Village News: Wilstone, Long Marston, Puttenham, Astrope

April 2013

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

Alien craft crash lands in village

No life-forms found on board

MYSTERY surrounds the circumstances of how a battered space shuttle vehicle, similar to those shown in the fictional Star Wars films, crash landed in Tring Road in Wilstone. Police called to the incident closed the road and vacated nearby houses, but upon closer inspection, the craft was found to be devoid of any form of life. 'All that has been found,' said PC Enterprise, 'was a log with a star date of June 9th'. What is significant about that date? What is more of concern is what has happened to the occupants? They must be in or around the village somewhere.

Villagers are warned not to approach them and to be vigilant as the date of June 9th approaches. Clearly this is a warning of impending events!'

Picture: AN.Alien

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

ST CROSS CHURCH
WILSTONE
Nr Tring

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS AND CRAFTS

4th,5th,6th MAY 2013

10.00AM—5.00PM

REFRESHMENTS AND CRAFTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

RAISING FUNDS FOR NEW LIGHTING,WIRING AND PEW CUSHIONS

Village News

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Third time out !

My third edition of Village News is before your eyes and apologies for only a few Editor's words at this point, but I have only just been released from the grips of my unearthly captors! (still just in time to complete the edition though Phil!) - A strange 'not of this planet' force seems to have descended upon the area. Hopefully, you will find articles within can help to solve the mystery-or not!.

Deadline for items for our next issue is Thursday 18th April 2013.

Village News is written, edited, produced and distributed entirely by local volunteers. Only the final printing is done by a commercial company. We aim to be local, interesting, informative, fun and a good read.
Let us know if we are not!

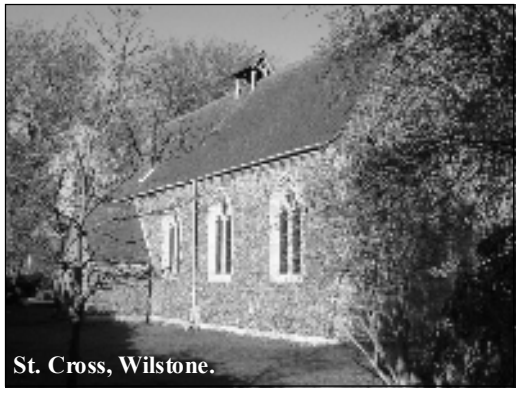
Printed by ***Lonsdale Direct Solutions***
Denington Estate, Wellingborough, NN8 2RA. 01933 228855.

Church services

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

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

7 April	
10.00am	All Saints Morning Prayer
6.00pm	St Cross Evening Prayer
14 April	
8.15am	St Mary's Holy Communion
10.00am	All Saints Holy Communion
6.00pm	St Cross Evening Prayer
6.00pm	All Saints Evening Prayer
16 April	**(Monday)**
2.00pm	All Saints Toddler Worship
21 April	
10.00am	St Cross Holy Communion
10.00am	All Saints Morning Prayer
28 April	
10.00am	All Saints Holy Communion and Sunday Club
3.30pm	St Mary's Evensong


St. Cross, Wilstone.

Wilstone Village Hall Management Committee

Hereby give public notice of
Annual General Meeting
To be held on Monday 13 May 2013 at 8.00 pm
at
St Cross Church, Wilstone

All are invited and new members are welcome

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...

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)
The public are welcome to attend these meetings.
Wednesday 17 April, Puttenham Cecilia Hall.
Wednesday 15 May Long Marston village hall+

Easter Monday 1st April
Easter egg hunt, Wilstone Church 10.30am prompt.

Saturday 6 April
Jumble Sale at Cecilia Hall, 2pm.

Monday 8 April
'Flowers & Fun' with Neil Gurney at the Red Cross Hall, Tring. 7.30pm.

Friday 12th April
Charity football match, LM football ground, KO 6pm

Saturday 20th April
Plant Sale Mentmore Village Green 12-4pm

Sunday 21 April
Long Marston Tennis Club Open Afternoon from 2pm.

Tuesday 23 April
Social afternoon at All Saints, 2pm.

Saturday 4th May to Monday 6th May
Festival of Flowers and Crafts. St Cross, Wilstone 10am - 5pm.

Wednesday 1 May
May Day Madrigals. 6am at St Mary's Churchyard, Puttenham. Followed at 6.30am by breakfast at Cecilia Hall.

Saturday 11 May
Tea and Jazz. 2.30pm, Cecilia Hall, Puttenham.

Saturday 25th to Monday 27th May
Mentmore Arts Festival

Wednesday 5 June
County cricket at Long Marston CC. 12 noon start.
MCCA Unicorns 'A' v Essex 11 (ECB Trophy competition)

Friday 7 June
Cecila Tea Rooms. 3pm, Cecilia Hall. TBC.

Sunday 9 June
Wilstone village fete.

Saturday 15 June
Midsummer Picnic, recreation ground behind Victory hall.

Sunday 16th June
Marsworth steam and classic vehicle rally 11am-5pm

Tuesday 25 June
Herts v Surrey (Spitfire 60+ County Championship Central division) 1300 start

Saturday 3rd August
Long Marston Village Show

Sunday 11 August
St. Mary's Festival. 2.30pm, St. Mary's/Cecilia Hall.

Sunday 18, Monday19, Tuesday 20 August
Herts v Bucks (Minor Counties Championship) 11am start on all days.

Saturday 31 August
Jumble Sale. 2pm Cecilia Hall.

Friday 6 September
Cecilia Tea Rooms. 3pm, Cecilia Hall. TBC.

Saturday 5 October
October Supper. 7.30pm, Cecilia Hall.

Tuesday 17 December
Carols round the tree on LM village green 7pm.

Mentmore Village Plant Sale

THIS year the Mentmore Village Green Plant Sale will be held on Saturday 20th April 12 - 4pm
Professional and amateur growers supplying a wide variety and choice of plants.

Bar-b-cue, Teas and cakes. A fabulous location and an enjoyable day. Contact tel: 07707 218719 or *www.mentmore.org.uk*

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

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

Times for mobile library Route 72

Thursdays, fortnightly: 7th and 21st March 2013.

Tringford (Piggeries Pine)	**11.00 to 11.20**
Wilstone (The Half Moon)	**11.25 to 11.55**
Astrope (Astrope Lane)	**12.50 to 13.15**
Puttenham (Church Lane)	**13.20 to 13.45**
Long Marston (Queen's Head)	**14.00 to 15.15**

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

CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

residents from the **PUB** side of the road

V

residents from the **SCHOOL** side of the road

come and cheer your side on,
and raise money for your village!

Friday 12th April 2013
kick off 6pm

at the Long Marston Football Pitch and Village Hall
Beer / Tea / Coffee / Juice and locally made Cakes
plus The Vicars BBQ special - Bangers and Burgers
Food and Drink available from 5.30pm
Half Time Penalty Shoot-Out for the Kids
Play area and games for younger children
Cup presentation to winning team
celebrations at the Queens Head after the match

All proceeds will be divided between Village School, Pre-School, Church, Village Hall and Village Sports Clubs

Dacorum Communities For Learning

Tring Internet Café

Access computers and the internet at Tring Community Centre Friday 10:30am – 12:30pm

The Internet Café is run by volunteers who will help you set up an email account and help you use it to keep in touch with your family and friends. Help you to explore the internet - to shop and compare prices book travel tickets or holidays, research tourist information for your destination,. You can also check bus and train timetables, research your family tree, use local websites to find out what's on in your area or read regional online newspapers.

They also can help you use Microsoft packages to produce letters, posters, newsletters, CVs, labesl, spreadsheets and more. Show you how to use social networking sites, like Friends Reunited, Forces Reunited, Facebook etc. Also help with digital photographs.

FREE for the first hour and £1. thereafter with a small charge for tea, coffee or printing.

Contact Tring Community Centre on 01442 890192

MARSWORTH 15th June

STEAM & CLASSIC Vehicle Rally

Historic Steam Engines, Agricultural, Classic Cars, Bikes and Trucks

Sunday 16th June 11am-5pm

Treat Dad to a fun day out on Fathers Day!

Startop Farm, Marsworth, HP23 4LL

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Ice Cream
Popcorn
Candy Floss
Piggys Fish & Chips
Teas, Snacks and homemade Treats
Beer tent

Family entertainment
Stalls galore!
Steam Engine Model Chain
Dog agility
Live music
and much more!

and just for the kids
Face painting
Tring Fire Engine
Steam Engine rides
Bouncy Castle and slide
Kiddies Fair Ground fun
and much more!

FREE Shuttle Bus to and from Tring
Pick-up and drop-off outside the Rose & Crown on the hour-every hour
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Win a prize
In our entrance ticket
FREE raffle draw!

Adults £4.00
Children £2.00

All proceeds go to local charities

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PITSTONE MEMORIAL HALL
Wednesday 7.30 pm

07900 987230
www.jazzercise-uk.com
www.facebook.com/JazzerciseBucksBedsHerts

What's on.....continued

Monday 8th April

at 7.30 p.m.

Red Cross Hall Tring

A light hearted evening of

Flower Arranging

with

Neil Gurney

£8 including refreshments *Tickets Only!*

From Wilstone Village Shop
or Pam Cockerill 01442 824394
or Pam Russell 01442 826533

Proceeds to 'The Friends of St. Cross Wilstone'

Tambourine Jerk

Live @ Wilstone Village Hall
Sat 1st June 2013
7.30pm-11pm

Tickets can be purchased from 1st May 2013 from Wilstone Village shop priced @ £7.00

Tambourine Jerk will be back rocking the village hall with 40 of the best pop and rock songs from the last six decades of music. Their set will take you on a sonic journey from fifties Rock 'n' Roll right through to 21st Century pop classics. From The Beatles to Bowie, The Rolling Stones to Snow Patrol, Neil Diamond to the Kings of Leon. There is something for everyone from disillusioned teenagers to silver surfers!

There will be a licensed bar on the night.

EASTER EGG HUNT
EASTER MONDAY
1st APRIL 2013
WILSTONE CHURCH
10.30am PROMPT START
JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND HOT CROSS BUNS TOO!

Festival of Flowers and Crafts Wilstone
4th, 5th & 6th May

If you would like to sponsor a flower arrangement, could we please have your donation and, if desired, your dedication by the end of March please

Contact : Pam Cockerill 01442 824394

Village News: Holiday Relief needed for our Distribution Manager

We need a volunteer to be a holiday relief once or twice a year when the distribution manager is away. The job is to bundle up copies of Village News and get them to our distributors. This does not take long, but a car is necessary. Please call Phil Buchi, 01296 661339, if you can assist. It would help the team a great deal.

Long Marston Tennis Club

Open Afternoon

Sunday 21 April from 2pm

Free coaching for juniors from 2pm

Tennis and tea from 3pm

Two well maintained tennis courts and a delightful clubhouse in a beautiful rural setting
Players of all ages and abilities
Coaching available with FREE introductory sessions
Club sessions every Saturday morning
Includes social membership of the Cricket Club

For further information please contact Margaret Kelland on 01296 668314 or simply come along on the day.
www.longmarstontennisclub.co.uk

Cheddington Lane

Long Marston

Cheddington Bowls Club News

2012 was wet, but even rain could not kill the fun and games at your local Cheddington Bowls Club located at The Recreation Ground in Cheddington High Street.
League and Cup success was on a par with last years. Celebrations included Pete Rowling (Leighton Buzzard) representing the County at the National Championships held in Worthing, and a great victory over the very strong Chesham Club. Len Davis (Marsworth) won the Masters Trophy. David Chapman (Tring) and Sue Dean (Marsworth) were runners up in a Mixed Pairs, whilst Richard Jacob (Pitstone) was Match Player of the Year.

2012 was fun. Ours is a friendly and social Club. Friday evenings were a great success welcoming newcomers to ***Give Bowls a Go*** with a bite to eat and a drink from the bar. On Tuesday afternoons it was tea and biscuits. The famed Molnar BBQs, Race Night, Beetle Drive, Bingo, Christmas Party and Short Mat Monday evening's tasty treats all went down well.

We are especially appreciative of Geof Roberts (Cheddington) for his devotion to and the plaudits received for running our Men's Gala so successfully over many years; 2012 being his last. We too are in debt to our great team of grounds men, which includes Dave Finch (Cheddington), Dave Skip (Pitstone**)** and Len Davis (Marsworth). The team work through the year; mowing two or three times a week, top dressing to level, repairing boundary ditches etc. to produce a green that meets the highest standards and is a joy to the eye – you should come and see.

2013 Promises more. Time for you to ***Give Bowls a Go*****!** A Tuesday afternoon or Friday evening in May would be an ideal time to start. Or come and enjoy a tea or drink from the bar and watch a game or two. Bowls is a truly great game to play. You will make new friends, be exercising without really noticing it and, importantly, you will be having fun in the fresh air. I look forward to meeting you at the Club.

Chairman of Cheddington Bowls Club: Tony Duke 01525 220644

Wilstone

Community Shop

Easter Opening Times

Good Friday:	7.30am - 1pm
Easter Saturday	7.30am - 1pm
Easter Sunday:	9am - midday
Easter Monday:	CLOSED

Tel: 01442 891157 during opening hours.
www.wilstoney.villageshop.org.co.uk and Facebook
order by email now available

Friends of Tring Reservoirs Events 2013

Sunday 7 April 10am – 2.30pm Volunteer day with Hemel Hempstead Conservation Volunteers.
We will be repairing the fence along the footpath behind Tringford reservoir. Tel 01296 661831

Friday 19 April 7.30pm 'Red Kites in the Chilterns'.
AGM followed by drinks and nibbles.Then a fascinating talk on Red Kites in the Chilterns by Ann & Phil Farrer. Wilstone Village Hall. Members and non-members welcome. Free.

Monday 6 May - Mayday Aldbury Fair 10am – 3pm.
We have a stand and display. We look forward to meeting members and there will be a colouring activity for children.

Saturday 29 June Wildflower survey 2pm – 5pm.
Survey by Herts flower expert, Trevor James, target species is Green-flowered Helleborine. Conditions are likely to be wet & muddy. Limited places, booking essential.Call Lynne for further details 01296 661831

Sunday 7 July Bird ringing Wilstone Reservoir 8–10am
Come and find out how and why birds are ringed with Tring Ringing Group. Weather permitting. Limited places, booking essential. Phone Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust (HMWT) to book your place 01727 858901

Saturday - Sunday 10-11 August
National Moth weekend. We will be holding a moth trap over this weekend. Call Lynne 01296 661831 for more information.

Give Bowls a Go!

Open sessions for you

Tuesdays at 2pm
Fridays at 6pm
May to September

CHEDDINGTON BOWLS CLUB

BOWLS ENGLAND

CHEDDINGTON BOWLS CLUB, your friendly local Club, is for everybody – all ages: beginners to experts.

Our Open sessions are an ideal opportunity to get to know bowls and refine your skills. Come with trainers or flat soled shoes. We will supply the rest.

Cheddington Bowls Club, The Recreation Ground, High St.
Call: Nigel on 01442 874 679 or Sue on 01296 668 772

Sponsored by
The Will Trusts & Probate Practice
01525 220644

LAUNCHING OUR 2013 FETE WEEKEND *with a village party!*

Saturday June 8th, from 6pm

You will be exterminated at 10pm

Don't miss our TV celebrity star villain. Who's that?

TO help get this year's space-themed Sunday fete to take off with a bang, the fete committee would like to invite all villagers and helpers alike to our pre-fete community party, in the village hall & recreation ground.
Our space cadet will mix some sci-fi music, there will be a subsidised bar, and a fish and chip supper with scrummy desserts, all for £5 a head. Children's portions will be available.
So, please come and just enjoy the company of friends and neighbours.
You will require tickets in advance so we know what numbers to expect. Tickets are now on sale at the village shop, £5 for adults and £3.50 for children (who will be served a children's portion supper). If you would like to help, contributions of desserts would be welcome.
If you need any further information, call Jill Walker on 07796 804044 or email jillmarywalker@btinternet.com

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Wilstone

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From our reporter at the Parish Council meeting

Annual report

Cllr. Mike Tomlinson, Chairman of the Parish Council, presented his annual report to the Parish Meeting which preceded the normal monthly meeting. He mentioned the action taken this year to improve service and reduce costs by taking over the grass verge cutting from the County, and by getting a better deal on insurance cover. Total expenditure for the year was within budget. The Parish Council had requested a budget increase for 2013/2014 of 1.47% (the Parish Precept) to maintain services at the current level. Dacorum had now agreed to this. The full text of his report is reproduced elsewhere.

More speed checks

Local police officers PC Steve Hunneysett and PCSO Lee Clements attended the meeting to give a crime report. The only recent incidents were both at the cricket club, where there had been damage to the Astroturf, and theft of fuel oil. Councillors pressed for more police action on speeding and dangerous parking in the villages. More speed checks were promised as part of Herts Police continuing programme.

Wear and tear

Lower speeds would in any case seem advisable given the number of pot holes in our local roads. Too numerous to mention here (you know where they are) they do occupy a lot of Parish Councillors' time, reporting, re-reporting, writing, phoning and cajoling the highways authorities. The road through Gubblecote is now in need of complete re-surfacing, and Councillors also highlighted other danger spots in the parish.

Green Belt review

Dacorum Borough Council is undertaking a review of the "Green Belt" areas of the borough, and has asked Parish Councils if they wish to raise any issues. Apparently it is possible to seek changes to the existing Green Belt if it was felt locally that there were anomalies or errors that should be corrected, or if parts of it were no longer considered appropriate. Parish Councillors decided that they did not wish to seek any changes.

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www.TheChapelRoom.co.uk

or call on 01442 890933

A bigger bid?

Cllr. Tomlinson suggested that widening the scope of an application to the National Lottery for funds to improve the Long Marston village hall might increase its chances of success. Experience in making applications indicated that demonstrating the benefits to the wider community was vital for success. Some things were just too small to stand a chance of getting funding. So he suggested, as an example, that creating a major project for the hall to improve several aspects - the changing rooms, the car park and the entrance roadway - would be of greater benefit to the community than the individual components and fare better in the grant application process. This will be discussed further - comments and suggestions are welcome.

Council comes forward

After many years of holding Parish Council meetings on the third Wednesday of the month, starting in June this year meetings will advance to the first Wednesday of the month. The change is being made so that the Parish Council meetings clash with fewer of the meetings held by Dacorum and Hertfordshire. The meeting date clashes have in the past prevented our representatives on the Borough and County Councils attending TRPC meetings - and that has proved a missed opportunity to see them face to face and get their help with local issues. We can look forward to seeing them more often from June. There is still a vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

Your Parish Councillors are:
Mr Michael Tomlinson (Chairman) 01296 661 311
Mr Chris Griffiths 01296 668 257
Mr Alan Winfield 01296 668 977
Mr Nick Murrell 01296 668 190
Mrs Jill Finlan 01296 661 716
Mrs Olli Wheeler-Cornell 01296 662207
Mr Richard Briant 01442 825674
One 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

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

Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 73 Easy

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

This one should be easy and you will have no trouble getting the bottom section after that it down to you!

solution on back page

Beavers Colony far from extinct

by Maura Patterson

FOLLOWING the last report of Jo Woodbridge stepping down as Beaver leader after 9 years, much has happened in the local colony. Red Kite (Sarah Hodgson) has swooped in and saved the colony, ably supported by Kingfisher (Andrea Goodliffe) and Wren (Maura Patterson).

The Beavers have been very busy making bird feeders, decorating biscuits and obtaining their Music badge by learning new songs and having a visit from a Wilstone musician. They are also looking forward to a visit from the RAF after Easter as part of their Air Activities badge.

On February 25th, seven new Beavers were invested into the colony, making their promise to become good Beavers, swelling the colony's numbers.

Wilstone and Long Marston Beavers meet on a Monday evening in Wilstone village hall from 5-45pm to 6-45pm, for more information please call Maura on 07944 355313.

Almshouses in Tring

FROM time to time, one and two bedroom bungalows become available to let, for people who currently live in Aldbury, Long Marston, Marsworth, Pitstone, Puttenham, Tring, Wigginton or Wilstone. Applicants, one of whom must be aged 55 or over, must not own their own home or have savings in excess of £16,000. The average weekly maintenance contribution (equivalent to "rent" for housing benefit purposes) is £80 for a one bedroom property and £90 for a two bedroom property. If you would like to be considered for the Waiting List, please telephone the Secretary to the Trustees, on 01442 827913 (weekday office hours only), for an application form.

Tring Charities
(Registered Charity No. 207805)

Letter to Editor

DEAR Editor

In reply to the letter submitted last month by 'Annoyed Parent', we, as two regular and responsible dog owners would like to dispute the claim that "the field is a minefield" due to dog poo.
Not only do we ALWAYS clear up after our dogs, but can honestly state that its rare to come across poo that hasn't been picked up. We readily accept that there are occasionally exceptions, and these negligent dog owners spoil it for the rest of us. We therefore, feel that perhaps Annoyed Parent was unfortunate to have encountered one of these incidents, but feel it is a gross exaggeration to claim that the recreation ground is awash.

"Two Responsible Dog Owners"

Aliens and Outer Space Art Competition

THE weather is terrible; the rain is hurtling down and there are still threats of further snow and rain for the coming week. The kids are bored – how can you keep them occupied? Well one thing they can do is work on an entry for the Children's Art Competition which will be held at the Wilstone Fete on 9 June! If you have managed to miss it elsewhere in the magazine, this year's theme is '*aliens and outer space*' and we are looking for either a painting/drawing or a model. There will be three age groups – 7 and under, 11 and under and 16 and under. When you have finished your entry you can either bring it to the Village Hall on the morning of the Fete (9 June) or you can drop it in to Diana at 36a Tring Road Wilstone (near the shop). It is free to enter and you could win a prize that is out of this world!

Tring Parish Men's Society: Tring Together

by Heather Simms

HEATHER is the Membership Manager for Tring Together. You probably know Vivianne Child who is the Enterprise Manager, and Mel Matthews is the Events Manager.
Almost certainly you have been to the Christmas Festival, Spring Fayre or Summer Carnival. Last year Tring Together also organised the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Olympic celebrations in Tring.
Tring Together work with three groups:-
residents, associations and businesses.
To begin with the latter Business Mart was set up three years ago for networking between local businesses.
They have breakfast meetings with a speaker from the local community, and evening training events. Members are encouraged to pay £60 per annum, rather than pay as you come, as having a known income helps planning.
The associations group meet at the Red Cross Hall, during afternoons, for local clubs and organisations to send representatives. Tring in Transition and FOTCH are among the organisations which belong to it. As with the Business Mart it is open to everyone. It attracts around thirty people, and has speakers. A recent talk was on social inclusion.
The residents group is potentially the largest as it covers everyone in Tring, but is intangible, and just a small group.
Heather described how the Christmas Festival is organised, with planning for the next as soon as one finishes. It involves working with the police, first aid, Lions and Cadets. Commercial stall holders are charged £45 and charities £25. As a not-for-profit organisation it has to break even, and is applying for charitable status. Last year around 9000 people attended the event.
For the Carnival, Tring Together works with Tring Brewery. It is hoped that a procession with floats may be re-introduced, but there are health and safety issues to be resolved.
Tring is fortunate with the large and varied number of its community organisations, and variety of local businesses, and with Tring Together which enables them to work together for the benefit of all.

Allotment News - March

by Patricia Clare

WELL I didn't think that there would be much to report this month, so I was going to remind us of why we have these quiet seasons, and of the Greek Myth of Persephone, but thank goodness things are looking up on the Allotment front at last.
The week after my last entry, things suddenly took a turn for the better, but not much as the snow, rain, cold and soggy thick muddy soil has certainly kept most of us away, but thank goodness I saw several members actively manuring and digging their plots when the Sun 'did' decide to give us a break in the weather, and I have been told that some of us have been planting early vegetables. My Broad Beans I'm afraid, are in the Greenhouse rather than directly in the ground this year, as I can't walk on the soil as yet.
I certainly know that Stan has been down there by the amount of Mud traipsing along the garden path.
The tree hanging over Vince's plot, has thank goodness, at last, been lopped so it is now safer, so hopefully the Sun will now be able get to more plots this year, at least until the tree grows to the same proportions again in a few years time.
I understand that the Poplars along the footpath, which at the moment is a mud path, are also going to be lopped some time in the future. I guess that will be once the ground has dried up. Sad for the Crows that use it to nest in each year, but they really DO need tidying up to preserve them.
I am led to believe that there is only half a plot left for rent now should anybody be interested.
Lets hope that there will be more to talk about next month and that the weather greatly improves.
I know that I shouldn't keep repeating myself as far as the water from the Well is concerned, but as we have had such a wet Winter we could be due for a long dry Summer, SO please conserve the Well water best possible to help eke it out for all.

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Goatee Bard *by Andy Ashwell*

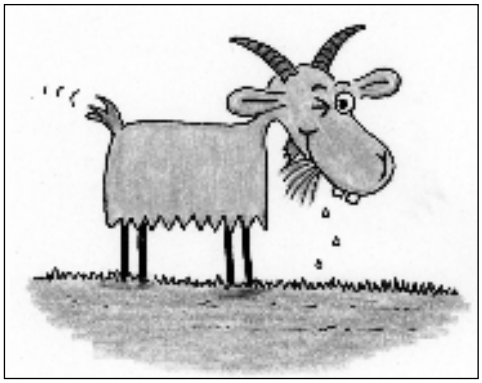
WHEN Florence was in her formative years I used to take her for walks around the local area in a backpack. Regular readers of this magazine might remember that it all ended in tears – mine, not hers – when my back went due to her increasing size and weight. One of our regular routes used to pass by the fields at the bottom of our garden. In one of the fields there were four goats: two white and two light-brown. The two light-brown ones were the friendliest; the biggest and most mischievous one was called Steve.

Steve

Apparently Steve and his mates were, and possibly still are, film stars: rumour has it that one or more of them have appeared in at least one of the Harry Potter films. Florence liked Steve the best because he always came over to see us whenever we walked past his field.

Steve was quite an athlete and often used to jump out of the field despite it being surrounded by barbed wire. On more than one occasion we had to coax him back into the field with a carrot. Even when an electric fence was put up he still managed to get out to eat the better grass in the next field.

These walks with Florence, along with Steve's antics, inspired me to write a short story for her which I then illustrated and turned into a book. I called it "Gary the Hungry Goat" so that Steve wouldn't get any of the royalties. So when, two years later, the school asked for parents to donate any spare books for the school library, I couldn't resist the opportunity to give them a few of the unsold copies to launch myself onto the glittering road to superstardom.



Gary

As anticipated, a few days later I got the call. Mrs Stevenson, Florence's teacher, had booked me for my first gig: World Book Day on the 7th of March. I was to be the star attraction – well, she didn't quite put it like that, but I could see in her eyes that that was what she meant. She had asked me to read *my* book to the whole of Florence's class. However, a few days later with my head still in the clouds, Mrs Stevenson gave me the greatest news of my literary career: the "Gary the Goat" book-tour had been extended to include *all* five classes in the school. This was it, my big chance – I was, at long last, going to be famous!

I got my hair cut, I ironed my trousers, I darned the hole in my best jumper (Anna refused to have anything to do with it), and I stood in front of the mirror and practised looking like a famous author.

On the Big Day I walked to the school. A big limo seemed a little over-the-top and the lollypop lady wouldn't have allowed it to park in front of the school anyway. I arrived in good time for my first performance and was ushered straight into the main hall where the World Book Day fancy-dress competition was in full swing. All the teachers were in costume and I felt a little underdressed, even in my crisply-creased trousers and newly-darned jumper.

Once the winners had been decided and the prizes dished out by a teacher dressed in a brown-paper bag, I was led through to Class 1 where an excited audience awaited me.

"Good morning everybody," I said, cheerily. But before I had time to draw breath the whole class auto-chorused: "Good morning Mr Ashwell". Recovering my composure I carried on with my rehearsed schpiel about Steve the goat and my walks with Florence. I then read them my book. They seemed to like the pictures that I displayed on the electronic whiteboard and one or two of them laughed at the funny voices that I used. But despite my heroic, thespian efforts, I finished to a rousing silence. It wasn't until I announced that I had finished and had put up a picture with "THE END" written on it in large, bold lettering, that they eventually applauded. Well, it wasn't quite the fanatical, sycophantic reception that I had anticipated but, nonetheless, it was an encouraging start.

Class 2 were even more excited. That was probably because Florence was there and most of the children knew who I was. I hammed it up a bit more which they seemed to like and when I got to the bit where I had to impersonate Florence, I had them rolling in the aisles. After that, as my confidence grew, things just got better and better: my voices got sillier, my acting got worse and in one class a boy even asked where he could buy a copy of the book[1]. Brilliant!

All in all I had a marvellous time and all the children were great. They listened intently, laughed at the right places and asked plenty of probing questions. The experience has inspired me to get on with my next book and to get it ready in time for my 2014 world-tour. Hopefully I won't become too aloof and forget my roots and will still be able to find time to fit in a gig at Long Marston school.

Recipe of the month

by Anna Ashwell

Easter Simnel Cake

I found this recipe when I was looking to make a fruit-cake a couple of years ago. The original Mary Berry recipe suggests adding a marzipan topping along with 11 marzipan balls to represent the apostles (excluding Judas). I find this makes the whole affair a tad too sweet so I limit the marzipan experience to the filling only.

Ingredients:

- 225g (8oz) soft margarine
- 225g (8oz) light muscovado or light brown sugar
- 225g (8oz) self-raising flour
- 225g (8oz) sultanas
- 150g (6oz) currants
- 100g (4oz) glacé cherries, quartered
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoons mixed spice
- 200g marzipan

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 150ºC/300ºF. Grease and line the base and sides of an 8in (20cm), deep, round cake tin with greaseproof paper.

Measure all the ingredients into a large mixing bowl and beat well until thoroughly blended. Place half the mixture into the prepared tin and level the surface.

Take the marzipan and roll it out into a circle slightly smaller than the diameter of the tin (so that the top half doesn't slide off when cooked) and place it on top of the cake mixture. Spoon the remaining cake mixture on top and level the surface. Bake in a pre-heated oven for about 2 hours until well risen, evenly brown and firm to the touch. (Mary suggests 2½ hours but it takes only 1¾ hours in our oven). Allow the cake to cool in the tin for about 10 minutes before turning out onto a cooling rack. Take care that the top half doesn't slide off if you made the marzipan circle too large!

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***** Community Shop Update *****

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Milk … 1 pint now 50p, 1 litre 90p and a 4 pint pack for £1.40p.

'100 Club' March Lucky Winners

£100 No. 46; £50 No. 29; £25 No.14 .

Hi-tech stuff

We now take ***credit & debit cards***, so no more need to raid the kids' piggy banks (sadly it has been known on a few occasions!). Plus you can also access ***free wifi***, you just need to register with us first. So come on in for coffee, cake, delightful company and surf away to your heart's content.

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You might like to take advantage of this fantastic offer. If you take a regular weekly / weekend newspaper you can get 25% off any monthly magazine… Just ask for details.

May Day, May Day

Yup, sorry but we'll be closed Monday, 6th May. Newspaper deliveries as normal though. Other than that, we'll be open as normal Monday to Saturday, 7.30am – 1pm, Sunday, 9am to midday.

and finally …..

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Pre-School News

FIRST Steps Preschool has had a huge intake of new children this term. We would like to welcome to the group; James Herbert, George Killin, Eva Morphy, James Merlino, Emma Laidlaw, Jessica Rossor, Emily Adams, Logan Iley, Finlay Henderson, Johanne Large and Alexander Large. We hope they all enjoy their time with us making new friends.

This term started with science week involving activities that enabled the children to learn and understand about the world around us. Other themes have been transport, toys and the wonderful world of super heroes, (it's not all hard work and no play!) They've also been discovering the spectacular events of Spring, investigating the magnificence of flowers, plants, animals and minibeast and so when Spring has finally sprung this year, our children will know all about it!

There has been some great artwork and incredible edibles made by the children too. Ranging from stunning tactile cards for Mother's Day, St David's Day and Easter, to some bejewelled biscuits and stella space ships made from recycled boxes. More recently, the children have been rehearsing for their Easter concert on the 26th March. It's going to be a delightful medley of seasonal song and rhyme performed by the children with keyboard accompaniment that won't disappoint! It will be introduced by Reverend Jane with tea, coffee and cake refreshments on sale to help raise funds for new resources.

Al the 'Music Man', a local musician from Soulbury, has been visiting First Steps over last few months. The children have loved his sessions which are both fun and educational. His funny new songs have allowed even the most quiet children to find their voices and join in with the hilarity and they have certainly chased those winter blues away.

After Easter Lola Cousins and Kate Wallace will be joining First Steps. We hope they settle in well and enjoy the spring and summer activities to come! First Steps would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter!

Pre-School will be CLOSED on Thursday 2nd May, as the hall is being used as a polling station all day.

The new extended hours on Tuesday and Thurday afternoons are proving to be popular amongst the children and useful for busy working parents. First Steps Pre-School is held at Victory Hall, Long Marston every Monday 9.00am – 12.00am, Tuesday 9.00am - 3.00pm, Thursday and Friday 9.00am - 1.30pm, during term time. Lunch clubs are held on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. 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'.

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 Chairperson, Abbi Livermore, on 07966 154570 or email: firststepslongmarston@gmail.com
Long Marston Baby & Toddler group runs on Wednesday mornings 10.00am until 11.30am term time only, for more information call Ali Driver on 01296 662482.

Tring Rural Parish Council

Annual report from the Chairman, Cllr Mike Tomlinson

(We reproduce here at the request of the Parish Council the full text of Cllr Tomlinson's annual report to the Parish Meeting held on 20 March 2013.)

THE review of high expenditure items made for an encouraging start to 2012 with two positive outcomes: the Localism Act of 2011 provided an opportunity for the Council to take over the management of grass verge cutting services from the County Council; and, stronger competition in the local councils' insurance sector enabled the Council to improve the required insurance cover with lower premiums over a fixed term. Both measures will improve performance and reduce costs.

It can be reported that normal expenditure is within the budget. To maintain services at the current level, an increase of 1.47% in the precept has been requested.

The exceptional weather conditions in 2012 have strongly impacted on the parish environment and infrastructure. The threat of flooding and failing road surfaces, among others, causing justifiable concerns. The Parish Council will continue to engage and work with the appropriate agencies to achieve positive outcomes.

The performance of the newly formed highways group 'Ringway' will be closely monitored. Their aim is to be: 'Proactive not reactive'.

I offer sincere thanks to those residents and groups who have given or offered support. To Colin Reedman (Villages Warden) and Dawn Slade (Clerk and Financial Officer) for their continuing excellent contributions to the work of the council; to my fellow councillors for their time and effort given freely to the benefit of Tring Rural Parish.

The Horti page

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AT our March meeting, we heard extremely favourable comments about the Neil Gurney Pantomime Spectacular the previous month, several people commenting that it was the best ever! The turnout on the Saturday was also full of locals who turned up to say thank you to our long-standing postman, Dave Grove, who came as our special guest. During the audience participation song (where the words got mysteriously lost in the post!), Dave was presented with an engraved tankard with the inscription "Dave the Postie" Best Wishes for A Long & Happy Retirement From your friends in Long Marston.

Time moves on and the Horti are busy preparing other events that we hope to put on in 2013. Our main event as usual will be the Annual Village Show. Although planning is in its infancy, we are hoping to rearrange the Jazzercise exhibition which went down well last year and the possibility of Morris dancing returning to the arena. The flower and produce show in the Village Hall also goes ahead and we hope to provide guidelines for entry into the show over the coming months.

There are also plans to build on the wonderful Jubilee year of 2012 by holding a Midsummer Picnic on Saturday June 15th. The whole idea of this is to create an informal get-together for all the villagers of Long Marston on the recreation ground behind the Village Hall where everyone can relax, meet new friends and create a sense of community spirit. We hope to put on some games for people to play, including our space hoppers and would be grateful for any ideas on what could be put on.

We are also in the process of working with all the community groups in Long Marston to create a facebook page to run alongside our marvellous website www.longmarston.org, to help publicise events taking place during the year. We are also running a competition to win £50! All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning is email our chairman, Martin Winship, with your address (martinwinship@live.co.uk) or pop a note through his door (13 Marston Court). Good Luck!

On the subject of sports, the Queens Head Golf Society have just come back from a rain-soaked weekend away which had to be abandoned on the Sunday because of snow! There will also be a football match being played on the recreation ground on Friday 12th April at 6pm between the 'Pub' side and the 'School' side of the main road, dependant on where you live. All are welcome to come and support on the day with both sides fielding teams with varying 'football' abilities!

There is in any community, be they in town or in the countryside, a thriving underbelly of events taking place for those that want to join in. I have however recently noticed an upsurge in events being held to raise money for World Challenge. This is a worthwhile cause for the youngsters who learn valuable life skills whilst learning the value of fundraising in order to realise their goals. I recently attended a delicious pop-up restaurant and played "Rock'N'Roll" Bingo in the pub. Long may these events continue!

Easter *by Rev'd Jo Wetherall*

EASTER, every year I am reminded of the sheer strangeness of it and I am challenged again to think about my faith, what it is I believe and why.
For me faith in God isn't about absolutes, wrongs and rights, it is about infinite possibility.
You only have to look across the world to see the variety of expressions of belief to see that God cannot be contained by doctrine, but is alive in the diversity and complexity of all human life and creativity.
As St Paul wrote: There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.
That's what Easter, what resurrection, signifies for me that there is no limitation on God and on humanity.
The stories of Holy Week are significant stories they are stories which, even if we have no belief in God, need to be told. They need to be told because they tell us so much about all the destructive, heart breaking, obstacles we put in front of each other; obstacles which limit and devalue human life. They show us how we can use authority, even religious authority, to create oppression for many and wealth for a few. They express our feebleness in challenging the abuse of power by peaceful, non violent protest, and they confront us with our reliance on death to solve our political problems. Ultimately they remind us, as if we need reminding, that because we place these, dehumanising, obstacles in front of each other we will have days, long days, of bewilderment and sorrow.
These stories which convey so much truth about the sadness of our human condition and our need for salvation, lead us through to Easter Day.
We need to keep telling these Holy Week stories not only because they cast light on our destructive behaviour, but also because woven through them are acts of love, courage, endurance and faith.
Faith that death is never the answer;
Faith that life itself is the answer.
Faith in a God of life and infinite possibility.
If, like many people, you think following God is about obeying rules and closing life down perhaps it's time to think again and to explore it more. Resurrection, rising up, is as much about the infinite possibilities of life with God here and now as it is about any future existence.
This is why, in spite of the strangeness of Easter, I am able to join my voice with many and say 'He is risen, he is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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News from the LM & P WI

by Sue Barraclough

LAST autumn members of the local WI planted daffodil bulbs on the village green to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee and it is a thrill to see them coming through now. Hopefully, in years to come, they will keep multiplying and bring pleasure to everyone in the village as well as being a reminder of the celebrations of 2012.

Meanwhile, back in the village hall this month we had a really good attendance from members and guests to listen to a very interesting talk by Paul Heslop. Paul is an ex policeman and the subject was 'Crime and Punishment'. The theme for the talk was domestic violence and how the attitude of the law has changed toward this over the years. Thank goodness now the police don't sit everyone down and try to mediate over a cup of tea but treat the crime very seriously and arrest the abuser. We learnt that, sadly, the cases that are known about are only the tip of the iceberg, as for reasons of their own the people being abused continue to accept the behaviour, sometimes for many years, before actually telling anyone about it. Paul concluded his talk by telling us about Ruth Ellis who was the last woman hanged in England and theorised that as she had been an ongoing victim of abuse had police attitudes been different at that time the awful tragedy that ensued might well have been averted.

Our April meeting is on a much lighter note I am glad to say; Indra Jackson will be giving a hands on demonstration of Thai cookery and we are all eagerly looking forward to the tastings! Unfortunately this meeting will be open to members only.The Walking Group continue to enjoy their twice monthly adventures, the last one being a walk from Berkhamsted to Northchurch Common – they are a hardy lot and only cry off when the weather is really bad.

Our Theatre Group is looking forward to their next outing to Aylesbury Theatre which will be in April to see the Mousetrap.

The Cashmere Shawl by Rosie Thomas is the book of the month for our Book Group and they will be meeting in early April to exchange their views on this and choose a book for May – we would welcome new members to the book group (male or female) even if you are not a member of the WI. If you are interested please phone Sue on 668272.

And finally, throwing dieting resolutions to the winds our Lunch Club will shortly be getting together at the Greyhound in Wiggington to enjoy lunch and a natter.

Our membership is growing fast and we are always pleased to welcome new members to the group so if you think you might be interested why not consider coming along to sample one of our meetings, there will be no pressure and you will find us a very friendly group.

If you would like more information about any of our activities please ring Lynn 662466 or Sue 668272.

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Restaurant review:
Rumsey's Chocolaterie
by Gilly Mac

WHAT a lovely little town Wendover is, with its old fashioned shops filled with up-to-date merchandise and the antique shops full to the brim with exciting treasures to find. So this outing brought my friend and I to Rumsey's, a coffee/chocolate shop in the centre of town. We were very cold and in need of a hot drink so we entered the cafe to the most heavenly aroma of my most favourite thing: ***chocolate***. They make all their own chocolate on site and they had a fantastic display which you can buy. We quickly sat and very soon we had a tall glass mug steaming with their famous hot chocolate and on the side a small taster of their very darkest, bitter but delicious chocolate. Oh it was wonderful! We were both very happy, and after catching up with all our gossip we decided to stay and have lunch.

All the staff seemed to be very young but they were very attentive and very polite and happy which is always a good thing in my opinion. Lunch was ordered with my friend having cottage pie with crusty bread (£7.95) and I ordered paté of the day with green salad, homemade oatcakes and crusty bread (£8.95). Very quickly the food arrived and we were a little disappointed at the look of both meals. Both were rather small and my green salad was in fact a couple of small leaves awash in dressing, two small slices of brown bread and some chutney in a tiny dish. The pate was chicken liver which was very nice if a little firm. The cottage pie had slices of potato on top instead of the usual mash and was very dry with little flavour and again served with two slices of brown bread. It always astounds me that with so many cafes and restaurants around these days and the competition high, so few offer good grub at a fair price. I will be going back to Rumsey's because their hot chocolate is heaven but I will not be having lunch. I will say though that Rumsey's is a busy happy place and everyone was very friendly. *Rumsey's Chocolaterie is at 26 High Street, Wendover. Tel: 01296 625060. Website: www.rumseys.co.uk*

Superfast broadband: 10,000 sign up in Herts and Bucks - but more needed

'Connected Counties', the County Council organisation set up to lobby for superfast broadband in Herts and Bucks, report that the number of people who have registered support has now passed the 10,000 mark, but more are needed to strengthen the bid for funding to upgrade local services. The number of people in the two counties who have said they want to be connected to a superfast network stood at 10,352 on 19th March. That does not seem a very big number for two counties though, and the number of registrations in HP23 was a mere 278. Surely we can do better than that? If you have not yet registered your 'vote' for faster broadband speeds in rural areas, you can do so now at **www.superfastforherts.org** or **www.superfastforbucks.org**. It does not take long.
'Connected Counties' aims to claim our share of additional government and EU funding to improve broadband access and speeds in rural areas. Their latest newsletter announces that they have begun the process of selecting a supplier to deliver enhanced broadband to over 115,000 premises in Herts and Bucks. They expect to award a contract in May this year with work starting in the summer. What is not yet clear is how much money will be available for local network upgrades, and which communities will benefit.

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The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

FRIENDS OF PUTTENHAM CHURCH

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Please bring your jumble to Cecilia Hall (it may be left in the porchway) NOW IS THE TIME TO HAVE A GOOD SPRING-CLEAN OF ALL YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS. We would prefer not to receive videos, as we find there is no market for them.

Sorting will start on Tuesday,2nd April (between 10 am and 12) and continue throughout the week. If you are able to help, you will be most welcome. Also, we always need plenty of help on the day of the sale. Any enquiries, please phone Christine 01296 668337 (may divert)

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, PUTTENHAM
A.G.M. Tuesday, 9th April, 2013.
To be held in Cecilia Hall

7.00 p.m.	*AGM – Friends of Puttenham Church*
7.30 p.m.	*Election of Churchwardens*
	AGM business - St.Mary's Church

The AGM is followed by a discussion re: church services
Anyone interested in the discussion with views and ideas, is welcome to attend.

MAY-DAY

6 A.M. - WEDNESDAY, 1ST MAY - ST.MARY'S CHURCHYARD

As usual, the Ridgeway Chorale will be singing-in May Day, and this will be followed by a full breakfast in Cecilia Hall at 6.30 a.m., and you will still have time to get to work afterwards!

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2.30 p.m. CECILIA HALL – SATURDAY, 11th MAY - £5.00

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Thank You.... **to everyone who came to the Cecilia Tea Rooms in March. We raised £204 for the Florence Nightingale Hospice.** Next "Tea Rooms" will be on Friday, 7th June.

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……. of another season.

BY the time you read this, we will have shown our last film of this season of Wilstone film nights, and so ends our sixth year. Our film seasons seem to go faster than the films themselves.

We are already considering next years' film nominations including Song for Marion, Red Dog, Life of Pi, Quartet, I give it a Year, and of course, Les Miserables. We will see what else comes out during the summer, and if you have any other suggestions, using the criteria of 'would you be embarrassed to watch it in front of grandma?' please let me know by dropping me an email at the address below.

Every film night, Richard Fields, the projectionist for Flicks in the Sticks who provide the equipment, drives down from Shropshire, a six hour round trip. He says that of all the venues he goes to, he enjoys coming to Wilstone the most, because the audience here are so great and are out to enjoy themselves. We had to postpone one film night in January due to snow, but fortunately we were able to reschedule within a week.

So thanks to Richard, and thanks to all those who make the event happen, including the Village Shop and Meads Farm shop who sell the tickets, to Neil and Jude who source the bar stock and set up the bar, and Richard Smissen and the Kemp family for helping to run it.

Thanks also to those that help with setting up and putting away, and to you, our audience, who have continued to support this valued community event. And to Assistant Producer Jill, who with myself has sat through a plethora of good and bad contributions from the film industry.

We start our 7th year on the 18th October, followed by 22nd of November 22nd and 13th of December.

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The agricultural story line… *by David Mead*

Lots of lambs - it must be spring

WELL spring has sprung. The watery type of spring. We're nearly through lambing; just ten to go. Sheep don't mind the cold, but they hate the wet. Webbed feet have been mentioned. The first week of lambing went well. In the second week, I couldn't lamb one ewe. Neither could Simon, nor Kate the vet. Decision time. It was agreed: no choice, we'll give her a chance - a Caesarean. Hamish the New Zealand vet was called. A bale of straw for a table, Hamish muttering a commentary, and Kate doing most of the 'work'. Chris was also in attendance. The last time we did this operation was forty years ago, when it produced two dead lambs. Hands went in. Suddenly I was handed one wet, limp body. Quickly clear nose and swing round, and then a cough - a miracle! And then there were two. The various layers were sewn up, first lamb already on its feet. Job done, ewe coming round, and soon back on her feet too. Lambs introduced and mum muttered recognition, accepting both lambs. Words like: "I don't believe it" came from the audience. All this happened at 10 o'clock on a very cold evening. Two weeks later these lambs are the best in the flock, telling us it really was worth it.

I'll just mention two other cases. A ewe prolapsing was held in place with two nappy pins. Kate the vet thought this would not be good enough so used tape instead, but Hamish said that safety pins were the norm in New Zealand. It was two weeks later when things started; tape was cut and three lambs were quickly born, no problems. Another ewe, very dull, was given an injection and slowly recovered producing two healthy lambs two weeks later. Seven lambs, all still alive and doing well. That cold evening was very productive.

Chris drilled barley at Aldbury and Wendover on 4th and 5th March, just before the rains came. He had a look on the 17th, and roots are appearing. There hasn't been an opportunity to drill since. The next crop to drill will be the maize, for silage, in a month's time, and it had better be a bit warmer by then.

Simon spent three days at a trade fair in London making contacts and spreading the word. He soon realised that across the aisle was another rapeseed oil producer - from Wales. I wonder what they talked about? Very trying. I know how he must have felt - I had to smile and talk about *a fair result* with young John Hughes from across the field. I must say, when the commentators and spokespersons were all Welsh - and the Lions Tour this summer will have a high proportion - if they win down there I'll be the first to throw my hat in the air.

Simon met the French celebrity chef Jean-Christophe Novelli and is now supplying his oil for the demonstrations he gives at his home and at shows. Mr Novelli visited the farm and the farm shop, and invited Jenny and Jessica for a day at his home, where exotic dishes were produced. Jessica (with backup) produced a wonderful Sunday roast to demonstrate to the oldies what had been learnt.

I've just heard. Rain and snow into April. *(Groan. Ed.)*

Planet Wilstone
Episode II: The Queen's search for a hero continues!

YET more reports of strange occurrences around the parish were being received – not that unusual for our parish you might say, but I couldn't possibly comment.

Queen Jane had searched the ancient texts and now knew the crucial date was 9th June 2013. She was perplexed, that date certainly had a familiar ring to it but yet it continued to elude her. Perhaps, dear reader, she should read her newsletter more carefully!!!

But still she had yet to find our hero, the person bearing scar shaped like a half moon. Messengers had been sent to all corners of the parish but so far their searches had been fruitless. Could that person be you? Any scars you didn't know you had? If so please contact the palace asap.

She had, though, found out more about the Dark Lord and knew that his goal was to banish all joy and pleasure wherever he went and to ensure that all people had to look forward to was endless hard work and very little money. Now that too had a familiar ring to it, was the Dark Lord already here! 'Never' she cried, 'not whilst I'm Queen, I vow that in my lands fun and festivities will always hold sway. I will devise a cunning plan'. She summoned to her several trusted advisors and tasked them to devise amazing plans for the 9th June in the hope that, with the help of the mysterious hero, the Dark Lord and his extra-terrestrial cohorts would be banished from her realm and joy and laughter would continue to hold sway.

Our story continues ……..

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Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

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Deadline for items to go in the next issue is:
Thursday 18th April.

Editor next month will be John McCall.

You can read *Village News* on line at:
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Wilstone Fete & Dog Show

Sunday June 9th

With star guests specially flown in!

To be opened by Queen Jane

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Little humans in alien outfits will win a prize.

It's out of this world!

Splendid stitches and exotic embroidery

Free exhibition at Bucks County Museum, Aylesbury

by Liz Young

THE County Museum in Aylesbury is overflowing with fantastic displays of early costumes and embroideries, colourful Indian and Indian inspired textiles, large patchwork and other hangings, and contemporary work by leading embroidery artists. Of local interest are the samplers. One was certainly worked in Aston Clinton as Mary Bateman put the name of her village on her perpetual calendar in 1803. These delightful pieces painstakingly stitched with decorative motifs, houses, religious verses or alphabets are shown in a room of their own alongside a selection of Victorian farmers' smocks.

In the main gallery it is the brightly coloured Indian textiles that really catch the eye. A pashmina shawl hand embroidered in Kashmir is shown alongside its English copy, probably made in Paisley, the town that gave the shawls their name here. Beaded flapper dresses are amoung the 'Georgous Garments', cases filled with men's 18th Century waistocats, Victorian dresses, Christening robes, fashion accessories and men's smoking caps.

This stunning selection of goodies belongs to the collections of the Embroiderers' Guild and to the County Museum. The free exhibition has been put on with the help of a grant from the Arts Council to encourage visitors to be creative with a needle and thread.

The huge variety of work being done by members of local embroidery groups show just what can be achieved. Drop in on the Big Stitch Day (Saturday May 25, 11am to 3pm) to watch demonstrations and have a go at fun stitching activities for all ages. A leaflet with the programme of events is available on request: call 01296 331441. The exhibition is at Bucks County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury. Now until 6th July, Mondays to Saturdays, 10am to 4pm (admission free).

News from All Saints

Easter Day. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt following our 10am Holy Communion service. We look forward to families joining us that morning.

Fund Raising. Sadly we are unable to undertake the refreshments at Marswoth Steam Rally, so we are calling on everyone to support our stall at Aldbury May Fair on Monday 6th May. We will be running a Hoopla and our famous Nail Game at this event. Donations of goodies (sweets, books, smellies, craft etc) and offers of help please to make this a success.

Church Cleaning. No volunteers yet – can you help?

Social Afternoon. Tuesday 23rd April – everyone welcome.

Carole Harrison 01296 668526.

Sudoku No 73 solution

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

WILSTONE FETE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

We need lots of items to make this year's Tombola Stall out of this world.

If you have anything you would like to donate, please take it along to the Wilstone Community Shop and pop it in the special collection box.

You can also help by buying an item from the Shop to donate.

Plus, please start saving items for our vintage, retro, china & bits & bobs (bric-a-brac) stall. Your chance for a clear out!

Thank you