April 2016

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

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

Pumping station problems

The Wilstone pumping station
Photo John Painter

ONCE again local residents in Wilstone have been plagued with problems of sewage backing up into their properties. Thames water have been called to sort out the problem and this time discovered that it was caused by some rag blocking the pump and causing it to fail. The sewage system in the area must be getting quite antiquated by now (the pumping station certainly is) and must be treated as such.

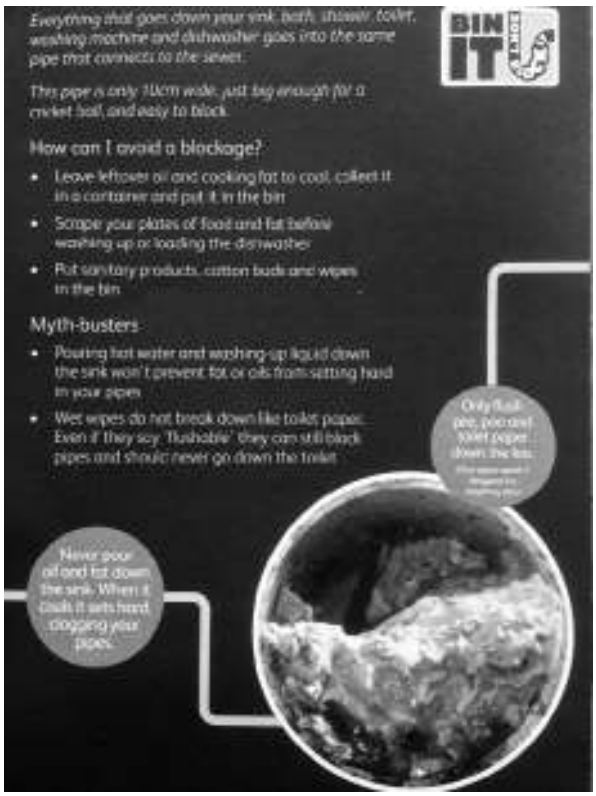
This means no fat or similar down the sink, No cloths, rags, wet wipes, sanitary towels, disposable nappies, etc. down the toilet. Dispose of these items in a bag in your black bin.

In a similar vein, no paint, paraffin, petrol etc. to go down the fresh (rain) water drains in the roads as many of these feed into the roadside ditches which end up in the Grand Union Canal and can cause serious pollution.

And finally I would like to endorse Olli Wheeler-Cornells comment in the last issue about culverts and ditches that they are the responsibility of the riparian land owners whoever they may be. Why wait , why not clear the ditches in front of/behind your own property? It might save your/your neighbours property from being flooded. In Wilstone the gulleys on the high street at the Farm shop end are regularly flattened by the tractor cutting the grass and/or the hedges so the rainwater can not escape. Local residents have been observed regularly digging these out throughout the village.

This is probably the case in the rest of the parish, not only Wilstone. So a bit of DIY will help to ease the problem and the exercise will do you good!

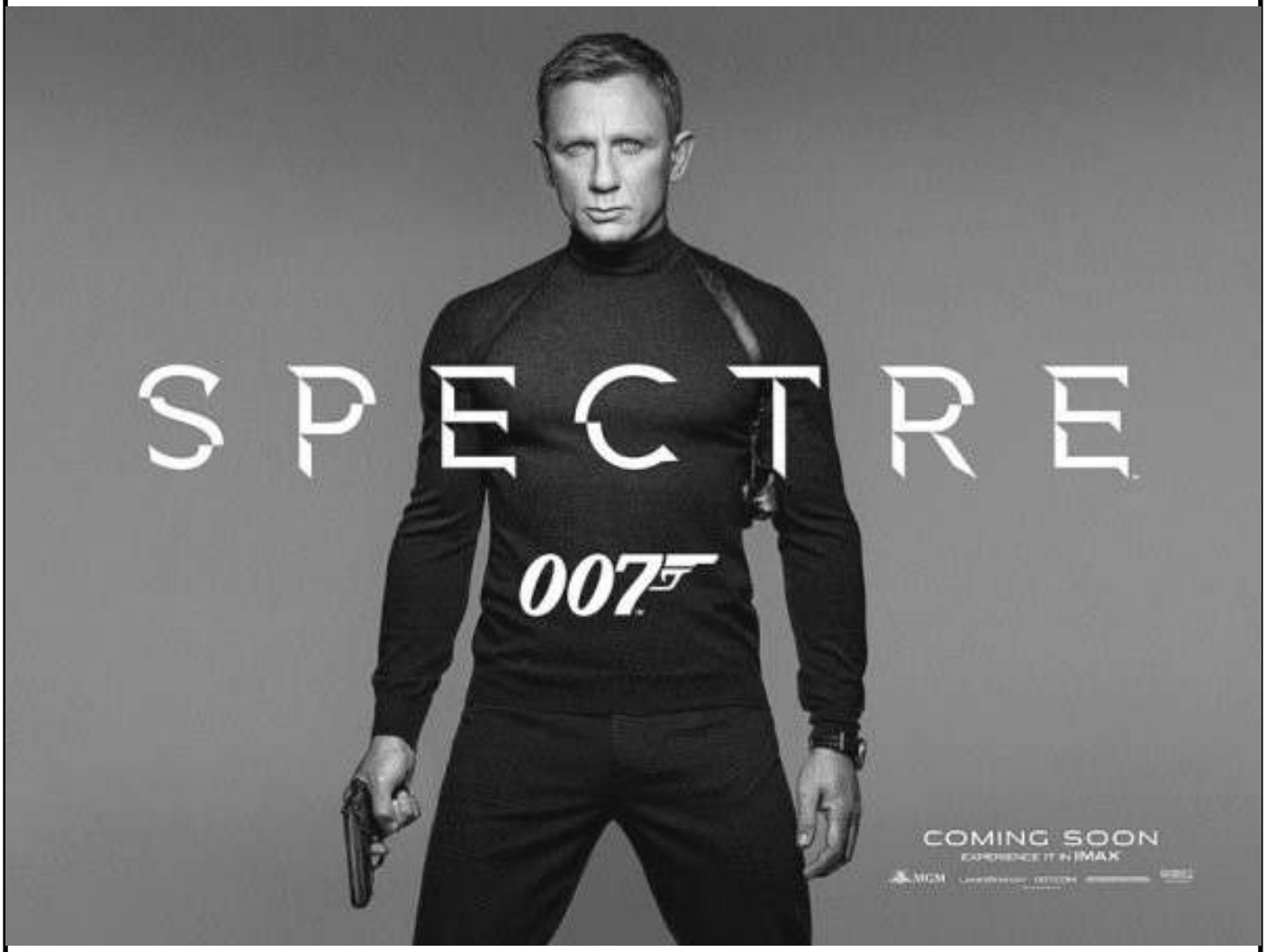
So get out there and look around and see what, if anything, you can do. With the warmer weather approaching (we hope) all the vegetation in these ditches will start growing again so now is a good time to get clearing and not wait for whichever authority is responsible.



The attached leaflet was left with some residents to highlight the above problems

Wilstone Film Nights

FRIDAY APRIL 8th



Starring Daniel Craig, Ben Wishaw, Ralph Fiennes & Lea Seydoux

A cryptic message from the past sends James Bond on a rogue mission to Mexico City and eventually Rome, where he meets the beautiful and forbidden widow of an infamous criminal. Bond infiltrates a secret meeting and uncovers the existence of the sinister organization known as SPECTRE.

LAST FILM FOR THIS SEASON

8pm Friday April 8th. Doors open 7.15pm
Wilstone Village Hall. Licenced bar.
Tickets £7 available at Wilstone Community Shop

PG

Village News

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ANOTHER 32 page issue, keep those articles coming in as without them a magazine just full of adverts would not be as interesting, although we do need them as they enable us to distribute for free throughout the Parish.

Well Spring has definitely arrived as can be seen by the photograph on the back page but thick coats are still required when wandering out and frost still needs to be scraped off of the windscreens some mornings. However the clocks go forward this Easter weekend, so lighter evenings in store and summer cannot be far behind. The cricket season starts soon, another sure sign.

As Caroline stated last month, lots going on locally this summer – be sure to give them all your support.

Colin Davenport

The next edition will be for May 2016 and the deadline for items is: Wednesday 20April 2016

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

Church services

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

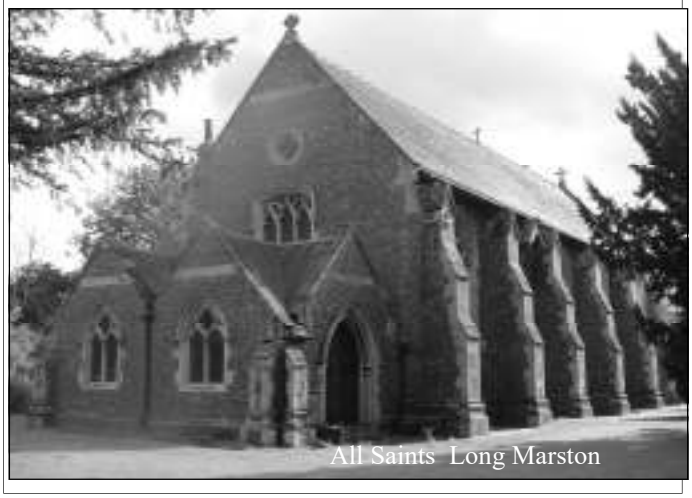
You are most welcome to join us at any of the services.

3rd April
10am St. Cross Worship for All
10am All Saints Sunday Worship

10th April
8.15am St. Mary's Holy Communion
10am St Cross Sunday Worship
10am All Saints Holy Communion
6pm All Saints Evening Prayer

17th April
10am St. Cross Holy Communion
10am All Saints Sunday Worship

24th April
10am St. Cross Sunday Worship
10am All Saints Holy Communion
3.30pm St. Mary's Evensong


All Saints Long Marston

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

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What's on...

Tambourine Jerk

Live @ Wilstone Village Hall

Sat 16th April 2016
8 - 11pm

A fund raiser for First Steps Pre-School in Long Marston
Tickets on sale @ The Queen's Head, Long Marston & Wilstone Village shop priced @ £10.00
There will be a licensed bar on the night

For one night only Tambourine Jerk will be rocking out 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 Beatles to Bowie, The Rolling Stones to Jason Mraz, Neil Diamond to the Kings of Leon. There is something for everyone from disillusioned teenagers to silver surfers!

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)
The public are welcome to attend these meetings.
Wednesday 6 April Wilstone village hall.
Wednesday 4 May Long Marston village hall.

Sunday 2nd April
Jumble sale, Puttenham, 2pm
Friday 8th April
Cecilia Tea Rooms, Puttenham, 3pm
Saturday 16th April
- Mentmore Plant Sale, 12-4pm see p. 8
- Tambourine Jerk, Wilstone Village Hall, 8-11pm

Sunday 24th April
LM Tennis club open day 2pm see p.6
Half Moon Scrabble night, 7:30pm
Tuesday 26th April
Tea afternoon and Library, All Saints, 2pm
Sunday 1st May
- May Day, Puttenham, 6am
- Cricket 1st round National Village Cup v Eaton Bray 1.30pm start.

Tuesday 3rd May
The Thankful Village, Theatre at Puttenham, 9:30pm
Sunday 15th May
Ashridge Estate Spring plant sale, 11am - 4pm
Monday 16 May
Wilstone village hall AGM 8pm St Cross Church
Thursday 19 May
MCC unicorns v Derbyshire 2nd XI T20 11am
2 matches
Friday 20 May
MCC unicorns v Leicestershire 2nd XI T20 11am
2 matches
Friday 27th May
Annual Village Football Match, LM Recreation Ground
Saturday 28th May – Monday 30 May
Mentmore Arts Festival - See advert on this page.
Sunday 29th May
Half Moon Scrabble night, 7:30pm
Sunday 5 June
Wilstone Village Fete
Sunday 19th June
Marsworth Steam Rally, Startops Farm
Sunday 26th June
Half Moon Scrabble night, 7:30pm
Friday 8th July
Cecilia Tea Rooms, Puttenham, 3pm
Sunday 31 July
Minor Counties Championship. Herts. v Bucks Day1. 11am
Monday 1 August
Minor Counties Championship. Herts. v Bucks Day2. 11am
Tuesday 2 August
Minor Counties Championship. Herts. v Bucks Day3. 11am

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

Saturday 6th August
Long Marston & Puttenham Annual Village Show
Victory Hall , Long Marston.
Saturday 3rd September
Jumble sale, Puttenham, 2pm
Saturday 1st October
October supper, Puttenham
Friday 28th October
Cecilia Tea Rooms, Puttenham, 3pm

Community Shop Wilstone opening hours:

Monday to Friday: 7:30am to 2:00pm
Saturday 7:30am to 1:00pm
Sunday: 9:00am to 12:00 noon.

Half Moon Scrabble Night
Last Sunday of every month

Wilstone Village Hall Management Committee
Hereby give public notice of
Annual General Meeting
To be held on Monday 16 May 2016 at 8.00 pm
at
St Cross Church, Wilstone
All are invited and new members are welcome

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 2015 AGM
2. Chairman's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Committee Members
5. Signing of declaration
6. Resolution to pay the rent (£1) to Tring Rural Parish Council

Calling all Gardeners

Mentmore Village Green
Plant Sale
Saturday 16th April 12 - 4pm
Professional and amateur growers supplying a wide variety and choice of plants, BBQ, teas and cakes.
A fabulous location and an enjoyable day.
Contact tel: 07795383086

ALTERNATIVE B : GREEN WAYOUT
Green actions for social change

We are looking for 5 people aged 18-30 who are interested in starting their own socially responsible community project to attend a training programme

1 week in Bulgaria August 2016

Aim of the training

Train young people in key concepts of social and green entrepreneurship, and to develop their ideas alongside other young people from Bulgaria, Denmark & Latvia.

Cost : 50 Euros (£40)

The project has been funded by Erasmus+ and all other travel/food costs will be covered.

If interested please contact Musarat Inayat

See our website
http://www.communityactiondacorum.org/alternative-b

Winter fun

Cheddington Bowls Club

Join us for Winter fun at Cheddington Bowls Club – you and any friends you bring will receive a warm welcome.

Arrive at 7pm for a 7.30 start

Race night Saturday 8 April

OUR bowlers and their partners have just returned from a 4 day treat at Potters Leisure Resort (Hopton on Sea), tired, but full of the joys of 'winter'. Potters is the home of the World Bowls Championships; shown each January on BBC.

Potters is perhaps better known for its leisure facilities, its theatre school and West End quality shows, good food and dance and big band weekends. Potters is a favourite with many Club members, so Potters all inclusive holidays come highly recommended. *We have already booked again for next year!*

Free Parking at the Recreation Ground, High St, Cheddington.

During Winter weeks we have Short Mat bowls (2), Bridge and Cribbage sessions at the Club

More info? Club Sec. Tony Duke 01525 220644/ Web. cheddingtonbowls.org.uk

TIME FOR TENNIS

Long Marston Tennis Club
OPEN DAY
Sunday 24th April from 2:00pm

By Lee Nash

AT THIS time last year I reported that following the exciting addition of floodlighting to our courts, we planned to try to ensure that as many people as possible in the area benefitted from our new, improved facilities. I'm pleased to say that over the course of the year we have succeeded in growing our membership by over 10%, and that growth comes entirely from new family and junior memberships, both of which have doubled. That is particularly encouraging because obviously the club needs to attract younger people if it is to continue for the long term, but it is also evidence that we genuinely are supporting the whole community and helping to encourage the next generation in our area into healthy sporting activity.

We still have plenty of capacity to grow with advantage though: more people would add to the fun in our twice weekly social tennis sessions and our internal tournaments and newcomers could expect to be playing most of the time they are there. We could readily add more coaching events and sessions and are really keen to do that for juniors, and as a small club fielding quite a few league teams, we can provide opportunities for people who wish to play competitively, perhaps for the first time. Our courts remain free for much of the week, which is a pity. In fact the only way in which we are at capacity is the annual quiz, where on March 5th we yet again filled Victory Hall with people who know that they can count on it for an enjoyable evening with good food, challenging questions and good company.

So this year we are just as keen to grow as we were a year ago, apart from all the other reasons, the more members we have, the more we can afford to invest in improving our facilities for everyone, and we do want to keep up that momentum. So please do consider coming to our Open Day on Sunday 24th April. It is a great chance to see for yourself that we genuinely are as we say a small and very friendly club, and of course to get on court, hit a few balls with friends, take a bit of free coaching or chat over a drink and piece of cake on what usually turns out to be a nice afternoon. Sadly the Committee cannot guarantee the weather but we do always guarantee that the welcome will be warm !

The Juniors have the courts and specialist junior coach to themselves for the first hour from 2:00pm, then the adults have their opportunity at 3:00pm. We will again have a ball machine on court, though there will be plenty of less robotic people able to help you practice your strokes too, and they like to think that they are better conversationalists...

So please do come along and bring your family and friends even if they aren't strictly locals. On the other hand if there is someone you think might get something from trying tennis but can't make the Open Day, just contact the club secretary Jackie Anwyl (Jackie.anwyl@icloud.com) and she will be glad to help. People are always welcome to drop in on our club social play sessions and give us a try without commitment. You can also look at our website which contains many more details and contacts: if you've been there before, do look again – it has a fresh new look and more information !

See you on court !

Long Marston Tennis Club, Cheddington Lane, Long Marston HP23 4QP

Your Fete Awaits you

IN THE nicest possible way of course. Pop **Sunday, 5th June** into your diary and come and join us here in Wilstone for some amazing rustic revelries as we celebrate the very best of country style. Come and meet some very cute critters, gasp in admiration at an amazing dare devil troupe of would be high flyers, test your rodeo skills on the amazing bucking sheep and much, much more. Plenty of new things to enjoy, plus our traditional favourites of the Fun Dog Show, amazing BBQ and delicious homemade cakes and treats.

It's Spring Cleaning Time Again!

HERE's how we can help! Once again we're looking for items of Tombola, bric-a-brac, or books for our stalls at the Wilstone Village Fete on **Sunday, 5th June.** If you can help then here's what to do:

- For any bric-a-brac you would like to donate, or get rid of depending how you view it, please give Irene McCall a call on 01442 825529 to sort out the details.
- For Tombola items, the Community Shop in Wilstone is once again hosting a donation box. If you have nothing lurking in your store cupboards, or elsewhere, perhaps you may consider buying something from the shop to pop in the box.
- For books or dvds please hold onto these and bring them down to the Village Hall on Saturday, 4th June.

As always thank you for your generosity in helping to make our fete such a fun place to be.

Queen's 90th Birthday Party

AS most people know, the Queen reaches the grand age of 90 in April. However, the weekend of the 11th/12th June has been identified as a time to celebrate this momentous occasion.

After coordinating the Long Marston Midsummer Picnic for the past few years, I am looking to put on a lunch on the Sunday where all Long Marston residents are invited. All you have to do is to 'bring some food to the table' – something that can be shared by the whole community. Maybe a salad, a few chicken wings or a cake – your choice.

Rather than closing off a street, it has been suggested to hold it either on the recreation ground or in the Queens Head car park.

We will need help setting up & taking down tables, bunting, gazebos, etc. Anyone interested in joining in this celebration, please get in touch.

Please contact Toby Davidson
01296 660754 / 07970 636168
lmvhchair@gmail.com

Theatre Trips

THROUGHOUT my lifetime, I have really enjoyed going to the theatre, from going to Stratford as a youngster to seeing lavish London productions.

When I lived in Ringwood, we were lucky enough to have a Landlord who also loved the theatre and would regularly organise a coach load to see shows at Bournemouth & Southampton. With having some excellent local theatres, I am trying to see if there are any locals interested in forming a theatre club going to see major productions locally.

We have 'The Sound of Music' (May) & 'Chicago' (July) at Aylesbury Waterside and 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' (May) & Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' (June) at Milton Keynes.

I would organise all the tickets and the transport to the venue, sharing the costs between everyone who comes. There could be a coach load or a car load, it wouldn't matter how many people wanted to come!

If you are interested, please let me know asap.

Please contact Toby Davidson
01296 660754 / 07970 636168
lmvhchair@gmail.com

The Whitchurch Morris Men – St George's Day Free Barn Dance

THIS year, St George's Day (23rd April) falls on a Saturday and to celebrate, all of the local Morris sides are dancing out and finally congregate in Friar's Square, Aylesbury at 4 p.m. At the end of the Day, everyone is invited to a FREE BARN DANCE at Wilstone village hall. It's an opportunity for everyone to come along and have a go at English Folk Dancing. You'll have to buy your own food and refreshments when you're there but the hall and music come gratis.

The Whitchurch Men's programme looks like this:-

11 o'clock;	The Angler's Retreat in Marsworth
12 o'clock;	The Half Moon in Wilstone
1 o'clock;	Jansel Square and the Bucks Yeoman in Bedgrove
4 o'clock;	Friar's Square, Aylesbury – massed dance display
7 – 11 o'clock;	Wilstone Village Hall – Free Barn Dance

The other local sides:- Towersey MM, Aldbury MM, Three Horseshoes Morris Dancers and New Moon Morris will tour the Vale for the day and will join us in Friar's Square.

7 – 11 p.m. 23 April 2016
FREE BARN DANCE at Wilstone Village Hall
39 Tring Road, Wilstone, Nr Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 4PE

The food is anticipated to be a Fish and Chip van on site and the refreshments will come from Tring Brewery. All you have to do is turn up on the evening but if you want to know more, please contact us through our website:- www.whitchurchmorris.org.uk Please do contact us because we'd like to gauge some numbers.

Meanwhile our normal practice nights continue on Tuesday evenings at 8:15pm in Wilstone village hall. All men and boys are welcome to join us and the 2016 WMM's programme of regular events is now available on our website.

Wassail
John King
WMM

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Successful snowdrop event at Old Church Cottage

byJohn Noakes

A BIG thank you to all those who attended our snowdrop weekend at the end of February and a big apology to all those inconvenienced by the traffic and parking difficulties. Chapel Lane was gridlocked and at the Village Hall carpark, footballers had to fight for space with our visitors. Apologies, but we do only have this event once a year. Out of this chaos emerged a highly successful two days. Both days were cold but dry. Mulled wine and muffins were served to combat the elements and over four hundred people turned up.

We collected over £2,000 for charity! 20% of the takings will go to Oxfam Syrian Relief Fund. The rest will go to various Nursing Organisations including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Hospice UK, Queens Nursing Institute and Parkinson's UK. We need to iron out the parking issue if we hold this next year but with good will I hope we can do this.

Finally a big thank you to all our helpers without whom we could not have held this event and raised so much money.

Long Marston Allotments - Spring is breaking out all over

By Joan Dean

WELL the seeds have been ordered and as always I expect far too many for our plot, but you just can't resist those catalogues. But the whole point of this small article is to let you know that there are one or two plots available on the Potash Lane site.

Work in progress from August last year

You can have half a plot if you are new to the gardening scene and would feel daunted by a whole one. Don't worry if you know nothing about the subject, but just want to have a go. There is so much advice around these days, articles in the magazine and newspapers. Monty Don on TV, what a star he is. He explains everything so clearly and also talks about his mistakes which I always find so re-assuring, nice to know he sometimes gets it wrong. Also his soil looks a bit like our soil, not a beautiful tilth like some of these other programmes. And he never minds getting his hands dirty.
So if I have inspired you to 'have a go' just give Elaine Winter a ring on 01442 827913 and book your plot before they all go .

Wilstone Allotments

By Caroline and Steve, Plot 9, Wilstone Allotment

WE HAVE had our allotment for about 18 months now and it's still work in progress. In our first autumn we were desperate to grow something after months of digging and building so we planted some 'first early' potatoes which provided us with a good crop of new potatoes for our Christmas lunch. We also over-wintered some broad beans which seemed to be more resistant to the awful blackfly last spring and so did exceptionally better than our Spring sowing.

Our fruit cage – a long slow process of sewing strips of meshing – is nearly complete and will protect the 30 raspberry canes we planted last year. We've just pruned back the autumn cropping variety and are very hopeful for all three varieties which should fruit at different times during the summer and autumn. We've just added to this two blueberry bushes with one more to follow.

Many of you will appreciate when we say we've made a very nice path along the middle of the allotment with all the stones that come to the surface every time we garden. If only everything grew as prolifically as the stones!

It's a great social place too with usually someone to have a chat with – and to swap produce with. We have made new friends and it's a great place to pass the time when the weather is pleasant. The well at the end really helps too, to supplement our water butts which seem to be large but soon run out when growing season is well (!) underway

Spring is definitely in the air – and the birds are telling us – so we're now deciding which seeds to buy and nurture for the Spring and Summer. We are not as organised as fellow allotment holders who put their orders in with Kings Seeds months ago, but we aim to build on the success and failures of last year. The promise of fresh fruit and vegetables to come …

Calling all Gardeners - Mentmore Village Green
Plant Sale Saturday 16th April 12 - 4pm
Professional and amateur growers supplying a wide variety and choice of plants, BBQ, Teas and cakes. a fabulous location and an enjoyable day. Contact tel: 07795383086

Long Marston Cricket Club.

WOULD you believe we are only four weeks away from the start of the season. Please let us have some sunshine soon to dry out the grounds.

We start with a warm up inter club game on 16th April, followed by two friendlies on consecutive weekends before we start the league season on 7th May when our first XI start with a local derby away at Dinton, the second XI entertain East Oxford at Marlins and the third XI travel to Aston Rowant.

Sunday 1st May sees the start of another National Village Cup competition when we are drawn at home to Eaton Bray. Always entertaining games and an added incentive is the prospect of another home tie two weeks later if successful.

We also have home ties in the early rounds of the two other Cup competitions we have entered. At the time of going to press dates have not been set for these. By a quirk of the cup draws we are at home again to Eaton Bray in the first round of the Coronation Cup and will play either Aston Clinton or Monks Risbourough, again at Marlins, in the second round of the Aylesbury Mid week cup.

A reminder that on May 19th & 20th this year will have the opportunity to see top quality T20 cricket in abundance at Marlins. On these two days the national Unicorns team will play four T20 matches in two days against Derbyshire Second XI and Leicestershire Second XI respectively.

Big local derby in Minor Counties Cricket on 31st July, 1st and 2nd August when Hertfordshire host near neighbours Buckinghamshire in the three day match. Large crowds expected for this game.

A unique event and fund raiser for our junior section at Marlins on Friday 19thAugust when in partnership with MD Spring autos we present a darts exhibition by Fallon Sherrock (World No2 Ladies Darts Player).

Lee Beesley on develop@longmarstoncc.co.uk or mobile 07923 462037 is in charge of this. Tickets £5 in advance £10 on the night. Why not come along and see a top darts player in action?

As always follow progress and keep updated on: www.longmarstoncc.co.uk

Paul Dumpleton – Chairman

Follow Long Marston Cricket Club at www.longmarstoncc.co.uk

From our reporter at the Parish Council meeting

An interesting start...

THIS month's meeting took place on "Old Stuff" day *(see March's Village News)*. It began with the Parish meeting and Cllr Wheeler-Cornell reading out the chair's report. A member of the public challenged whether the Parish meeting had been set up lawfully, quoting the 1972 Local Government Act. Now, that is "old"...

Water, water, everywhere

There were several contributions by our fellow villagers on the subject. There has been a problem with surface water draining from the housing development in Gubblecote and polluting the brook. This appears to be related to some site ground levels being wrong. A site visit has been offered to the TRPC and will be arranged by the clerk.

"Hydraulic overload" - when storm rain overwhelms the sewage pumping station in Chapel Lane - is under investigation by one of the residents. The pumping station has capacity for the waste from 510 homes, and only 300 are currently attached to it. It seems neither Thames Water or the Highways Agency are keen to take responsibility; next stop Herts County Council (HCC). The pumping station won't be affected by the Gubblecote development, which will be using the Wilstone pumping station.

Ditch clearance and riparian rights were discussed at length. Although some ditches have been worked on - for example, Astrope Lane - others still need work. Dacorum Councillor Nick Hollinghurst has written to HCC for action to ensure residents fulfill their riparian responsibilities; ditches at the side of the road are the responsibility of Highways. He also reported that the drain in Cheddington Lane is being dealt with by Ring-Way.

The TRPC has emailed HCC for the result of the recent survey; no response yet from the Environment Agency.

It was mentioned that Marsworth reservoir is never full, due to a weak wall. Wonder whose responsibility that is...?

Playtime

Cllr Garnham reported that the Apex 360 summer play schemes are planned for the last week in July.

One step closer to the play equipment: the TRPC agreed to proceed on the basis of the quotes received. Cllr Thirkettle will now forward the report to Dacorum for approval. The TRPC thanked those who took part in the original survey for the equipment required.

Council news –continued

Highways and Homes

Cllr Wheeler-Cornell has been out with Dave Moore of HCC to agree the sites for the mobile speed device poles. TRPC agreed to apply for a second device under the Road Safety fund. She also discussed school parking with Mr Moore, and the clerk reported that the architect for the Loxley Farm development is making amendments to the access road shown in the plan, which might affect this. The architect is to be invited to the council meeting. There have been numerous planning applications throughout the parish (*for details see http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/planning-development/planning-applications/search-planning-applications*).

The TRPC will be offering support to Aldbury parish regarding the parking infrastructure at Tring station. The franchise for West Coast main line requires sustainable access to car parks; because Tring station is in an area of outstanding natural beauty there are restrictions imposed on extending it, with consequences for the local areas.

Happy Birthday, Ma'am

Date for your diaries: June 12th. The occasion? Her Majesty's 90th birthday. Toby Davidson obtained agreement from the TRPC for a 'street party' on the Recreation Ground at Long Marston to celebrate.

And lastly, it was good to hear so many contributions under public participation this month. Sorry I can't report them all, but I recommend attending at least one Parish Council meeting, 'cos you never know what might be raised by our fellow parishioners!

Tring Rural Parish Council: official notice

Vandalism is a criminal offence

Members of the Parish Council are very disappointed that the new door to the meeting room at the Long Marston recreation ground has been damaged by vandals. The graffiti scratched into the metal door cannot easily be erased. Members of the public are asked to be vigilant and report suspicious activity to the police. Vandalism is a criminal offence, and we should not have to tolerate it in our community.

Published on behalf of Tring Rural Parish Council, November 2015.

Reader offer: special prices from Village Wines in Tring

Turn to page 20 to see this month's special offers for readers from Village Wines. Take this magazine to get these special prices.

Tring Rural Parish Council contacts

Your Parish Councillors are:

Mr Richard Briant 01442 825674
Mr Robert Briant 01442 825674
Ms Andrea Garnham 01296 660767
Mr Chris Griffiths 01296 668257
Mr Nick Murrell 01296 668190
Mr John Thirkettle 01296 661825
Mrs Olli Wheeler-Cornell (Chairman) 01296 662207
Mr Alan Winfield 01296 668977

The Clerk to the Council is :

Mrs Lucy Bancroft 07590 989202
email: clerk@tringruralpc.org.uk

***The Village Warden is*:**

Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822031

Parish Council Website:

www.tringruralpc.org.uk

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Remembering Libby

ELISABETH SHAW (LIBBY) – 1958 - 2015

IN December, Wilstone said goodbye to one of its most popular and colourful villagers. As most of you know, Elisabeth Shaw – or "Libby" as she was more simply known – died just before Christmas after a short and totally unexpected battle with cancer. Now, in the brighter, fresher month of April – on what would have been her 34th wedding anniversary - her ashes are being interred with those of her husband Ian, who died in 2010.

Previously from Berkhamsted, they moved to the Old Forge in Wilstone in 2007, together with children John, Helen and Tom. It was no surprise then that Libby took little time to adapt. She soon seemed to be everywhere and anywhere in the village. Meeting friends in the pub, helping with the cake stall at the village fete, emerging suddenly from pots in her allotment or wandering down the canal path with her dogs. Dancing of course - her great passion – in the village hall. And of course supporting the elderly at home in her professional capacity as carer and social worker.

Libby was born Elisabeth Carter in Edgware in July 1958 – the youngest of three, with an older brother and sister. When she was nine months old, the family moved to Bushey, where she attended Holy Rood School in Watford and the St Joan of Arc Convent School in Rickmansworth. In 1975, on her fa-ther's early death, the family moved to Aldbury, and it was from there that she embarked on a range of secretarial jobs, before finally deciding on nursing as a career. She met Ian at Cassio College, and was soon spinning her feminine web! His resistance collapsed without too much of an effort, and they were married in April 1982, settling in Pitstone and then Berkhamsted. It was a solid and happy marriage; Libby ran rings around Ian, and Ian just sat back and lapped it up.

When Jonathan, Helen and Tom were born between 1988 and 1993, Libby was a cuddly, fun-loving, inventive mum. In many ways, she never really grew up herself. She wanted to spend as much time with them as possible, and went into a sulk when they passed their driving tests and there was no excuse for practice runs. She also liked to leave funny notes in their lunch boxes – a practice which continued from school into their professional lives.

She may have been a great mum – but she was also a serious career woman. Having first trained as a midwife, she moved in the 1990s into palliative care - so turning her attention to end of life rather than the beginning. For 18 years, the Hospice of St Francis in Berkhamsted was her life and second home. According to Jenny Burrell, the hospice senior sister, she had a unique sense of intuition. "Libby just had it" she said. "She knew exactly when to intervene with a patient or a relative, and when to step back. Always caring and thoughtful, she placed a huge emphasis on cuddling. She also had a particular giggle, and you could always tell what mood she was in by the state of her hair when she arrived for work. If it was wild and frizzy, you knew you were in trouble!"

When Ian died in the hospice in 2010, Libby rejected the suggestion that she should consider retiring. "Not many people can do the job of a palliative care nurse", she said. "I have proved that I can, and so I have a duty to continue doing so." There was never any doubt in her mind that it was St Francis where she wanted to end her days. It was where she had loved and cared for so many people, and where she could be relieved of worry for her children and for herself.

For Libby then, nursing not only defined her role and purpose in life. It was just another way of exercising her natural disposition for caring. When the daughter of her oldest friends was on a life-support machine in London, Libby appeared at the bedside "simply out of nowhere". She then sat with the girl overnight, finally allowing her mother to get some sleep. And when another friend had suffered a serious collapse, she was simply scooped up and brought back to The Old Forge, where Libby wrapped her in a blanket, placed her in front of the fire, and looked after her for several days.

Atmosphere and harmony were very important to Libby. She adored colour – whether it was cutting up fruit for a platter or gathering flowers to decorate a table. She was also highly attuned to symbols, always noticing white feathers which she believed to be Ian's spirit, and butterflies which she said represented comfort. She had an open, trusting, uncomplicated approach to life, and was always able to see the positive in things. It was her sense of fun and love of enjoyment that lay at the heart of her personality. Indeed, she was most annoyed that she would be missing her own funeral – telling her friends that there would be no invitations. Instead, she gathered them together at a splendid farewell party in The Old Forge. We were naturally unsure how it would go, but from the smile on her face throughout the evening it was quite apparent how sensible a decision it had been.

Despite Libby's optimistic view on life, the loss of Ian in 2010 had proved very difficult for her. Yet, in the last 18 months she had started to become the old Libby again – going out more, taking on new jobs and resuming old interests. Before she died, she would often talk about how happy she was, and how she had no regrets in her life. After the initial shock at her diagnosis, she quickly came to terms with the situation, and turned her strength and attention to managing others. With a new inner calm, she counselled one friend by saying: "Be sad, but be 'happy' sad. Promise me!" A hard challenge, but one we all must honour.

The family – especially John, Helen and Tom – owe the people of Wilstone a huge debt gratitude for welcoming and looking after Libby and Ian so kindly over the past eight years. Their spirits lie in the village, as do their earthly remains, together with a multitude of inherited memories. It is a uniquely important place, and always will be.

Written by Libby's brother, Christopher Carter
e: clcarters@hotmail.com m: 07432685218

Letters...

Dear Sirs,
I WRITE regarding the piece in your March edition by Olli Wheeler-Cornell regarding the Tring Rural Parish Council Budget.
Cllr Wheeler-Cornell states, "At the January meeting we became aware of some miscalculations." This is factually incorrect. At the January meeting Councillors voted unanimously in favour of a precept of £23,467. The meeting was then closed. It was only after the January meeting that Councillors realised they had got their figures wrong and decided to revisit the issue. The correct and proper way to do this would have been to include the budget as an agenda item for the February 3rd council meeting and look at it again then at an open meeting. Instead, on February 2nd Councillors met for an "informal" meeting to go over the figures. This meeting was not open to the public, had no official agenda, and no minutes. Council then announced at the official February 3rd meeting that they had met in the interim and decided the precept would instead be £18,260.
The Communities Parish and Local Councils Organisation advise councils that "informal" meetings are not lawful meetings and should be avoided at all costs as they will lead to the public believing that decisions are being made behind closed doors. Indeed they advise that by holding "informal" meetings councils can only bring themselves into disrepute.
Council lawfully passed a resolution to raise a £23,467 precept at their January meeting and at the time of your March edition going to press had yet to lawfully overturn that resolution or lawfully pass a new resolution on the revised £18,260 precept.
Cllr Wheeler-Cornell is keen to stress that our money is going towards a new bus shelter roof, cemetery roof repairs and work on war memorials but conveniently forgets to tell us that £4,523 of our increased precept will go towards servicing the loan on the rebranded Long Marston Football Club changing rooms.
Would I rather pay an £18,260 precept than a £23,467 one? Of course! I would also prefer a Parish Council which, having made an error, goes about correcting that error lawfully.
Sincerely,
Ian Nicholls

BABYSITTING

I am a 16-year-old girl, I attend Tring School and I am currently in my GCSE year. I'm going to Borneo on World Challenge in summer 2017 where our trip will include trekking and project work. I would like to do some babysitting in order to raise funds, please let me know if you would like my services.

CONTACT INFO:
Sophie Freestone
Address:
17 New Road Wilstone
Mobile Number: 07713 433882
Email Address: Sophie123stone@outlook.com

From David Jenkinson, Long Marston.

Flooding actions and self help

I ATTENDED the annual public meeting of the Parish Council on March 2nd at the Victory Hall. Various points of view regarding flooding were debated which was refreshing, for until now I have felt that the flood issue within Long Marston was something that happens and certainly not talked about, but if it was, it would be swiftly moved on to be dealt with by someone else. I think it is called "Passing the Buck" (fastest game in the world) i.e. to an Expert who envelopes it into a Feasibility Study or Studies which in turn encompasses even more Experts, so the spiral and the rot sets in.

At no time did I feel convinced that the Council as a body actively approached the issue. As the discussions wore on, it became apparent that the Parish Council who you would think is representing the residents, actually has no "teeth", (I think that was the expression used), to put pressure on anybody to get any thing done at all. So, dear residents, that is why you are probably muttering: "When is something going to be done about the flooding problem?"

Well, there is hope, for it would appear that unbeknown to most of us, Councillor Murrell has spent a lot of his time, energy and expertise on behalf of the local community talking to the Environment Agency, waterways officials and County Council departments, but unfortunately he has become increasingly frustrated with the petty bureaucracy that stifles any progress whatsoever. But I feel he would be encouraged by support, not only from his fellow councillors, but from affected residents.
It became clear that what was really needed was a "WILL" within the Parish Council, the County Council, the Environment Agency, but mostly the residents to get anything done at all. It would appear that if all residents/parishioners with the so-called riparian rights clubbed together and helped one another by spreading the word or helping clearing their patch, the problem could get sorted out, which seemed to be the general consensus of the meeting. And I for one think that for once they might actually be right. After all, who would want to receive a court order telling them to clear their patch, when in fact it is probably the "councils" who should be getting the big stick treatment for allowing the problem to fester over the years and now develop into a major issue?

It seems like the old adage of 'if you want anything done the best way is to do it yourself', rather than letting the Experts brainwash us into monumental cock-ups such as the flood prevention measures, or should I say the "Flood Retention Measures" adjacent to Potash Farm, Puttenham. These FRMs were working to full capacity after heavy rain, this week (9/10 March) while the stream to which it should be draining at Astrope was flowing well at half full. It would be interesting to know the cost of such a fiasco. If the residents actually knew, there would be many more voicing their opinions on how their money is wasted and how the community is governed. Unfortunately it seems as if bureaucracy and the lack of will are prevailing, not common sense.

Chris Griffiths

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Gas safe register

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Thursday 9 - 1.30, Friday 9 - 1.30.
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For more information or to arrange a visit, contact our playleader Teresa Giddings on 07925 185311 or **firststepslongmarston@gmail.com**

LONG MARSTON BABY & TODDLER GROUP
every Wednesday during term time 10-11.30am
Victory Hall, Long Marston. Everyone welcome.
Contact Tara Thirkettle 07796 965171.

Wilstone Community Shop

Run by the community, for the community

We aim to serve the Community by:

- Keeping prices fair
- Offering a wide range of goods and services
- Stocking home-made and local produce
- Being a place where people like to shop and volunteers like to work

Coffee Morning—Friday 22 April—in support of Parkinson's Awareness Week (18-24 April 2016)

COME and join us between 10-12 am on Friday 22 April at a coffee morning to support Parkinson's Awareness Week. Did you know that one person in every 500 has Parkinson's? That's 127,000 people in the UK and it inevitably affects people all over the country, including in our local area.

There is currently no known cure for Parkinson's and we don't yet know why people get the condition. Parkinson's UK fund research into finding better treatments and ways to improve the quality of life for people with Parkinson's as well as leading the work to find a cure.

Why raise awareness? Every hour, someone in the UK is told they have Parkinson's—a brain condition that turns lives upside down, leaving a future full of uncertainty. Parkinson's can make people feel frightened, isolated and alone. Parkinson's UK wants to make sure that everyone affected by Parkinson's has the information and support they need and you can do your bit by eating cake!

Oh, I didn't know you sold....

An occasional feature, highlighting items that customers have been surprised and delighted to find we stock. Amongst this month's items are Calpol and super-glue, not, I hasten to add, required by the same customer.... We have both Infant and Six Plus in stock above the counter.

AGM Round-up

Thanks to all the shareholders and customers who came to the Community Shop's AGM on 11 March. Shareholders are satisfied with how the shop is running and particular mention was made of the homemade items and the 25% discount that is available off magazine subscriptions, both of which are especially well-received by customers.

Diana & Deborah serving refreshments

Promotional feature sponsored by Wilstone Community Shop

Village broadband update.

Progress, but not as fast as we would like.

WE HAVE now installed a transmitter on top of the silo at Meads Farm, which means the area that we thought was going to be a tricky challenge, Wilstone, would appear to be pretty well solved. We are getting agreement from other householders in the village to allow for relays to be installed on the houses, which should then provide the coverage we need.

The area that we thought would be easy, that of Long Marston, has proven not to be the case. Again we are delayed by the process of identifying the best locations for the nodes and getting agreements from land owners and householders, which sounds easy, but is very time consuming.
We are still confident though, of providing services to those villages albeit that our aspirations of having the majority of installations by Easter was over-confident.

We are installing customers that have line of sight of the equipment on the farm silo which includes Dixon's Wharf and some of the properties at the southern end of Wilstone.
The real challenges are the outlying hamlets including Gubblecote. We are concentrating on the main villages and once we have that network finalised we'll be working on the plan to reach the remaining properties. Let me reassure residents of Gubblecote that they are not the poor relations in this process, but our focus must be where the majority of potential customers live.

We are endeavouring to juggle residents' requests with our need to drive revenues as quickly as possible in order to maintain a viable business. The delays we have experienced don't help that, but I hope you will appreciate that we need to pick the low hanging fruit first.

Paul Firth, Village Networks

New to the villages? Register your interest here:

www.villagenetworks.co.uk/register 03333 321817

Latest news for Wilstone

The next aerial installation in Wilstone, in New Road, taking its feed from the silo installation at Mead's Farm, will be up and running by the time you read this article. Using line of sight from that will determine the next installations. Over the next week or so, engineers from Village Networks will be coming round the village with ladders to determine the less obvious install possibilities, using the list of those that have registered an interest in having broadband.

Peter Walker has volunteered to coordinate matters within Wilstone to help speed the process along. He can be emailed at walkersandbrook@gmail.com

Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 102 Moderate

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

. **Solution on page 25**

WI

LONG MARSTON AND PUTTENHAM WI
Hello ladies and gentlemen. The speaker at our next meeting on Tuesday April 12th at 7.30 will be David Bucksom who will tell us all about Foraging, so if you always wondered if that plant growing wild in your garden or the countryside is edible, come along and find out.
At our last meeting we were treated to a wonderful display of athleticism from Rachael Clough who is a pole fitness instructor. A few of us had a go, but most only managed to get a few inches off the floor. Oh to be young again!
If you would like any information about our meetings please ring Margaret Kaye 01296 662975

LONG MARSTON ALLOTMENTS

There are soon to be several vacant allotment plots at Long Marston Allotments in Potash Lane.

If you are interested in trying your hand at growing your own vegetables please call or email.

Elaine Winter
(Secretary to the Trustees of Tring Charities)
01442 827913 or info@tringcharities.co.uk

Brian Allen - a good bet.

by Jane Shirley

BRIAN ALLEN, who died on 15th February aged 68, had most recently lived in Aston Clinton, but had formerly lived in Long Marston and Puttenham. He had close ties with the villages, and, with his own business, Printique, undertook much printing work locally, including his yearly free contribution to Wilstone fete.

Brian approached life and his particular interests with great enthusiasm. He was for some years a keen member of Tring Bowls Club and he also loved birdwatching. However, his greatest passion was horse racing and he liked a bet! He also used to help his bookmaker friend Richard Halling, either in his betting shop or shouting the odds on the course. A larger than life character, Brian enjoyed the theatre of the racecourse and was fascinated by the people in the sport, not just the gambling. Far from reticent, he often approached well known trainers and jockeys with questions and comments. With his friendly and open manner, he was rarely if ever rebuffed, even by the high and mighty. A frequent visitor to Towcester racecourse, Brian would seek out the clerk of the course at each meeting to complain about the smelly drains. On each occasion he would be assured that the problem was being dealt with, but at the next meeting he would once again be hunting down the man in charge!

Brian was very thoughtful and considerate and never failed to notice if somebody elderly or infirm was in need of help. I can recall his incredible patience and kindness to others on numerous occasions. He was also funny, opinionated and sometimes infuriating but was always great company.

About ten years ago, he underwent triple heart bypass surgery at Harefield Hospital which allowed him to carry on with his life in reasonably good health. However, a few months ago his health began to deteriorate and he was finally admitted to Harefield just after Christmas. Sadly, it was found that his condition was such that he could not be successfully treated and he returned home where he received palliative nursing care.

A huge turnout at Amersham Crematorium on March 11th was testament to Brian's great popularity. The service celebrating his life was, despite the underlying sadness, light hearted and humorous. Only Brian would have his bookmaker friend, Richard Halling, to give the eulogy. Nice touch! For many hours afterwards, anecdotes about Brian were exchanged at an overflowing Long Marston Cricket Club.

I am sure that I am only one of many who feels greatly privileged to have enjoyed Brian's kind and loyal friendship for so many years.

His loss leaves a huge void in the lives of his children and grandchildren and of all those closest to him. His family have arranged to have a commemorative bench installed at College Lake, where he so often went to watch the birds. A perfect place to sit quietly and remember our time with Brian.

Bookings Secretary
Long Marston Victory Hall

We would welcome expressions of interest from anyone who would be willing to take on this **vital** volunteer role.

The job includes

- Liaising with hall hirers from first enquiry, through possible viewing of the hall.
- Confirming the booking and processing payment and associated paperwork.
- Updating the calendar so that other interested parties (Cleaner / Maintenance) know when the hall is being used.
- Getting the keys to the hall hirer in good time and collecting them back after the event and returning the deposit.

The Bookings Secretary is expected to update the committee at each meeting and to provide a report for the AGM. We hold 5 meetings a year.

We use a number of websites to publicise our facility and have a regular advert in the Village News.

Please contact the Victory Hall Chairman
Toby Davidson on 01296 660754 / 07970 636168
lmvhchair@gmail.com

From Carpet to the Green

HAVING enjoyed Indoor and Short Mat bowls through the winter, and been inspired by the World Bowls on BBC2 in January, our bowlers eagerly await a return to bowling in the sunshine on their beautiful green at Cheddington's Recreation Ground on the High Street.

The outdoor season starts on April 24th. The Green is open for new bowlers to **Give Bowls A Go** each Tuesday (2pm) and Friday (6pm) from May to September.

Wayne Rooney may be on £350,000 a week, but it cost a new bowler less than a £1 a week to become a member of **Cheddington Bowls Club**.

Where can you find a better combination of value and fun, for we provide an excellent all year bowling and social event calendar.

With love from 'Jack': 01525 220644

ST. CROSS WILSTONE

THANK YOU

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE LENT LUNCH AT WILSTONE VILLAGE HALL ON MARCH 2ND. IT WAS WONDERFUL TO WELCOME SO MANY PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE VILLAGES AND FROM OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES. THE EVENT RAISED OVER £200 FOR CHRISTIAN AID, TO BE ADDED TO THE PROCEEDS FROM THE VARIOUS LUNCHES WHICH WERE HELD AROUND THE WIDER CHURCH COMMUNITY.

MANY THANKS ALSO TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SO KINDLY SUPPORTED ST.CROSS'S ANNUAL LENT APPEAL FOR DENS (DACORUM EMERGENCY NIGHT SHELTER). ONCE AGAIN WE HAVE EXCEEDED OUR TARGET OF 40 ITEMS (ONE FOR EVERY DAY OF LENT) AND ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO EVERYONE FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.

MENTMORE Arts FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE

ART LOVERS FLOCK TO MENTMORE

The 8th Mentmore Arts Festival will be held from Saturday 28th May to Monday 30th May 2016, open each day from 11am to 5pm.

Over the last few years this event has become increasingly popular both locally and further afield with over 1,000 visitors and in excess of £16,000 worth of art sold in 2015. The Committee continue to hone their organisational skills to ensure that the Festival delivers an exciting experience with new and fresh art alongside the regular exhibitors who have become firm favourites.

The twin venues of St Mary's Church and Mentmore Village Hall provide attractive settings and with the refreshment marquee next to the Hall, a morning or afternoon can be spent appreciating art and enjoying a coffee, light lunch or perhaps a Pimms or two.

We have over 60 artists exhibiting, displaying a variety of work including paintings, photography, glass work, ceramics and cabinetry.

Not only does the Mentmore Arts Festival promote local art but it also raises money for local charities. To date the impressive total of £41,500 has been donated and everyone who supports the Festival, whether by showing art, buying art or just attending the event, should be proud of this achievement. The key charity for 2016 is Rennie Grove Hospice Care.

Please visit our website at www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk for further information and a preview of the artists for 2016.

ST. CROSS, THE QUEEN, AND SOME DOGS.

ST. CROSS INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THE QUEENS 90TH BIRTHDAY WITH **AFTERNOON TEA ON SUNDAY 24TH APRIL**, THE NEAREST SUNDAY TO HER ACTUAL BIRTHDAY. WE WILL BE SERVING TEA FROM 3.00PM-5PM, AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US.

THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS COMMENCE IN MAY WITH A PAGEANT IN THE GROUNDS OF WINDSOR CASTLE, CENTRED ON THE QUEENS LOVE OF HORSES. THEN THE MAIN FESTIVITIES TAKE PLACE AROUND THE WEEKEND OF 11/12 JUNE, WITH CHURCH SERVICES, TROOPING THE COLOUR, AND A STREET PARTY IN THE MALL. THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE PARTY IS TO HONOUR THE 600 CHARITIES OF WHICH HER MAJESTY IS PATRON.

AS EVERYONE IN WILSTONE WILL BE EXHAUSTED AFTER THE **VILLAGE FETE ON 5 JUNE**, ST. CROSS HAVE DECIDED TO PARTY AROUND THE ACTUAL DATE OF THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY. WE TOO WILL BE RAISING MONEY FOR CHARITY, NOT ONE OF WHICH THE QUEEN IS PATRON, BUT ONE CHOSEN TO REFLECT HER LOVE OF DOGS. ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE TEA WILL GO TO **CHILTERN DOG RESCUE**. COME AND MEET THE 'CHURCH DOGS', MABEL AND ROBBIE, AND BRING YOUR OWN TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION.

THE COST OF THE TEA IS £3; UNDER 10'S ARE FREE. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BOOK IN ADVANCE, BUT IF YOU CAN IT WOULD HELP ENORMOUSLY WITH CATERING. CONTACTS FOR ST. CROSS- OLGA (01442) 822894 AND PAM (01442)824394. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.

St. Cross, Wilstone.

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Lessons are £10 for 20 minutes, £15 for 30 minutes, £20 for 45 minutes or £25 for a full hour

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Afternoon Session:- 12.30pm - 3.00pm

For further information, details of funding, session availability or to arrange a visit, please call 07506 179658 or visit our website **www.marsworthpreschool.org.uk**

Community shop posts good results

by Phil Buchi

WILSTONE Community Shop treasurer Jonathon Tymms submitted the accounts for the year ending 30 September 2015 to the AGM held at Wilstone Village Hall on 11th March. The limited company, an industrial and provident society run by volunteers, reported a small profit after tax of £2,830 in that year. This was down from £10,035 in the previous year because of increased costs - particularly the decision to employ a paid manager on a part-time basis. Diana Crapnell, Chair of the Society, said in her report to the meeting that the move to appoint a manager had been a great success, and that the two holders of the post - initially Nici Ward and now Ali Driver - had made big contributions to the success of the enterprise.

Turnover for the year was £109,245; increased slightly from £105,375 the previous year. Investment in a refit and new equipment had increased fixed assets from £4987 to £7812. The accounts were approved by the meeting.

Diana added that the landlords had confirmed that shop's present location was secure at present and there was no need for new premises. She particularly commended the work of the student volunteers at weekends and highlighted the achievement of a five-star hygiene rating from the local authority.

Doug Chalmers, who had stepped in as acting Company Secretary when Graham Thorpe moved away, agreed to take the post on for the moment and (not surprisingly) was elected unopposed. After questions and suggestions from shareholders, Diana Crapnell was awarded a round of applause for her considerable contribution throughout the year - and more than a few early morning openings.

Gubblecote a Hamlet or not a Hamlet?

By Emma smith

To be, or not to be, that is the question
Whether 'tis nobler in mind to suffer
The Diggers and Hoe Loaders of outrageous property fortunes
Or to take arms and ask why we pay additional "Rural Council Tax"?
The heart-ache of green belt land ripped asunder
By those who show no respect
Perchance our Hamlet Gubblecote gets greater day by day
Must give us pause to wonder.....

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CAMPAIGNING villagers were jubilant when the Council confirmed that they had decided – at last – to do something about the continuing problem of Horse Poo.

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And sporting events have been affected too – cricketers have complained of being on a "sticky wicket", and footballers have been kicking up a stink.

Under a new initiative, Horse Bags and Bins are to be installed at strategic locations. Following in the footsteps of the successful Doggie "Scoop the Poop" campaign, the Bags and Bins will carry the "Secure the Manure" logo.

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A Council spokesperson said "We want to demonstrate that we are serious about this issue. We are not just "going through the motions".

One local resident said "There are heaps of reasons why this is a good idea".

The initiative is being sponsored jointly by The Aylesbury Vale Rose Growers Association and The Dacorum Rhubarb Forcers Club.

An equestrian who frequently rides through the villages said "Both my horse and I will be greatly relieved when this business is behind us".

The proposed design for the strategically placed Horse bins.

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The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

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As always, this will be followed by a full breakfast in Cecilia Hall at 6.30 a.m.

THE THEATRE IS COMING TO PUTTENHAM……

TUESDAY, 3rd MAY

The Bad Apple Theatre Company present "A Thankful Village".

An original comedy-drama by Kate Bramley with songs and music by Jez Lowe.

Play: 7.30p.m. - 9.30 p.m. with 20min interval for refreshments

Set against the backdrop of WW1, the quiet village backwater of Bottledale is changed forever by the advent of the Great War in Europe, but the roll-of-honour stone in the village square remains empty and unetched as the years pass and folk start to wonder.

This is a story of hope, humour and humility, about the men who went away, the women left behind, and the eccentric twists and turns of daily life that led to their reuniting, for better or for worse, in the winter of 1918.

The 'Thankful Villages' were those were no men were lost in the Great War, because all those who left to serve came home again. There are some 52 settlements in England and Wales with this title. **Puttenham is one of them!**

TICKETS: £9.50 Adults / £5 Children : Reserve your seats through Christine 01296 668337 or online through the Bad Apple Theatre Company

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That's The Way To Do It

By Andy Ashwell

IF YOU went to see the village panto last month then you will, no doubt, have been mesmerised by Florence in her starring role as one of the chorus. I went to see her in the Friday-night performance accompanied by a load of her sycophantic, toady relatives who clapped manically whenever she appeared and fell about laughing helplessly at the corny jokes, the fluffed lines and the hammed-up acting. It was quite surreal to see my normally po-faced in-laws rolling about laughing at jokes that, if told by me, would elicit nothing but stony stares and resigned shrugs of disapproval. But panto-land is, by definition, a rather bizarre and unusual place where anything can happen…and it generally does.

During the performance, every time that Dockside Dick – the Buttons-type character – appeared and peppered the audience with a seemingly endless torrent of sugar-filled sweets I could sense Anna's disapproval at the dental-public-health disaster unfolding around her. However, it didn't seem to bother her dad who is also a dentist (retired) as he stretched and grabbed at the flying sweets like a sugar-addicted whirling dervish. In fact, I don't think that I have ever seen him so spasmodically animated since I asked for his daughter's hand in marriage. And how ironic, I thought, that the unhealthy sweet-fest reigning down on us was actually giving him one of the best exercise work-outs of his life.

When I first found out that the show takes only six weeks from first sight of the script to curtain-down on the final performance, I was a bit worried that Florence and her friends would struggle to remember everything and become nervous and embarrassed about going on stage.

I needn't have worried because they were remarkably well drilled and, as I observed on the Saturday night, completely unfazed by the whole affair. On the Saturday night it was Anna and my turn to go backstage to calm nerves and help the girls swap costumes. As it turned out, Anna and I were both completely superfluous to requirements: the girls knew exactly what to do, and in between performances chatted calmly and played on their ipads without any hint of nervousness.
And while Florence and her friends managed to learn all their songs and routines and perform them flawlessly, I am still struggling to retain any of the German that I have been trying to learn. Having failed spectacularly with the first teach-yourself-course-for-beginners that I borrowed from the library, I have now moved on to an even more basic course. This one starts off rather ominously by teaching two phrases: "*I don't understand*" and "*do you speak English*". I must say that that didn't inspire much confidence in it.

However, having mastered the "do you speak English" phrase I felt rather smug, even though I already knew a version of it from childhood. This new course is much easier because it tries to use as many English-sounding words as possible. Because of this I am now able to ask the whereabouts of the bar and the toilet. I wouldn't understand the answers, mind.

Although simpler to learn, some of what is taught seems a little strange and outwardly not much use in everyday life. Interestingly, because the German for baby is *baby*; my husband is *mein mann*; and kidnap is *kidnappen*, I can now also say: "my husband can kidnap the baby". Not much use, I hear you say. But if Neil Gurney decides to base his next panto on Punch and Judy…and it's in German…then the audition for Mr Punch should be a doddle. That's the way to do it!

'Girl Friday'

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From the Vicarage

by Rev'd Jane Banister

THERE are times when people ask me questions about the Church of England and as I answer, I am tempted to say - no I know – it doesn't make much sense to me either and I am part of it! It can be an organisation that is deeply traditional and rule bound, and it can also be one that radically challenges people's beliefs and assumptions. It is based in some of the oldest buildings in our land, and yet the people you meet inside are often those who love to look to the future. It is our state church, which means that we have official church services and the Queen is our head, and yet not one penny of state funding goes towards keeping it going.

I know both very traditional clergy and both radical ones, those who wish we weren't a state church, and those are believe there are advantages to it, but the one point where we do agree is that whatever we think of the Queen, there is doubting her Christian faith. Her Christmas messages have been more and more faith based, and she and the Duke of Edinburgh are known to listen and comment on the many sermons they hear (which is as not as common as you may think – "nice sermon vicar" is still the most common comment!).

There will be lots of celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday from street parties to litter clearing, bunting and Union flags will be brought out again, and there will also be services and prayers. I have no doubt that she prays for all of us, and carries her duties and responsibilities seriously, and for that I am grateful. Privilege and wealth may be something we often wish for, but her life is not one that I would want – money is not everything.

So the Queen's birthday will be celebrated in churches as well as in schools and streets and pubs, and we rejoice in that.

Jane

Tring and District Local History and Museum Society

Speaker programme 2016

Wed 18 May 2016	AGM	
at Tring Parish Hall	The 1850s account book of William Brown, of Tring	*Chris Reynolds*

William Brown's client account general ledger contains a wealth of information relating to property in and around Tring, including sales of houses and farms, valuations for probate, etc relating to local families. A significant part of the volume deals with the management of the Tring Park estate. Dr Chris Reynolds is an amateur historian and member of the Society. He has lived in Tring for over 50 years, and currently runs the "Genealogy in Hertfordshire" web site. This site includes many pages on Tring, including a digitised copy of William Brown's account book.

All meetings will be held at 8 pm in the Tring Parish Hall (behind the Church of St Peter and St Paul, High Street).

Visitors will be welcome on payment of £4 per meeting.

Martin Wells
Programme Secretary
Tring & District Local History & Museum Society
www.tringlocalhistorymuseum.org.uk

Hertfordshire Chamber Orchestra – a concert with Paul Barritt

7.30pm, Saturday 9 April 2016, St Peter & St Paul Church, Tring

Join us for our 12th annual music concert with the **Hertfordshire Chamber Orchestra.** Once again we are privileged and delighted to welcome Paul Barritt as director and soloist for another fantastic concert to raise vital funds for **Rennie Grove Hospice Care.**

The programme for the evening will be:

Dvorak:	2 Legends op 59 nos 7 and 9
Beethoven:	Violin Concerto in D major
Haydn:	Symphony No 99 in E flat major

Tickets are £15 per person, £12.50 concessions in advance (no concessions on the door) Tickets can be purchased by contacting the Fundraising Team on 01442 890732 / community@renniegrove.org.

Alternatively, you can buy tickets from our charity shop on **Tring High Street.**

All profits from this event will go to **Rennie Grove Hospice Care** that provides specialist nursing care to patients diagnosed with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses in the local area.

I do hope that you will be able to join us for this event

Best Wishes Katie Eyton, Community Fundraiser, Rennie Grove Hospice Care.

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Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

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Deadline for items to go in the next edition is: Wednesday 20 April 2016.

The editor is Phil Buchi

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

Tring Parish Men's Society - The Big Issue

by Leslie Barker

EIGHT men attended our March meeting to discuss 'The Big Issue.' We avoided the week's big talking point of the EU referendum, and concentrated on the newspaper of that name and the issue it was founded to address – homelessness.

The Big Issue, a now weekly street newspaper was founded in 1991 by John Bird and Gordon Roddick to support homeless people. John has made a remarkable journey from homelessness and attending an approved school to making his maiden speech in the Lords in February! Gordon pioneered fair trade with the Body Shop in 1976. We passed round recent editions and articles kept from past years. Many misunderstand its purpose so I began by reading out the first two statements of its

Manifesto printed on the Contents page:-
WE BELIEVE **in a hand up, not a hand out …**
Which is why our sellers BUY every copy of the magazine from us for £1.25 and sell it on to you for £2.50 ….
WE BELIEVE **in trade, not aid ….**
Which is why we ask that you ALWAYS take your copy of the magazine – it's a bloody good read and our sellers are working and need your custom.

Big Issue sellers are running a business and do not want charity.A Romanian lady Marcella sells *The Big Issue* in Tring on Fridays while her husband Nicco sells it in Bletchley.

We agreed that housing is a big issue today and homelessness its most intractable aspect. Housing in Tring and its related need for public transport was discussed. Several members had responded to last year's Consultation, for which the outcome is still awaited.
We asked how did people become homeless, and why couldn't they find accommodation.

Ex service personnel, used to having everything set out for them and doing things together, suddenly find themselves alone and ill prepared for civilian life; and as is now acknowledged many suffer from post traumatic stress disorder. Indeed many homeless people have mental health issues or alcohol and drug addictions. Redundancy and bankruptcy can lead to mortgage defaults and/or broken relationships. The money soon runs out after a few weeks in a hotel

The "“bedroom tax” also leads to eviction and homelessness. Then there are families living in B&Bs, OK for a holiday, but no good full time sharing kitchen and bathrooms, often far from friends, family, schools and workplace.

The Government keeps coming up with new ideas, hardly ever put into practice on a large scale, or worse still contributing to the problems. One encouragement in reading *The Big Issue* is the stories of those who have overcome homelessness, sometimes celebrities.

Big Issue Foundation also has a charitable arm supporting over 320 social enterprises, and a shop, selling among other things prints of Street Art.

If you want to help homeless people then buy *The Big Issue* and read it, contribute to Tring's Food Bank, or donate to DENS (Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter) which does much more than provide emergency shelter.

All men are welcome to our next meeting on Wednesday 6 April, 7.30 pm at the Half Moon in Wilstone, where a good meal awaits those wanting more than a drink. We WILL be discussing the great IN-OUT debate.

WANTED HELPER

KIND, CARING, ANIMAL LOVER TO FEED AND CHECK MY RABBITS WHEN I AM AWAY ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS, PAID AT A DAILY RATE.

WANTED CARROT TOPS

I LOVE CARROT TOPS, AS DOES MY SISTER. ANY ALLOTMENT HOLDERS WILLING TO SELL THEIR CARROT TOPS TO MY OWNER FOR A SMALL FEE PLEASE!?!

CONTACT

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU CAN HELP WITH EITHER, PLEASE RING JO ON:-

07766 953662 OR 01296 662570

Chiropodist

Wendy Hilliard MSSCh MBChA
HPC Registered

Member of the British Chiropody and Podiatry Association

For a home visit, telephone 07969 741792 or 01296 630189

The agricultural story line

By David Mead

A name for the white goose?

THE lambing started at the end of February. Now the third week of March, it's nearly over. Chris has had a busy time; out of the 70-odd ewes there are fourteen 'threes'. At the moment most of these are in the small field at the end of New Road where there is a bit of grass, but it is still a bit cold. The walkers come by to see the lambs and are greeted by the white goose. He is very friendly this spring and really needs a name. He follows my car up to the house where he has some wild-bird seed.

The wild pigeons that featured in the Countryfile TV programme are still munching their way through the oil seed rape crop at Dixon's Gap. As you go over the bridge it's possible to see large patches that have suffered. Some warmer weather would encourage the plants to grow quicker. They have drilled some spring wheat this year. It helps with the control of the weed Black Grass, but the spring-sown varieties don't yield as well as the autumn sown crop, though they are usually good quality.

Back at Christmas time they were getting worried at the farm shop about the sale of coal - mild winter and all that. Well the last month has changed their tune; it might be alright now. That's the best way of running a farm today - with lots of different branches within the business at least some of them pay the bills.

I am getting interested in the Wendover canal re-opening project. I gather they have been promised the funds. The gang are working on three projects and are hoping to finish on the hill in 18 months' time. With April near it will soon be time for old so-and-so to take his basket to Chesham and bring back the cuckoo. I gather his lateness coming back depended on the welcome he got on the way. Thirsty work and all that. It does not feel like cuckooing weather today. *DM.*

A sure sign that Spring has arrived on Meads Farm **Photo Ken Lawless**