to express their views on the future plans for Tring Rural.

Your Parish Councillors are:

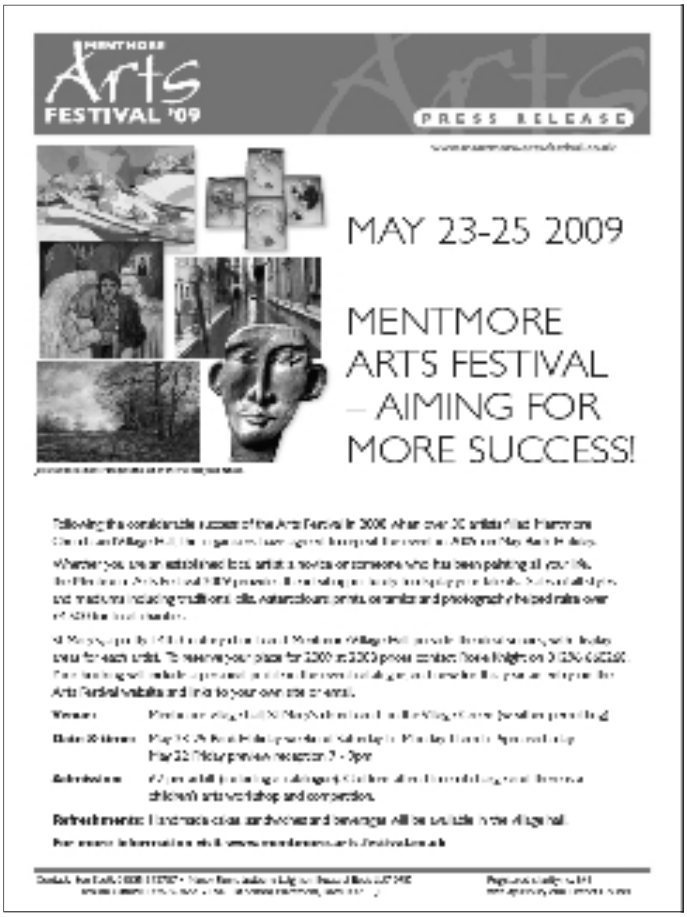
Mr Michael Tomlinson (Chairman) 01296 661 311
Mr Chris Griffiths 01296 668 257
Mr Alan Winfield 01296 668 977
Mrs Abby Fermont 01442 825 352
Mr Nick Murrell 01296 668 190
Mr Peter Foster 01442 825 282
Mrs Jill Finlan 01296 661 716
Mrs Kim Deathe 01296 662 623

The Clerk to the Council is:
Mrs Dawn Slade 01442 824 138

***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


MENTMORE
Arts
FESTIVAL '09
PRESS RELEASE
MAY 23-25 2009
MENTMORE ARTS FESTIVAL – AIMING FOR MORE SUCCESS!

FARM P.E. MEAD & Sons SHOP

Always a big selection of
quality fresh vegetables.
Extensive freezer selection too.
Our own lamb and beef, and local venison.
Top brand pet foods and animal feeds.
Garden bird tables and bird food.

And have a break with a great cappuccino in
the Café and Gift Shop, set in the
comfortable surroundings of our restored
18th century barn.
Toasted sandwiches, salads
and ploughman's lunches.

Open 7 days
Lower Icknield Way, Wilstone Green
(01442) 828478

New conservation group for the Chilterns

The Chiltern Society is the principal voluntary body caring for the Chilterns countryside, its towns and villages, covering an area of 1,680 square kilometres from Hitchin in the north to Goring-on–Thames in the south. Formed in 1965, over the last 44 years the charity has campaigned vigorously to protect the special features of this area and has organised a huge amount of volunteer effort to carry out practical conservation projects and maintain local footpaths, amongst other activities.

For many years the Chiltern Society has had a very busy conservation team working on the weekends in the south and central Chilterns.

We are now setting up a new conservation group which will meet mid week and be based in the Wendover area. The group will be called the "Chiltern Society Conservation Group at Wendover" and will be led by Mike Baldock, a Chiltern Society member who has been an active volunteer with our existing conservation group. This new group will be working mid week, focusing initially on a wide range of conservation projects at Wendover Woods. The Forestry Commission is delighted that this new group is being set up and would like help from Chiltern Society volunteers on a number of projects; clearing paths, cutting back undergrowth, opening up views from Wendover Woods over the surrounding countryside and working on a project to clear an area which is the site of an iron age hill fort. As the group develops there may be other opportunities for the group to work on other projects on public access land in the Wendover and Tring area.

The first work party will be on 7 April at 10am, meeting by the Forestry Commission offices in Upper Icknield Way just off the A4011 about a mile after the RAF Halton Camp if approaching from the direction of Wendover town centre and will clear laurel from the fitness trail, Boddington Hill. This will be followed on the 21st April by a project to cut back any overhanging growth on the miles and miles of trails in Wendover Woods.

For other events - details will be given nearer the time.

If you would like to get involved with this new group and make a difference to the environment please call Mike Baldock 01442 823139 or Mobile : 07870 836 051.

www.chilternsociety.org.uk

Do you want a local reliable

PLUMBER

that you can trust?

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

Call John Byron in Pitstone 07860 340 130

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

SELL YOUR HOME QUICKLY AND PROFITABLY

with the help of

BY DESIGN (TRING) LTD

Sell FASTER and sell for MORE after a HOME STAGING CONSULTATION - get the help you need ranging from a few hours to a whole day.

Need some hands on to help to get your home ready to sell? Not getting the response you expected from potential buyers? Why not let us use our professional skills on your home for just a day and see how much we can improve your chances of completing the sale you need!

In the best of times it can be hard to achieve a fast, profitable sale. Now it's even harder, so take advantage of our many years of experience in dressing and selling homes in this area. We strive to minimise your costs and maximise your profits.

Ring 07979 381410 to discuss how we can be of help. Be assured you will receive a friendly and professional response.

By Design (Tring) Ltd

Your local Interior & Garden Design Company

EASTER EGG

HUNT

St Cross Church

Wilstone

In Church Garden

Easter Monday

13th April

10am PROMPT

COFFEE & HOT CROSS BUNS AVAILABLE TOO

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

The Half Moon

Wilstone

(off the B489 near Tring and Aston Clinton)

Real Ales ● Good Food ● Children's Menu
Children's Play Area ● Patio ● Car Park

Tel: 01442 826410

A warm welcome guaranteed!

The Puttenham Page

by Christine Rutter

MAY-DAY at ST.MARY'S
FRIDAY – 1ST MAY
6 A.M. !!

For Friday, 1st May, you will need to have had your alarm clocks set EXTRA EARLY to be in the Churchyard ready to listen to the singing-in of May-Day from the top of St. Mary's Tower AT 6 A.M

As always, this will be followed by a full breakfast of fruit juice, kedgeree, sausage/bacon rolls, toast & marmalade, all washed down with as much coffee or tea as you wish. *Something to note in your Diary.*

JUMBLE SALE
Saturday, 9th May – 2 p.m. – Cecilia Hall

Times of recession? Why not visit Cecilia Hall for your new spring outfit! I am sure we shall be, as always, well stock with clothing, china, household linen and household items, toys, books, etc. etc. BARGAINS GALORE!

If you have any items for the sale, please leave them at Cecilia Hall doorway or, if you need collection, phone 01296 668337 (Christine)

Offers of help for sorting - the week prior to the sale, on the day, or getting the left-over stuff away afterwards, would be very much appreciated.

The PuttenhamTrust BANGERS 'n' MASH QUIZ NIGHT

A keenly fought contest throughout the evening. The winning team received a bottle of wine each, while members of the lowest scoring team each received a posy of spring flowers including a sprig of heather for "better luck next time". Our sincere thanks to Toby Davidson, our Quizmaster, Peter Winship for setting the pictorial flag quiz, Ken and Shirley Crawford for acting as adjudicators and, of course, everyone involved in preparing the food. After expenses, the evening raised £426 to be divided between three charities, including Ian Rennie Hospice, and Diabeties UK.

Thank You to everyone who attended.

It's that time of year ...

by Margaret Noakes

BY the end of the month we should be welcoming yet again that special feature of our particular part of the country.

Richard Mabey very eloquently highlights this particular aspect of our landscape in 'Flora Britannica' when he says "On late afternoons in March, especially when there is a patchy sun glinting from the west, parts of the Vale of Aylesbury are suffused with an exotic orange glow. All over the flood plain, by dykes and lanes and thin streams, rows of craggy pollards begin to shine, as if they have been coated in amber".

Picture John Painter

So what is he describing? Our native black poplar that at this time of year produces bright red catkins. The leaves appear later, a bright green in a triangular shape.

All of our local trees are male. The female trees may well have been part of our local landscape but because of the huge amounts of fluff that they produce were cut down. There are no female trees locally.

A lot of planting has been done locally by Countryside Management Services; material that has been grown on from trees that have been pollarded and then encouraged to develop a good root system before being planting out. So we are reasonably assured that the species will continue around about us here.

Back in August 2008 we collected about 40 samples from the far extremes of our original survey area 11 years ago to be sent for investigation of their D.N.A.to the Forestry Commission who kindly offered their services free. Preliminary results suggest that all the material is from the same clone. In other words, we have probably no diversity in our population of black poplars which could make all of them susceptible if disease hit. In fact this has happened in the Manchester population, so we have to be aware of the possibilities. We will be taking advice about the future of our planting programme, having followed advice with all that we have done so far using local provenance.

Having said that, the future of our local black poplars looks good, and the trees will be looking especially good very soon. So do go and have a look. What better recommendation can we all have than Richard Mabey?

Long Marston Cricket Club News

by Paul Dmpleton

Very little to report since the last edition of Village News. The exceptional spell of very spring - like weather has coincided with the return of the mowers from winter servicing and they have already been put to good use.

The dry weather has also allowed the work to commence on the installation of the club's new net facility and at the time of writing, excellent progress is being made.

Several work parties over recent weeks have helped considerably in getting the ground and pavilion ready for the start of the season, now just four weeks away.

In the next edition we will be able to provide much more detail in respect of the club's Summer Ball being held on 25th July.

Sudoku Corner

by Colin Moore

No 38 Easy

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

Continuing this year's theme with easier puzzles, you should be able to get a good start by looking to position 2 in the top centre box.

Licensed Private Hire

Established 1984

Alpine Cars

(Formerly Cheddington Cars)

Door to Door Service

To Airports, Seaports, London

To Book or for a Quote Call

07836 272122

Bailey

independently owned and operated

fully licensed private hire operator
specialising in
Airport Transfers and Social Events

personal, friendly service - very competitive rates

t: 01525 378569 m: 07745 616463
e: baileyprivatehire@googlemail.com

www.baileyprivatehire.com

ECOCABS2go

Your local and friendly private hire taxis

Do you like good quality service with a difference?
Door opening, escorted umbrella service and uniformed drivers
Do you require a taxi for long and short journeys?
We serve ALL airports/seaports and local villages
Business/private accounts welcome
For more information visit our web site: **www.ecocabs2go.co.uk**
To book or for a quote on a chauffer style taxi call:
01296 661999

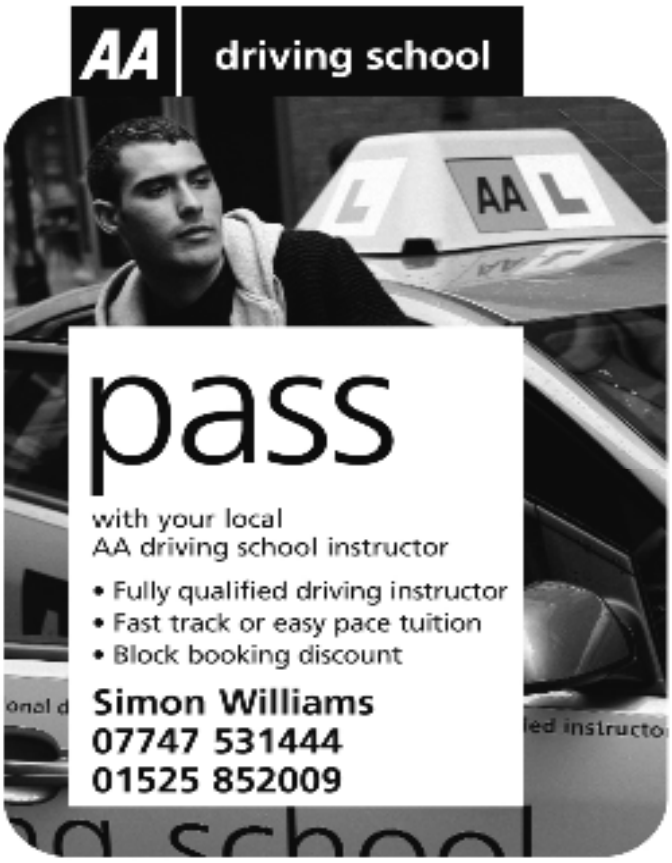
NEED A HANDYMAN?

Plumbing
Bathrooms
Tiling
Painting

Garden Tidy Ups
Grass cutting
Hedge cutting
Patio Cleaning

Ref No Problem
Fully insured
Reasonable And Reliable

Call Gavin On Tring (01442) 381306
Mobile 07731047439



AA driving instructors are self-employed franchisees and all contracts for the provision of driving tuition are between the pupil and instructor. Full terms and conditions at www.AAdrivingschool.co.uk

Problem with your windows?

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

Guarantees on all units fitted

Visit our website for a free online estimate:

Www.SmashingWindows.com

Or ring

01296 630650 to arrange an appointment today!

Try our window cleaning service.
Just call 07875 534780 for more details.

The agricultural story line…. *by David Mead*

Why did that ewe do that?

WE started lambing at the end of February, a week earlier than usual. The new Texel ram and the older Charolais met the ladies at the end of September. I insisted the flock were brought into the covered yard in the middle of February, and sure enough we were soon having to find all the equipment as the dear little things started to appear. The first week is manageable. Plenty of empty pens, and time to lean on them and wonder at how this birth business ever got underway. The little fellows survive the birthing, sometimes with some guidance, are licked clean and are on their feet within the half-hour looking for the milk department. I've seen a lamb give a playful on-the-spot jump in this first moment of life.

That's the first week of lambing. By the fourth week it's: "Why did that ewe do that?" One lamb was sat on, another rejected her lamb. A lamb jumped into a water trough. Some ewes have plenty of milk, others have barely enough. This year there have been lots of threes. Mum can only feed two at once so the mobile milk bar has to go round. At cricket matches they have mobile lager pumps - a knapsack which can dispense refreshments without the queues. I'm putting my name down for one: milk in the spring for the "dear little fellows"; bitter for the rest of the year to help the shepherd recover.

Keith Slade and family have hundreds to lamb. His ewes have produced good numbers, as has the Leech flock in Ivinghoe. This often happens; something to do with the amount of grass in the first half of the winter, the ewe's eggs being rejected in hard times. I know that one year when we increased the flock number on the same acreage, the lambing percentage went down.

Well, at time of writing we only have four more to lamb. One may have to read the book again next autumn and find the right page. The weather has been wonderful for the lambs to go out. Cold, wet weather is not good for the little fellows.

I gather there has been another planning application for the caravan site. Dacorum have not sent me the details this time. With the state of their address book, heaven knows where it is. The ill feeling is caused by unfair use of the rules. One rule for one and not another. One lighter story: two girls in pyjamas brandishing toothbrushes crossed the car park to visit the toilet block. What can you say?

Letters...

Dear Editor,
When I moved to Wilstone just 2 years ago one of the things that helped me integrate into the village was the weekly toddler group which met every Thursday morning for an hour and a half in the Village Hall. Having just had my second child I was saddened to learn that the group no longer meets and I was wondering if there are enough 'toddlers' and Mums around to restart the group.

The group was very low key and was a great opportunity for children to play and Mums, Dads, Grannies or Grandads to sit and have a coffee and a chat. The weekly charge was £1.50.
If you would be interested if a Todder Group was run would you e mail me at ben_maurap@btinternet.com and let me know your preferred days if you work etc.

Maura Patterson, Wilstone.

Dear Editor,
Following your article on the proposed plans by Dacorum to build eight affordable homes to the land at the rear of 36-44 Tring Road, I wanted to voice my concerns, which I believe are also held by many Wilstone residents, about this development. I myself attended the consultation meeting, and it is clear that Dacorum and the proposed Social Housing Association (Aldwyck) are still yet to address the common concerns raised by concerned residents back in November last year; namely the impact of this development in terms of parking congestion on Grange Road, loss of a valuable 'green lung' within the village, and the impact to residents during the construction process.
When any new development (affordable or not) is considered in a village the size of Wilstone, it is important to ensure that the impact on existing residents is considered. All residents that border this site will be negatively impacted by this proposal, and many more along Grange Road, will suffer during and after this development is completed; the approved construction contractor estimates this development will take 8-12 months and intends to operate on site between 7.30am-6pm Monday to Friday, with additional work on Saturdays, and deliveries that could fall outside of these hours.

Whilst I appreciate that Dacorum is keen to push forward with this development I think it is important that local residents are kept fully appraised of all aspects and impacts of this proposal as it unfolds.

Ben Patterson, Wilstone.

Fanfares & Fireworks July 4th 2009

Fanfares and Fireworks on the Field will be the third outdoor music and firework extravaganza put on by Tring School. With two successful events behind us, more experience and a real buzz in the air about this year's event, we're confident it's going to be a night to remember.

When
July 4th 2009 – the date, American Independence Day, has been chosen because we will be hosting a group of musicians from Texas that week as part of the Tring School music exchange with Carroll High School in Southlake, so expect some American pizzazz! Three of the musicians will be staying here in Aldbury, so look out for them!

Where
On the playing field behind Tring School.

Tickets
Available from Easter from Dennis's of Tring and Meads Farm at £8.50 for adults and £6 for concessions. Alternatively you can email us for a postal application form on info@tringschoolmusic.co.uk
For more information contact Barbara Harvey 01442 851550.

Thinking of Learning French?

Do you have a house in France & would like help with conversational French?

Do you need tuition for school exams?

All Levels – individual or small groups
Tailored to suit your needs

For more information contact Linda Ellis
Tel: 01296 661136

FIRST STEPS PRE-SCHOOL, LONG MARSTON
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
Lunch Club on Tues & Fri: 11.45am – 1.15pm
For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact our Playleader: Teresa Giddings on 07925 185311

LONG MARSTON BABY & TODDLER GROUP
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

Energy saving light bulb myth buster

By Gordon Glass

Why use them?
Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 80% less electricity, save you about £3 a year each, and last up to 12 times longer than old fashioned tungsten bulbs.

What are they?
Think of them as compact versions of the strip lights in work places since the 1950s.

Have they improved?
You can now get all shapes and sizes, fittings and levels of brightness, including 150W equivalent and dimmable options. A recent blind test of 761 shoppers, found that 64% preferred the light from them.

Is it better to leave them running?
No, switching them on uses the equivalent electricity as leaving them on for a few minutes. Most now light instantaneously.

How should I dispose of them?
Use the service your municipal tip provides for the safe disposal of fluorescent tubes.

Is mercury an issue?
Ironically, installing CFLs ought to help reduce the need for coal-fired electricity production - a major cause of global mercury emissions. CFLs contain mercury - about 5mg. Locked into its tube, this is harmless.

What should I do if I smash one?
Ventilate the room for 15 minutes. Put on your rubber gloves, brush the bits into a bag, seal it and drop it at the tip next time you go.

Are tungsten bulbs banned?
No. Manufacturers have agreed to withdraw them for sale, starting with 100W this year, 60W in 2010 and 40W in 2011.

Where can I find out more?
Contact the Energy Saving Trust on **0800 512 012**.

Peacock Tree Ecology

5 Nup End Lane,
Wingrave, Bucks, HP22 4PX.

Tel/Fax: 01296 682726.

Mob: 07884055207.

alexpeacock@btconnect.com

Arboricultural services to include:
-Professional pruning of ornamental trees and shrubs.
-The controlled sectional dismantling of dangerous trees.
-Advice, supply and planting of appropriate species.
-The supply of quality seasoned firewood.
-Tree hazard evaluation and written reports.

The Old Pastures Dog Grooming

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

For prices or to book an appointment call: 01442 824856

The Old Pastures

Luxury accommodation for dogs

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

VISITING, KENNELING AND COLLECTING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Luxury heated accommodation for your dog with a personal touch giving your dog the extra attention they deserve. All dogs are walked twice a day.
In association with ***Mrs. Doolittles*** *Pet Sitters*

Tel: 01442 824856

The Blindman

For all types of Blinds at competative prices

•Roller •Pleated •Woodslat
•Vertical •Venetian •Woven

We also make Roman Blinds from your own fabric.

Free Friendly Advice & Quotation in the comfort of your own home.

Tel: 01442 828 108
Mob: 07767 783 955

Call now for a free quote

• LANDSCAPING
• GARDEN CLEAN UPS
• HEDGE TRIMMING
• PRUNING
• POWER WASHING

Jim's Mowing

0845 500 10 10
Local Call Cost
www.jimsmowing.co.uk

RELIABLE GARDEN SERVICES

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

FOR REASONABLY PRICED WORK DONE WELL, CONTACT
Mark Lee
01296 668310 or 07914 355180

Heavenly Hat Hire

Cheddington, Bucks
Email: info@heavenlyhats.co.uk
www.heavenlyhats.co.uk

We stock over 500 hats and fascinators in all sizes, shapes and colours.
Hire charges are
£10 - £15 for fascinators
and £25 - £35 for designer hats.
Telephone Carolyn on **01296 668494** to make an appointment to view. Browsers welcome!

T & S TREECARE

All trees lopped, pruned or felled.
All hedges shaped, pruned or removed.
We also do turfing, grass cutting and fencing.
All garden rubbish removed.

FREE ADVICE & ESTIMATE

Tel 01296 662167

Recipe page

by Anna Ashwell

Hot and Sour Soup

This is a soup that is easy to make and we usually eat it as a complete meal. The heat of the 'hot' bit can easily be varied by your choice of chilli.

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp cornflour
- 2 tbsp light soy sauce
- 3 tbsp rice wine vinegar
- ½ tsp ground black pepper
- 1 finely chopped small fresh chilli (or whatever suits)
- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 850ml (1½ pints) water
- 1 chicken stock cube
- 1 large mushroom, sliced

50g (1¾ oz) skinless chicken breast, cut into very thin strips

Method:

- Mix the cornfour with a few tbsp of water and blend to a paste.
- Add the soy sauce, rice wine vinegar, pepper and chilli and mix together well
- Break the egg into a separate bowl and beat fairly well
- Heat the oil in a wok and fry the onion for 2 minutes
- Add the water, stock cube, mushroom and chicken and bring to the boil
- Cook for about 15 minutes, until the chicken is tender
- Pour the cornflour mixture into the soup and cook, stirring continuously, until it thickens
- As you are stirring, gradually drizzle in the egg to create threads of egg

Serve immediately.

We often add some frozen peas at the end to add a bit of colour.

...anyone for tennis?

We would like to invite you to our open afternoon on Sunday 3rd May 2009

- 2pm to 3pm - FREE kids' coaching session
- 3pm onwards - open. informal play for adults

FREE membership until end of May plus two FREE coaching sessions for new members....

Players of all standards are welcome at our club
☑ complete beginners ☑ 'rusty rackets' ☑ regular players
so please do join us for the afternoon

LONG MARSTON TENNIS CLUB

Our favourable membership rates give access to:

- two courts and a clubhouse in an idyllic setting
- regular friendly tournaments and club sessions
- junior and adult coaching
- six league teams (men's, ladies' and mixed)
- social membership of Long Marston Cricket Club
- above all a relaxed playing environment

Interested? Then either:
call Jane Dean
on 01296 661950 for more information

or just come along on the day.
The courts are on Cheddington Lane,
Long Marston, HP23 4QP

"Rose Cottage" Kennels

26 Mill Lane, Wingrave, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4PL

Discounts for early booking

Relax and enjoy your holiday knowing your pets are enjoying theirs.
Large individual accommodation. Huge exercise paddocks. Personal attention at all times.
Inspection welcome
Contact Dave or Rita Habel on
(01296) 681306

J B SERVICES

PATIOS AND DRIVES
BLOCK AND SHINGLE
DRAINAGE WORK
EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE
BRICKWORK

NO JOB TOO SMALL

TEL: 07799 398335
OR 01442 826648 (EVENINGS)

Established 200 years

K.Y.GREEN

Independent Funeral Directors
Monumental Masons

29 Cambridge Street,
Aylesbury, Bucks.
HP20 1RP

For personal attention and advice phone

01296 – 482041

24 Hour Emergency Service
Private Chapel of Rest
Marsh Road, Little Kimble.

Golden Charter
Pre-payment Plans Available

Please contact us, without obligation, for your free brochure

Vale Burner Services Ltd

Installation : Commissioning

Breakdown Repair : Service

OIL-FIRED BOILERS
&
RANGE COOKERS

OFTEC Registered Business

Tel/Fax 01844 299200

Mrs. Doolittles

PET SITTERS

Whilst you're at work, on holiday or during illness, we will come & visit your pet in your home.
All types of animals.
Member of the National Association of Registered Pet Sitters.
Fully insured.
Also holiday homes for rabbits, Guinea pigs, ferrets and other small animals.
Tel. 01442 822191 or 07967 019031.

BLOOMFIELD

WINDOWS & DOORS

Conservatories Hardwood UPVC
Aluminium Secondary Porches

10 Year Guarantee
FENSA Registered

Tel/Fax: 01442 824333 Mob: 07836 640448

SBH GENERAL MAINTENANCE

For all property repairs and maintenance

BUILDING • POINTING • GUTTERING
PAINTING • GLAZING • TILING
PATIOS • PATHS • FENCING
PLUMBING• BLOCKED DRAINS
FLAT PACK ASSEMBLEY
No matter how small the job
call for a free quote

Telephone 07739 985923 or 01442 382078

Sweetness and Lite

by Andy Ashwell

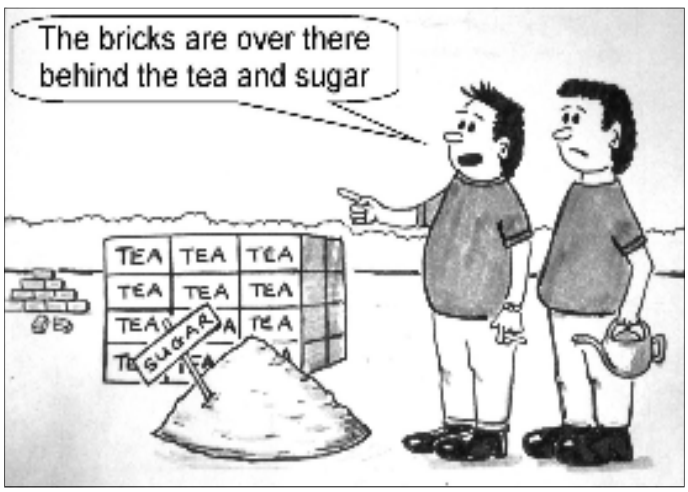
Florence has just turned three and is now the proud owner of a lovely pink bike with pink wheels, pink tassels and a pink seat. It seems odd to me that, in this age of political correctness, it is virtually impossible to buy a girl's bike that isn't pink or, at the very least, isn't extraordinarily 'girly'. Fortunately for us, and despite Mummy's best attempts to change her, Florence's three favourite colours are pink, pink and pink, so finding a 'suitable' bike wasn't very difficult.

To celebrate her coming of age, we decided to have a birthday party for Florence, but not at home because building work on our conservatory replacement is now, after numerous delays, well and truly under way. It's been a bit of a saga all along – even at the start we had problems with the three different planning officers who seemed to hold radically different views about what was acceptable. The first hated the conservatory, the second wanted to change everything we proposed and the third actually liked it - even though it was totally out of character, leaked badly and was quite obviously falling down.

At last most of the new brickwork is now finished and the large pile of sand that was on the drive has virtually all gone. The row of sandcastles that Florence made resides happily in the mortar six feet up the new kitchen wall. Although it's very satisfying to see the building work progress, it's also quite depressing having to cope with all the mess and mud that's obliged to go with it.

There is also red brick dust everywhere because, in order to match the existing brickwork, every other row has to be made with, individually cut, half-bricks. The resulting bright red mud and matching grass might look amusing but not when traipsed through the house by a little girl or her cat.

So, to save our house and carpets from further ruin, we booked the village hall for Florence's 3rd birthday party - a bargain at £30 and cheaper than having the carpets steam-cleaned. We tried unsuccessfully to get some suitable professional entertainment along, so it fell on me to brush down my magician's hat, brush up my magician's skills and attempt to entertain the kids myself.



Although my sleight of hand was rustier than a 1974 Alfasud, the kids didn't appear to notice and seemed to thoroughly enjoy my 'Tommy Cooperesque' bumblings. The heartless adults, on the other hand, were much less forgiving and seemed to thoroughly enjoy heckling me mercilessly throughout the show.

Sandcastles in Wilstone!

In a break from tradition (and because of Mummy's dentistry connections) we decided to avoid feeding the youngsters too much sugary, sweet junk food. Most of them seemed perfectly happy with the savoury alternatives and scoffed virtually everything on offer. In stark contrast, the adults saturated their teas and coffees with more sugar than a seasoned builder and tore into the hi-cal chocolate cake with more gusto than a wasp at a picnic.

When the singing started, the sugar-charged adults leapt up quicker than the surprised children. In fact, at one point there were more adult 'dingle-dangle scarecrows' than there were children. It's amazing what a little dose of hyperglycaemia can do!

We took the few remaining bits of food home and the builders were more than happy to accept a slice of cake each and another cup of tea to give them their final sugar-rush before packing up to go home.

So, as long as Tate and Lyle don't go bust, our extension should be finished before Florence's next birthday and her pink bike will stop clashing with the red mud and grass.

Illustration: Andy Ashwell.

New doors for old at Wilstone village hall

by Colin Davenport

Wilstone village hall has recently acquired a new set of front doors which now match the rest of the front of the building. Supplied by Bergson & Eaton of Aylesbury, the white coated aluminium doors replace the old wooden doors and wire reinforced glass windows which for some time have been badly cracked.

Helped by a donation from Tring Rural Parish Council, the rest of the cost was met from the hall's own funds. The village hall management committee's chairman, Colin Davenport, told Village News that it forms part of a programme of continual improvement of the village hall which over the past few years has seen all of the old metal windows replaced by white double glazed units, the installation of gas fired central heating, the construction of a rear patio with disabled access, the installation of a disabled toilet and recently a new set of special variable lighting for special functions.

This latest improvement has further enhanced the desirability of the hall for hiring for all types of functions.

WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS

in your natural pond (¼+ acres) ?

Algae *('*green water' or 'blanket weed'), *thick, black, smelly* ***mud*** or, is your pond 'dead' ? *We have the solutions,* with our ***aerators*** and ***Pond Healer Remedies.*** We can offer water-testing and algae identification services, and treatments for algae and thick black mud. **Dissolve organic mud** without expensive, messy dredging. 'Refreshes' water and reverses stagnation.

All our remedies are harmless to you, wildlife and the environment

We have an in-house scientist and informative website:www.spirexaquatec.com **Tel: 01527 821 601**

Enjoy your pond, *don't endure it !*

ASTROPE

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE AND FENCING CONTRACTOR
GARDENS, PUBLIC SPACES AND COMMERCIAL AREAS

GRASS CUTTING · HEDGE CUTTING - TREE SURGERY
FENCING - DECKING · LEAF CLEARANCE
WEED CONTROL · MULCHING - PRESSURE WASHING

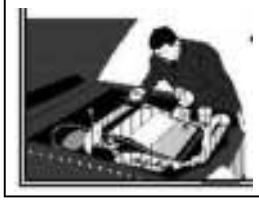
A Professional and Reliable Business Est. 1989.Fully Insured
Current Contracts in and around:
Long Marston · Berkhamsted · Felden · Tring · Chesham · Mentmore .
Wendover · Princes Risborough. New enquiries welcome.

Please call Glenn Ansell T: 01442 875155 M: 07951 126534

M.D.SPRING AUTOS

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

MOTs available on site
Welding - Tyres -
Wheels balanced -
Batteries - Exhausts -
Diagnostic Tuning -
Air Conditioning servicing and repairs



Phone: 01296 662280
New Fax: 01296 662347
Mobile: 07860 847328
Unit 9, Airfield Industrial Estate,
Cheddington Lane, Long Marston.

Domestikate Ltd
Ironing Service

FREE collection & delivery from your Home or Workplace with NEXT DAY return*

Your creased laundry will come back ironed, hung and wrapped for just £5 per Kg – with no minimum order.

Buy 1 get 1 free for all new customers**

Call **01442 540082** or **07527 026579**

Email **iron@domestikate.co.uk**

Fully insured. **www.domestikate.co.uk**

*Terms and conditions apply. *Within a 7 mile radius of Tring, Herts. ** One B.O.G.O.F. offer per household* . Registered number: 6379767.

Berkhamsted
Carpet Cleaning Ltd

carpets • oriental Rugs • upholstery

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

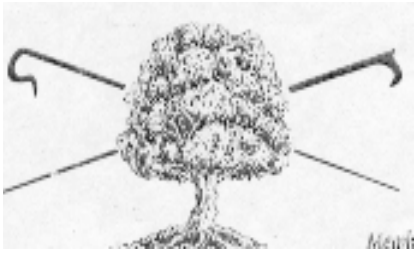
PO Box 903 Berkhamsted Herts HP4 3ZQ

Tel: 01442 876622 Mob: 0788 4058795

www.berkhamstedcarpetcleaning.co.uk

WALKING & WORKING STICKS

Handcrafted by John Evans
Member of The British Stickmakers Guild



Telephone 01442 822115
Wilstone, Hertfordshire
www.wilstonesticks.com

Chris Griffiths

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

Domestic, Commercial
& Industrial

For ALL your Electrical Requirements
No job too small

Telephone 01296 668257
Mobile 07768 222127

CURTIS CARPET SERVICES
Parsons Lane, Bierton
All types of carpeting supplied & fitted at excellent rates.
Adaptions - Domestic & Contract.
Phone David Curtis: 01296 482652
Mobile: 07773300054
Why Pay Shop Prices?

R. Fordham
Plumbing and Heating

*Central Heating systems installed and repaired

*Bathrooms planned and installed to a high standard

*All your plumbing and heating needs covered.

Mobiles: **07776 112846 & 07966 530420**
Office: **01296 660841**

Email: robertfordham2@msn.com

22 Tring Road, Long Marston, Tring, Herts. HP23 4QL

Total Home Maintenance

Plumbing, tiling, carpentry, painting and decorating, flat pack assembly etc.

Garden jobs such as patios, decking, fencing, shed assembly, children's play areas.

•Phone Alan on 07711 941 204
•Based in Long Marston
•All jobs considered

LOCAL CHIMNEY SWEEP

Professional Clean Efficient
Certificates Issued for House Insurance
Lucky Sweep for Weddings
Member of the Institute of Chimney Sweeps
Call Steve Jackson
Tring (01442) 890041
07947 757309

From the Rectory

by Rev'd Huw Bellis

Easter Letter

Some 2,000 years ago, just after their charismatic leader had been executed, a group of Palestinians had a profound experience. It galvanised them into a community – a community of the Resurrection. Moreover they were so inspired by their experience on that first Easter that they wanted to share their experience with others, and it was with such enthusiasm that within 60 years there were similar communities throughout the whole Mediterranean region. We may well have doubts or questions about the nature of the disciples' Resurrection experiences, but we cannot doubt the appeal of their communities of the Resurrection. Within 400 years the Roman Empire had become Christian, and today there are some 1¾ billion Christians throughout the world. In these communities it is the experience of encountering God, or more specifically the Risen Christ, which draws them together. So what then are the characteristics of these communities?

There are two main features. Firstly when we encounter God, we recognise the source of life and being. As a community we are led to affirm the good things in the world, we are brought into the fullness of life, and should seek to live life to the full.

Secondly, we also recognise our failings, and see the possibility to change. It is this which is the most important characteristic of these communities. Jesus said, "I am resurrection and I am life". To have life in its fullness we need resurrection. We need to bring new life into the parts of our lives where we have failings. None of us is perfect, yet when we encounter the Risen Christ, we have an image of how we might be, and we are invited to change our lives.

The characteristic of a community which has experienced this, is people supporting each other as they work towards changing their lives. Also it is a community which is united in striving to improve the wider world of which it is a part. A community based on the Risen Christ is a community of hope, hope for ourselves, hope for our neighbours and hope for the world.

I pray that you may encounter the Risen Christ this Eastertide, and experience His hope.

Fantastic news from All Saints

…A bequest to the Tring Team Parish has meant that we are able to replace the heaters in All Saints with heaters which are more suitable for the building. These will be quartz ray heaters which are designed to warm objects and people rather than trying to raise the ambient temperature of the building. The necessary permission has been granted by the Diocesan authorities and we are just waiting for the contractors to give us a start date for the work. It is hard to believe that All Saints will actually be warm, and everyone who has been to a service in winter will realise how vital this work is.

The duck story continues

The duck saga continues! The white duck (pictured) has recently taken up residence on the Gudgeon Stream. It's on its own for now, but who knows, a mate may arrive soon. Watch this space.

Picture: Peter Russell

TREGS

by Janet Painter

Pond clearing at Long Marston

On a glorious sunny Saturday morning in late February, a small but enthusiastic group of parents of children of Long Marston school, plus a couple of members of Tring Rural Environment Group (TREGS), gathered at Long Marston School. The aim of the working party was to blitz the overgrowth rapidly engulfing the surroundings of the school pond and enable it to once again be used for school activities. Guidance, expertise and equipment (including a small boat!) were provided by Mark Carter of Hertfordshire County Council's Countryside Management Services. The party quickly set to work, with some intrepid mariners casting off for deep water, and others donning waders to paddle in the 'shallows' to clear fallen branches. Others grabbed loppers, shears, rakes, and so on, and within a couple of hours of hard, and sometimes wet, graft, an amazing amount had been achieved, and the pond was once again visible and accessible from the school. The morning was rounded off with the planting of a sapling black poplar. Many thanks to all the volunteers, and to Mark for his valuable contributions (not to mention welcome refreshments).

More work needs to be done. The depth of the water prevented repair of the existing dipping platforms; the brash needs to be burnt and some of the silt dredged. However, for now the frogs and newts have woken up and begun their spring courtship, and the pond will be left in peace until next year.

Watch this space for upcoming projects. We need your help!

Local names and numbers

Herts Police non-emergency number 0845 33 00 222
Local Police Officers (in emergency dial '999')
PC Brian Rutt 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
Rachel Mead 01442 823570
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 851200
Vicar
Rev'd Joanne Wetherall
Churchwardens
Long Marston All Saints:
Neil Brown 01442 825956
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 668112
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

Member of Parliament (House of Commons)
David Gauke 020 7219 4459
Or to make an appointment call 01923 771781

Pet Dog Training
Claudia Cox 01296 668752
Evelyn Chapman 01908 502272
Whitchurch Morris Men
Richard Moorhouse 01494 722259
Wilstone Village Hall
Bookings:Tony Short 01442 823096
Wilstone Toddlers
Jane Cole 01442 828272
Women's Institute
Pam Edmonds 01296 661370
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 May will be:
Colin Davenport
01442 890713
editorwlmp@yahoo.com

Our advertising managers:
Alison & Matthew White
01296 660402
villagenewsadvertising@googlemail.com

Deadline for next issue is Thursday 16th April
for the May edition, published on 1st May 2009.

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

Review: "In Town Tonight" (Martyn James Productions)

Great magic in a sparkling show

Few knew what to expect when a professional touring company booked Wilstone village hall for a one night performance in February. No one can remember a professional show ever being staged at this venue, even though the village is well known for its entertainment programme organised by the village hall committee. This possibly accounts for the untypically modest turnout to see what proved to be a great two-hour show and a real bargain for the ticket price of only £5 (and £3 for kids!).

The magic acts were fantastic. This is a small venue which we all know well. The magic was performed on the floor in front of the stage within feet of the audience. We *know* there are no trapdoors in the floor or secret compartments in the walls. The lady was made to disappear from the box, and when it was opened we could see right through it to the stage behind. She really was gone. Brilliant; and magic indeed. Martyn James is an illusionist of some considerable talent and he kept an audience of all ages entertained throughout the evening. Our picture shows a spectacular set where the lady was removed from a cylinder of barbed wire - and put back again. Dancing girls, musical entertainment from large puppets and comedy were also part of the show. Everyone I spoke to afterwards said they had enjoyed it. Children and young people present from ages 6 to 16 all told me they had a good time, and the adults too.

How does she get out of this barbed entanglement? (Picture: Martyn James Productions)

Mr James keeps the cost of touring down by performing many rôles himself, including selling tickets, serving the interval drinks and pressing the buttons for sound and lights. But the result was an energetic and very entertaining evening, and one of the few local evening events which is for children too. We need things which appeal to young people and this show is a great example. Let's hope "In Town Tonight" might visit us again. If it does, go and see it. Recommended for age 6 upwards and adults too. Excellent value for money. *PB.*

Leonard Wager

It is with sadness that we report the death of Mr Len Wager, a veteran of WW2. Mr Wager was pictured on the front page of our December edition attending the Remembrance service at St. Cross and the war memorial. His daughter Melanie Bayer, who lives in Long Marston, said that he died of an aneurism on 4th March, age 85.

From 1939 he served in the Royal Navy, initially guarding convoys on the Atlantic run, and later on ships supporting the D-Day landings, the desert campaigns in North Africa and the invasion of Italy.

Leonard Wager, 1923 - 2009

Melanie tells us that he was pleased to be featured on the cover of *Village News*, and he sent copies to family members in America. It was great to have the opportunity to meet him in preparing the December article.

News from All Saints

A warmer Church is on the horizon. Contractors should be installing our new heaters in the not too distant future, so if you have not visited us for some time because of the temperature we hope that it will not be long before you come again. Please see the service rota, in this magazine, for all our services over Easter. We would like to see as many families as possible on Easter Day – when there will be a special something for the children!

As always our thoughts have to turn to fundraising. We are running a hoopla at the Aldbury May Fair (Monday 4th May) and would appreciate donations of prizes for both adults and children. Toys, bottles, cans, sweets and books etc would be most welcome.

Marsworth Steam Rally is on 14th June; we are supplying refreshments again – donations of cakes would be most welcome.

Any offers of help please for either of these events to Angus Munday on 01296 660303 or Carole Harrison on 01296 668526.

Thank you.

Sudoku solution No38

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

The Three Musketeers! (OK the three Spaniels!!)

It was a proud day for three of the four legged members of our community and their owners when they were part of the Kennel Club's Good Citizen Dog Scheme (GCDS) demonstration at Crufts this year.

The three puppies (all siblings) are part of the Long Marston Dog Training Club that had been invited to demonstrate the requirements of the Puppy Foundation Assessment. The assessment is a means of training owners to train their puppies (not the puppies training their owners!

During the day's demonstrations the 12 areas of control the course covers were shown. These included responsibility and care (poop scooping and general handling to check the puppies' health), socialisation, control (including recall and sitting) and food manners (not snatching treats etc) which can be difficult as spaniels are very, very food motivated. The puppies seemed to be completely unfazed by having to enter a ring and show off in front of the crowds (I think the owners were slightly more stressed) and they performed brilliantly.

When taking them out and about we were often stopped to be asked what sort of dogs they were (black and tan cocker spaniels), how old they were (6 months) and most importantly, could they stroke them! All the dogs at Crufts have their own little open fronted pens in which they can relax away from the majority of the public, and being puppies we were mindful that rest would be required. The puppies had other ideas – with all the other dogs, the people and the shopping(!), rest really wasn't top of their agenda – they wanted to be nosey and investigate everything.

From left to right : Evelyn Chapman (dog trainer), Ann Corcoran with Bruce, Ian Magowan with Gemma and Jill Walker with Lily.

All the owners would thank Evelyn for selecting us to go to Crufts and also our band of supporters who came and enjoyed part of the day with us.

Village View

by John Painter

Frogs in Springtime, New Road, Wilstone

One if the first signs of spring—lots of frog spawn in the village pond. A similar picture was taken on exactly the same day in 2007 showing that the long cold spell in February has not delayed the frogs from taking part in their usual springtime activities.