



April 2020

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

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Help for the Coronavirus in these strangest of times.

Only those who were around at the end of World War 11 will recall the days of rationing and other deprivations which continued for nine years after VE Day to May 1945. And here we are, 75 years later, facing different challenges caused by the Coronavirus. These challenges will make big changes to our social and working lives.

In our own small world of Tring Rural, the Wilstone Show has already been cancelled as have all the film nights and there has to be a question mark over village fetes. Ironically, even the 75th celebration of VE Day has to be in doubt. Given what those brave soldiers went through (see separate article on pages 14 and 15) and the perseverance of those who served at home, we could learn some lessons from their stoicism, fortitude and humour in times of appalling adversity and their care for their comrades.

Now more than ever before is why we need the community shop to provide a lifeline not just in terms of food, but also to be able to tell people who may be lonely that they are cared for. Thankfully the shop will stay open although trading hours will be reduced.

So in these strange times, lets do what is right and take care of the most vulnerable in our society. For those that struggle to get out for whatever reason, who can't get to the shops, or who need to hear a friendly voice then please use this new voluntary service.

All you have to do is complete the form on the back page and get it back to the village shop, and your neighbours in the villages will do their best to help meet your needs.

The Community Shop is under considerable pressure right now with staffing and product shortages, so Peter Walker has volunteered to coordinate this scheme. Email walkersandbrook@gmail.com. Rachael Scahill is co-ordinating Long Marston and Gubblecote. Email- rachael.scahill@hotmail.com They would particularly like to hear from people who are willing to help shop and/or deliver.

As we go to press we have learnt of many similar initiatives to help those who are, or will be, self isolating. These self starting groups are beginning to link together to provide a more integrated response. Well done everyone. The more the merrier.

Chin up and stay safe, your Editorial team

Special features

- Snapshot13
- War Memorial 14&15
- Shop News 17
- Allotment News 19
- Cricket Club 21

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

Highways bulletin 5. April 2020

by Peter Bygate

The Highways Working Party recommendations submitted in March last year reflected the concerns and priorities identified at the time (accessible on the TRPC website at <http://tringrural-pc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Highway-Report.pdf>) but events move on and new emphases emerge adding to or amending the original proposals. The March 2019 document, therefore, should not be seen as a static end-point but more as the first step on what will be a long journey.

Housing developments

No further news to report.

Herts County Council Highways

Recent resurfacing on Wingrave Road is welcome with Cheddington Lane scheduled for 23 March. We still await news on refurbished road signs and the arrival of two new speed indicator devices. Bucks CC have shared a strategy for managing HGVs through Ivinghoe and a joint meeting with Herts officers and others had been arranged for 24 March but unfortunately has fallen to the virus and may not happen now for several months.



6 March

Another resident sent in a photo of a lorry far too big for our village roads attempting to turn into Cheddington Lane covering the pavement at a peak time where children are walking to school. It was also noted that the roads in Tring have had their pot holes and speed bumps laid. Grove Road and Christchurch Road schools both now have 20 mph speed limits - why can't Long Marston get the same?

Please stay tuned, and committed to the ambition of making our villages safer and more enjoyable places!

(Copies have been emailed to the bodies responsible for enforcement, namely HCC Highways, HCC and Dacorum BC Councillors, and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Herts)

Village News

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GREETINGS from the self isolation ward in Sandbrook Lane. Spring cleaning has started early and the back garden has never looked so good at this time of year.

Sadly a lot of events have had to be cancelled and I am sure you will join me in thanking all those people who have worked so hard to organise them only to have to face cancellation or postponement.

On a brighter note the community spirit (or as it used to be called the Dunkirk spirit) is so clearly evident in our community. When you read this magazine you will find so many offers of help if you are ill or housebound. Truly awe inspiring and yet again emphasises how lucky we are to live in such a caring community

Finally, as an ex-retailer, I could not help but chuckle at a cartoon depicting a man saying goodbye to his wife as he left for work with the words "I'm going to self isolate, or as I call it, open my shop!"

Stay safe—stay well

The next edition will be for May 2020 and the deadline for items for inclusion is: Wednesday 15 April.

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

Let us know if we are not!

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Church services

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

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

Rev'd Jane Banister writes;

Some important messages – we will keep our churches open as much as we can (up to date information will be on www.trinteamparish.org.uk); ring us if we can help in any way or can point you to someone who can (01442 822170).

April 12th is Easter Day, and it will be a very different day this year from previous Easters. It is a celebration of life, of the fact that the darkness cannot win. However we celebrate this year, we will still celebrate.

We heard yesterday, March 17th, that all public church services have had to be cancelled.

Church buildings are still open, and anyone can use them, but we do ask that you keep to the hygiene rules.

We will be providing resources for worship online, and we hope streaming some services. While baptisms are postponed, we are working out how to take weddings and funerals, so do please get in touch if you have any questions.

You are always in our prayers, and please keep us in yours.

Note; Ken Martin has just confirmed that St Cross will be open for private prayer between the hours of 10am and 4pm although the Tuesday coffee mornings are suspended.



All Saints Long Marston

What's on and what's not on

Diary Dates..

Friday 12 June

Cecilia Tea Rooms (St. Mary's)

Sunday 14 June

Puttenham's summer exhibition (Friends of Putt. Church)

Friday 31 July

Cecilia Tea Rooms (St. Mary's)

Saturday 1 August

Our Stall at the Horti Show in Long Marston

Saturday 5 September

Jumble Sale (Friends of Puttenham Church)

Friday 9 October

Cecilia Tea Rooms (St. Mary's)

Saturday 31 October

October Lunch (Puttenham Trust)

Saturday 28 November

A concert (to be confirmed)

What's not on

Sadly, as well as the "Showtime" and Film nights explained opposite, there have been a number of other events cancelled because of the CV19 virus. Here is a brief summary

Wednesday 1st April St Cross Lent lunch.

Saturday 4th April Long Marston litter pick. Margaret Kelland writes "all litter picks have been cancelled nationally but I will be picking up any I find where I walk and hopefully more people will do the same."

Sunday 5th April St Cross. Ridgeway Quartet.

Sunday 5th April Leighton Fun Runners 10k race. Daniel Green writes "sadly we have to cancel but will be holding the event in spring 2021."

Tuesday 14th April WI Open Event Heater Bernard writes "sadly the event is cancelled."

Saturday 18th April Charlotte's World Challenge Fundraiser.

Friday 24th April Tring together Golf Day.

Saturday 25th April Mentmore plant sale. Hannah Wrathall writes "sadly, despite all the hard work, we have to cancel

Sunday 3rd May Long Marston Tennis Club Open Day. Lee Nash writes "We look forward to re-scheduling at a happier time."

At the moment it looks as if all events for May are also cancelled. Of course if anything changes it will be in the next edition of Village News,

Showtime and Wilstone Films

It was with very mixed feelings that the Wilstone Village Hall Committee decided to cancel their planned events in the village hall, whilst the Coronavirus is such a threat to public health.

However, a great deal of work had already gone into the preparation of the show, and of course, the Film Nights, so I would like to thank all the cast of the planned show, and the back stage crew who have spent so much time planning every move and all the music.

I would also like to thank all those who run the bar at the film nights, organise supplies, cook the snacks and help with the technical side.

And of course, your good selves for helping stack the chairs and tolerating at my dubious humour.

We will be back in the Autumn and we will re-launch our variety show for you in October/November, bigger and better than ever (and I can say that with confidence!) and we may kick off our film nights a little earlier, in September.

So thank you to all who have given your time and enthusiasm to these events and I am so sorry that our community events have come to such an untimely end.

Peter Walker, Wilstone Village Hall Chairman

Tring Rural Parish Council Meetings

The public are welcome to attend these meetings.

Wednesday 13 May (Annual meeting)
8pm Victory Hall Long Marston

Wednesday 8 July 8pm Wilstone Village Hall

Community Shop Wilstone NEW OPENING HOURS

Monday to Sunday: 9.00am to 12.00

See page 17 for full details and restrictions

In your garden (or on your allotment)

by Colin Moore

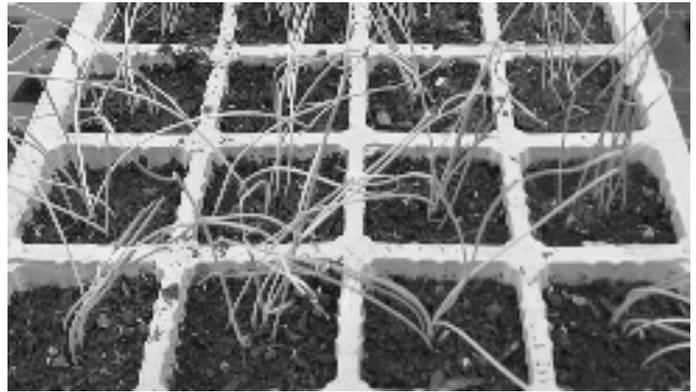
IT is several years since I wrote a piece for Village News on gardening. When my father introduced me to allotment gardening about 70 years ago it was a straight 20 rod piece with a path either side and most importantly an allotment shed. Every year it was dug end to end apart from the 8 row strawberry bed. Runners were taken after fruiting and used to replace 2 rows every year so it was a sort of rolling bed.

Green stuff, cabbages, sprouts and cauliflower were grown from seeds in shorts rows ready to transplant in to beds. Onions were grown from seed saved from the previous year. About six onions would be planted in small bed and allowed to go to seed. I seem to remember that the seed heads would encased in paper bags to contain the hundreds of seeds. It was a job for an autumn evening to sort them out.

We planted large amount of potatoes which would have been set up in trays the in the shed until they shot. Usually we would dig sufficient ground and then plant a row. Dad would use a spade to pull back soil and my job was to slide the potato down the back the spade to correct depth with the shoots up. Needless to say knocking of the odd shoot didn't go unnoticed! Then dig some more for the next row and so on. I guess about a third of the 20 rod would be devoted to potatoes.

Anyhow enough reminiscing. What's changed? Well I still plant potatoes same way but now I am a fan of the narrow raised bed. Of course you do lose a lot of space but they much easier to deal with. At the moment our allotments are extremely wet and the soil is very sticky. This morning I was able to prepare one bed by using a spade and digging from the path on either side, even so I had to scrape the spade umpteen times. It was hard going but by not standing on the bed it made a big difference.

This year I am experimenting with growing some items initially as plugs— spring onions, shallots, beetroot, lettuce, and mangetout. These are now being brought on in my small cold greenhouse at home. A few weeks ago I planted the seeds in a good compost. The spring onions Guardsmen have about eight or nine seeds in each plug space The compost was compressed down, the seeds dropped in and covered with more compost and compressed again. By compressing the compost it should make it possible to remove the plug for planting as one piece. I shall space the planted plugs quite close together and I am not going to thin them out. I have done same thing for the beetroot and the shallots but with less seeds per plug. I choose Bolthardy for the



Spring onions and beetroot plugs a few weeks after planting

beetroot as this one of the best varieties for early planting. The shallot are Zebrune which are the popular banana type. The Iceburg lettuce will be thinned to 1 per plug.

I started the Oregon sugar pod mangetout on wet kitchen paper with a further layer on top in small tray and covered to keep the light out. They sat on top of fridge freezer for about 3 or 4 days and by then the majority had begun to sprout. I prepared the plug tray in the same way but placing 1 sprouting pea per plug space and a bit deeper than for the small seeds. The tray was placed in the cold greenhouse. Today they are all showing and about 2cm in height. They will be transplanted shortly when they about 10cm and good sturdy plants. I shall do the same for my runner beans but with larger plugs but not until the second week in May.

Of course it may all depend on whether we will be allowed out to enjoy our hobby and the resulting produce.

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

Poet's corner

From a small collection of poems from 30's thro 60's by local poet John H Mullins.

Forever Millhoppers

Come walk with me from Astrope down the winding lane,
Where hedges tall abound and poplars sway above,
Beside the softly-running brook that flows along,
Nearer ... yet nearer, to the land I love.

Over the well-worn gate and onward once again,
Ambling we go, along an avenue of green,
And there in front of us, as in the days of yore,
The old plank bridge across the burbling stream.

There too that trickle through the shallows into sun,
A blissful overhang of greenery,
Mauve restful clover on the little knoll
That seems as ageless as eternity.

Great tufts of grass surround the rabbit holes,
And yonder lies a tree-trunk gnarled and still,
Deep are the hoof-prints there upon the bank,
Where in a different age there stood a mill.

The church bell floats so lazily across the lea,
And mingles with the music of the birds;
A bee hums softly near the hedge -
The song is yet another without words

Here is the heart of "never-never" land,
A little Arcady of childhood's far-off days;
Here lie those memories so richly sweet,
Seen once again as through a golden haze.

Long Marston School URGENT Appeal Do you shop online?

AS YOU are probably aware school budgets are continually being cut making it ever more important for schools to find ways of boosting their funds to enable them to provide the best for their pupils.

easyfundraising is one of the ways Long Marston School is doing this and the great thing about it is that it is at no cost to the person giving. Sounds like this isn't possible? Well read on...

easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for your favourite cause. Simply follow the link below, then select the box saying "Support this Cause" and complete the online form (you can opt out of receiving emails). The app then gives you the option of adding a reminder button to your browser or device; select that before you go shopping online as normal, then every time you shop the retailer will make a donation (percentage of your purchase) to the school. For example if you do a weekly grocery shop online and go via the *easyfundraising* link for your shop you will be making a weekly donation to the school. Remember every little bit adds up - so far we have raised £1420 by parents logging in, registering and remembering to go via *easyfundraising* each time they shop online. PLEASE help us to boost school funds by going to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/longmarstonschool/>

We really appreciate your support.

Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 137 Moderate

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

Solution on page 21

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



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1st Wilstone & Long Marston
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Could you get involved in helping with Cubs?

Cubs are boys and girls aged 8 to 10 years.
We meet on Wednesday from 6 to 7:30pm in
term time at Wilstone Village Hall.

We are currently looking for

- Two more adults to join the Cub
Leadership team

There is support & training and good program
resources available. We are insured for a younger
sibling to come along, if needed.

If you would like to become involved please
contact 1wilscouts@gmail.com



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From the Vicarage

by Rev'd Jane Banister

AT the time of writing" is a phrase that we sometimes use in these articles. Never has it seemed more appropriate, since how our community is being asked to act today, 16th March, may well be very different from when this is published.

Sudden and unexpected change unsettles people; being told we cannot do what we want to makes us angry; not knowing what the future holds makes us fearful. But we cannot live based on those emotions. What we can do is help each other – if we all make contact with our neighbours and share and offer help, then we become part of a new community and develop new relationships, and that builds us up. We need to not blame others – this virus is no one's fault and we all have a part to play in how we react and respond.

While many things are at risk, we are also incredibly fortunate. We have a free health service, available to all, even if it is struggling. Those of us reading this have homes, clean water, heating, and food. For many people, their normal life does not include those certainties.

We are an incredibly privileged society and have been able to buy what we want, travel when and where we want, and communicate with others in this country and all over the world in a myriad of ways. For a few months we may have to lose some of those privileges. We will cope.

Some important messages – we will keep our churches open as much as we can (up to date information will be on www.tringteamparish.org.uk); ring us if we can help in any way or can point you to someone who can (01442 822170).

April 12th is Easter Day, and it will be a very different day this year from previous Easters. It is a celebration of life, of the fact that the

darkness cannot win. However we celebrate this year, we will still celebrate.

We are not people of fear:

we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety:

we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

We are not people of greed:

we are people of generosity.

We are your people God,

giving and loving,

wherever we are,

whatever it costs

For as long as it takes

wherever you call us.

Amen.

We heard yesterday, March 17th, that all public church services have had to be cancelled.

Church buildings are still open, and anyone can use them, but we do ask that you keep to the hygiene rules.

We will be providing resources for worship online, and we hope streaming some services. While baptisms are postponed, we are working out how to take weddings and funerals, so do please get in touch if you have any questions.

You are always in our prayers, and please keep us in yours.

With love Jane

01442 822170

jane@tringteamparish.org.uk

Note; any information on church services and events may well change.

Letters to the editor ...

From Ivor Gregory, Astrope

Flooding in Long Marston

WITH reference to a letter in last month's Village News from Dave Jenkinson entitled *Council Dilemmas*. It was refreshing to read an important, common-sense article written by someone who is prepared to stand up and be counted.

About a year ago, I made a concerted effort to try and get something done about the ongoing flooding problem in Long Marston but without success. I found myself deliberately ignored by Herts CC, the lead authority in this matter, and actively obstructed by Tring Rural Parish Council. As regards the latter, please read the evidence on my Flooding Website that I set up at the time (www.flooding.info) and, in particular, the Updates of 10th and 16th May.

A year on, absolutely nothing practical has been done at all and the 'authorities' have continued to pursue their two crackpot ideas, the lowering of Chapel Lane (aptly referred to by Dave Jenkinson as hare-brained) and digging-up the recreation ground to store water. The futility of both these schemes was highlighted by me last year and can be read about on the Flooding Website. Despite deliberately refusing to take any notice of what I had said or even communicate with me about my family's 500 years' experience of the lie of the land in this area, Herts CC pressed ahead with their 'project' at the recreation ground. They wasted public money in July 2019 on consultants and contractors to investigate the feasibility and, wholly predictably, these people concluded in the report that it would not work because of the high water-table.

This had been the mainstay of my advice from the beginning concerning the flooding problem and, indeed, Herts CC's own consultancy report from 2014 and their 'bible' of the concept that they slavishly follow (the SUDS system) both dismissed its use at Long Marston because of the high water-table. Even in the face of these facts, Herts CC still went ahead and wasted £6,757 of public money on their work at the Rec – I found this out by making a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Another aspect of the flooding problem has come to the fore in the last year, namely, the inadequacy of Thames Water's Pumping Station in Chapel Lane. A major part of the flooding at that end of the village is caused by the 'Long Marston Drain' (Tring Bourne) being badly blocked along the lane and out into the fields. The knock-on effect of this is that when there is a surfeit of surface

water, coming from properties in Chapel Lane, Bromley and Church View (both the latter being higher up), the water backs up and floods as the pumping station is unable to cope with the volume of foul and surface water. On occasion, this has led to sewage appearing in the flood water in Chapel Lane.

Thames Water have a statutory obligation to remove both foul and surface water and every householder pays a substantial sum in their water bill for this purpose. When the storage tank in the pumping station reaches a high level, a sensor alerts Thames Water's HQ and they send tankers to pump out and take away the excess in order to prevent an overflow. For many months now, these tankers have been coming on a fairly regular basis to support the inadequacy of the pumping station which obviously is in dire need of an upgrade or repair.

In one particular case – the fortnight over Christmas and the New Year – a tanker came every 2 or 3 hours, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This work was carried out by subcontractors who apparently charged Thames Water £1,000 per tanker, per visit. The money spent during this period alone could have paid for the necessary upgrade/repair of the pumping station on a permanent basis rather than just the pursuit of a hand-to-mouth bodge. The fact that this operation has prevented any significant flooding in Chapel Lane recently, despite the excessive rain, proves that the inadequacy of the pumping station is the other major factor, along with the blocked brook, that causes the flooding at that end of the village.

The proposed development next to the Church intends to discharge its surface water directly into the field ditch system – if you can call it that these days – and therefore it will inevitably make its way downhill towards Chapel Lane, either above or below the ground. In these circumstances, it would be irresponsible to allow this development to go ahead without the immediate upgrading of foul and surface water pumping facilities by Thames Water and the proper clearing out of the blocked brook.

To conclude, Dave Jenkinson asks whether local residents will have to stand by and watch this ineffectual behaviour continue for another 25/30 years. My experience shows that unless there is a fundamental improvement in attitude and expertise on the part of the so-called 'authorities', then the answer most certainly will be 'yes'. Should anyone require any more facts about the flooding problem, they are welcome to contact me at ivor.gregory@flooding.info.

Letters to the editor continued...

From Jeremy Johnson, Wilstone

Flooding

I READ Dave Jenkinson's article in Village News about the CIL money...£15,000 worth of funding looking for a home and his comments about flooding and cleaning ditches. I've also read previous articles by other people about cleaning ditches to reduce the risk of flooding to allow water to flow freely.

There are some areas where you want water to be able to flow freely and some areas where you don't. For example cleaning the ditch in front of my house makes little difference to the flow of water as there is a culvert at the end of my neighbour's ditch that is a long way above the bottom of the ditch. At times of very high rainfall that culvert allows water to drain across Tring Road into the bourne on the opposite side of the road from my house although that rarely happens because a council contractor dug the ditch deeper some years ago....alarmingly close to my main water supply! What the ditch does do is to take excess water at times of high rainfall and allow it to seep into the surrounding soil.

Drainage systems can be complicated. Field drains don't just drain one way for example...they drain both ways allowing water to spread about. Sometimes it's best to allow water to spread out to places where the water isn't a problem. Where there are willows, alder or black poplar for example, trees that don't mind having their feet in the water and take a lot of it out of the soil. Balancing ponds, or swales, can also help at times of flooding. The pond in front of Wilstone Great Farm is a balancing pond.

Those CIL funds aren't supposed to be used for maintenance. Maybe there would be some value in investing in a balancing pond between Wilstone and Long Marston to cope with times of extra heavy rainfall.

Perhaps having a few black poplars from a more genetically diverse stock wouldn't be a bad thing either although you might want to intersperse them with a few willows and other species so it's not a monoculture. Monocultures are vulnerable to disease.

Agricultural land is about £7K per acre. You probably wouldn't need an acre for the swale but buying a bit extra for the birds or to enable footpath access around the pond area wouldn't be a bad thing. You can get a lot of digging done with a JCB for a few thousand pounds and the waste soil could be used to raise footpaths rather than paying for disposal. Black poplars and willow aren't expensive to plant...if you stick branch cuttings into wet soil they usually keep growing. £10K ought to pay for a big chunk of that.

If you wanted to spend a bit extra maybe having some means of allowing extra water to seep into the stream network at times of drought would be something to think about.

From Kenneth Young, Long Marston

Flooding in Long Marston

I AM fully supportive of everything Dave Jenkinson has written in your March edition regarding flooding in Long Marston. I have been banging on about the dreadful condition of our local ditches and streams ever since the last major flood six years ago in February 2014, but no-one from the Environment Agency, Herts CC, Tring RPC or the local landowners (whose responsibility this is) will do anything about it. You only have to look at the dreadful and dangerous condition of Astrope Lane right now as a prime example of the problem we are facing.

It is common sense to realise that if flood water cannot get away down these ditches and streams, as it is meant to, then it will build up in places like Long Marston quite regardless of whatever so called improvements are made in the actual villages themselves.

It is high time someone got a grip of this, which shouldn't be too difficult to deal with, and it seems sensible to me to use some of the CIL money that the Council is sitting on to solve this problem.

From Colin Davenport

Aircraft noise

I WRITE regarding the report provided by Chris Owen on aircraft noise over Wilstone in the March Issue.

So London Luton Airport are now monitoring aircraft noise over Wilstone for 3 months from January 2020. I offer my garden to monitor noise in the summer in peak holiday times and importantly when the wind direction is such that the approach to LLA is directly over the top of my house- more often than not.

Additionally there are considerably more flights at this time of year, including at night time as well, and on occasions literally every few minutes. In addition there are outward bound flights from Heathrow, to say nothing of the number of helicopters (In particular the weekend of the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

My house is approx. 600 yards from Meads farm shop so perhaps a very different picture may show up.

Problem with your windows?

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A snapshot into the life of Ali Driver Manager of the village shop in Wilstone

by John McCall

Tell us about you early life.

I WAS born and bred in Berkhamsted, as were my father and grandfather, living there until I was 21. I went to Ashlyns School and then chose to attend Aylesbury College to take my NNEB. My dad, Jeff Norwood, was a carpenter. When I was 8 years old he had a serious life changing accident, yet continued to defy all predictions and expectations resuming his work in carpentry. I have two favourite childhood memories; my dad creating a spiral staircase and transporting it in sections on the roof of his van and re-building it on site. The smell of wood and glue is still something special to me. The second being of my grandad Len, a fireman, who set various objects on fire and then taught me how to put them out! My hero! When my mum was in hospital when I was little, I was horrified to see nurses being ‘pushed’ out of windows in a building opposite and even more horrified to recognise my grandad being the one doing the pushing..... my mum had to quickly explain that it was actually the nurses residence and they were practising a fire drill. Happy times!

What was the next stage?

The most important was marrying Jonathan. I suppose you could say that we had a long courtship as I first met him when I was 3! It did take me until the age of 17 to decide I was going to marry him and, finally convincing him, we started dating at the age of 21! We have been married for 24 years and have 2 children—Maisy 17 and Ned 11. When first married we lived in Tring moving to Long Marston 13 years ago. Having qualified as a nursery nurse and worked in both state and private nurseries as soon as Maisy was born I gave up work to be a full time mum. Whilst waiting for Ned to come along I helped run 1st Long Marston & Wilstone Brownies for 6 years (a Snowy Owl no less!) and led the toddler group in Long Marston until Ned started school.

How did you become attached to the village shop?

Once Ned started school I started to think about going back to work. The education system had changed in the time I was away; it felt more about paper work and ticking boxes than the children. Then I heard that the village shop needed a manager and whilst out walking with friends and their dogs they encouraged me to enquire. So I phoned Diana, had an interview and the rest, as they say, is history! Being local and with flexible hours, it would allow me to continue caring for my grandfather and fit within the school day. More importantly the village life and ethos of the shop reflected the old fashioned values from my childhood and I could see the shop was one of the most important hubs in our community.



From the left; Theo, Ned, John, Ali and Maisy

The shop volunteers are like a family and have welcomed myself, Jonathan, Maisy and Ned for which I am very grateful. I am very proud to be associated with Wilstone Community Shop and the place it has in the heart of the community.

(Editors note; Ali wrote an article on loneliness which is on page 15 of last month's edition).

What are your main pastimes?

Gardening - mowing the grass for me is like therapy, reading and believe it or not, watching medical programmes. I also like to sew, which I learnt from my mum who is the real expert. Jonathan and I are both fairly creative; we love “up-cycling” antiques and old junk that catches our eye, our house is testimony to this! We are great lovers of north Norfolk, it has become a part of us. We were recommended by neighbours who actually got married on one of the local beaches and have since had many enjoyable and restorative family camping trips there. It is our second home.

And the future?

As to the future of Wilstone Community shop, as most of you are probably aware we are working very hard to secure its future premises. Our aim is to create a bigger shop with more space for a hub.

Watch this space.....!

VE DAY CELEBRATIONS MAY 8TH 2020



In the run up to VE Day, we asked through the newsletter for any information regarding those that died in the two world wars, whose names are recorded on Wilstone War Memorial.

Alison Cockerill writes regarding her great, great uncle, Arthur Proctor who was killed in action in France on July 29th, 1916 aged just 30, and Terri Spencer writes of her children's' great, great grandfather, William Dover, who died in 1917 as a result of complications from the Spanish flu that swept Europe and killed more soldiers than the actual war did.



Alison writes of **Arthur Proctor** who was born in 1886, and baptised in Tring on 27th January 1889. He is recorded on the 1891 census as a scholar. In 1911 he is listed as a canal carriers' labourer, living in Wilstone with his mother, sister Carrie Selina and brother George. In Winnie Edward's photograph album there are several postcards sent to her from Uncle Arthur. They are dated 1915/16 and are postmarked Landguard Camp Felixstowe, except for the last two, which are marked Grantham. Landguard Camp was a base camp for the Bedfordshire Regiment in WW1, and from 1916, soldiers were sent from Landguard to Grantham, which was the base of the newly formed Machine Gun Corps. The writing on the postcards is nearly all in pencil, tiny lettering and very hard to read but it is clear it was at Belton Park, Grantham in June 1916, the last postcard from him in the album. There is no further record. His parents' gravestone in Long Marston churchyard includes a memorial to their 'youngest son, who died of wounds in France, 28th July 1918, aged 30' which is it seems, the incorrect date, and would explain why the post cards to Winnie Edwards ceased in June 1916.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has no record of a Proctor killed in 1918 but they do have an entry of a Proctor killed in

France on 29th July 1916, which is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial. The memorial lists him as a member of the 69th Coy. Machine Gun Corps (Inf.) Service no. 35898. The website 'UK Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919 has the following entry: 'Proctor-birthplace Tring, residence Wilstone. Enlisted Tring. Rank Private M.G.C. Infantry Batt.



A Machine Gun Corp gun team with a Vickers machine gun

No. 35898. Died of wounds 29/07/16 Flanders. Formerly of Bedfordshire Reg. 27062. Western European Theatre. War Diaries (France / Belgium / Germany) M.G.C. p162//War Diaries (Gallipoli) M.G.C. p162.



The name Proctor is inscribed on Wilstone's War Memorial. It is reasonable to assume that the Proctor who died in 1916 is the same family member, and that the year recorded on the headstone in Long Marston is incorrect. Alongside the postcards in the album are actual photographs, sadly not labelled, but some are clearly WW1 service camps and personnel. The cap badge shown here is of the Bedfordshire Regiment Machine Gun Corps.



Terri Spencer writes of **Private William Henry Dover** (1879 – 1917) GS/33884, who was the son of Emma Andrews and James Dover from Wilstone.

William Henry Dover married Matilda Badrick on the 4th June 1900. Matilda was also from Wilstone, they had eight children.

They lived in a cottage near the village hall, six doors down from the Halfmoon Pub, the landlords of the Halfmoon Pub at the time were the Cartwright's. Matilda's Mother before marriage was Jane Cartwright and the

Cartwrights also ran another pub in Wilstone called The Buckingham Arms, now converted into private houses.



William Dover was an agricultural labourer in Wilstone and the surrounding areas before being signed up in the army. He joined



August 1914: Men of the 4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), resting in the town square at Mons.

the 37th Battalion Royal Fusiliers which was formed in Falmer Sussex in June 1916; he was mobilised to France as part of the army troops in July 1916 which was when the Battle of the Somme started. William was sent to Flanders, the Western front, where he was in the trenches from July 1916 to February 1917. Whilst in the trenches, like so many others, he became very ill with Spanish flu which turned into pneumonia and led to dire heart problems. He was later sent back to England to the Bath Mineral Hospital where he died at the age of 38 years.

Matilda had a brother, Charles Badrick, who is also listed on the Wilstone war memorial, having died in

action in the Battle of Arras at the age of 33. Matilda continued to live in Wilstone with her children until she passed away at the age of 49.

One of William and Matilda's Sons, James Dover, is the great grandfather of the children of Terri Spencer who was once married to Ross Dover.

Article written by Peter Walker. Information supplied by Alison Cockerill and Terri Spencer.

V.E. DAY CELEBRATIONS for May 8th

At the time of writing, arrangements for a celebratory event in the village hall must remain fluid. We have already cancelled our film nights and postponed the Wilstone Showtime, due the potential impact of Coronavirus. We are particularly concerned about having a large number of people across all age groups being in a confined environment such as the village hall.

We are working on an alternative plan which is to hold the event in the open air at the Half Moon PH, which would, at least to some degree, lessen the risk of infection, so look out for further notices in the pub and the community shop.

Could you be a News Reporter

Village News is in great need of additional reporters to cover not only the ever growing number of local events in our area but also to give, for example, a personal slant on village life.

No previous experience is required and the amount of time given would depend purely on individual circumstances.

If you feel you can help please contact Colin Moore on 01442 826976

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Mary Davis 07516344248
Steven Godwin

Nigel Fox 01296 662922
nigel.fox@tringrural-pc.co.uk

John Thirkettle 01296 661825
john.thirkettle@tringrural-pc.co.uk

The Clerk to the Council is :

Chloe Collins 07516 344248
clerk@tringrural-pc.co.uk

Address:- Tring Rural Parish Council, PO Box 6444,
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The Villages Warden is:

Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822031

Parish Council Website:

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Revised Opening Times

The situation with the Coronavirus pandemic has been changing very rapidly over the last few weeks, with Government updates now being issued on a daily basis. No doubt much will have moved on between the time of writing and publication, so for all the latest information, please make sure you are following our **Facebook** page.

Bearing in mind that the majority of our volunteers are in the vulnerable category we have taken the decision to reduce our opening hours to **9-12** every day.



Our new opening hours

During this period, we will not be serving any cooked food or heating up items. Nor will we be providing a takeaway food service or allowing customers to sit in. This is to ensure that the time people spend in the shop is limited to the shortest amount possible. It may be that we will have to introduce a system where we only allow 1 person in the shop at a time to further reduce contact.

We also ask customers to restrict themselves to buying 1 of each item they require as this gives more people the opportunity to get what they need.

We are determined to remain open during these extraordinary times and do everything we can to support our community. So, to help us please:

- Limit the amount of time you are in the shop
- Limit your purchases to 1 per item
- If you have a temperature or a cough please do not visit the shop, but telephone us for a delivery
- Leave the door open for maximum ventilation! And leave your chat to outside the shop keeping a safe distance from each other.
- Follow updates via our Facebook page



Keeping open is our priority

If anyone feels able to work a shift in the shop, please let us know as soon as possible.

We have had several offers from people who are willing to deliver to those self-isolating and Peter Walker has kindly agreed to co-ordinate these volunteers.

Please email him at walkersandbrook@gmail.com if you would like to help in this way. Whether or not the shop can fulfil deliveries itself will depend on what stock we are able to maintain and whether our deliveries continue to be fulfilled.

Together, we will get through this, thank you everyone for all your offers of help so far.

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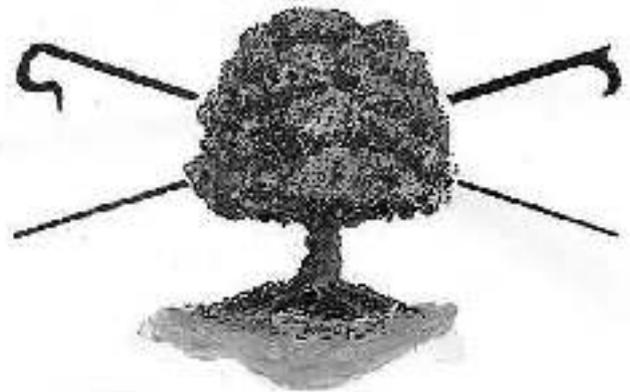
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Allotment news (and the story of a stolen car). *by Patricia Smith*

HI TO everybody of the Wilstone allotments and villagers.

Well readers what can anyone say about the allotments this early in the year.

The old saying February " Fill Dyke" has certainly kept to its folklore saying, and the March Winds certainly came early. Lets hope that that means an earlier Spring and planting season than expected.

Does this mean that the seasons are changing quicker than expected, as even the birds seem to be delaying nest building.

I haven't been down the allotment so far this year as it has been too slippery for me to walk on, plus we have had a bad start to the year with Stan's brother passing on, and then 5 days later our car was stolen, which I will refer to at the end of this.

Unfortunately most of any spare time we might have had for preparing the land and greenhouse, has been family related, but even so it certainly hasn't been a good start for most of our allotmentees either. It has been far too cold to plant seeds and too wet to dig, although one of our members did say to me as we passed each other back in the early part of January, that he found the ground reasonably manageable.

Again this Summer 2019, we suffered from White Fly; which rose like a huge Snow Storm every time you passed the Brassica's, which made it inedible, the only greens worth having were the Curly Kale which no matter how well I decaterpillered it, a few more came out of the leaves as they cooked. Our best crop was our Beetroot, enough to keep us going for the next couple of years. Sweetcorn was delicious as usual, but it didn't ALL get back home as I love to eat them as I pick. We are considering

taking the dark netting off our brassica area as the plants seem to grow too high trying to reach the Sun which is probably why we didn't produce any flower on our purple sprouting this year, but the Calabrese went on and on forever, our best crop ever.

Well back to our stolen car. Not exactly Allotment news but a warning to the unexpected. We shopped at Morrisons in Leighton Buzzard on a Sunday in January. Stan took the trolley from me and unlocked the car so I could get in. We don't know if he dropped his keys or left them in the car lock while I walked round to the passenger side and he took the trolley round to the boot, but when he went to get his keys which he thought he had put on the drivers seat, they were missing.

We went into Morrisons to ask if anyone had handed any keys in but nobody had. We had to get Chrissy to bring the spare key over to us. Of course then we couldn't get indoors as the house keys were on the ring, so we had to wait for Chrissy come home.

We didn't think anymore about the keys until Monday morning when Stan found the Car gone. It appeared that the keys were stolen from the car as I got in YET I saw no-one near the car. They then must have waited for us to go to the garage for fuel and then unbeknown to us followed us home, and stole the car in the night. The police traced it going back to Leighton Buzzard on the cameras. This also meant we had to change all the locks on the house. So beware—these people move like lightening.

Now on a better note and back to the Allotment. Stan and I wish you all a good growing year in this special Leap Year of 2020.

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Long Marston Cricket Club

by *Matthew Storey*

DESPITE the constant drizzle and low temperatures, cricket season is just around the corner and Long Marston CC are preparing for another busy six months.

Our teams have been busy netting every Sunday morning since the start of February, with the first friendlies scheduled for the weekend of April 18th/19th.

The first home game at Marlins is on April 19th and from then on, there will be cricket at the club every Saturday and nearly every Sunday up until mid-September.

James Beesley will once again lead the first team as they compete in Cherwell League Division One for the sixth consecutive season, while Yogesh Mistry has taken over the second team captaincy as they look to bounce back from relegation and compete at the top end of Division Five.

In Division Nine, Richard Adams will lead our young thirds as they get their first taste of senior cricket.

If you're interested in playing cricket, umpiring or scoring then please get in touch with Lee Beesley on 07923462037 and he will be able to help. Whatever your age (7 and above) and whatever your ability, all our welcome.

Alternatively, if the weather is nice and you fancy a quiet drink or just to relax in the sun at the weekend, pop up to Marlins. The bar will be open and there is plenty of space outside the boundaries to relax in a, mostly, peaceful environment.

Throughout the season we have a number of events at the club, so keep an eye out on this newsletter in future months for more information.

The clubhouse at Marlins is always available to hire and we are also currently on the lookout for a club sponsor for 2020 and beyond. Anyone interested in either of these opportunities should contact Matt Storey via email storeymatt@hotmail.com

WI News

by *Maggy Winship*

AT our March meeting members were entertained by Catherine Jones, an author of romantic fiction who lives in the Thame area. She joined the army on leaving school in the 1970s and her series of books about army wives is based on her experiences.

The national news at the moment is all about the Coronavirus and this report is unfortunately following the same lines as we have made the decision to suspend our WI meetings for at least the next two months to safeguard our members.

We had a talk by the Medical Detection Dogs charity and a village Litter Pick lined up for April, so we hope to reschedule later in the year.

Hoping all our readers remain safe and healthy throughout this crisis.

Vacancy for the Village News Can you deliver copies?

A vacancy has arisen for a volunteer to deliver copies of Village News along Tring Road from the Village Hall to Wilstone Wharf.

This involves approximately 30 copies to be delivered once a month for ten months each year.

If you feel you would like to join our team then please contact John Taylor on 07940 206056 or email at john.taylor25@gmail.com

Solution No 137

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What can we do to help?

by Sally Smith

Includes recipe of the month.

I SAT down to write this article not quite knowing what to say. Virtually everything I thought I knew is being turned on its head and what I say today may sound silly tomorrow. Ordinary life is no more. Reality is being reinvented.

Where we used to greet friends with a hug or a handshake, we are now keeping our distance. Older family members are being isolated, either by design or by the mere fact that we don't want to cause them harm. Nobody seems to be safe from this terrible virus that is spreading so rapidly. Tolerance is in short supply.

What can we do to make life easier for ourselves and those around us whilst we do what we can to stay safe? Individual responsibility is obviously a key factor in whatever action we take for others. Nobody wants to cause more harm.

There have already been offers of help in the virtual world – Facebook posts are springing up daily with offers of help, suggestions and ideas; teachers are now offering virtual teaching support for those forced to home school. Notes are being put through doors asking if people need any shopping. Volunteering is a good thing once again, although to be fair it has never been anything else in our area! Nobody needs me to say anything more really, and so I won't, except to say stay safe and hopefully we will all see one another on the other side.

Orzo Sloppy Joes

Ingredients:

1 onion (diced)
4-8 mushrooms (chopped)
frozen peas
500ml vegetable stock
250g orzo
6 x red peppers
1½ tsp paprika
1½ tsp ground allspice
½ tsp ground turmeric
1 tsp salt
tomato puree
Chopped garlic

1. Heat oil in a pan then fry off the onion and garlic until soft. Mix the herbs and salt, then add to the pan and stir well until mix.
2. Add the tomato puree, followed by the mushrooms, peas and two of the peppers (chopped). Stir well until mixed together
3. Add the orzo and stock and fold in. Bring to the boil then simmer until all the liquid is absorbed – remembering to keep stirring to avoid sticking.
4. Halve and hollow out the peppers and fill with the mixture.
5. Sprinkle with grated cheese and bake in an oven at 160°C for about 20 minutes.

COVID-19 : The Coronavirus

What a depressive page this is going to be this month! However, due to the current health situation we have no alternative but to announce the following:

*First of all **All church services have been suspended until further notice.** St.Mary's will remain open on Sundays for private prayer, should people so wish. The suspension also includes all Easter services. If you wish to contact any member of the Clergy Team, please see their telephone numbers in the magazine.*

Our apologies to all those who had been looking forward to the **Jumble Sale** on the 28th March and also the **Tea Rooms** on the 3rd April but in line with directions, it was necessary to cancel these events. If it is possible to re-stage a jumble sale a little later in the year, then watch this page.

Further Cancellations: Again, we have had no alternative but to CANCEL the following up-coming events:

May-Day + Breakfast – 1st May

The Spring Lunch – 9th May

And very likely

Cecilia Tea Rooms – 12th June

Any planned events beyond these dates – see this page.

If the situation changes, one way or the other, we shall have the latest news in the next edition of the "Village News".

If anyone is in need of help with shopping etc. especially in the Puttenham/Astrope area, then please contact Christine—telephone 07514 548289, and hopefully, something can be arranged.

I feel it is essential that we all keep in contact with neighbours via the telephone or emails to help each other through this distressing period.

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Local names and numbers

Herts Police non-emergency number: 101

Berkhamsted and Tring Safer Neighbourhood Team
Sergeant Ryan Hemmings supported by PC Mark Procter,
PCSO Martin Leadbetter and PCSO Tommy Walter
01707 354192

Fly-tipping reports

Call Dacorum Waste Services 01442 228000
Call the police if you see a crime being committed.

Reports of river flooding

Environment Agency 0845 988 1188

Cecilia Hall (Puttenham)

Christine Rutter 07514 548289

Cubs and Scouts

Jane Dawson 07759 888085

LM&P Horticultural Society

David Severs 01296 661021

St Cross Wilstone

Clergy Rev'd Jane Banister
Churchwarden Ken Martin 01442 822894

St Mary's Puttenham

Rector Rev'd Huw Bellis 01442
822170

Churchwarden Christine Rutter 07514 548289

All Saints Long Marston

Clergy Rev'd Jane Banister 01442 822170

Tring Rural Parish Council - Chairman

Doug Chalmers 07885 962818

Clerk to the Parish Council

Chloe Collins email: clerk@tringrural-pc.co.uk

Villages Warden

Colin Reedman 01442 822031

Long Marston Victory Hall

Hall hire: Gillie Mann 01296 668548

Long Marston Cricket Club

Chris Bowles chair@longmarstoncc.co.uk

Long Marston 1st Steps Pre-School

Jo Zygiert / Maria Adams
07925 185311

Long Marston Tennis Club

Jackie Anwyl 01296 663810

Long Marston Football Club

Daphne Bateman 01296 668054

Long Marston School 01296 668386

Member of Parliament (House of Commons)

Gagan Mohindra MP 02072 193000
gagan.mohindra.mp@parliament.uk

Sing-Wilstone

Jo Woodbridge 01442 891444

Village News

Colin Moore 01442 826976

Whitchurch Morris Men

John Bush 01296 641382

Wilstone Allotment Assn.

Mick McManus 01442 828748

Wilstone Village Hall

Bookings: Tony Short 01442 823096

ADVERTISING IN VILLAGE NEWS

If you would like to promote your business or event in Village News, our rates are as follows:

Ad size Height x width	1 issue	10 issues**
1/8 page* 60 x 90mm	£12	£60
1/4 page* 125 x 90mm	£23	£115
1/2 page* 250 x 90mm or 125 x 185mm	£46	£230

Please contact:

Amanda Russell, Advertising Manager

villagenewsadvertising@gmail.com

Mob: 07444 747010

*The available space is 250 x 185mm per A4 page

**We publish every month except January and August

Village News

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

Send your editorial contributions,
articles, event notices, news and pictures
to: editorwlm@yaho.com

(Please note this is EDITORWLMP in lower
case)



Deadline for items to go in the May edition
is: Wednesday 15 April 2020

The editor will be Paul Lovis

Thank you ...

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

Distribution enquiries to: John Taylor 07940 206056

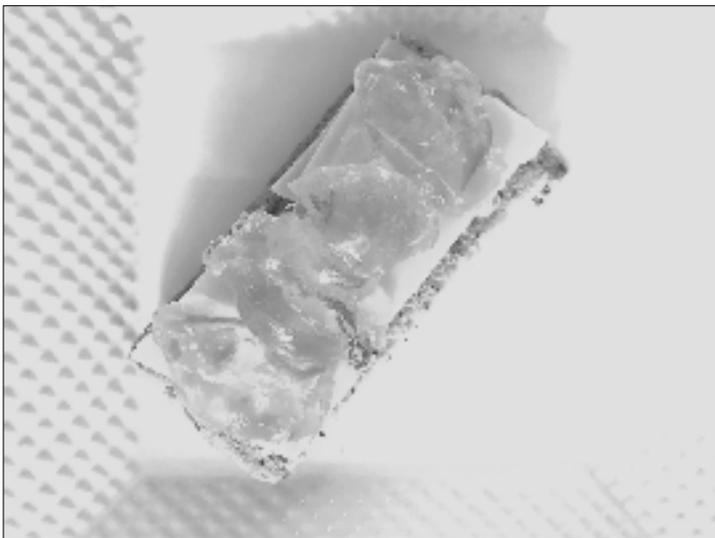
Sandwich Corner - do you have a favourite?

IT is really quite strange the ideas that can come out of a Friday night in the pub. Just popping in for a quiet drink one can find oneself entertained by several people's card tricks and then persuaded to try to start a sandwich club.

The principle is simply based on the fact that everyone must have their favourite snack and that many of them will probably be specific to themselves but unusual to everybody else. So, send your favourites in and let's see how many unusual combinations are out there.

First up we have Keith Fox with his marmite on crumpet and John McCall with his cheddar cheese and marmalade.

Let us know by emailing editorwimp@yahoo.com



Cheddar cheese and marmalade



Crumpets and marmite

Aussie ode to the virus (and toilet rolls). *Extract from a poem from P.Narayan*

The year was 2020
 Early March or thereabouts
 Off the back of quite a summer
 Plagued by bushfires and droughts
 So the nation was exhausted
 Many folk not thinking straight
 Which goes someway to explaining hashtag toilet
 papergate

It started with a virus
 Some say China was the donor
 They called it Cova19 but we called it my Corona
 And we saw the illness spreading
 And the cruise ships quarantined
 And we sanitised our fingers
 And lined up to be screened

And in among the panic
 Someone headed down to Coals
 And loaded up their trolley
 Full of toilet paper rolls

We never knew who did it
 What their motive was or why
 Or what brand of roll they hoarded
 Was it scented or two ply

All we know in that moment
 When they took it from the shelf
 They unleashed a chain reaction
 As a nation s**t itself!

Coronavirus
If you are self-isolating, we can help you

Name: ...

I live locally in: Wilstone / Long Marston / Gubblecote / Puttenham / Little Tring / Astrope - *please circle as appropriate*

My phone number is:

If you are in self-isolation due to COVID-19, we can help with:

- Fulfilling a shopping list from Wilstone Community Shop, or if they don't have what you need, we will try and get it elsewhere.
- Posting mail
- Urgent supplies
- A friendly phone call from someone in the villages

Please get someone to drop this form into the community shop, and we will contact you to get to know your needs.

This is a voluntary community service provided by Wilstone Community Shop in these difficult times.

We will do our best to help you, for free.

Coronavirus is contagious. Avoid physical contact within 2 metres.

Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly for 2 minutes.

Shopping will be left on your doorstep and we let you know it is there.

Help for Covid19 in Long Marston

by Liz Ayling

A number of volunteers in the village have got together to form a WhatsApp group to support anyone who may find that they need to isolate for protection purposes or if they find that they have a case of Covid-19 in their household.

You should have received information through your door during week commencing 16th March with contact details of who you should contact.

If you have a smart phone, you can download WhatsApp, a messaging application that relies on the internet, rather than your phone signal which can make it more reliable, and allows you to share pictures and make video calls at no cost which could make a big difference if isolation drags on. If you already have WhatsApp you can message the number that you received through your door and they will add you to a group.

You will also find information on Facebook – CV19 Support Mutual Support for Wilstone, Marsworth, Long Marston and Puttenham