



Village News

May 2015

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

Three elections on 7th May Full list of candidates on page 6

WITH elections for Tring Rural Parish Council and Dacorum Borough Council coinciding with the General Election on 7th May, local voters are in for a busy time at polling stations with the option to cast no less than eleven votes. Be prepared with our full list of

candidates for all three elections on page 6. A full election for Tring Rural Parish Council is being held this time as there are ten candidates for the eight available seats.

Turn to page 30 for candidates' statements.

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Easter at St Cross is eggciting by Jo Woodbridge

THE annual St Cross Easter Egg Hunt was eggciting. 600 paper eggs were hidden around the Church Garden. Didier started off the proceedings with a short service and the Easter candle was lit, assisted by Jacob. Every child was issued with a bag to collect their eggs and then they were off! 16 children hunted, searched and scrambled around the garden looking for the eggs. After being independently verified, the winners were

eventually declared as: Zac Dolling in the 4-and-under category, Poppy Jellis in the 5 to 8-year category, and Ellie Griffiths in the 9-and-over category. All participants received a small chocolate egg and the winners were given a larger egg. Meanwhile the adults enjoyed coffee and hot cross buns. Thanks to everyone for their assistance in making this a successful event. **More pictures on page 36.** (No more 'egg' headlines please. Ed.)

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

Smudge needs a new home

Turn to page 21



Egg hunters at St Cross.

The bus soon to arrive

at the Wilstone Circus Fete and Fun Dog Show on Sunday June 7th will be a new feature at this popular village fete. The kids play bus provides double decker entertainment for the under 10s - a fabulous indoor play area that will have mums and dads trying to sneak aboard too. And it's free. But a strict age policy will be applied at the door! Hold very tight please. Ding ding.



The biodiversity of Dixon's Wharf by Neil Harwood

What is biodiversity?

BIODIVERSITY means the variety of life on Earth. It is the variety within and between all species of plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems within which they live. In simple terms, and in the context of Dixons Wharf, this means the range of habitats and wildlife on our doorstep and their inter-relationships - including with us!

Features and habitats of Dixon's Wharf

The Wharf is a mosaic of grassland, hedgerows, scattered scrub and trees, running alongside the Canal, with the number of different habitat types and structures being important in determining the site's value. The mature lime is the flagship tree of the development, with a tree of this size supporting entire food webs, providing homes for insects, birds and bats, and much needed shelter for us during windier times. In recent months, it has provided a regular vantage point for a local kestrel and a singing post for a resident song thrush. The scattered scrub across the site are mostly hawthorns, their red berries providing a vital food source for insects and birds during the autumn.



The wildflower grassland meadows are starting to evolve (slowly!), but will need at least a year to set-seed and develop in full and the retained and newly-planted hedgerows provide important buffers around the edges of the site (see 'Habitat connectivity' below). Then of course there is the canal. All of these together provide for a wide range of wildlife.



Wildlife at Dixon's Wharf

A diverse variety of bird species live in and around the Wharf. Surrounding farmland supports important birds such as lapwing and skylark, and barn owl have been seen less than a mile away. The canal alongside the Wharf supports mute swan, cormorant, grey heron, and the occasional kingfisher darting by. Within the Wharf are house sparrow and starling, species that once were common but are now quite scarce in most places.

A range of mammals are resident including field mice, voles, rabbits and a number of species of bat (a 5g pipistrelle bat can eat 4000 midges in one night!). Foxes, badgers and the occasional deer are likely to be present too, but I have yet to see them here.

Amphibians and reptiles may start to emerge in the Spring. If anyone happens upon something that looks like a snake, it is most likely to be a harmless slow-worm (a legless lizard!), though grass snakes may also live alongside the canal (these are also harmless).

Continued on page 35.

Above right, Mature lime tree. Above left, Scattered hawthorns. Below left, Wildflower meadow. Below right, Hedgerow. All pictures by Neil Harwood.



Village News

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Three elections on 7th May

Well, you wait five years for an election and then three come along at once. As well as the parliamentary general election, and the election for Dacorum Borough Council, this time there is a full election for the eight seats on the Parish Council. The latter is unusual as for many years there have not been more candidates for the Parish Council than seats available. In such circumstances the returning officer does not have to call an election, and the candidates are just deemed to have been elected without a vote. So here is an opportunity not often granted, with ten candidates to choose from. Be prepared at the voting booth with our complete list of candidates for all three elections on page 6.

Parish Council Chairman Mike Tomlinson is standing down after 10 years on the council. He has offered much encouragement and support to Village News during his time in office, and I would like to thank him for his contribution to our community.

Jo Wetherall departs too

The editors are sorry to lose regular Village News correspondent Rev'd Jo Wetherall, as she departs for a new appointment in Gloucestershire after six years in this parish. We have enjoyed her contributions (which arrive on time), and we wish her well in her new post. The big impact she has made here is well described on page 12.

Phil Buchi

The next edition will be for June 2015 and the deadline for items is: Wednesday 20 May 2015.

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.

3 May

10am All Saints Morning Prayer
10am St. Cross WfA
6pm St. Cross Evening Prayer

10 May

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

17 May

10am St. Cross Holy Communion
10am All Saints Morning Prayer

24 May

10am St. Cross Morning Prayer
10am All Saints Holy Communion
3.30pm St. Mary's Evensong

31 May

10am St. Cross Holy Communion
10am All Saints WfA
6pm All Saints Evening Prayer.



St Mary's, Puttenham

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.

What's on...

Raising money for a World Challenge trip to Zambia in July!

Cream Teas in the garden

Sunday 31st May

2pm – 5pm

Huckvale Cottage, 58 Station
Road Long Marston

£3 per person



Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)

The public are welcome to attend these meetings.

Wednesday 6 May Long Marston village hall.

Wednesday 3 June Wilstone village hall

Sunday 26 April

Long Marston Tennis Club open afternoon, 2pm.

Friday 1 May

May Day Madrigals and breakfast. Puttenham, 6am.

Friday 8 May

Quiz Night at Long Marston School, 8pm start.

Saturday 9 May

Jumble sale, Cecilia Hall, Puttenham, 2pm start.

Sunday 10 May

Marsworth 10K Fun Run, 10am start.

Ashridge Estate spring plant fair, 11am - 4pm.

Wednesday 13 May

Wilstone Village Hall AGM. At St Cross church, 8pm.

Friday 22 May

Charity football match at Long Marston, kick off 6pm.

Saturday 23 to Monday 25 May

Mentmore Arts Festival (see ad).

Tuesday 2 June

At Long Marston Cricket Club, 1.30pm start.

Spitfire 60+ 1st XI County championships

Hertfordshire 60+ v Hampshire 60+

Sunday 7 June

Wilstone Village Fete and Fun Dog Show.

Sunday 14 June

Midsummer Picnic. LM recreation ground, 1pm.

Saturday 20 June

Beacon Villages Community Library AGM, 10am.

Sunday 21 June

Marsworth Steam Rally - Startops Farm, Marsworth.

Friday 26 June

Disco at Long Marston village hall, 8pm.

Saturday 27 June

Tring Carnival & Parade.

Sunday 28 June

Wilstone Open Gardens and Allotments, 2 - 5pm.

Tuesday 14 July

At Long Marston Cricket Club, 11am start:

ECB Second XI trophy - Unicorns v Leicestershire 2nd XI.

Friday 10 July

Cecilia Tea Rooms, Puttenham, 3 - 5pm.

Times for mobile library Route 72

Thursday fortnightly: 30 April, 14 and 28 May

Tringford (Piggeries Pine) **11.00 to 11.20**

Wilstone (The Half Moon) **11.25 to 11.55**

Astrove (Astrove Lane) **12.50 to 13.15**

Puttenham (Church Lane) **13.20 to 13.45**

Long Marston (Queen's Head) **14.00 to 15.15**

MENTMORE Arts FESTIVAL

**MAY BANK
HOLIDAY 2015**

The 7th Mentmore Arts Festival will be held in Mentmore Church and Mentmore Village Hall. We are raising money for the Alzheimer's Society as well as local charities and the church.

**MENTMORE CHURCH
& MENTMORE VILLAGE
HALL - LU7 0QF**

**SATURDAY 23 MAY
SUNDAY 24 MAY
MONDAY 25 MAY**

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

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CONTACT

DEBORAH HALL
07831 707023
deborahhall158@btinternet.com

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

Wednesday 15 July 11.00 start

At Long Marston Cricket Club, 11am start:
ECB Second Trophy - Unicorns v Yorkshire 2nd XI.

Saturday 1 Aug

Long Marston Village Show - incorporating flower and produce show.

Saturday 5 September

Scarecrow competition, Central Farm, Long Marston.

Sunday 16, Mon 17, Tues 18 August

At Long Marston Cricket Club, 11am start all days:
Minor Counties Championship - Hertfordshire v Suffolk.

Friday 11 September

Cecilia Tea Rooms, Puttenham, 3 - 5pm.

Saturday 3 October

Jumble sale, Puttenham, 2pm start.

Westenders Meets Eastenders
A musical extravaganza
of West End favourites and
numbers from the music halls
Written and directed by
NEIL GURNEY
at Long Marston Village Hall
15-16th May 2015
Curtain up at 8pm **BAR**
Tickets £10 (includes a programme)
available from Pat Rose on 01296 662745

Long Marston School PTA invite you to a

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 8th May

Bring a team of up to 8 people
or just come along and join in

£5.00 per person

Please bring your own
refreshments and nibbles

Long Marston School Hall
8.00pm start
Tickets available from the school
office or on the door



SUNDAY JUNE 28
WILSTONE gardens and
allotments open
2pm to 5pm

Please keep this date in your diaries and
tell all your friends and relatives, as it
will be a lovely occasion for the village

Now that Spring has sprung would
gardener-lovers interested in being
involved please contact Gill Glasser
01442 890300

Help with teas, signage, printing,
making cakes and generally mucking in
would be much appreciated

Wilstone Village Hall Management Committee

hereby give public notice of the

Annual General Meeting

to be held on Wednesday 13 May 2015 at 8.00 pm
at St Cross Church, Wilstone

All are invited, and new members are welcome.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 2014 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.

7th May: Elections for Parliament, Dacorum Borough Council and Tring Rural Parish Council

Full list of candidates

VOTERS have a lot of choices to make in the polling booths on Thursday 7th May, when elections for Dacorum Borough Council and Tring Rural Parish Council coincide with the General Election.

Be prepared with our full list of candidates.

This is the first time for some years that there has been a full election for Tring Rural Parish Council (though there was a by-election in 2013). Previously the number of candidates did not exceed the eight places available, so no election was called. This time there are ten candidates for the eight parish council seats. There are six candidates competing for the two seats available for the Tring West and Rural Ward of Dacorum Borough Council, and six candidates for the seat in parliament.

Polling stations will be open from 7am until 10pm. Polling cards have already been delivered to registered voters, though you do not need your polling card in order to vote. You can vote for eight candidates for the Parish Council, two candidates for the Borough Council, and of course just one of the candidates for the parliamentary seat.

Candidates for Tring Rural Parish Council - 8 seats

Briant, Richard Michael
 Briant, Robert Edward
 Driver, Jon
 Garnham, Andrea
 Griffiths, Chris
 Mann, Christopher
 Murrell, Nick
 Thirkettle, John Scott
 Wheeler-Cornell, Olli
 Winfield, Alan.

Candidates for Dacorum Borough Council, Tring West and Rural Ward - 2 seats

Anderson, Amy (UKIP)
 Conway, Olive May (Conservative)
 Hicks, Mike (Conservative)
 Hollinghurst, Nicholas Arnold (Liberal Democrat)
 Oliver, Roger John (Green)
 Reed, Emma (Labour)
 Shaw, Sylvia (Labour)
 Townsend, Christopher (Liberal Democrat).

Candidates for Parliament, South West Hertfordshire constituency

Anderson, Mark (UKIP)
 Cartmell, Graham (Common Sense Party)
 Diggins, Simon Leo Carr (Labour)
 Gauke, David Michael (Conservative)
 Pardy, Charlotte Susan (Green)
 Quinton, Nigel Alan (Liberal Democrat).

(Information from the Returning Officer, Dacorum Borough Council and the Returning Officer, Three Rivers Borough Council.)

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Carling 4-pack 500 ml: £3.90. Jaegermeister 70cl: only £17.50.

Jack Daniels whiskey (70cl): only £22.

Glennfiddich single malt whisky, 12 year old: £30.99.

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Beacon Villages Community Library

Run by the community for the community
 www.bvcl.org.uk | info@bvcl.org.uk | 01296 327890

Beacon Villages Community Library ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday 20th June 2015
 Ivinghoe Town Hall, 10am.**

The meeting is open to all, but voting is restricted to library card holders only.

Janet Page, Secretary.

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Evelyn Chapman 00624

There is a bias on the green!

by Tony Duke

WE each have our little prejudices and bias. Like you and me the bowls used at your local Bowls Club have a bias - *the curve of its run*. And, a bit like people, to get a bowl to do exactly what you want it to do is a challenge, which is why bias ensures the game of bowls is so compelling and fun. With a bias every bowl like a cricket ball responds to changing ground and atmospheric conditions. No two shots are the same. Bowls is an easy game to get into but to be consistent takes practice.

Rosemarie and myself joined Cheddington Bowls Club 5 years ago and quickly fell in love with bowls and with Cheddington Bowls Club. Bowls is relaxing, yet demands concentration and helps us stay flexible. Bowls is suitable for men and women of all ages. We have made so many new friends. Members come to our very friendly Club from all around the area: Tring, Dunstable and Leighton as well as all the local villages. The Club is full of banter and good fun. There is usually a cuppa available, or something stronger from the bar, if needed. Whether you play for fun or to be in competitions; bowls, on the green in the summer or indoors and short mat formats in the winter months, has added greatly to the enjoyment in our lives – *and I haven't mention the Club's social events!* Cheddington Bowls Club can do the same for you.

Circus Wilstone village fete - Fun Dog Show classes announced

ALONGSIDE all the fun and attractions of Circus Wilstone (*see elsewhere in Village News*) is the Fun Dog Show now in its twelfth year! We are fortunate, as ever, to have the help and support of The Long Marston Dog Training Club run by Evelyn Chapman and her great team. They will be there on the day to take entry registration, organise the classes and do the judging in each of the 6 classes. In addition they can offer advice on any doggy queries plus information about the variety of training and courses the Club offers in Long Marston. So, now it's time to start the training and making preparations for entry to win a Wilstone Fete Dog Show rosette. Places are from 1st to 5th, plus highly commended, in each class.

So here are the classes for 2015:

1. Best pedigree
2. Best mixed Breed
3. Best Veteran (over 8 years)
4. Best Trick
5. Best Rescue
6. The Sausage Eating Race.

Entry forms will be available on the day from 1pm at the Dog Registration Tent on the recreation ground behind Wilstone village hall. The Dog Show will run all afternoon from about 1.30pm. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday 7th June for an afternoon of great fun with your gorgeous dogs! Please call Jill Walker if you have any further queries: 01442 827891.

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Wednesday 7.30 pm

WILSTONE VILLAGE HALL

Monday 9.30 am

Tuesday 6.00 pm Lo

Wednesday 9.30 am

Thursday 9.45 am Lo

Friday 9.45 am

Saturday 9.30am

Other classes available in Tring, Halton, Aylesbury and Weston Turville

www.facebook.com/JazzerciseBucksBedsHerts

JazzerciseBucksBedsHerts

07900 987230

things for children and young people, so your (older) correspondent was encouraged to hear that something for adults was being considered too. 'Outdoor gym' equipment is intended to help adults keep fit, and some nearby communities have installed suitable apparatus. Cllrs. Winfield and Wheeler-Cornell had been to check it out, and were impressed. Queues to use this free gym can be anticipated perhaps.

Flood feasibility

Lowering the roadway at the far end of Chapel Lane to help flood waters escape downstream will require a further feasibility study say Herts County Council. MP David Gauke obtained this statement from the County. Everyone realised this of course, but the question is: when? We have been spared floods this winter, but unless budget is allocated for the study, the prospect of real action recedes into the distance. Mr Gauke will be asked to press the question. In the meantime local action will focus on short term actions to open culverts and relief ditches using money allocated by the Parish Council. Discussions are underway with local landowners and householders.

Tree works needed

A survey has confirmed that two trees at the Long Marston recreation ground need to be removed. £1,300 has been quoted for remediate work. The Council agreed to get this work done immediately.

Your Parish Councillors are: *(up to the election on 7th May)*

Mr Michael Tomlinson (Chairman) 01296 661 311
Mr Chris Griffiths 01296 668 257
Mr Alan Winfield 01296 668 977
Mr Christopher Mann 01296 668 548
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:

www.tringruralpc.org.uk

Read statements from candidates on page 30.

You can view and comment on planning applications at
www.dacorum.gov.uk/planning
www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk



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It's back.....
**THE 3rd LONG MARSTON
CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH**

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

V

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

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

*Friday 22nd May 2015
kick off 6.00pm*

at the Long Marston Football Pitch

Beer / Wine / Tea / Coffee / Juice / Cakes

The Vicar's BBQ - Burgers & Bangers

Food and Drink available from 5.30pm

Half Time Penalty Shoot-Out for the Kids

After match cup presentation, disco, bar and curry

then back to the Queens Head for more fun!!

*Proceeds will be divided between Village School,
Pre-School, Church, Village Hall and Football Club*

Rev'd Jo Wetherall to depart after six years in this parish



Rev'd Jo Wetherall's last service at St. Cross, Wilstone, will be on Sunday 10th May at 10am.

AFTER six years with the Tring Team Parish, Rev'd Jo Wetherall is moving on to pastures new. Jo was inaugurated into the Team in February 2009, as Team Vicar with special responsibility for Aldbury and Wilstone. Jo, her husband Simon, and their two daughters moved from Surrey to the vicarage in Aldbury, no doubt delighted with all the glorious countryside around them to walk their two dogs. From there she has ministered to the two parishes, as well as being part of the wider Team including Puttenham, Long Marston, and Tring.

The congregation at St. Cross soon learnt that one of Jo's favourite responses to ideas and suggestions was 'just do it'. So with her encouragement the church started to change the format of some of the services and discovered that Tuesday mornings proved very popular with local worshippers. There is now a service on the fourth Tuesday of every

month, and over the years Jo has also facilitated some 'special' services on a Tuesday, perhaps the most notable being the annual Rosemary for Remembrance.

Whether it is the memory Jo would wish to leave of her time in Wilstone is questionable, but for many people it is her compassion and understanding in times of sadness that they will recall with gratitude. At the other end of the scale, her obvious love of children was apparent for all to see, and baptisms gave her especial joy. Her concern for others found an outlet at St. Cross, both locally in the Tuesday Coffee mornings, and more widely in supporting the church with a programme of outreach fundraising that has included Smile Train, McMillan, the Mercy Ships, DENS, and Turning Point.

A wonderful ability to find the right words, without recourse to notes, to put things in layman's terms, and to bring the everyday experiences of life to fruit in her sermons made for some inspiring talks. We have suggested that when she retires, Jo could take over 'Thought for Today' on Radio 4, or publish a book of her musings.

When Jo celebrated a special birthday a couple of years ago we presented her with a poem. It is still relevant today and is reproduced here. As Jo and her family move on to Gloucestershire and her new role as Children's Officer (what a surprise!) in that Diocese, we offer our thanks for all she has done for St. Cross, and send our love and best wishes for the future. Jo's last Sunday service in St. Cross will be on 10th May, and the last coffee morning she will attend is Tuesday 12th May.

Alison Cockerill

Ode to a vicar

*Tall and slim
And always smiling
That's our Vicar, Jo
Pretty skirts
And voice beguiling
That's our Vicar, Jo.*

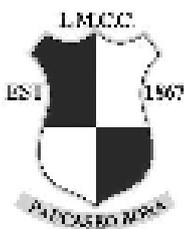
*Came from Surrey
Miles away
That's our Vicar, Jo
Landed here
Our lucky day
That's our Vicar, Jo.*

*Every Sunday
Finds her preaching
That's our Vicar, Jo
Hymns and prayers
And words far reaching
That's our Vicar, Jo.*

*Through good and bad
Kind and caring
That's our Vicar, Jo
All compassion
God's love sharing
That's our Vicar, Jo.*

*Every Tuesday
Take your ease
With our Vicar, Jo
Peppermint tea
But in a mug, please
For our Vicar, Jo.*

*From St. Cross
A great big thank you
To our Vicar, Jo
For your support
And all you've done
As our Vicar, Jo.*



Fixtures at Long Marston Cricket Club by Paul Dumpleton

THE season got underway on Saturday 18th April at Marlins when the annual interclub match attempts to blow the winter cobwebs away, although net sessions have been very well supported during the winter. Sunday 19th April saw our first competitive friendly of the year against Old Albanians.

Other friendlies up to the start of the league season on 9th May are:

- Saturday 25th April: 1st XI v Tring Park, (2nd XI away at Tring)
- Sunday 26th April: Sunday XI v Rivets,
- Saturday 2nd May: 1st XI v Tiddington, (2nd XI away at Tiddington).

And the very important first round of the National Village Cup at home to Langleybury on Sunday 3rd May. All are welcome at Marlins to enjoy some entertaining and hopefully successful cricket.

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

Local business feature: White Jasmine, Home and Fragrance, takes Jill Walker in a new direction

KNOWN around the county at shows and fairs for her "Maison Français" range of home accessories, Jill Walker from Wilstone has chosen a different direction for the 2015 season. Re-launched this month as "White Jasmine, Home and Fragrance", Jill has a new range of home accessories and gifts sourced from around England and France.

"I love fragrant candles, reed diffusers, soaps and hand creams", she said, "and I am very enthusiastic about some terrific new suppliers I have found. These items are not easy to find on the High Street". So this year her range of products will include hand-poured candles and reed diffusers from the Northumberland Candle Works made from soya wax, candles from Fired Earth and Wax Lyrical and from the St. Eval Candle Company, Cote Noir soaps from France, scarves, wraps and home accessories too. The full range can be seen on her new website www.whitejasmine.org and you can see (and smell) for yourself in her home. Jill will be at the Aldbury May Day Fair on 4th May, at the Herts County Show on 23rd and 24th May,



Jill Walker with a new range for White Jasmine, Home and Fragrance.

at Ashridge for the Hospice of St. Francis Garden Party on 31st May and at the Wilstone Fete on 7th June. Her full programme is on the website, or phone her on 07796 804044.

at Ashridge for the Hospice of St. Francis Garden Party on 31st May and at the Wilstone Fete on 7th June. Her full programme is on the website, or phone her on 07796 804044.

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- Stocking home-made and local produce
- Being a place where people like to shop and volunteers like to work.



Your shop needs you!



Would you like to join our team of volunteers, or do you know someone who could help out??

We desperately need help **on Saturday mornings from 7am to 9.30 am**. Saturday is our busiest day – it's fun, you get to meet lots of people and we will provide breakfast!

This would also suit teenagers who are looking to get a bit of experience or volunteering for Duke of Edinburgh Award or other community schemes.

Please contact Nici Ward, the Shop Manager on **01442 891167** or **nicward@mac.com** to find out more.

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Finally, thank you to everyone who came in on 1st and 2nd April and bought a cupcake for World Autism Awareness Week. We raised an incredible £102!

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Free Trial

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 Tel: 07506 179658 Email: enquiries@marsworthpreschool.org.uk

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

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 Contact Tara Thinkettle 07796 965171.

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The Circus is coming to Wilstone!

WHATEVER you do this year for fun do NOT miss the Wilstone Fete. This year it's circus time and there's going to be a whole lot of entertainment for all the family. Come along and watch the grand parade which starts at 12.30pm from the War Memorial.

There will be the famous Wilstone Showgirls posing as lion tamers - and there may even be a lion! Solo Circus will be there demonstrating his amazing skills which include stilt walking, mono-cycling and juggling and it will be led by the excellent Hemel Silver Band. Plus we will have our children's fancy dress competition, with a circus theme of course, and we would love all those entering it to join in the parade. Pride of place in the parade will be Queen Jane of Wilstonia attended by Joey her circus pony.

And that's just the parade! Come on down to the showground and there you will find the Kids Play Bus (for details visit www.kidsplaybus.com) to entertain the under 10s. The fabulous Fun Dog Show will be running throughout the afternoon, please see elsewhere in this Village News for the categories, so why not show us what your dog can do? Other entertainments include Play Your Cards Right, the Casino, and Crazy Golf. Or you can visit the Tombola, Vintage (that's bric-a-brac to the uninitiated), books and tombola stalls. Plus, of course,

there's the chance to win some great prizes in our wonderful raffle. There will also be a variety of other stalls for you to browse at and the beautiful hand-turned roundabout for the little ones.

Solo Circus will be performing in the main ring as well as running circus workshops during the afternoon for all those budding performers.

Then of course there's the food. Enjoy our delicious BBQ and vegetarian stalls, or partake of gorgeous homemade cake in the tea room. The Big Top Bar will be stocked as usual with 4 or 5 different real ales and a great choice of wines, Pimms and soft drinks.

So, put Sunday 7th June in your diary and come along for a fabulous afternoon of fun and laughter. DC.



New guide aims to protect communities from flooding

A FREE, practical guide to help rural communities protect themselves from flooding is now available from CDA Herts. The Community Guide to Your Water Environment has been produced by the charity's national body ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England). It features a step-by-step guide to developing a community project to manage your water, details of resources that will help you, and case studies of communities who have got stuck-in to care for water environments across England. The ACRE guide is available to download free from www.cdaherts.org.uk.

Marsworth 10K Fun Run Sunday 10th May 2015

Starts at Marsworth Recreation Ground
10am

in aid of All Saints Parish Church, Marsworth.
Registration fee £10.

Entry form from gavin.merrylees@gmail.com
or phone 01296 668046.

See you at the start line... free cake and tea
at the finish line.

Wilstone Fête plant stall: 7 June



WE have joined forces again this year for the Village Fete on Sunday 7 June. We are asking for kind donations of any spare plants and seeds to create a bumper stall.

Please contact Ken Martin (01442822894) or John Evans (01442822115) if you wish to bring your plants nearer the time, or if it will help you, they can be collected. Otherwise please bring them to the recreation ground on the morning of the fete day. It

would be helpful if they can be marked, but not essential. We will just be very grateful for your support.

In our adjacent gazebo we are planning to create a display of images of Wilstone and are also asking for photos, copies and images relating to the village. These pictures will be non-returnable, unless specified, as they may well sustain damage. They can be of Places, People, Pets, Plants, Produce, Past or Present, anything reflecting our Village of Wilstone. Please deliver your pictures to 18 Tring Rd any time before the day of the Fete.

If you are a photographer age 10 or younger, please put your name and age on the back so we can display your pictures in a 'special' section. Please everyone remember to come round and visit the Wilstone Allotments on the Open Gardens day, Sunday 28 June. We look forward to seeing you.

Recipe for success A story of Longub Puttastone *by Martin Winship*

AFTER her experience with the Gardening Club and the village show, and the embarrassment her husband had caused her, Prunella Lymphe was reluctant to get involved with any other organised event. But several of her friends had tried to persuade her to join the Women's Association, and had painted a very attractive picture of the many advantages such membership could bring. When her husband pointed out that the W.A. met on the same evening as a "sort of MENSA type thing" which he had agreed to go along to, Prunella waived, and then succumbed. The "MENSA" thing sounded harmless enough, and would keep her husband out of trouble while she was away at the W.A.

Her first task was to help with the refreshments for the next meeting, which would include a guest speaker giving a talk on a most interesting topic which she could not for the moment remember. Never mind. Prunella set to work to make a batch of her jam tarts.

She belonged to the Very Thoroughly Baked school of cooking; in fact, she would have been jolly useful working in a crockery factory, firing the cups and saucers in the kiln. And certainly, the tarts made a distinctly ceramic sort of noise when she turned them out onto a plate.

She took them along on the evening of the meeting and "interesting talk", and added the plate to the others already on the refreshments table; chocolate brownies, fairy cakes, and almond slices. She sat on a chair at the back so that she could keep an eye on things, and then the guest speaker stepped forward, and began his talk.

It was a very interesting talk, she thought. And he seemed a very nice young man. His tie was very nice too; a lovely

maroon colour. Very much like the curtains in her.....She woke up with a start. The speaker seemed to be staring straight at her, frowning. Then with a slight toss of his head he turned, and went on. He went on. And on. He reminded Prunella of a trapped bluebottle, buzzing. Buzz, buzz.....She woke up again.

In fact, Prunella had several further "nods" during the course of the very interesting talk, and it was eventually the relieved round of applause at the end which woke her for the last time.

She stood up, and started to make her way towards the refreshments, but stopped frequently to talk to her friends, and to check their blouses and brooches, and examine their hair-dos, and by the time she reached the refreshment table, all the dainty cakes had gone.

Except her jam tarts. They did not seem to have been touched. On closer inspection, she noticed a row of teeth-marks in one of them, and a small fragment of what looked like a broken tooth was stuck in it.

Prunella took her leave as quickly as she could, taking the tarts with her. She walked home, feeling rather unhappy, and gave the tarts to the dog, who sniffed them, whimpered, and ran with his tail between his legs to his bed.

Prunella decided to follow suit. And as she lay there, dwelling on the events of the evening, she heard her husband coming home. The "MENSA type thing" had of course turned out to be the pub quiz. He was singing loudly about something an engineer had told him, seemingly before he died.

Prunella pulled her pillow over her head, and quietly started to cry.

Fly tipping blocks Watery Lane

Ken Lawless writes:

While out for a walk down Watery Lane at Wilstone (at 10.30 on Sunday 12th April) this is what we came across, covering the whole width of the lane.

Who would stoop so low as to do this? The contents were mainly old decking, with a pair of builders' boots and an unopened bag of sand.

Village Warden Colin Reedman adds:

I reported the matter to the police at 09.45, who in turn notified Herts County Council and Dacorum Borough Council. A police officer attended later in the day.

Alf Clewlow adds:

The dumped rubbish blocked the road, and my son and I could not get past on our bikes. I would like to thank the four young lads who cleared a path through for us.

Any information on this crime should be passed to the police.

(Pictures: Ken Lawless and Colin Reedman.)



Allotment diary

by Pat Smith, Wilstone Allotment Association

WELL what can I say after Tony's great write up and report last month?

Stan and I are well behind this year. As I can see the allotments from my bedroom window I can only relate on what I have seen during the winter months from there. I didn't go down to our plot more than a couple of times during the cold months as Stan was down there attending to His Chickens every day, and bought back the veggies for the evening meal.

The worst thing that happened over the winter months was the devastation of greenhouses due to the high winds. I think that all the plot holders with greenhouses suffered from this. The chicken coop roof blew off as we were attending them, luckily none of them escaped.

Stan has of course been busy with his "darling chickens". How well they have been during the cold months. They have produced at least 3 eggs a day and now the spring has arrived they are laying a full quota every day. Nicola loves to handle them and they are now beginning to come right up to her for a cuddle and of course a handful of corn for a treat.

Our plot is mostly well dug and Stan says that the soil is now turning much easier. Shame we haven't planted anything to date. We did extremely well last year and still have loads of vegetables in our freezer, thus we are going to be fussier about what we grow this year. The only thing we ran out of was parsnips and onions. Oh yes, also tomatoes. I just didn't preserve enough so we ran out half way through the year. Unfortunately the onions were not a success as there was an

awful lot of rot inside them when we went to use them, which meant we had to throw a lot them away. Several of us suffered from the Leek Bug. Ours just rotted so we didn't have any leeks to harvest.

The other two people who were religiously tending their plot all during the winter months were Richard and Paul. How hard they have worked to bring their plot up to par in such a short time.

We would like to welcome all our newcomers and wish them a fruitful time. It has taken Stan and I several years to de-weed and get the ground to the state it is in now, so persevere. The hard work is certainly worth it as everything tastes so much better than shop-bought.

Just in case some of you are not aware, the manure and pallets are for everyone to use. These are paid for from our funds, therefore free of charge to you, so to speak.

Well although many of us have been on our plots lately, the Easter weather certainly bought out many more of us, weeding, digging and planting. What a lovely weekend that was to see so many of you so active and enjoying the sun.

I did say that I would mention that at the Wilstone Fete we would again be joining the plant stall and that ANY plants that you have to spare would be gratefully received. Any garden plants, fruit and vegetable plants, herbs etc. would be most useful.

Also there was a request for any photos of our village, 'from the past, or of today'. It was thought that these would be of great interest and could be displayed on the plant stall. All photos, pictures etc. will be returned afterwards.

Finally Stan and I wish you all a successful growing season.

sarah
jane
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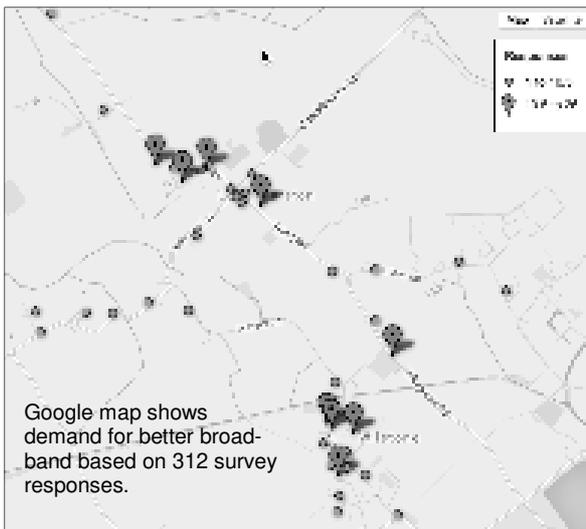
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Better internet campaign gets 312 responses to survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. We had 312 returns that represents a 50% response rate, which is a great response for any survey. It clearly shows there is indeed a huge demand for a better internet service. Details results of the survey are on the website. The map shows where responses were submitted from. The first meeting of the campaign team was attended by seven people on 30th March at which a number of actions were agreed, the primary of which is contact with Connected Counties to present the evidence gathered so far.

What's next? We need to know what internet speed you are currently receiving. This will be used to base our discussion on with organisations. Please visit the website tringrural.wordpress.com for instructions on performing a speed test and how to record the results. The website will be kept updated with the latest news. You can receive news emails by pressing the "Follow" button on the website.



Smudge needs a new home

by Jill Finlan



SINCE I placed a photo of a 'found cat' in Village News looking to find his owners - I have been informed that the owners have moved away and left him behind. I have been feeding him outside since October but unfortunately there is too much friction between him and my own cats and there seems no way I can give him a home. All re-homing charities I have approached appear to be over-subscribed and cannot take him. I wonder if anyone in the parish would consider taking him in. Ideally he would need a quietish home (as he has become quite nervous since living rough), possibly be the only cat, and in a rural location. I live in Gubblecote. I have built up a level of trust with him and do believe he could make a lovely pal with a bit of time and patience. I would love to hear from anyone who would like to discuss the possibility of giving him a home.

Jill Finlan - 01296 661716.

Looking for your help to make Circus Wilstone simply superb

If you have *bric-a-brac* to donate, or get rid of, depending how you view it, then please call Irene McCall on 01442 825529 to sort out the details.

Any books you may have for the *book stall*, or indeed late entry bric-a-brac, please bring it down to the Village Hall during the set up on Saturday, 6th June.

We would also be grateful for items for the *Tombola* stall, and the Community Shop in Wilstone has again agreed to host a box for any donations you may have. If you have nothing lurking in your store cupboards, or elsewhere, perhaps you may consider buying something from the shop to pop in the box.

Finally, *helpers* are always very, very welcome. Helping hands during the set up on the Saturday really make a big difference. If you would either like to run a stall on the day itself or just lend a hand for an hour or two to give someone else a break, that would be brilliant. If you can help please contact Jill Walker on 01442 827891.



Heavy Metal Banned

by Andy Ashwell

WHEN we first viewed our house eight years ago, one of the nice features of the kitchen was that it had a Rayburn: very desirable and very “cottage-kitchen”, apparently. However, soon after moving in, and immediately after receiving our first gas bill, it suddenly became a major bone of contention. That first month’s gas bill was larger than our annual bill had been in our old house.

The basic problem with this particular Rayburn (and, quite possibly, all Rayburns) was its fundamentally poor design: in order to be able to cook on the hot plates – without having to wait for two hours for them to heat up to a decent temperature – we had to leave the cooker continuously on full-bore. And, because the insulation in the unit was so poor, the whole 400kg of solid cast iron became almost as hot as the hot-plates themselves. Consequently, toasting a slice of bread cost around £5 – but, as Anna said at the time (without the faintest hint of sarcasm), at least the kitchen was warm. But, not as warm as you might have thought with half a ton of near-molten metal radiating heat like a supernova at one end of the room. And that was because of another of this Rayburn’s fundamental design flaws: in order to provide it with enough air to operate safely and not asphyxiate us with carbon monoxide it required a massive 9” x 6” (23cm x 15cm) breathing-hole in the wall. Balanced flue? Pah! No chance! Not in 1974



Worthless piece of metal

Rayburn and took most of it to the tip. “To the tip?” I hear you gasp. “Didn’t you put it on eBay – you’d have got a few hundred quid for it.”

Well, I did put it on eBay. And somebody did buy it. But not for hundreds of quid but for a measly £20 and a penny. But, even they didn’t want it when they realised that it was going to be an almost impossible task to move it without the help of six burley mates, a set of rollers and a flat-bed truck. Although I was £20.01 to the good, I was still stuck with a fairly useless blue lump of impossible-to-move metal.

So, after much sweat and toil, I managed to dismantle it using an assortment of tools including a socket-set, a club-hammer, a hacksaw and a large crowbar. Oddly enough, when I eventually levered off the top I found the thing to be packed with more thermal insulation than we’ve got in our loft, so quite why it had been so inefficient and run so hot I don’t really understand. Anyway, having eventually managed to strip it down to its component parts I took most of them to the tip. I have kept the cast-iron boiler bit because it is too heavy for me to move any further than the backdoor; the oven doors, which I felt were too good to take immediately to the tip, went back on eBay. And...wait for it...they sold for more than the complete Rayburn.

The bloke who came to collect them seemed happy enough with his purchase but wasn’t interested in taking the boiler bit too. So, if any reader would like to come and collect it I will be more than delighted to let them take it away, completely free of charge.



Still too heavy (Pictures: Andy Ashwell)

when that was designed, mate! After a few fraught months of cooker-related tension with Anna turning it up and me turning it off, we came to a sort of truce: I bought a microwave and a toaster for her and we got plans drawn up for a new kitchen extension complete with modern cooker. A bit

of an overkill I admit, but as they say: “Happy wife, happy life.” So, new kitchen it was and Florence got the ex-kitchen as her playroom. Unfortunately, with the Rayburn being used for central heating only and with the massive hole in the wall, the playroom was never warm enough for Florence to play in. So, finally, last month we had a new condensing boiler fitted. I dismantled the

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The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

Last Minute Reminder ...

MAY-DAY **Friday, 1st May – 6 a.m.** **St.Mary's Churchyard**

**May-Day Madrigals sung from the top of St.Mary's Tower,
 followed by full Breakfast in Cecilia Hall at 6.30 a.m.**

JUMBLE SALE

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

Jumble may be left in the Cecilia Hall porch at any time, NO VIDEOS, please. If you can leave most of this until the two weeks prior to the jumbly, then that would be most helpful.

Sorting will take place from Tuesday, 5th May in the mornings from 10 a.m. Your help sorting is always very much appreciated and makes this task a very social and enjoyable time.

Also if you can help on 'The Day', do let Christine know – 01296 668337.

Our next ...

CECILIA TEA ROOMS

will be on Friday, 10th July, 3 p.m.- 5 p.m. Please note the change of date. It is never too early to book your table!

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Letters...

From a Wilstone resident (Name and address supplied.)

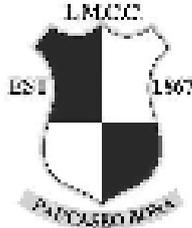
Mothering Sunday at St. Cross

A service for Mothering Sunday was held at St. Cross Church, Wilstone, conducted by Reverend Didier Jaquet. This was a joy to attend, embracing all ages, with particular attention to the children and with appropriate reference to mums, which they could well understand.

Thier artistic crayonings were displayed and refreshments warmly welcomed. Congratulations to all concerned.

With thanks from a Wilstone resident.

*From Paul Dumpleton, Chairman,
Long Marston Cricket Club.*



Disgusted at irresponsible dog owners

As the first mowings of the season take place we are again plagued by the heaps of dog excrement over vast areas of our outfield.

Marlins is privately owned. It is not a general public dog walking area for Long Marston. There is a clearly defined public footpath through our ground but use of it doesn't mean that dog owners can leave dog litter all over the field. Our members, and particularly those who work regularly on our ground, are sick and tired of the mess and stench caused by those who fail to clean up after their pets. Machinery has to be hosed down after use.

In addition this is a health and safety measure for our players and youngsters.

Mind the posts at the Wilstone war memorial please

A reader has commented that the posts marking off the Wilstone war memorial are damaged by passing vehicles too often. The posts were new last year and as they are the responsibility of the Parish Council, repairing the damage costs local taxpayers money. Owning up and paying for the damage would be fairer, he suggests.

Thanks for copy of Publisher 2003

The Village News team would like to thank Mrs Brenda Willett of Princes Risborough who responded to our appeal for another copy of Microsoft Publisher version 2003, which we use to produce your magazine. These old versions are now hard to come by, and this copy will be used to train another volunteer editor.

Sent to Peter Walker by Steve and Annette McBride, Puttenham.

Film night appreciation

Annette and I just wanted to express our sincere gratitude to you and everyone that contributes to the Wilstone Film Nights. They are a thoroughly enjoyable event and we have actually attended every one this season, including the bonus Paddington evening. From the sound of the laughter, I am absolutely sure that everyone really enjoyed the final evening, a great note to finish on. The marmalade themed snacks were really good fun and an excellent imaginative touch. All of the films were great to see, I particularly enjoyed the 100 year old man.

Aside from seeing some great films, the evenings are a wonderful way to get talking to folks that we might know by sight, but wouldn't otherwise speak to. All in all a valued and pleasurable facet of life in our small cluster of villages, long may they continue.

From Dacorum Councillor Christopher Townsend, Tring.

Borough Council on YouTube

Councillor Townsend, who is a Liberal Democrat candidate for the Tring West and Rural Ward of Dacorum Council, has made a short YouTube video about how the council works, as seen by the LibDems. He has sent us the link, which is: <http://youtu.be/iy1qv9Bs9wk>. (Other parties are available. Ed.)

Wilstone invites you to join

Wilstone Village Hall Committee and Wilstone Fete Committee would like some new members to join and take part in shaping these community assets. We meet once a month – usually in the Half Moon Pub. (Nice!) We 'think up' exciting ideas for events to take place in the village hall and at the moment are also discussing a significant refurbishment. It's certainly good fun to be involved in events like the Film Night and to help out, if you can, at other events and at the village fete. Everyone's input is important and all ideas are considered. It's not boring (no rambling) and it's FUN. Ring Richard Smissen on 01442 823253 for a chat. He will be delighted to hear from you.



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The agricultural story line...

by David Mead

Spring can now arrive

JOHN - from across the field - rescued an article from the bowels of some computer. It told of the formation of the Tring and District Sparrow Club based in Tring at the Rose and Crown. In 1892, 16,000 sparrows were caught. Three old pence a dozen, that is - a dozen heads. William Mead of the flour mill in Gammel presided. Because they all met at the Rose and Crown I think the Bucks Herald thought they were enjoying it too much. The club was continued in 1914. I'm pretty sure these little pests were caught in nets. Sparrows gather in numbers in thick hedges and can be frightened out into nets. Mr Fountaine, the secretary, was paying 6d a dozen heads. We have not been netting so that does not explain the lack of the birds today. There are a few at the shop, one pair nesting in a bat box.

We've got our T.B. test today, Thursday, I'm hoping to announce the result before I've finished. It's a major event as there a lot of cattle in yards who will soon be going out to grass. We don't want a lot of harassment, the beef trade looks like falling, cheap steaks, we'll see. Let me continue my little moan, the price for wheat is falling rapidly, by £100 a ton, nearly half.

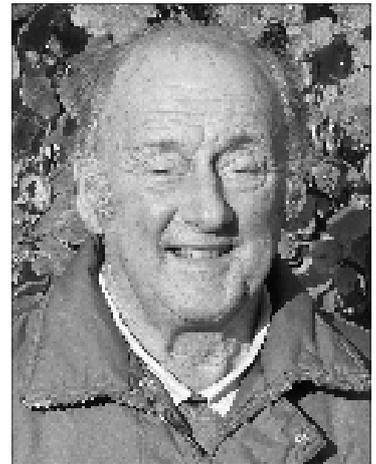
Well the sheep are looking well. The grass has kept growing so the ewes have milk. The lambs are sitting there with that "I can't eat any more" look in their faces. The wheat crops for this year's harvest are looking well, the satellite assisted

fertilizer distributor has done its job though it does not like thick cloud. Ah well the sun will have to shine. The oil seed rape crop is a bit patchy. It's coming into bloom so those gaps will grow. There will be plenty of seed for the oil production.

A large lorry arrived with a reconditioned generator for the "shop" complex. We do have the odd power cut. This one will cut-in if there is a failure. Up to now a tractor has to be connected, in the middle of the night, whenever. On the lorry the machine looks big enough to power Tring.

The wild flower field may be open for inspection. It really needs some nice April showers. We're never happy. Anyway the sheep are banned, wild flowers taste too nice. Taking out compost, soil and farm yard manure, I see some beautiful gardens, how do they do it? Ah well the sun still shines on mine and in my chair I can appreciate it!

They did it. Passed the T.B. test, all of them, apparently some played up this time. They didn't like being jabbed by two needles the first time. The first lot of cattle can be turned out to Gubblecote. Spring can now arrive.



First Steps Pre-School News by Emma Lynch

THE final weeks of **spring term** at preschool were a flurry of activity as the children and staff prepared for our end of term show and springtime activities.

Rev. Jane Banister paid the children a visit and shared some Easter stories while our staff adorned the stage with the bright flowers, colourful eggs and toadstools that the children had made. With the scene set the hall packed out with parents, carers and friends who snapped up drinks, home-made cakes and a few extra raffle tickets while the children got ready back stage. After weeks of rehearsals the children bounced onto the stage dressed as rabbits, gardeners, Little Bo Peep and butterflies and belted out the songs they had learned including 'I Can Sing A Rainbow' with a verse in French. The crowd showed their appreciation with rapturous applause and cheers. The children and families would like to thank the staff for putting on a great show and also for all their hard work over the term, we would all also like to thank Karla Hatrick for playing piano accompaniment for the show. The event raised money to pay for a children's book-themed theatre performance next term which would not be possible without the help of the volunteers that set out and cleared away the hall and served drinks and cakes as well as all of the families that made

and donated cakes and raffle items and bought and sold tickets - thank you everyone.

Spring term was rounded off with a teddy bears picnic and easter egg hunt, unfortunately the unpredictable April weather meant this was indoors rather than in the playground and recreation ground as we had hoped but the children still had a great time showing off their special toys and having a chocolate treat. It was time for a spring clean at the end of term and pre-school would like to thank the Morley-Medler family for washing our rugs and cushion covers over the Easter break and having our carpet cleaned for us ready for a fresh start for summer term (thanks to Terry Veal 07540 162304 for a great service).

We return to preschool for **summer term** on 20th April and are delighted that in our first week one of our parents Claire Watson, a professional bassoonist, will be playing for the children. Another parent Alice Cousins will also be hosting a fundraising and social pamper party. Other fundraising events for May include a photography session on the 7th and a Bags2School collection of unwanted clothing and shoes on the 11th. (If you are having a clear out and would like to add it to our collection please contact us at firststepslongmarston@gmail.com or 07870 729950.) Parents will also be helping at the charity football match on 22nd May.

Whitchurch Morris Men – May is here *by John King*

JUST to show that I wasn't lying, here's a picture (right) of some Hairy Biker chaps with the Grand Union Morris back in March. Hopefully, you're reading this article at just the right time. Friday 1st May will see us out with Towersey Morris at 5:30 a.m. to dance in the summer at the Towersey crossroads followed by breakfast in the Three Horseshoes prior to the May Day Tour of Oxford. See www.towerseymorrismen.org.uk for more information.

We of the Whitchurch Men start our formal summer programme on Monday 4th May at 6:30 a.m. at the monument at Combe Hill. The rest of the tour looks like this:

9:00 a.m. The Hampden Arms, Great Hampden, HP16 9RQ.
 10:30 a.m. World's End Garden Centre, Wendover, HP22 6BD.
 12:00 noon. May Fair, Whitchurch, HP22 4JG.
 2:15 p.m. Pitstone Green Farm Museum, Pitstone, LU7 9EY.

Our Tuesday evening dancing out programme also begins in May with 8 p.m. performances:

12 May: The Angler's Retreat, Marsworth, HP23 4LJ.
 15 May: The Carpenter's Arms, Stewkley, LU7 0JB. (Yes, I know it's a Friday.)
 19 May: The Plough, Cadsden, HP27 0NB.

Then at the end of the month Whitsun and Spring Bank Holiday coincides so we're away :-

17 May: Etcetera Morris Men, Forte Hall, Enfield.
 22 - 25 May: Leeds Morris Men Dales Tour – all over the Yorkshire Dales.
 29 May: Something special.
 30 May - 1 June: Thaxted Morris Men Ring Meeting in Essex. Saturday evening is a must!



Hairy Bikers encounter Grand Union Morris. (Picture: John King)

As Whitsun is the traditional time of year for ales and fayres, you might want to look at the goings on at Bampton-in-the-Bush in Oxfordshire. If you do decide to visit the village beware; there are three Morris sides and the Whitsun weekend is taken up by dancing throughout in pubs, hotels and people's gardens. Google 'Bampton Morris' if you want to know more. With 3 sides, there are 3 websites! If you're in the Yorkshire Dales, you're welcome to join us and don't forget the Malham Safari which is great for younger children. To find out more go to www.leedsmorris.org.uk and you will find the itinerary for the 62nd Dales Tour.

In the meantime, you can still come and join us at the Wilstone village hall on a Tuesday evening at around 8 p.m. or visit our website at www.whitchurchmorris.org.uk.

Wassail. John King.

Two years on, how is Wilstone Community Shop doing?

Wilstone Community Shop held its second Annual Members' Meeting 27th March at Wilstone Village Hall, attended by some 35 membership shareholders. At the meeting the Chair, Diana Crapnell summarised progress over the last 12 months and here are some of the highlights.

The shop is managed by a committee of ten elected at the 2014 meeting and currently is supported by 64 membership shareholders – more always welcome of course! We have a fantastic pool of 37 volunteers, which includes 3 students and 1 Duke of Edinburgh trainee, all of whom are amazing and the shop simply would not be here without each and every one of them. But there's always room for new volunteers who are always most welcome to join our team.

Sadly Jane Waterhouse had to step down from her Shop Manager role during the year, and indeed has now had to stand down from the Management Committee. Jane has been a key

figure in endeavouring to get our community shop up and running since the original shop and post office closed way back in 2008, so a big thank you to her for all that she has done. Happily though, Nici Ward moved to Gubblecote in March 2014, and took over the shop manager role last August. Under Nici we have gone from strength to strength and a clear measure of this has been our achievement of a 5-star food hygiene rating late last year. The shop has introduced new product lines, including the Suma range which has organic and Fairtrade items, and an increased range of frozen items, including some locally produced ready meals.

Our most challenging achievement in the last 12 months has been the successful introduction of our Electronic Point of Sale system which went live on 1 April 2014 after an enormous amount of preparation work. It is now giving us a wealth of information on which to base future decisions.

(Continued on page 31)

Election for Tring Rural Parish Council - statements from candidates

Village News has received the following statements from candidates for the Tring Rural Parish Council election on 7th May.

A review of the Parish Council's last four years, by Richard Briant, Robert Briant, Chris Griffiths, Chris Mann, Nick Murrell, Alan Winfield and Olli Wheeler-Cornell: seven of the existing parish councillors.

WE have had to contend with financial restraints and red tape. Battles have been many, of which some were hard fought. The gains however have been worth it, although now is not the time to be complacent as there is still outstanding/ongoing business to undertake.

Examples of some of the outcomes

Flooding of 2014. We have allocated £4,000.00 to flood defence work. We hired an independent hydrologist to carry out a survey and report on the causes of the flooding. We continue to work with all the bodies involved with a view to rectifying the existing problems related to the flooding.

Footpaths. Many of the footpaths now have gates replacing the old styles, making it easier for less agile walkers. The work is ongoing.

Grass cutting. We have taken over verge grass cutting from Herts County Council thus saving money and getting a specific cut that meets the parish needs.

Long Marston Village Hall. We have contributed to the renovation and improvement of the roof and car park area of 'Victory Hall'.

Wilstone Village Hall. We have supported Wilstone Village Hall with their refurbishments.

Street light at Wilstone. We have saved money by obtaining our own contractor.

Allotments at Wilstone. By acting as facilitators we were able to assist Wilstone to obtain ground, by way of renting from 'Tring Charities'.

Children's play areas. We are constantly replacing/repairing the play equipment within the park areas in Long Marston and Wilstone.

£40,000 from 'S106' money obtained from Dacorum Borough Council for play equipment. Initially we intended for this money for a 'skate park' but unfortunately, we were unable to fulfil this project. Dacorum tried to assist but in the end were defeated, and it was their advice to review our options. Therefore, we are upgrading the play equipment in Wilstone and Long Marston. This could include outdoor table tennis tables.

Arboricultural services are ongoing. Attention given to all the trees that come under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council. This includes removal of any which are considered dangerous.

Cemetery. Ongoing maintenance work carried out.

Walks within the Parish. We released our first walks leaflet in 2014, and there are more to come.

'Hive' Solar Park, one off payment £60,000. Supporting the installation of the solar panels at "Folly Farm". We have helped establish green energy in the community.

Projects still to fulfil

H.C.C. Highways. We are pursuing a more assertive approach in order to get the local roads to a satisfactory standard.

Dixon's Gap Bridge. Once the repair has been completed (promised to be this year by Canals and River Trust) we will support the installation of traffic lights.

Speeding in the villages. We are awaiting delivery of a portable 'slow down' system, which will be moved around the parish.

Upgrading of play areas. This includes replacing the basketball net, adding equipment which is better suited to the older children as well as the younger ones.

Outdoor gym equipment. We have done extensive research on installing gyms in both Long Marston and Wilstone recreation grounds.

Village facility/football changing rooms at Long Marston recreation ground. To fulfil the Parish Council's commitment to extend the pavilion in order that the whole Parish can benefit from the asset.

Large heavy lorries. This has been a constant battle to restrict this traffic through the village. We have asked for a weight restriction on Dixon's Gap Bridge and are in ongoing talks with the airfield owners.

Michael Tomlinson, who has been the Chair of the Parish Council, is standing down and not seeking re-election. We wish to acknowledge his commitment, dedication and hard work during his time serving the community. He has been inspirational to us all, he has seen us through difficult times and never withheld guidance and support. We wish to give thanks to Michael and assure him of our gratitude. What better way than acknowledging what the Parish Council has achieved under his leadership.

Statement from Andrea Garnham, candidate for Tring Rural Parish Council election.

I AM Andrea Garnham and I am standing for the Parish Council. I will be another female voice, giving the Council a more even balance.

I have lived in the village for 13 years, but have been part of the village community for 25 years. My three children have attended pre-school and the primary school within Long Mar-

ston, I have been involved in fund raising, an equine society, and at one stage helped to run the toddler group.

My family are involved with local farming and we still maintain a livery yard. My youngest son attends Tring school. Therefore, I feel I have some considerable knowledge and skills that would enable me to participate in all areas covered by the Parish Council.

Please give me your vote.

Statements from candidates (continued)

Statement from John Thirkettle, candidate for Tring Rural Parish Council election.

I AM standing for the Parish Council because I think my enthusiasm and drive will benefit the community. I believe that the Council has an important role to play both representing the residents and ensuring that our villages remain a safe and beautiful place to live.

Having lived in Long Marston for over 13 years I have a keen interest in many of the issues that affect us. I think the Parish Council should be impartial, transparent, vigorous and pro-active. I would be proud to represent the parishioners and can promise a very positive input into the council and its ability to achieve results. Please endorse my application in the upcoming Parish Council elections.

New magazine 'Rural Beat' from Herts Police

HERTS POLICE have launched a twice-yearly magazine created for people living and working in rural areas, which features the ongoing police work keeping Hertfordshire's countryside safe. An electronic version of the publication can be found on the Constabulary's web pages:

www.herts.police.uk/rural. The first edition introduces a new team of officers fighting rural crime around Royston, what the team is doing to tackle rural burglary, poaching and coursing, and how to become a Rural Special Constable.

Wilstone Community Shop *(Continued from page 29)*

We commenced refurbishing the shop shortly into the new year. This involved moving the counter and electrics and installing a new deli unit and finally laying down a new floor. Products have undergone a few different moves, and may yet move a bit more as we see what sits best where. But we managed to stay open throughout and are really pleased with the new layout and have had very positive customer feedback on the light and airy feel to the shop.

One positive community contribution has been the decision to become a sponsor of the Village News. This not only gives us the opportunity to promote the shop and all it has to offer but enables us to support a very valuable communication tool for our parish. We hope in the future to deliver other community benefits.

Future Plans

You may remember that toward the end of last year we announced that we would have to start considering the shop's location as our landlord, Mike Armson, was considering his future plans. We had some initial discussions with the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee as the most likely scenario would be to relocate as part of or adjacent to the village hall. At the moment Mike is not proceeding with any changes and we will therefore continue to stay where we are for the time being. However, we are well aware that change

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can come at any time so we will begin to review proposals for the future and progress things in an orderly manner. Finally, a clear message to everyone is that the shop does not need to make a massive profit. It just needs to cover its overheads and have a contingency for any necessities such as replacing a chiller. Any profit that it does make will always be ploughed back in to the business or community activities. So our clear objective is to ensure our prices are kept as fair and reasonable as possible.

Financial highlights

The accounts last year reflect a successful trading year with increased sales and profits which have largely now been reinvested back in the business. Sales increased from £85k in 2012/13 to £105k in 2013/14. These figures represent a significant growth in turnover for the shop. Based largely on these increased sales, the gross profit last year increased from £16k to £25k with a net profit of £10k. The net profit of £10k started to be reinvested in the business during 2013/14 and has continued into the first part of this financial year. The cash balance at the end of the year was £7.5k which has been used subsequently to fund the refurbishment of the shop and purchase equipment.

To sum up the accounts demonstrate a successful trading year for the shop and steady growth in its income. The surplus generated has been reinvested in the business to improve shopping experience.



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Home: 01296 662168

Mobile: 07581 624008

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Local names and numbers

Herts Police non-emergency number: 101

Local Police Officers (in emergency dial '999')

PC Steve Hunneysett 01707 354192

PCSO Lee Clements 01707 354192

Fly-tipping reports

Call Dacorum Waste Services 01442 228000

Call the police if you see a crime being committed.

Cecilia Hall (Puttenham)

Christine Rutter 01296 668337

Brownies

Rachel Friedli 01442 827577

Guides

Sheila Hill 01442 823463

Beavers

Sarah Hodgson 01442 823787

Cubs

Jane Dawson 01442 827410

Scouts

Kate Blanchard 07971 404465

LM&P Horticultural Society

David Severs 01296 661021

St Cross Wilstone

Clergy Rev'd Didier Jaquet

Churchwarden

Ken Martin 01442 822894

St Mary's Puttenham

Rector Rev'd Huw Bellis 01442 822170

Churchwardens

Christine Rutter 01296 668337

John Barron 01296 631351

All Saints Long Marston

Clergy Rev'd Jane Banister 01442 822170

Tring Rural Parish Council - Chairman

Election on 7th May.

Clerk to the Parish Council

Lucy Bancroft 07590 989202

Villages Warden

Colin Reedman 01442 822031

Long Marston Victory Hall

Hall hire: Liz Ayling 07973 786389

Long Marston Cricket Club

Paul Dumbleton 01296 662849

Long Marston 1st Steps Pre-School

Emma Lynch 07870 729950

Long Marston Baby & Toddler Group

Tara Thirkettle 07796 965 171

Long Marston Tennis Club

Margaret Kelland 01296 668314

Long Marston Football Club

Daphne Bateman 01296 668054

Long Marston School 01296 668386

Member of Parliament (House of Commons)

David Gauke 0207 219 4459

Or to make an appointment call: 01923 771781

Pet Dog Training

Evelyn Chapman 01908 502272

Sing-Wilstone

Jo Woodbridge 01442 891444

Village News

Phil Buchi 01296 661339

Whitchurch Morris Men

John Bush 01296 641382

Wilstone Allotment Assn.

Jane Waterhouse 01442 826813

Wilstone Village Hall

Bookings: Tony Short 01442 823096

Wilstone Toddlers

Jane Cole 01442 828272

WI

Sue Barraclough 01296 668272

Wilstone Community Shop 01442 891167

Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

Thank you ...

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

**Distribution enquiries to:
Rob Briant 07802 384151.**

Village News

**Long Marston, Wilstone, Puttenham,
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Send your editorial contributions, articles,
event notices, news and pictures to:
editorwlm@yaho.com

**Deadline for items to go in the next edition is:
Wednesday 20 May 2015.**

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

Queen's Head Golf Society weekender at Harbury Manor

THE event was held this year at Harbury Manor, near Ware. 20 Golfers attended. Results as follows, over the two days:

- 1st Lee Dimond 72 points
- 2nd Dave Spring 66
- 3rd Glen Barrington 64
- 4th Steve Toms 60
- 5th Charles Aylwin 59

The Society grows from strength to strength each year. It started 8 years ago with 6 golfers and has now blossomed into a thriving social group with over 30 members based in the Queens Head. Our next event will be a one day tournament at a local Golf Club in September (details to be posted in the pub later on in the year) and is open to anyone on a first come – first served basis. New members welcome.

Thanks to landlord Andy Butters for cancelling his only night off and supplying a great chilli for the golfers, their families and friends on their return.

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

HORTH
LONG MARSTON AND PUTTENHAM
Invites Residents to
THE LONG MARSTON MIDSUMMER PICNIC



PLEASE BRING ALONG YOUR OWN DRINKS AND A PICNIC HAMPER FULL OF TREATS
TO ENJOY WITH THE OTHERS WHO ARE TO JOIN YOU ON THE DAY

ON THE RECREATION GROUND
BEHIND THE VILLAGE HALL
SUNDAY 14th JUNE AFTER 1PM

BRING ALONG A PICNIC HAMPER FULL OF TREATS
AND ABOVE ALL...

LET'S GET TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY & HAVE SOME FUN



A COMMUNITY EVENT FOR ALL

HORTH
LONG MARSTON AND PUTTENHAM

SPRING is in the air, and following our village pantomime in February, the Long Marston and Puttenham Horticultural Society are busy planning our summer schedule. We start with supporting the Annual Charity Football Match between the 'School' side of the village and the 'Pub' side of the village. Plans are coming along nicely, thanks to sponsors Fullers Brewery and locals all pulling together to make the night a success. Kick-off 6pm on Friday 22nd May at Long Marston recreation ground. We hope to get a large turnout and raise a lot of money. Every penny goes back into the local community.

The Midsummer Picnic/Rounders Day and the Marsworth Steam Rally take place in June (see adverts), followed by the annual Long Marston Village Show on 1st August. More details on these events follow next month. *Toby Davidson.*

News from Long Marston School PTA

Long Marston School is a wonderful school, constantly striving to provide an inspiring, stimulating and educational environment for the children from our community. As the PTA of LMS, we are hosting a number of fund raising events with the aim to share and enjoy these social occasions whilst boosting school funds!

Fri 8th May

Quiz night, 8pm start at Long Marston School

Fri 26th June

Disco 8pm at Long Marston V H

Sat 5th September

Scarecrow competition
At Central Farm, Long Marston
Details to follow....

Sat 5th December

Christmas Fayre
At Long Marston School
Details to follow....

Please come along and have fun.

LONG MARSTON VICTORY HALL

**LARGE HALL WITH STAGE
& LIGHTING RIG AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**

**AFTERNOONS (2-6)
MOST EVENINGS (6-11)**

**IDEAL VENUE FOR SOCIETIES/CLUBS
AND LIVE MUSIC GIGS!**

**For more details and to book,
ring Liz Ayling on 07973 786389.**

The biodiversity of Dixon's Wharf *by Neil Harwood ...continued from page 2*

Wildlife at Dixons Wharf *(continued)*

Bees and butterflies are now appearing (look out for the bright yellow brimstone butterflies), with bumblebees emerging from their winter-time shelters underground (such as rabbit burrows). All of these species are interlinked and are key in maintaining the diversity of functioning ecosystems and the health of the environment around us.

Habitat connectivity and wildlife movement

It is crucial that all of this wildlife is able to move freely through the site and the wider countryside beyond. Linear features such as hedgerows and canals act as a linking network across an otherwise barren landscape, allowing the dispersal of species and the flow of genes to maintain healthy populations that are less susceptible to disease.

Simple steps to encourage wildlife

There are a number of things that any of us can do to help to protect and enhance the habitats and wildlife at the Wharf. Perhaps consider providing varying structure and colour in planting, water (why not make a mini-pond?), food to supplement natural supplies during the winter, and shelter (for example, bird boxes, log piles, rockeries). Even the smallest scale is of value; a rockery is a mountain range to a bug!

Remember that we are extremely lucky to have all of this on our doorstep and the more that we understand what's out there and the benefits that it brings, the more we are likely to look after and value it. Enjoy!

Neil Harwood, Dixon's Wharf resident.



Pictures on this page

Top of page:

Canals and banks.

Centre:

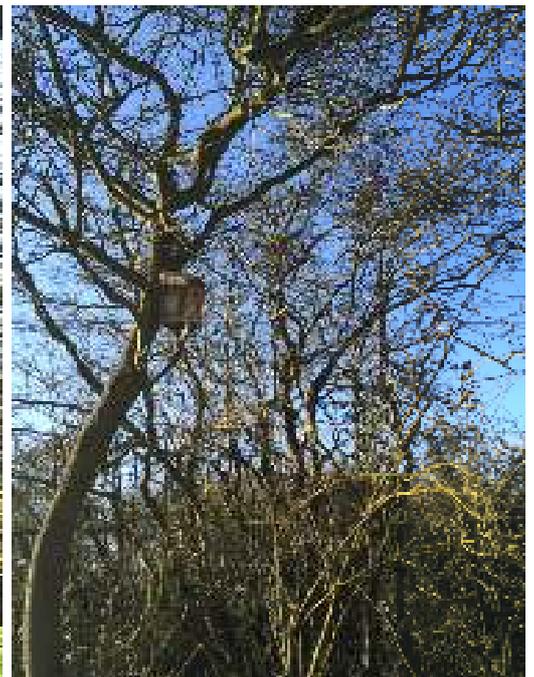
Canalside vegetation.

Bottom left:

Bat roost box.

Bottom right:

Bird nest box.



(Pictures by Neil Harwood)

From the Vicarage

by Rev'd Jo Wetherall

The Small Church with a Big Heart...

THIS was how Alison Cockerill described St Cross a few years ago and it stuck. It was a perfect description of the life and outlook of this worshipping community. That hasn't changed; St Cross is still 'the small church with a big heart', but it is also the small church with a brave heart.

When I arrived the church was in a delicate situation, and felt as though it could easily break beyond repair. However St Cross was able to find an inner strength and in the past six years has taken ever bigger and bolder steps to re-establish itself as the worshipping heart of the Wilstone community. The church is now open everyday for visitors and as a place for reflection and personal prayer. The Tuesday coffee morning continues to thrive - instead of squeezing into the entrance we use the light and airy space of church. We have developed a now-expected pattern of Tuesday services and celebrations of major festivals.

The biggest and most recent step is of course a 10am Sunday service every week including a service for the young, and young at heart, on the first Sunday every month. Alison, so good at expressing things in words, said if St Cross was a dress code you could say it has changed from 'formal' to 'smart casual'.

It has been a real joy for me to be part of this. I have blessed the new footbridge, hunted for Easter eggs, painted lots of faces at the village fete, Blessed pets, welcomed bishops (best not to confuse the last two) arranged flowers, dedicated the new candle stand and processional cross, and even played Alice in the Wilstone Cabaret 'Vicar of Dibley' sketch. It has been my privilege to be asked to baptize your babies, and conduct your weddings, and especially to take funerals and pray for your loved ones on the next stage of their spiritual journey.

I know that very many of you really appreciate having St Cross within the village, as I move on to Gloucester I entrust you with its care. It needs all of you to be part of its ongoing life - this is your community church. Just as you have discov-



(Picture: Village News)

ered with the successful establishment of a community shop, it needs people to keep it going all the time, not just in an emergency, and Wilstone would be poorer without it.

I am delighted that Rev'd Didier Jaquet is going to have responsibility for St Cross. I know you will value him as he will value you - just don't laugh at his jokes, he needs no encouragement there! My last service at St Cross is on Sunday 10th of May - it would be good to make a real celebration of it. I hope to see you there. I leave you with the words of this ancient Irish blessing and hope you will pray for me too.

*May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind always be at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*



**Enthusiastic
(and successful)
participants in the
annual Easter Egg
hunt at St Cross,
Wilstone.**

(See also page 1.)

**Pictures by
Colin Reedman.**

