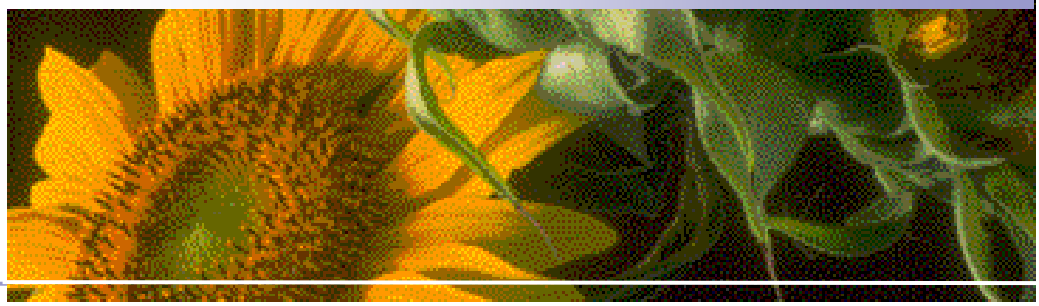
For junior cooks enter a Roman Bake off on page X111

May 2014



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!

Large turnout for Palm Sunday procession

A LARGE group of worshippers formed a traditional Palm Sunday procession through Wilstone to St Cross Church.The Reverend Valerie Rockall conducted the well attended church service.

The procession was led by Pog the donkey with its owner Jane Shirley. Pog star of opera and fetes still enjoys the Palm Sunday procession. He made his debut at this event a few years ago

Palm branches are a part of Christian worship on Palm Sunday which commemorates Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, riding a young donkey as the crowds waved palm branches. In ancient times, palm branches symbolized goodness and victory and were often depicted on coins and important buildings.

Take part in consultation for play area upgrade

Dacorum Borough Council is running an online consultation on a proposed upgrade to play equipment in Tring Rural Parish. Money is available for new play equipment in the villages as a result of an "S106" contribution from a housing developer. For the full story and details of how to take part in the consultation, turn to page 12.

The Romans are Coming

To Battle in Wilstone

Wilstone Fete and Dog Show

Prizes for the Best Dressed Roman Children

Procession from 12:30

Sunday June 8th

Village News

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This month we have bumper magazine with all 32 pages crammed with stories reports and useful information. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have putting it together. It may make you laugh or even bring a tear to eye, but that's *Village N*ews

This is always a busy time of the year with the run up to the start of the fete season and all those other spring and summer events.

Have you ever heard Madrigals sung from a church tower on May Day as the sun rises over misty landscape. Well, you will need to be up early and get down to St Mary's Puttenham. for this special occasion

If you like or even dislike *Village News* you have an opportunity to voice your opinion at the AGM on Wednesday the 21 May at 8 pm in the Half Moon. The official business will be efficiently dispatched and then we will have general discussion about the direction your magazine should take. So please come along, we would like to hear your views.

Deadline for items for our next issue is
Thursday 17th Aril 2014.

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

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

Church services

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

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

4 May
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer
6.00pm St Cross Evening Prayer

11 May
8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion
6.00pm All Saints Celtic Evening Prayer

18 May
10.00am St Cross Holy Communion
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer

19 May **(Monday)**
2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

25 May
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion
3.30pm St Mary's Evensong

All Saints, Long Marston.

Village News: Notice of Annual General Meeting

All readers, contributors and distributors are invited to attend the

Village News AGM and Review
at 8pm on Wednesday 21 May 2014
at the Half Moon, Wilstone

to approve the accounts for 2013 and to elect the officers. The business of the AGM does not take long, and will be followed by an informal discussion on ideas for taking forward your village magazine in the months ahead. All welcome.

Enquiries: Phil Buchi, Chairman, 01296 661339.

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

What's on...

Smiffy's Curries

Hi, my name is Emily Smith and I am doing a *World Challenge Expedition* to Rajasthan, Northern India in July 2015. I am looking to raise money and offer a **Friday** curry service.

Freshly cooked , serves up to two people - generally Chicken to start with and can be heated in oven, hob or Microwave -just add rice! I will be charging £6 a pot. I am happy to provide for larger numbers for dinner parties Orders by Wednesday for Friday after School delivery to you door in Gubblecote ,Wilstone Long Marston or Puttenham . **emdarling@brinternet.com, 01296 668878 or**

Times for mobile library Route 72

Thursday fortnightly 12th and 26th June 2014.

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

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)
The public are welcome to attend these meetings.
Wednesday 4 June, Wilstone village hall
Wednesday 2 July, Puttenham village hall.

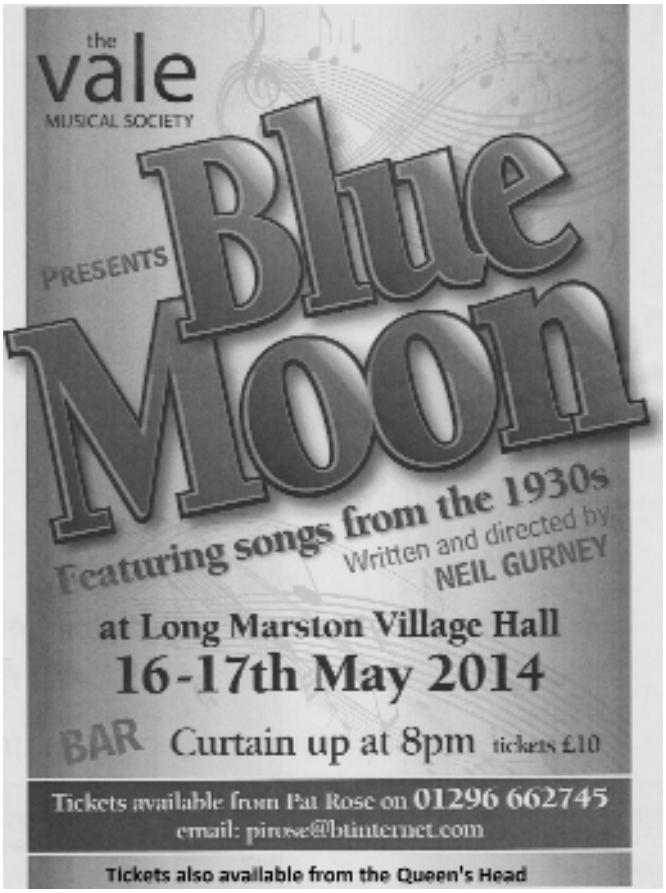
Saturday 29 March
Jumble sale, Cecilia Hall, Puttenham 2pm.
Saturday 29 March
Tennis Club Quiz Night. Long Marston village hall.
Sunday 30 March
Mothering Sunday: special service at St. Cross. 10am.
Wednesday 2 April
Lent Lunch in Wilstone village hall. 12 noon.
Friday 4 April
Film Night 'Les Miserable' Wilstone village hall 7.15 bar.
Saturday 12 April
Jumble Sale: Marsworth WI. 2pm.
Sunday 13 April
Palm Sunday Service at St. Cross. 10am.
Good Friday 18 April
Raising of The Cross for Good Friday. 12 noon, St. Cross.
Saturday 19 April
"The ultimate Elvis tribute". Wilstone VH.
Easter Sunday 20 April
St. Cross Easter Day service. 10am.
Monday 21 April
Easter Egg Hunt at St. Cross. 10am.
Tuesday 22 April
All Saints social afternoon 2-3pm.
Sunday 27 April
Plant Sale, Mentmore Village Green. 12 - 4pm.
Sunday 27 April
Long Marston Tennis Club. Open Afternoon. 2pm.
Sunday 27 April
Music for a Spring Evening, Wingrave Church. 7pm.
Thursday 1 May
May Day Madrigals & breakfast. 6am onwards, Puttenham.
Friday 2 May
Community Football Match, Long Marston Rec. 6pm.
Monday 5 May
Aldbury May Fair.
Saturday 10 May
LMCC Cherwell League fixtures commence.
Saturday 10 May
Jazz lunch with The Jolly Jazzers.Puttenham.
Wednesday 14th May
Wilstone Village Hall AGM, 8pm, St Cross Church.
Friday 16 and Saturday 17 May
"Blue Moon", by the Vale Musical Society.
Saturday 17 May
Concert, All Saints Church, Long Marston, 8.30am-5.30pm.

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.

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

Saturday 17 May
Barn Dance at Wilstone village hall. 7.30pm.
Wednesday 21st May 2014
AGM Village News 8.00pm Half Moon
Saturday 24-Sunday 25 May
Hertfordshire County Show, The Showground, Redbourn
Saturday 24-Monday 26 May
Mentmore Arts Festival
Monday 2 June
MCC Unicorns A v.Northants 2nd XI, at LMCC.
Tuesday 3 June
MCC Unicorns A v. Kent 2nd XI, at LMCC.
Friday 6 June
Cecilia Tea Rooms. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham. 3-5pm.
Saturday 7 - Sunday 22 June
Bucks Open Studios - www.bucksopenstudios.org.u
Sunday 8 June
Wilstone Fete and fun dog show.
Sunday 8 June
LMCC Sunday Chess Valley League fixtures commence.
Sunday 15 June
Marsworth Steam Rally.
Tuesday 17June
Herts over 60s XI v. Leics over 60s XI, at LMCC.
Sunday 22 June
Church Open Day, All Saints. teas.
Sunday 22 June
Midsummer Picnic, Long Marston recreation ground, 1pm.
Saturday 5 July
The Mad Summer Ball, Upper Wingbury Farm, Wingrave
Sunday 6 July
LMCC fund raising day: President's XI v. Mike Dean XI.
Saturday 2 August
Long Marston Village Show.
3,4 and 5 August
Minor Counties cricket at LMCC. Herts v. Cumberland.
Saturday 30 August
Jumble sale, Cecilia Hall, Puttenham. 2pm.
Sunday 7 September
St. Cross Harvest Service and lunch. 11.30am.
Friday 12 September
Cecilia Tea Rooms. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham. 3-5pm.
Saturday 13 September
Historic Churches, Bike 'n' Hike.
Tuesday 16 September
St. Cross Holy Day service.
Saturday 11 October
October Supper with Neil Gurney. Puttenham 7 for 7.30pm.
Friday 24 October
Quiz and Curry, All Saints.
Tuesday 4 November
Rosemary for Remembrance at St. Cross. 10am.
Saturday 8 November
Race nite at Marlins
Remembrance Sunday 9 November
Remembrance Day services, St. Cross and All Saints. 10am.
Wednesday 26 November
LMCC AGM in the clubhouse.
Saturday November TBA
Cecilia Concert (final date to be arranged).



What's on...

Tring's special market.

By Caroline Nicholls

As a stallholder selling Potash Farm produce at most of the local farmers markets, I am always aware of when and what time they are held. It's not so easy to find dates for the various so I thought you may find these useful.

In May you can find markets at these locations. Tring is holding special spring market hopefully with extra stalls and some music and possibly a chance to get a selfie with an Aberdeen Angus bull!

Saturday 10 May	Tring Farmers Market 9am -12.15pm
Saturday 17 May	Wendover Local Produce Market. 9am - 1pm
Saturday 17 May	Leighton Buzzard Farmers Market. 9am -2pm
Sunday 18 May	Berkhamsted Farmers Market. 10am-2pm
Tuesday 27May	Aylesbury Farmers Market. 9am -2pm

Most of the markets and producers have their own websites and facebook and twitter pages, so if you log on, you can get up to date information about them. Thanks and hope to see you at a market soon, Caroline.

You are all invited to join us at

The Madsummer Ball *2014*

at Upper Wingbury Farm, Wingrave

on Saturday 5th July 2014

Dancing to Björn Again
Top international DJ
Tim Cullen

Plus lots more entertainment and surprises on the night. Tickets are £95 each, or alternatively tables of 10 are available so why not get a group together? Included in the ticket price are: Pimms reception on arrival, a four-course meal, ½ bottle of wine per person.

Please contact 01296 752085 or checkout www.madsummerball.co.uk

MAD Summer Ball 2014

STARLIGHT · Medical Detection Dogs · searchlight

Wilstone Village Hall
Friday 23rd May 2014

...an illustrated account of a walk from Cornwall to Caithness

by Wilstone resident, author & event-speaker Paul Heslop.
With the aid of his trusty laptop, Paul tells us about his lonely expedition, of events & people he encountered along the way, along with a variety of anecdotes & stories relating to the local history, myths & legends of places he passed through.

Tickets £5, with a free drink from the bar,
available from Wilstone Community Shop, proceeds to Hall funds

Marsworth/Wigginton – Hemel Hempstead 207

FRIDAYS ONLY from 4th April 2014

Marsworth, opp Vicarage Road		1020
Marsworth, opp The Angler's Retreat PH		1022
Long Marston, Bramley		1028
Long Marston, Tring Rd, opp Ravens Court		1030
Wilstone, Tring Rd, opp The Mill		1034
Tring, High Street, opp Rose & Crown Hotel		1040
Tring, Station Rd, Grove Rd		1043
Wigginton, Common Field, opp Pollywick Rd	0930	|
Wigginton Bottom, Chesham Rd (S)	0933	|
Wigginton, Chesham Rd, Greyhound PH	0935	|
Hemel Hempstead, Riverside, Stop 27	0950	1058
Hemel Hempstead, Bridge Street, Stop 11	0952	1100
Hemel Hempstead, Bus Station ⇔	0954	1102
Hemel Hempstead, Bus Station, Stop 7 ⇔	1200	1300
Hemel Hempstead, Riverside, Stop 22	1202	1302
Wigginton, Common Field, opp Pollywick Rd	1219	|
Wigginton Bottom, Chesham Rd (N)	1222	|
Wigginton, Chesham Rd, Greyhound PH	1223	|
Tring, Station Rd, opp Grove Rd		1317
Tring, High Street, Rose & Crown Hotel		1320
Wilstone, Tring Rd, The Mill		1326
Long Marston, Tring Road, Ravens Court		1330
Long Marston, Bramley		1332
Marsworth, The Angler's Retreat PH		1338
Marsworth, Vicarage Road		1341

MARSWORTH

STEAM & CLASSIC Vehicle Rally

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

Sunday 15th June 11am-5pm

Treat Dad to a fun day out on Fathers Day!

FREE Shuttle Bus to and from Tring
Vintage bus of course!

Family fun and entertainment

Beer Tent
Teas, Snacks
Homemade Treats
Fish & Chips
Ice Cream

Get Involved

All proceeds go to local fund-raising and charities

This years show promises to be bigger and better than ever!

We're looking for enthusiastic people to help on the day. Can you spare a few hours? it would be very much appreciated. Volunteering is a great way of meeting new people, please do get in touch.

Any local groups, organisations and businesses that wish to get involved, hold a stall or stand, provide an activity or entertainment please contact the organisers before the end of April to book your spot...

info@MarsworthSteamRally.co.uk or call us on **07770 725461**

Synergy Dance Class

A new Latin & Ballroom inspired dance class

Beginners no partners Starts from 5 June

To keep you fit and mentally alert!
A great way to meet people and make new friends Starts at low impact then over the following weeks and months working up to more advanced steps making routines more challenging, classes are broken down and explained by a qualified IDTA/ISTD ballroom and Latin dance teacher. Dances include Salsa, Meringue, Cha Cha, Samba, Jive, Quickstep, Pasa doble, Rumba and many more…..

Classes at Wilstone village hall

Beginners (no partners) every Thursday from 5 June 2-3 pm £5 per Person.
Intermediate – Advanced held every Mondays 2-3pm £5 per person.

If you have any queries contact Ann on – 07507793098

Please come along and wear comfortable clothing and footwear – Plus a Drink!

Sarah Jane Boutique

Open day Saturday 10 May 1pm – 5-pm

SARAH JANE BOUTIQUE **specialise in selling pre-loved designer/high end high street clothes, shoes and handbags at reasonable prices. We also have a beautiful collection of hand-picked accessories including handbags, purses, scarves and costume jewellery.**

DO YOU HAVE CLOTHES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SELL?

We accept ladies clothes and accessories that are either unworn or very gently worn but in excellent condition. They don't have to be designer. We like quality, high end high street labels and quirky unknown labels too. However they must be on trend, less than 2 years old and in season.

All garments need to have been freshly dry-cleaned or laundered and ready to go on the rails. The seller will be entitled to 50% of the selling price.

Our open hours are Wednesday evenings 6-9pm and Friday 12-5pm or by appointment on other days or evenings. Credit/debit cards accepted.

Please contact us via email or mobile for further information on selling and buying through us.

sarah@sarahjaneboutique.co.uk – 07975 920938
The Old Bakery, Nup End Lane, Wingrave, HP22 4PX

MENTMORE Arts FESTIVAL

MAY BANK HOLIDAY 2014

The 6th Mentmore Arts Festival will be held in Mentmore Church and Mentmore Village Hall. We are raising money for Florence Nightingale Hospice as well as local charities and the church.

MENTMORE CHURCH & MENTMORE VILLAGE HALL – LU7 0QF

SATURDAY 24 MAY
SUNDAY 25 MAY
MONDAY 26 MAY

COME AND ENJOY
EXHIBITION & SALE OF ART
• PAINTINGS • PRINTS
• PHOTOGRAPHS
• SCULPTURE • GLASS
• POTTERY

CHILDREN'S ART CORNER & COMPETITION

TEAS IN THE VILLAGE HALL GARDEN

RAFFLE WITH GREAT CASH PRIZES

ADMISSION
ADULT ENTRY £2.00
INCLUDES CATALOGUE
CHILDREN (UNDER 16) **FREE**

CAN YOU HELP?
CONTACT
DEBORAH HALL:
07831 707023
deborahhall58@yahoo.co.uk

For more information visit: www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk

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

News in brief...

Surprise at Queen's Head

SOME villagers were surprised to see that doors of the Queen's Head in Long Marston stayed shut on Monday 7th April. The pub has already suffered one period of closure this year because of the flooding, but a second closure was not expected. But on Friday 11th April the doors were opened again - by new licensees. It seems that Jon and Becky Reeves, who have run the pub for the last ten years, decided on a rather abrupt end to the arrangement, though we don't know the reasons why.

The new tenants are William Foster and Samantha Lawrence, who live in Marsworth and know the area well. In fact Will was landlord of the Queen's Head for two years prior to Jon and Becky Reeves' arrival, so for some customers there may be a feeling of déjà vu. It is certainly good for the village that Fuller's have been able to find new tenants quickly. Samantha told *Village News* that they look forward to welcoming customers old and new. The bar is open for business, and the kitchen will re-open as soon as some refurbishments are completed.

Long Marston Cricket Club.

By Paul Dumpleton

Eagerly anticipating the start of a new season at Marlins with friendly fixtures under way from 26th April. Several new signings to strengthen the squad as all teams play up in the higher divisions this year. Everything is looking good with the ground helped by the Spring weather and I look forward to giving your readers positive updates as the season progresses.

Keep up to date on our website – all results in detail as well as club **newswww.pitchero.com/clubs/longmarstoncricketclub/**

New Ivinghoe venue for Artists' and Makers' Fair

LOCAL event organiser, Sally Evans, has announced that the Ivinghoe Old School Community Hub and Town Hall will be the latest venue for her Artists' and Makers' Fair. Taking place 10-11 May 2014, the Artists' and Makers' Fair will bring together a wealth of local artisans including painters, photographers, ceramicists, jewellers, chocolatiers, laser cut designers, pen turners and many more. For the first time, the event will showcase Ivinghoe-based photographer, Louisa Stobbs, who will be displaying her work on the latest Aqua Canvases which are 100% waterproof and designed to be hung in the bathroom, at the end of the garden or even submerged underwater !

Sally Evans, organiser of the Artists and Makers Fair, said "I'm delighted to welcome some wonderful, local artistic talent for the first time in Ivinghoe. I have specifically chosen the location because I wanted to support this venue which has been lovingly brought back to life by the villagers. I really hope that people will visit the event, marvel at the artists' skills and even take home some beautiful handcrafted pieces of art."

The event is open 10am-4pm each day. To find out more about the event and artists visit the website **www.sallyevansevents.co.uk**

Chiltern Society walks and activities 2014

THE Chiltern Society runs a wide variety of walks and cycle rides led by experienced and knowledgeable volunteers. Many of these are suitable for families and children, and all are free of charge. For 2014 there is a new range of walks which includes: farm walks, glow-worm walks, map-reading courses, Nordic walking, night walks and nature walks. Booking is essential and full details of these regular events can be found on the Society's website: **www.chilternsociety.org.uk**

Your Village Fete Needs You!

WE ARE once again looking for items of bric-a-brac or books for stalls at the Wilstone village fete on Sunday 8th June. If you have anything you would like to donate, or get rid of depending how you view it, then Irene McCall is once again happy to take it off your hands up to **Friday 23 May**. Please give Irene a call on 01442 825529 to sort out the details.

After the Friday 23 May please hang on to it and bring it down to the village hall on Saturday 7 June.

There will also be a cake stall at the fete and if you are able to donate items for it again please bring them to the hall on the 7th June. As always thanks for your generosity in helping to

Village News: Notice of Annual General Meeting

All readers, contributors and distributors are invited to attend the

Village News AGM and Review
at 8pm on Wednesday 21 May 2014
at the Half Moon, Wilstone

to approve the accounts for 2013 and to elect the officers. The business of the AGM does not take long, and will be followed by an informal discussion on ideas for taking forward your village magazine in the months ahead. All welcome.

Upgrade for Wilstone village hall

Committee would like some new members

Wilstone village hall is about to have a facelift. After long discussions the Village Hall Committee has plans in place to update the hall. Richard Smissen, Chairman of the committee, has sought and been granted permission by the Parish Council to proceed. There is a programme that will be worked through, starting with the gents' toilets and then the ladies toilets. Once that is completed the committee intends to refurbish the committee room (the bar room) and then, funds permitting, the kitchen - which needs some remodelling, repainting and possibly new hobs for the cookers. The committee is lively, and in keeping the hall looking good, have already done work which may not be obvious, such as replacing the flat roof with new felt and so making it watertight. It is also the committee's hope to replace the existing ceiling lights in the main hall and upgrade the electric heaters to a more efficient, low operating cost, system. The work on the gents' toilet will begin very soon.

The committee welcomes 'new blood' so anyone who would like to join either the Wilstone Village Hall Committee or the Wilstone Fete Committee please contact Richard Smissen on the numbers below. The committees are friendly and fun. They each meet once a month in the Half Moon. The Fete Committee operates from October to fete day, usually in June. It's not strenuous, everyone's views are appreciated, and it's a worthwhile contribution to your community.

Richard's numbers are :
Home: 01442 823253
Mobile : 07768 802093

Wilstone Village Hall Management Committee
Hereby give public notice of
Annual General Meeting

To be held on Wednesday 14 May 2014 at 8.00 pm
at
St Cross Church, Wilstone

All are invited and new members are welcome

Agenda

1. Minutes of the 2013 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

Community shop talk

Happy shoppers Jack and Abby

OUR COFFEE morning on the 2nd of April was a great success. Thanks to everyone who came along and supported us as well as those who made the delicious cakes; bought a onesie-clad gingerbread man or who sponsored Abby to wear her zebra onesie for the event. Everyone was incredibly generous and we managed to raise a grand total of £368 for the **National Autistic Society**. The eagle eyed among you will notice that the zebra was not the only onesie at the event – a dragon joined in the action and rumour has it that she went on from the coffee morning to the Lent lunch, hopefully not scaring everyone too much.

Well our new till system 'went live' as they say on the 1st of April and so far it's definitely not been a joke. It's not to say we haven't had a few glitches along the way but all in all it's gone very smoothly. Our thanks first to all our volunteers who have risen to the challenge magnificently and who are no doubt brushing down their CVs to apply to Tesco – other supermarkets are also available – right now. Thanks also to our patient customers when we have had to rise to the occasional challenge, luckily so far nothing has completely defeated us. What is amazing is the information we are already starting to gain which will undoubtedly help us fine tune the shop and what we stock in the months to come.

We're certainly in the season for Bank Holidays and just to let you all know that the shop will be open for the May Day and Whitsun Bank Holiday Mondays but from 9am-12 noon only. Newspapers will be delivered as normal.

You will no doubt have seen the delicious recipe for Roman buns which we are challenging all young cooks in the village to bake for the village fete on the 8th June. The shop will be stocking all the ingredients so you won't have to go too far to get baking.

Items for fete Tombola

We need lots of items to make this year's Tombola Stall out of an epic event. If you have anything you would like to donate, please take it along to the Wilstone Community Shop and pop it in the special collection box.

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

100 Club Winners

And finally, the lucky winners for April are:

1st	**£100**	**No 9**
2nd	**£50**	**No 5**
3rd	**£25**	**No 4**

Congratulations to all of you.

From our reporter at the Parish Council meeting

New plans for Gubblecote egg packing site

A NEW planning application has been submitted to Dacorum Borough Council for development of the disused Dean's Farm Eggs site in Luke's Lane, Gubblecote. A previous application to build 26 homes and four commercial units on the industrial site was approved some while ago, but curiously work never started. Now the developer proposes a new scheme with fewer homes, but bigger houses. Applicants the Trustees of the Dean Family Discretionary Trust and Patrick Ruddy Homes are now proposing to build only 21 homes and four "B1" employment units on the same area. The plans include 14 five-bedroom homes, 3 with three bedrooms and 4 with two bedrooms. The two and three bedroom homes come within the "affordable" category. Site plans include allotments, open space and a pond. Mr Peter Dean attended the meeting to answer questions, of which there were many. Cllr. Mike Tomlinson thought there was not the right balance in the size of the homes being proposed (with 14 out of 21 having five bedrooms). There were questions about the impact on drainage, local flooding and sewer capacity. The developers said that the proposal would have less impermeable area than the existing industrial buildings (0.74ha compared with 0.95ha now, according to the plans), that a pond was included to retain surface water. Sewage output would be less than when 120 people were employed at the site, they said. Dacorum Councillor Olive Conway said that she would review these aspects when the application came before the Development Control Committee.

The Parish Council agreed to support this new application, with comments that the impact on flooding and drainage should be checked, that a new footpath should be provided along Luke's Lane to the bus stop (for children taking the school bus), and that the 30 mph speed limit along Luke's Lane be continued to the County boundary. The full application and supporting documents, including the Flood Risk Assessment and Transport Statement are available on the Dacorum website: **www.dacorum.gov.uk**. The application number is: 4/00434/14/MFA.

Parish Hydrologist appointed

It took only a few minutes for Councillors to approve the engagement of a consultant hydrologist to prepare a report on

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Your priorities?
BEST VALUE SOLICITORS and professional Will Writers
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- Water getting into the double glazed unit?
- All misted up inside the unit?
- Handles & Hinges repaired
- Cat flaps fitted
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Visit our website for a free online estimate:
Www.SmashingWindows.com
Or ring
01296 630650 to arrange an appointment today!
Try our window cleaning service.
Call 07875 534780 for more details.

the causes of local flooding and recommend some practical actions. The proposal made at the March meeting by Lucy Thompson and the Long Marston flood group had been studied, and all agreed this was a good investment of Council funds. The scope of the hydrologist's work would be extended to include the whole of Tring Rural Parish. The expert, Mr Paul Webber, began work on 7th April and his report is expected in early May.

Football improvement grants

Continuing the long running efforts to assist LMFC to get improvement grants for the proposed changing room upgrade, the Clerk to the Council, Lucy Bancroft, had been asked to review all the previous papers. She reported that there were other features necessary for a successful application to Sport England, apart from the much debated lease arrangements for the recreation ground. For example, it was necessary to demonstrate community involvement, show increased participation in sport, and explain how the improvements would be maintained, she said. The Parish Council could make an application direct to Sport England, and an local agreement on usage of the pitch (as agreed at the March meeting) should meet their requirements, she added. A separate meeting would now be arranged with officers from LMFC to initiate a new application for funds.

Your Parish Councillors are:
Mr Michael Tomlinson (Chairman) 01296 661 311
Mr Chris Griffiths 01296 668 257
Mr Alan Winfield 01296 668 977
Mr Christopher Mann 01296 668548
Mr Nick Murrell 01296 668 190
Mrs Olli Wheeler-Cornell 01296 662 207
Mr Richard Briant 01442 825 674
Mr Robert Briant 01442 825 674

The Clerk to the Council :-
Mrs Lucy Bancroft 07590 989202
Email: clerk@tringruralpc.org.uk

***The Village Warden is*:**
Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822 031

Parish Council Website:
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Chairman's review 2013 Tring Rural Parish Council

Cllr. Mike Tomlinson, Chairman of Tring Rural Parish Council, gave this report to the annual Parish Meeting held at Wilstone on 5th March 2014. It is reproduced here at the request of the Council.

I START with reference to events, worthy of mention in their own right, but of much significance to the Parish community.

In October residents were given an opportunity to use their right to vote in a parish by-election, the first to be held after an interval of many years. A good turnout of voters ensued, and Councillors Briant and Mann were duly elected.

In May, Dawn Slade indicated her wish to resign from the position of Clerk to the Council after 13 years' service. In September, following due process, Lucy Bancroft was appointed as the new Clerk. Expressions of appreciation and gratitude to Dawn for her outstanding contribution to the Parish are well deserved. I thank Lucy and Dawn for their co-operation in a smooth and successful transition.

I turn to matters of finance. Our finances are in good order, and normal expenditure has not exceeded our budget. Measures taken last year with regard to insurance and grass cutting contracts have proved positive and to our advantage. However, the economic climate remains cold and unforgiving. The current budget for 2014/15 will remain as for 2013/14. Councillors have requested an increase in the parish precept to assist in the necessary purchase of a children's swing at Wilstone playground, for repairs to the lych gate at Wilstone cemetery, and for the provision of a motor vehicle activated road sign.

The diverse spread of subjects on Council meeting agendas provides both interest and challenge. A part of each meeting is set aside for public participation, enabling representations to be made and presentations to be given. Councillors continue to represent the Parish at meetings both internal and external. Councillors will continue to engage and work with the appropriate agencies.

In conclusion, I give thanks to residents who have given and offered support and help. To Colin Reedman (Villages Warden), Lucy Bancroft (Clerk and Financial Officer) and Dawn Slade for their much valued contribution to the smooth running of Council. To my fellow Councillors for their support, time and effort, given freely for the benefit of Tring Rural Parish.

Take part in consultation for play area upgrade

by Lucy Bancroft

AS part of a recent housing development within the parish, the community has become entitled to some S106* money via Dacorum Borough Council. This is money contributed to the locality by the developer to mitigate the impact of the development. In this case, money allocated is to be used to improve play equipment within the parish. Dacorum have set up an online consultation questionnaire to allow residents of these villages to have your say on what you would like from new play equipment.

To complete the questionnaire online, please go to the Dacorum Borough Council website: **www.dacorum.gov.uk/consultation** and click on: **Tring Rural Play Area Consultation**.

The consultation will run from now until **Friday 23rd May**. If you would prefer to complete a paper questionnaire, please contact the Clerk, Lucy Bancroft, on 01296 660844. The results of the consultation and intended next steps will be reported in future editions of Village News.

**** What is this S106?***

Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), commonly known as S106 agreements, are a mechanism which make a development proposal acceptable in planning terms, that would not otherwise be acceptable. They are focused on site specific mitigation of the impact of development. S106 agreements are often referred to as 'developer contributions' along with highway contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 84 Easy

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

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INSTEAD of running a children's art competition at this year's Wilstone Fete, we have decided to have a **Roman Bake-off competition,** thus combining the theme of this year's Fete with the very popular television programme *Great British Bake-Off*.

We have taken one of the most famous recipes that has survived from Roman times - ***honey cakes***. They're easy to make and very yummy. Ask a grown-up for help and bring them along on the morning of the Fete (before 12.00 pm please). Presenting them in an authentic and Roman-like manner is sure to gain extra points.

All the ingredients can be bought **at the Wilstone Community Shop**.

Ingredients

200g of self-raising flour
half teaspoon ground nutmeg
half teaspoon ground cinnamon
80g ground almonds
80g sugar
1 medium egg
a little milk
a little runny honey
chopped nuts.

The cakes will be judged by members of the *Vicus Roman* re-enactment group and there are cash prizes up for grabs.

What to do:

Ask a grown-up to turn the oven on for you to Gas mark 5 or 190 degrees C.

Put the flour, nutmeg, cinnamon, almonds and sugar into a mixing bowl and mix them up.

Break the egg into another bowl. Add a little bit of the milk and whisk them together with a fork.

Add the egg mixture to the flour and mix.

The mixture should be quite firm - like play dough. If it's too wet and sticky, add a little flour. If it's too dry, add a little more milk.

Dust your hands with a little flour, then gently squash the mixture into 12 small cakes and put them on a greased baking tray. Remember to space them out.

Bake in the oven for 30 minutes or until they are golden brown.

While they are still hot, spoon a little runny honey over them and sprinkle some chopped nuts over the top.

If you want any more information about the bake-off please email abby.fermont@tiscali.co.uk.

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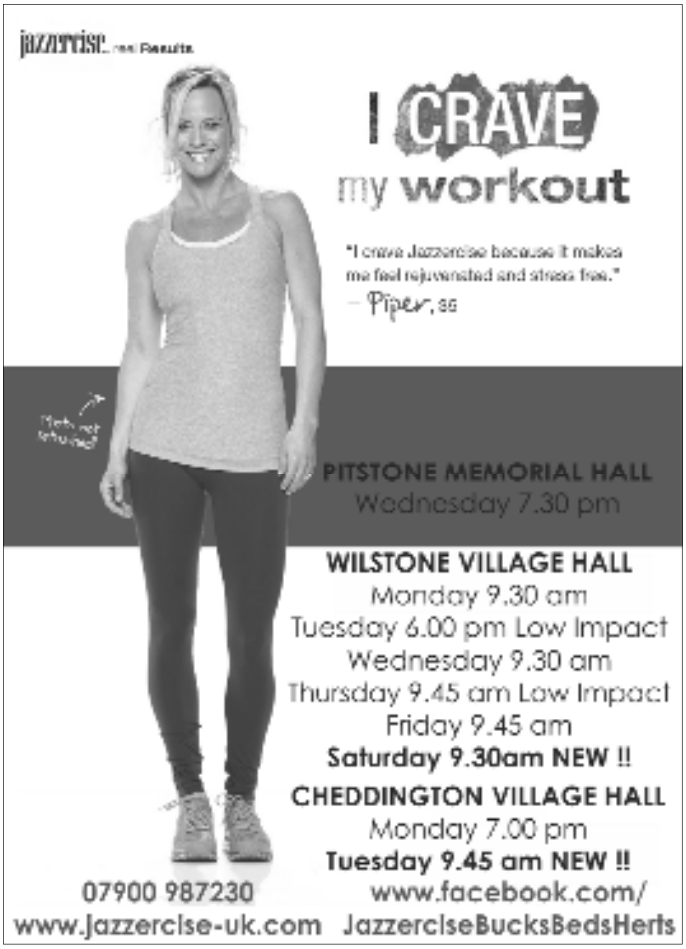

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Flying the flag

by Martin Winship

IF YOU use the footpath between Long Marston School and Marston Court, or perhaps take your children to school in the mornings, you may well have noticed a flagpole in the back garden of one of the houses nearest the school. From time to time, you might have seen flags of many various designs flapping in the breeze, and wondered what they were, and why they were flying on that particular day, and which eccentric old loon was responsible.

Ah. That would be me.

I have always found there to be something a bit special and exciting about flags; they are such colourful symbols, and carry encrypted messages about history and geography, about peoples and culture. Flags can raise the spirits, and they can stir the soul. They can also, it is true, stir up a great deal of trouble – but that's another story.

A long time ago - in the BC years (Before Children) – my wife and I had a brilliant holiday in Nepal. We wandered miles from civilisation, from roads and electricity (and flushing toilets!) and everywhere we were met with the sight and sound of fluttering prayer flags. Strips and squares and scraps of coloured material, each with a prayer written on it, all flapping and waving someone's hopes into the sky. It was like being in God's laundry.

Nearer home and more recently, a visit to the Isle of Man revealed the enthusiastic display of the Three-Legged flag from every other building. I thought it was marvellous, so when time and inclination conspired, I got myself a flagpole. It came with the Union Jack and the Cross of St. George, but this seemed to me to be a tad too restricted – and predictable, so I had a look on the internet. And found "Mr Flag", whose main attraction for me was their sub-title – "For People With Wind!"

I was delighted to find that they offered just about any flag, from anywhere, and from any time, and usually for as little as a fiver. Every country has its flag, and every country has its special day, and with my burgeoning collection now numbering nearly 90 flags, there's usually one or two to be flown each week.

It's not just countries either. American states, British regions and counties, organisations – they all have their own flags and days. And Mr Flag can produce a reasonably priced bespoke flag to your own design too. Last year, my sons gave me my own flag for my birthday - *a ship under full sail crossing a finishing line from the blue sea to a chequered background*. The Horti supplied a new Puttenham flag for the Thankful Village celebrations.

So, here's a thought. How about flags for the villages? Any ideas?

martinwinship@live.co.uk.

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All In The Best Possible Taste

By Andy Ashwell

As I walked into my mother's kitchen she plonked a cafetiere and a sachet of ground coffee onto the table, pointed at the steaming kettle and said, "There you are dear – you can make your own flaming coffee!"

This was not a sudden irrational outburst from her but the inevitable reaction to years of unacceptable behaviour from me regarding her poor coffee-making skills. But, as you will see, it is more a case of my fussiness rather than her ability.

I don't remember my first cup of coffee, but I do remember that by the end of my school days I was drinking umpteen mugs of rank instant stuff with 2½ sugars every day which is probably one of the main reasons for the poor state of my few remaining teeth.

When I started work I encountered my first ever coffee machine which dispensed a plastic cupful of foul-tasting, lukewarm, orangey-brown liquid. It didn't seem to matter which drink was selected, be it black coffee, milky tea or hot chocolate, it would always burp out the same revolting, orangey-brown liquid. The machine's one saving grace was the fact that all the drinks were free. After a few years, once most of the taste buds had been etched from my tongue, I actually began to find it quite palatable.

When I moved jobs I was delighted to see that there was a posh coffee machine in the office that purported to dispense 'the great taste of freshly-ground Columbian coffee.' It certainly looked the business with its shiny aluminium case and see-through coffee-bean hopper at the top. After an authentic bean-grinding noise, a few clunks and a whirr it dispensed a steaming cup of frothy, brown, bitter-tasting liquid which after a few weeks managed to wipe out the few remaining taste buds from my already useless tongue.

This fresh-ground muck did have one advantage though, it was extremely high in caffeine and each cupful probably contained well over the recommended 400mg per day allowance. Once again, I quickly became immune to its revolting taste and ended up downing about seven cups a day of the ADHD-inducing sludge.

Unfortunately this caffeine overdosing during the week meant that I suffered horrendously from caffeine-withdrawal headaches at the weekends so I took the drastic decision to give de-caffeinated coffee a whirl. And I think that this is where my coffee prejudice began.

After stoically suffering withdrawal headaches for three days and finding that the instant de-caff alternative offered by a work colleague was even less palatable than my horrible, 'legal-high', fresh-ground stuff, I felt distinctly unhappy.

To cut a long story short, I tried every type of de-caff that I could find, even a really expensive Swiss water-filtered variety that was guaranteed to taste good as it didn't have the de-caff aftertaste caused by the chemicals generally used to remove the caffeine. Unfortunately it didn't have a decent coffee taste either. Most de-caff drinkers swear that their stuff is the best and that you can't tell the difference. I'm afraid that, in my opinion, all de-caff coffee is horrible: like alcohol-free beer and skimmed milk, de-caff coffee is just not meant to be.

Although some are more palatable than others, what finally put me off my quest to become a de-caff coffee convert was a particularly nausea-inducing offering served to me in a now defunct café in Wendover. I can still taste its chemical awfulness every time that someone tries to convince me that *their* favourite brand of de-caff really does taste just like caffeinated coffee.

It never does, so now I stick to real, non-instant, coffee and am quite happy, just so long as it is of a reasonable quality. Most cafés and coffee shops will do a decent brew if you are careful and most of my relatives and friends have adapted quite well to my quirky ways – my sister-in-law has gone the whole hog and doesn't even bother to offer me coffee now.

And my mother? Well, although she's with me on the de-caff front, she is quite happy with the same old Maxwell House instant powder that she's been drinking since the beginning of time and can't quite understand why I despise it so much. So now she refuses to make me coffee – for which I am eternally thankful – and even though she provides me with a cafetiere and ground coffee, it's some horrible, cheap, own-brand muck which I secretly substitute with some of my own decent stuff and then nod my approval at her as I drink.

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The Hub at Aston Clinton

Restaurant review by Yusuf Hassan

THE last time I wrote an article for *Village News* it was about broadband, so it is appropiate that I am now talking about a new hub, The Hub cafe and restaurant at Aston Clinton Park.

From the outside The Hub looks quite unassuming; it looks like a small community coffee shop. Don't be mistaken! This is like the Tardis. Step inside and experience the *OMG* factor. On Mothering Sunday The Hub served over 130 lunches.

I got talking with the owner, Gary Brennan. I found his story compelling so I would like to share it with you. Gary is 48 with two grown-up children. He was a professional skier but at the age of 22 retired and went into business. After a chance meeting he was asked to manage 500 Coca Cola delegates in one season. The success of this event meant that he was noticed by the top management of Coca Cola UK – and the rest as they say, is history. Gary went on to manage the licensing and merchandising business for Coca Cola. He has been in merchandising for over 25 years, and has worked with Bernie Eccleston at McLaren, Eddie Jordan and Apple.

The Hub came about after his son, also a professional skier, was injured just months before the trials for the Sochi Winter Olympics. His son helped to set up The Hub, but then decided his life was in Austria with professional skiing. So now Gary runs The Hub full time with a little help from 24 people.

So what happens there? They do food and they do events. He is proud of the menu as the food is sourced locally where possible, and all reasonably priced. What makes The Hub exciting is how Gary is engaging with the community to make The Hub the hive of all their activities. Sundays are special and lunch is served from 12 noon with a variety of traditional roast, and veggie and fish specials. Gary feels particular pleased when families choose The Hub on a Sunday, as this can be a special family day out. Open mic and music nights are held every Friday night with a special fish and chips offer. Alternate Saturdays and Sundays the dog owners' club meet at 10.30am and they also celebrate dog birthdays . Many teams attend the Quiz night on the first Thursday of every month: fun and competitive!

There are three large screen TVs and a full pull down presentation screen for major sporting events; each can be showing a different event so The Hub becomes the place to be for the World Cup this summer or any of the golf majors, football and rugby - whatever takes your fancy! Gary takes a particular interest in working with Artists - he currently showcases Tony Rousseau but would be keen to work with local artists and may be able to run exhibitions, so contact him! I must also give special mention to 'Stella's Voice', a charity supporting third world projects, details of which are on each table.

Last year around 2,500 people attend the beer festival and this year it runs from July 11th to 13th with music food and festivities. And on 7th September the Aston Martin car club will meet at The Hub for their annual event. The Hub is also available for private functions with a 6pm-12pm licensed bar on Saturday evenings. The Hub will be recruiting more staff for the summer months, so if you are interested please contact Gary.

I am always inspired by determined entrepreneurs so I asked Gary for his definition of success. This is what he told me: first - customer satisfaction; second - families choosing The Hub especially on Sundays; third - don't lose money, of course! I hope you will take a moment to experience the Hub, especially now that summer is approaching. Open 9am - 10.30pm. Contact: Gary Brennan, 07919 374305.

Spotters' corner: No. 273

Metropolitan at Butler's Gate

METROPOLITAN 'F' Class 0-6-2T loco number 93 was built in 1901. This lovely 00 gauge model is pictured at Butler's Gate Crossing, a halt on a fictional line to Princes Risborough. Scratch-built by young railway modeller Stuart Duncombe, it was running at the Tring and District Model Railway Club's exhibition at Pitstone in April. Model rail enthusiasts will wish to know that this club's major annual exhibition is this year at the Cottesloe School, Wing, on Saturday 11th October.

Picture: The Engine Man.)

Obituary: Douglas Ives 1927 - 2014

DOUG IVES, the last survivor of the original trustees of Wilstone Village Hall, died on 12th March. The funeral service was conducted at St. Cross, Wilstone, by Rev'd Joanne Wetherall, and he was buried in Wilstone cemetery. He was a member of that band of - then young - village stalwarts who got community life going again after the war. An enduring legacy of their dedication is the present village hall which was opened in 1970 following two decades of fund-raising in the community.

Douglas and Joyce Ives, married at Buckland church in 1951.
(Picture courtesy of Mrs Joyce Ives.)

Born in what became known as "The Little Shop" in the Long Row, Wilstone (now just plain 25 Tring Road), Douglas Ives was brought up by maiden aunts who owned the shop and some of the properties in the Long Row. He went to Wilstone village school, finishing school during the war when the school was shared with evacuees from the London blitz. His first job was with Browns the auctioneers in Tring (now Brown and Merry) and it was there that he met Joyce Gray from Buckland Wharf. They were married at All Saints, Buckland, in 1951 and began married life in Wilstone, moving into the house by the Half Moon gate. In 1965 they moved across the road to a newly built house where they stayed, clocking up an impressive 62 years of married life.

Called up for national service, the two years he spent in the army based at Nottingham proved to be the only period of his life when Doug didn't live in Wilstone. Most of his working life was spent working for local councils in the rates department (these days called council tax) first in Berkhamsted and then at Hemel Hempstead. The replacement of the council 'rates' system with the poll tax in the 1980's prompted his decision to retire. His dislike of the changes entailed proved prophetic, as the unpopular poll tax itself was soon scrapped.

Outside work Doug enjoyed his family life, with three daughters Claire, Caroline and Jill, one son, Chris, and subsequently five grandchildren - all girls! A prolific writer of campaigning letters, he particularly championed public rights of way and also helped people deal with officialdom. He was a lifelong member of the RNLI and donations in his memory were made to the lifeboats. A keen vegetable grower, he also enjoyed fishing and local walks. A patron of the Half Moon all his life, he could be found some evenings enjoying a Double Diamond and a smoke with his pals at the bar. It was bad enough having to swop the DD for a Pils (warm, of course) when they stopped brewing his choice of beer, but the more recent smoking ban incurred his serious displeasure. As a member of the village hall committee in the 1950's and 1960's he was part of the group of villagers who energetically worked to raise funds to build a new village hall to replace the wooden structure which had been put up after the war. In 1970 he became a founding trustee of the new hall. He played his part in organising fetes and events, and was particularly keen on the Easter bonnet contests, which he insisted on entering himself. We have this group of dedicated villagers to thank for starting a tradition of community activities which we enjoy today. *PB.*

Joyce Ives and members of the family would like to thank friends and neighbours for their support at their time of bereavement.

Douglas Charles Penrose Ives; born Wilstone, Hertfordshire, 15th May 1927. Died on 12th March 2014.

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Every house has a story to tell

Advertisement

'EVERY house has a story to tell, and our job is to unravel that story,' says Sue Austen, one half of the team behind *Benchmark House Histories*, a small creative heritage consultancy recently relocated to Tring.

Run by Carol Fulton, who grew up in Little Gaddesden in a house that was once the village inn, *Benchmark* produces hardback books for private home owners about the history of their home. Projects range from cottages to castles - a recent subject was a house in Ashridge with a very interesting past resident!

Sue, a writer and television producer, carries out the research and Carol, a Royal College of Art photographer, photographs a house and its grounds - along with any interesting period details. Words and images are then brought together in an individually designed coffee table book.

Often commissioned for a special anniversary or birthday, the books make unique gifts. 'One was to celebrate a couple's fiftieth year in their home – they bought six copies of the book, one for each member of the family,' says Carol. 'Another was for a young couple who had finally completed the restoration of their Grade II listed Georgian house after a number of years and wanted to round off all their hard work with a permanent record.'

Sue researches local, national and private archives and record offices as well as libraries and online sites for details of the building's history. She then writes up the story - who lived there before, how they lived and worked, any dramatic events that happened under its roof, any changes made to the

structure and a short history of the area. This is presented, with Carol's photographs of the house and garden, in a bespoke hand bound book. Additional visual material can include scans of tithe maps, census records, sepia images of the property, old wallpaper fragments and other relevant historical objects.

Sue explains, 'Even the most humble terraced house has a history to pass on to future generations. At school we learn about the great events but most of us care more about how our great grandparents lived or how many children were once sharing the room we now use as a study'.

'Our work is also about capturing the atmosphere of a property – building up a visual, as well as a historical, portrait,' says Carol. 'We become very attached to our homes - to have the beauty and character of one's house preserved in a book, along with its history, is very special."

Benchmark House Histories can be contacted on 01442 768404 or 07754 877333 or by email at carol@benchmarkhousehistories.com. Their website is www.benchmarkhousehistories.com

'Horti' News

by Toby Davidson

WRITING this article whilst the sun is beaming down gives us all hope of a lovely summer after this winter's rains. Plans for the annual village show in Long Marston continue a-pace and let's hope this weather will bring us another record number of entries for the flower and produce section.

We also have a new event in June – a midsummer picnic for the whole village to enjoy. This will feature a rounders competition, so get your teams together and come and play. All the fun takes place on the recreation ground behind the Victory Hall on Sunday 22 June from 1pm.

The Horti are also looking forward to helping out at this year's Marsworth Steam Rally where we will be running the barbeque next to the beer tent. This massively popular event is now in its sixteenth year and will again be staged to support a range of local charities and worthy fundraising causes. The fun starts at 11am and goes on until 5pm, admission is £4 for adults and £2 for children with every ticket qualifying for entry into a free raffle prize draw.

Attracting visitors from miles around, it's a great day out for all the family and a great Fathers Day treat for any machinery-minded man! See historic steam engines, agricultural vehicles, classic and vintage cars, motorcycles and trucks, plus a lot of family fun too. Tring fire brigade

HORTI
LONG MARSTON AND PUTTENHAM

will be showing their fire engine, emergencies permitting, and as usual there will be various events in the arena throughout the day including the dog agility display, back by popular request, and steam engine rides for children (of all ages)!

The next village event however is the annual football match being played on the Friday 2 May. Lee has organised a full evening do that day with a bar (courtesy of Fullers brewery), disco and a curry. The event is **free** and is raising money to be put back into the village, so do please come along and

Sudoku

No 84 solution

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

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The agricultural story line… *by David Mead*

Farming by satellite?

ADAM on 'Countryfile' was going on about having his arable fields surveyed for fertility, so that when he wants to spread some fertiliser a satellite will supply his machine with the correct dosage, altering the setting as it covers the field. Look Mum - no hands. Well, Simon and Chris are on the same wavelength, probably using the same satellite. I think they hope it will save some money. I suspect it doesn't work like that. We will see.

Lambing is over; well, there is one more ewe to go. I'm left with some lambs to feed - bless them. The lambing yard is needed for calves so something has to give. I've never seen so much grass at this time of the year, but tell that to the ewes - they've always got room for a bit more.

I'm pleased I've kept up with the lawn mowing. The freshly mown grass under freshly leafed trees in the direct sunlight was worth the long winter wait. I should not worry about moss in the grass. It's the same colour, does not grow as much and the mowing stripes look just as good. My wisteria is poised for a spectacular display. I do not need an air frost right now. One year the trusses were caught and never flowered. I'm hoping my photographic daughter, Sarah, will be able to take a few snaps.

What is it about these lengthening days? With Alex to help, places have been tidied that have not seen the light of day for years. Even grime covered treasure has a tale to tell. You can't throw that away! One of the first jobs was defrosting a couple of chest freezers. The contents included a few tons of plums and a grass snake. It's a long tale that happened twenty years ago!

Back to farming, the oil seed rape crop looks really good with healthy leaves and masses of flowers. Chris has to count his pollen beetles; over a certain amount and action has to be taken. The grass is growing well so the first cattle will be turned out. They are so excited, running round the field boundaries, but of course they are very unfit and soon have to stop. For some it's the first time they have seen grass. For the first few days I think they would like to go back to the yard, where they have been fed with silage and laid on a bed of dry smooth straw. None of this cold, wet rain.

In a tea break we remembered the time we kept chickens in battery cages. Teresa mentioned that a few had escaped. One walked up to the house, in the back door and into the kitchen. Having picked up the crumbs, it perched on the truss under the kitchen table. We soon discovered its favourite food was melon pips. And the rep announced that free-range chickens had been bred out of them. She was called Edith, a character we could have lived with, and still remember twenty years later.

There are a lot of things to remember at Easter. I must mow the grass before the promised rain, and cover some delicate plants it if doesn't.

'Wicked !'

by Tony Duke

RATHER stronger language will be said under a bowler's breath when an opponent's wood luckily wicks off another wood and finishes up in a good place. Poor shots sometimes have a good result. Infuriating, but that's bowls. Of course, a good shot can be deliberately aimed to wick off another wood to achieve a prime position on a rink.

What a great game bowls is - skill, tactics, friendship and fresh air. There will be plenty of wicks, aimed for, *and* lucky ones, during the coming season at Cheddington Bowls Club.

You can give bowls a go on any Tuesday at 2 pm or Friday at 6pm, through to September. Coaching and the loan of bowls is free. The Club's open day is on Sunday June 1st from 2 pm.

Last year was a very successful one. The Club won and were semi finalists in County competitions. It was also a very sad year. Our President, Bill Young (Cheddington), passed away after a short illness. Bill was one of the best. We will miss his smile and humour. A great ambassador for the fun of bowls.

A special thanks goes to the Green team, led by Ken Eames (Dunstable), who have worked so hard this winter widening access paths and renewing ditches, and to Richard Lloyd (Houghton Regis) who has led the work on a new ladies changing facility. Bingo, short mat and food & drink evenings, when members of Marsworth WI and the Beacon Club (Pitstone) joined us, were each part of the Club's social as well as bowling calendar. The Christmas dinner too was pretty good fun.

Our friendly Club attracts members from far and wide. I look forward to seeing you being *wicked* on the green sometime this summer. If you would like to know more, just give me, or our secretary, Nigel Dolton, 01442 824679 (Tring), a call.
Tony Duke: 01525 220644 (Eaton Bray) Club Chairman.

Cheddington Bowls club sponsored by

The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

Final Reminder … **Mayday Madrigals**

Thursday 1st May at 6 a.m.

Yes, 6 a.m! It is the annual reminder to set your alarm clocks extra early to arrive at St.Mary's Churchyard for 6 a.m. to listen to madrigals sung from the top of the church tower. This is followed at 6.30 a.m. by a full breakfast in Cecilia Hall. The usual menu of *Fruit Juice, Kedgeree, Sausages and Bacon Baps, Croissants, Toast, Marmalade, Jam and Tea or Coffee* and you still have plenty of time to just sit and talk…or…go to work…fully fed!

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booking your seats helps the catering – Tel: 01296 668337.

Jumble sale – fantastic result.

THE final total has reached £1086.20p. This must be a Puttenham record. Our sincere thanks to everyone who donated goods, helped throughout the week and those who gave so generously for the items purchased. The money raised will go towards the continued restoration/upgrade of St.Mary's Church.

Lost and Found !

During the sale, a pair of dark rimmed reading classes was left on the Ladies Clothes Stall. Also, if you were working on that stall, did you put beside the piano a large floral picture and a purple sleeveless fleece? If so, I have them safe. And the last thing. When donating some books to the sale, did you accidently send a pack of family photos – a gathering around the dining table and lots of fun with the children in the snow? I have them safe, too.

Please phone Christine: 01296 668337.

Voices from above

by Martin Winship

A Story of Longub Puttastone

THE VICAR should have been a happy man. The village was a pleasant place to live, and he looked after a flock of decent, law-abiding souls who in many ways displayed the attitudes and behaviours of good Christians. They lived fairly blameless lives, were reasonably kind to their neighbours, and were willing enough to pitch in and help a worthy cause whenever one came along.

The recent Easter celebrations had been up-lifting. The church had seldom looked so splendid with the carefully arranged decorations, and the spring sun had shone through the stained glass in a way which he had considered "heavenly." He was a little less at ease with the subsequent Easter egg hunt, but it was a long-standing tradition, and he felt it would be unwise to interfere. Nevertheless, its Pagan undertones were the cause of much of his feelings of uneasiness. And as he stood in the churchyard with Jake Sparhawk, the church warden, casting an eye on the weather prospects for the day, his uneasiness returned with a vengeance.

"What's up, vicar?" enquired Jake, with a raised eyebrow. "You don't look very happy." Jake was not very enthusiastic about the vicar, who he considered to be a bit "limp."
"You know what it is, Jake," replied the vicar. "This May-day singing from the top of the tower. It's so…..so…..well, sort of suggestive, isn't it?" Jake shook his head. "You mean Pagan, don't you? Well, what of it? You only have to scratch the surface to find the old Pagan beliefs and ways, still there. You enjoyed the village pantomime, didn't you?" he challenged.

The vicar suspected a trap, but nodded his head reluctantly. "Well, there you are. Originated with the Roman festival of Saturnalia. Day after the Winter Solstice, everything was proper topsy-turvy. Men dressed as women, women as men." "Yes but……." The vicar began. "And what about Easter?" Jake went on, sensing he had the vicar on the back foot. "Comes from Ostara – the Pagan festival celebrating Eastre – the goddess of spring."

"That's all very well," the vicar put in, determined to have his say. "But this May-day singing of lusty madrigals doesn't even pretend to be Christian. I really don't see why the church tower has to be abused." Jake smirked. "Well don't fret. That usual mob, the Hundreds Hummers, couldn't come this year, so I've got another lot ,completely different ,to stand in."

By this time, the sky was turning from pink to egg-shell blue, and more people were joining them in the churchyard. The "choir" arrived, and the vicar watched apprehensively as they filed through the small door which gave access to the spiral staircase to the roof of the tower. He noted that the choir was all male; all quite large male at that. He gave a silent prayer for the structural integrity of the roof.

As the singers started to appear, head and shoulders above the crenulations, the vicar glanced at Jake, who still had the smirk on his face. "Er, who are these chaps – these singers?" Jake quipped "They're the local Rugby Club. All I could get at short notice."

The vicar's face, never exactly rubicund, became ashen, and as fifteen powerful voices launched The Good Ship Venus, he picked up his skirts, and ran.

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Allotment News by Patricia Smith

Well some of you have certainly been busy, even when the ground wasn't at its best for getting on. In particular Ruth, Richard and Stan have been very active followed closely by a few more enthusiasts like Vince, Steve and Tony. Unfortunately Jane and myself haven't been able to get onto our patches, but Stan has helped me a lot. I am not the right person to answer Sarah's queries from last month. Sorry Sarah' but Stan and I lack "Green Fingers", we just have "Green Houses".

The year didn't start too well with the wind destroying our greenhouses as well as others. These have now been improved on and strengthened.

Last year for us, wasn't nearly as fruitful as the previous. year because of the dry weather. Also we used some duck, turkey and chicken compost which Stan religiously sifted. together with bone meal. We think it was too strong, burning our seedlings. This year we have used the manure that came from Phil Marks for the ground and seed compost for the greenhouse seedlings. Stan has at last cleared all the ground of as many weeds as possible and found that the soil dug a lot easier. Hopefully this year we will be more successful.

Well February the fourteenth arrived and went and where were my broad beans? Still in their packets.. The beans are now well swollen in water by the sink waiting to be planted at Easter

We used almost everything we grew last year which is good. The caterpillars and slugs did get the better of our greens. Stan has put smaller netting on this year hoping to get rid of the little blighters, well at least their parents getting through to lay their eggs.

We saw tomato plants for sale and thinking our greenhouses would protect them from the frost, we bought a few plants - ***wrong***. We now have seeds coming through. The tomato plants seem to be determined to survive as they are pushing through the lower stems that one would normally pick off, so we are going to leave them to come back on their own. Only one Ailsa Craig, my favourite, has actually popped it's clogs.

Stan has given the wide paths their first cut of the year. The paths between our plots are our own responsibility as most of you know, but for those who have joined us this year this is a reminder that this was arranged last year to help save funds for other more important things, like getting manure.

Our chicken house is still empty, we didn't want to bring in young hens to find they weren't able to survive the wet and cold weather. Stan has this week enlarged the pecking area, the run that was attached to the hen house was too small. How we look forward to getting the chickens in a few weeks time. Fresh eggs - yummy! Look out Andy you could have competition. But you are now a specialist, while we are just amateurs.

Good luck everyone and a warm welcome to all new members. Here's to a great year with perfect weather, rain at night and sunshine all day - we wish. See you about soon.

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From the Rectory

by Rev'd Joane Wetherall

"LEAVE room for the butterflies".

I heard this piece of advice recently and it stuck in my mind, it is actually a tip for people who are learning the art of flower arranging,

"Leave room for the butterflies".

In other words don't fill it all up leave some space, some light and air.

Perhaps it stays with me because the butterflies are emerging. I keep finding sleepy peacocks in our churches; bright green brimstones suddenly flash by the hedgerows and I feel ridiculously privileged when I see an orange tip or a common blue.

But I think the real reason it won't leave me is it's not just advice for flower arrangers, but a piece of wisdom that we should apply to our lives

"Leave room for the butterflies"

To me it says leave some space, some light and air in your life - leave room for the possibility of something else.

We are very task driven, good at filling our time with activities, learning new skills or cramming our minds with information, facts, and opinions.

Alternatively we fool ourselves into thinking we are creating space by being entertained in some way; playing games, watching television, partying, exercising.

We are very bad at genuinely leaving ourselves space, light and air.

By filling every moment we close down the possibility of something else.

To leave space is to take a risk, step off the path of continuous activity, continuous adrenaline feed and see what happens.

Caterpillars risk everything when they enter the chrysalis stage, their entire body liquefies, it becomes a growing medium where new cells develop and the butterfly is formed. These butterfly cells are present through the caterpillar's life but they don't begin to fully grow until that space is created ready for a new life to begin.

It is an astonishing miracle, something that only happens to invertebrates.

Or does it?

In the Christian church we have just celebrated Easter Sunday, a day which is all about the possibility of something else, of something we least expect, of a transformed life where we presumed death.

Take a risk "Leave room for the butterflies" leave some space, some light and air.

Leave room for the possibility of something else.

News from All Saints

by Carole Harrison

YOUR support and help would be appreciated at the following events:

Friday 3rd May. Long Marston Charity Football Match

Do come and join in the fun from 5.30pm when a barbecue and drink will be available. The match starts at 6pm and during the evening there is a bar and disco in the Village Hall – entry is free. Curry and a pint will be served at £10 per head during the evening.

Monday 5 May. Aldbury May Fair#

We are having a Tombola and Nail Game stall again. Small gifts and assistance during the afternoon would be welcome.

Tuesday 27 May 2.30pm Social afternoon

Sunday 15 June Marsworth Steam Rally

Beat the Goalie!

Sunday 22 June Churches Open Day

This is a national event and we will be serving teas at All Saints during the afternoon. Everyone welcome.

Carole Harrison 01296 668526.

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Village News

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Deadline for items to go in the next issue is:
Thursday 22May 2014.
Phil Buchi will be your editor.

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

Another *Mad Summer Ball* in 2014

by Jane Murrell

OUR small a group of friends have all had time to get over our last Mad Summer Ball, which raised £140,000 for the service charities 'Help for Heroes' and 'Care for Casualties'. (We are still Care for Casualties biggest donor to date.) So we have decided to hold a ***Mad Summer Ball 2014***, on Saturday 5th July 2014 at Upper Wingbury Farm, Wingrave - the same venue as the last two events. It was very hard to decide which charities to support this year, as they all need financial help. We invited charities to come and talk to the committee, and we all felt that the following organisations were the right ones to support, keeping children in mind this time.

The main charity of the Ball is the ***Starlight Children's Foundation*** (www.starlight.org.uk), but others also to benefit from the proceeds are:-
Scotty's Little Soldiers (www.scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk), supporting the children of men and women killed while serving in the British Armed Forces;
Joss Parkes Searchlight *(www.josparkessearchlight.org.uk),* providing support for families of children diagnosed with cancer; *and*
Medical Detection Dogs *(www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk),* a charity that trains dogs to help children and adults with life-threatening health conditions.
Each charity has told us a little about what they do, and I will tell you about each of them in a series of articles for this magazine. This month I will tell you something about ***Scotty's Little Soldiers***.

At February's committee meeting we met Nikki Scott, the founder of Scotty's Little Soldiers charity, started in August 2010. Nikki started the charity after her husband, Corporal Lee Scott, was killed in action serving in the British Army in Afghanistan. He was killed by an IED (improvised explosive device). To his army friends he was known as Scotty, which is how the charity got its name. His death left Nikki a widow at the age of 28, with two young children - son Kai age five years, and daughter Brooke just six months old. As any parent can imagine, her world was just torn apart. She was left knowing she had to explain to her five year old that their much-loved Daddy was never coming home again, would not be able to see them on their first day at school, or play with a ball in the park, or help with his homework. In fact, any of the things as parents we take for granted every day. Support from the Services is directed at helping adults, and there is a gap in the support for bereaved children. As an army wife Nikki had to move from the army home on her own with two small children. Making it even harder, she had to watch them not only missing their Daddy, but also having to making new friends and start a new school. These experiences left Nikki's eldest - only five years old at the time - having nightmares and tantrums, and breaking down sobbing for the loss of his Daddy. Nikki felt helpless but wanted to do something. She was fortunate to have great support from all her family. Nine months after the death of her husband she was able to go on a family holiday. It was during this time away that she heard her son laugh for the first time since the loss of his Daddy. This on its own made Nikki realise there must be something she could do to help her children and others in the same situation. Helping them to be able to smile and laugh again. The idea came to her, and the charity now helps 127 children who have lost a parent from any of the armed forces of the Crown. These children range from seven months to nineteen years old.

One of the two holiday homes provided by the charity.

Corporal Lee Scott, who was killed in action in Afghanistan.

Scotty's Little Soldiers is a charity dedicated to supporting the children of men and women killed whilst serving in the British armed forces. The charity provides treats, outings, trips, and activities for families of the fallen, with the aim of offering a respite from the daily ups and downs of coping without a loved one. The children are sent birthday and Christmas presents, and vouchers to go for a family meal giving them quality time together. The charity has also been able to buy two holiday homes, one at Great Yarmouth and another at Blackpool, and to book lodges at Centre Parcs holiday village. It is now a full time job for her running the charity, with other family members helping in various ways. The phone is always ringing about children needing support and the numbers are increasing all the time. The parent does not have to have died in action; it can be from illness or accident but they have to be serving in one of the armed forces.

So, we will hold the Mad Summer Ball again in 2014 to raise money for these amazing charities. The evening will start with a Pimms reception followed by a four course dinner. Then dancing to the one and only Bjorn Again and top international DJ, Tim Cullen. Both these acts travel all over the world appearing at top venues. There will be additional entertainment too, to be announced later. The website and phone line are now open, so for more details, to book tickets or make a donation please ring: 01296 752085 (Fax 01296 752086). Or see the website: **www.madsummerball.co.uk**

The Romans are coming....

by Jill Walker

ON SUNDAY the 8th June Wilstone will play host to an army of both Romans and Britons who will pitch camp and do battle in the centre of our village fete.

Come along and see them in the procession from the war memorial at 12.30 headed up by our very own Queen Jane, her entourage, the donkeys and an intriguing kidnap story!

After the grand opening by Queen Jane, there will be a performance by our very own Wilstone Showgirls and our re-enactment group of Romans and Britons will be staging some battles, Roman fashion shows, "Hollywood heroes" (what you don't see in the movies), there will be plenty of combat throughout the afternoon...only in the roped off arena of course.

Vicus, the name of a settlement outside a Roman fort is the name of our enthusiastic enactment group. They will be entertaining throughout the afternoon, both in and out of the arena. There are plans to have an avenue of their tents such as a cook's tent demonstrating Roman cookery techniques, leather working, painting techniques, someone discussing makeup and children's storytelling plus much more.

Roman themed dress is most welcome and much encouraged, there will be cash prizes for best dressed Roman children, judged by our resident experts of course.
In between the Roman battles and demonstrations there will be our fun dog show, expertly run by Evelyn Chapman and her team from The Long Marston Dog Training Club. Rosettes to win for each of the 4 classes and of course the sausage eating race which is always such spectacle! See classes below left.

The Fete will also have all our favourite stalls and events, beer tent, BBQ, veggie food stall, Roman bake-off competition (see separate article) coconut shy, bric-à-brac and pre-loved stall, book stall, crazy golf, plant stall, tombola, grand raffle, casino tent, the laser game, children's roundabout, Hemel Hempstead Silver Band, many trade stalls, fabulous cafe with homemade cakes, plus much much more....

Please see The Village News for more information and adverts around this years Fete. The Fete programme delivered free to your door before the event that will include an entry form for the dog show, outline timetable for the afternoon's events and plenty more information about the day.

Dog Show Classes:

Roman hunting dog

I Best junior handler (XII (12) years or under).
II Best biscuit catcher.
III Best trick.
IV Dog judges would most like to take home.
V Lucanian Sausage* eating race.

Enter on the day at the dog registration tent from 1pm.

** Lucanian sausage an ancient Roman delicacy*

Roman showgirls? Of course!

(This is Wilstone)

The Romans are coming to Wilstone on Sunday 8th June, and the Wilstone Showgirls will certainly not be left out. In our picture are six of the Showgirls trying out their Roman goddess outfits at a recent secret rehearsal. Phew! You can see their performance at "The Fæte of the Romans at Wilstone MMXIV".