

June 2020



# Village News

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

## VE Day in the villages

Inside this issue

Recipe page	9
Parish Council report	16
Thanks	20
Vicarage	22
Local Contacts	30

### Special features

- VE Day 5
- Memories 6/10
- Know the editor 8
- Rescued dog 11
- Puzzles 14
- TV in lockdown 18
- Shop News 21
- Ruth Osborne 28

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



### Lest we forget



Not VE Day related but deserves a place on the front page. Ed.





## What's on and what's not on

### Diary Dates..

**Friday 12 June**

Cecilia Tea Rooms (St. Mary's)

**Sunday 14 June**

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

**Friday 31 July**

Cecilia Tea Rooms (St. Mary's)

**Saturday 1 August**

Our Stall at the Horti Show in Long Marston

**Saturday 5 September**

Jumble Sale (Friends of Puttenham Church)

**Friday 9 October**

Cecilia Tea Rooms (St. Mary's)

**Saturday 31 October**

October Lunch (Puttenham Trust)

**Saturday 28 November**

A concert (to be confirmed)

**Please be aware that times quoted in some of the regular adverts may not be relevant at the current time. It is always worthwhile telephoning such as pubs, jazzercise etc.**

**Latest cancellations include the Mentmore Arts Festival and the Tring Together celebrations**

### CANCELLATION OF THE LONG MARSTON & PUTTENHAM VILLAGE SHOW

SINCE the start of the national Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, the members of the 'Horti' Committee have explored every avenue possible to run the Long Marston & Puttenham village Show on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020. Unfortunately, it is with much regret that we have made the hard decision to cancel this year's Show.

The show has been held annually since 1936 and the decision to cancel has not been taken lightly. In view of the current worldwide Coronavirus Pandemic, it was decided that to proceed with the show would be foolhardy and not in the public interest.

We know this event is a highlight for many people both in Long Marston and beyond, and we would like to thank all who support our Show & Society and extend our best wishes to everybody at this challenging time.

We aim to return on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021 with a theme of 'On The Farm'.

### Would you like deliveries?

All of these outlets will deliver

**Dunsley Farm Shop** - fruit, veg, pies, cheese, all sorts - 01442 825667 or email [fruitytootyzzz@gmail.com](mailto:fruitytootyzzz@gmail.com)

**Mead's Farm Shop** deliver for over 70's and vulnerable, pet foods [info@pemeadandsons.co.uk](mailto:info@pemeadandsons.co.uk)

**Sandwich Plus** - bread, pies, cakes, eggs, pasta and rice [www.sandwichplus.com](http://www.sandwichplus.com) 01442 826489

**Mark Wheeler** – Milkman – milk eggs bread etc - 07850 329560

**Chris James** - Milkman - milk, butter, yoghurt etc – 07842 426793

**Cook at Berkhamsted** deliver with 15% off using NIGHTIN20 - <https://www.cookfood.net>  
Food - home delivery Fruit and Veg  
Call **Vanessa** 07921 172642

**Number 2 Pound Street** Wendover - for awesome cheeses & deli [www.2pondstreet.com](http://www.2pondstreet.com)  
01296-585022

**Wild & Game** - delicious! <https://www.wildandgame.co.uk>

**Donald Russell** - free range chickens <https://www.donaldrussell.com>

### Community Shop Wilstone NEW OPENING HOURS

**Monday to Sunday: 9.00am to 12.00**  
See page 21 for full details and restrictions

# VE Day Wilstone

VE DAY. Despite it all, we kept smiling through! Earlier this year some of the villages had plans for afternoon tea parties, dances and music in the various church and village halls. Peter Walker in Wilstone writes ‘We had planned a big event in our village hall, showing film clips of Winston Churchill’s speech, the King’s speech, and of VE Day followed by a tea party and a war time concert. We had seen this as an event to bring all age groups together. But these plans, all cancelled by the spread of Covid 19, dashed our celebrations completely. But then our villages always respond positively to such challenges, which was evident in all the impromptu celebrations going on around us on VE Day. Many houses were festooned with red, white and blue bunting, flags and balloons as was the Half Moon pub, despite the sadness in its temporary quarantine.’

In Wilstone, the Community Shop was also beautifully decorated for the event by Ali and the team; Vera Lynn and Glenn Miller were blasting out, in part to keep the ‘one customer at a time’ queue entertained and moving. It was reminiscent of that wonderful clip from The Full Monty when they were all in the dole queue.

At recent Thursday night gatherings in Wilstone for the NHS, Julia Watson of Rosebarn Lane in Wilstone played her violin exquisitely after the ‘clap’. She graced us again on VE Day playing the wartime favourite melodies of ‘We’ll meet again’, ‘Jerusalem’ and others. Such is the emotion running on the NHS evenings, and on VE Day, one may be forgiven for allowing a tear to be shed.’



‘Julia, pictured here, was a member of Letchworth Youth Orchestra who played in many European countries on a tour, and she also studied at the Royal Academy of Music. We are lucky to have such a talented musician in our midst.

‘We were all well blessed with fabulous weather on the day which allowed many of us to sit outside of our houses observe the two minutes silence which was most heartfelt, and then plough on through cakes and tea during the day. At 3pm in Wilstone and no doubt in other villages too, we celebrated the time of the actual signing of the peace treaty which was followed by sporadic singing of wartime songs. Dancing was a strange affair; social distancing makes everyone look like they have fallen out with each other, but nothing could be further from the truth.’



So, despite all the plans that were made weeks ago and were subsequently dashed upon the rocks of Covid19, the ad hoc and spontaneous results of VE Day prove that we will not be defeated by this horrible virus. So, keep smiling through!

## VE Day Long Marston

THE SUN shone down from a clear blue sky onto Union Jacks, bunting and all manner of red, white and blue decorations adorning the front gardens of the village to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. In Long Marston the two minute silence was observed at 11

o'clock as people stood outside their front doors, and for those living near the cross-roads the poignant strains of The Last Post floated down the quiet road on the still air.

Later in the day tables and chairs were brought out into front gardens for our VE Day picnics - all keeping our distance of course! All through the village the sound of corks popping accompanied 40s music as we enjoyed a rare chance to socialise. The quiet road was soon busy with people drifting from one party to another or just walking past to wave hello.

At 7.00 a strange collection of people with large painted cardboard boxes made into aeroplanes began to gather near the village hall. This turned out to be our very own Spitfire Flypast,



and led by Tammy "Biggles" Pierce proceeded to fly up and down Station Road with the Dam Busters music and a lot of applause to help them on their way.

As evening drew on and music filled the air the parties continued

and our wonderful traffic free road was transformed into a dance floor.

Celebrating this historic day in our own historic time will leave us with a lot of happy memories for the future!



## MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR TWO

by Vic Spratt

THE 25th ANNIVERSARY of VE day brought back many memories of world War Two to Chris and I, some I recall here.

Our memories of the six years of World War Two includes shortages, rationing and hardships whilst growing up. During the time when bombs were falling a family of evacuees moved into our house, the family consisted of Mother and Father with their two daughters and were from London. The Mum and Dad didn't live with us for long I believe as soon as they knew their daughters were settled and safe they returned to look after their shop in London.

Memories of rationing include feeling hungry, all food was on ration as was petrol, clothing, etc. I know our parents sacrificed a lot of their ration to feed the younger ones in the family.

I recall when Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister, announced that we were at war with Germany, being very young it didn't mean a great deal to me but picking up feelings from my parents I realised something was not good, then when sweets went on ration it struck me as very serious.

My father, who had served as a Royal Marine just prior to the outbreak of the war, could not believe it when it was broadcast that the Germans had sunk the Battleship Hood on the 24 May 1941. This was another feeling of worry I felt from my parents.

Growing up in Berkhamsted we were not in the front line as such, but some bombs did fall close by for instance a land mine fell in the grounds of what was Doctor Barnadoes Home for orphaned children, now Ashlyns School.

Doodle Bugs, the rocket propelled pilot less bombs, did fall in places in our neighbour hood, the rocket motor had a very distinctive sound, they were designed to travel a distance to reach their target, then when the fuel ran out they would crash on there target, but they were not very accurate and would often miss the would be target, overshoot and reach our area.

When we heard the motor go quiet we would wait to hear the explosion. It was quite nerve racking. One night Chris's father heard one coming and when the motor cut out realised the danger, rushed to where Chris was fast asleep in bed and threw himself over her to protect her.

During the blitz windows were criss-crossed with tape to reduce the risk of splinters of glass should there be an explosion nearby. The blackout was something that was strictly controlled. Black blinds or blankets were put over windows at night to stop light escaping which might give information to German bomber crews as to where targets might be. If a crack of light be allowed to escape an Air Raid Warden would shout "put that light out."

Driving at night must have been extremely difficult, headlights had to be dimmed with hoods put over them not much light shone on the road to indicate where you were heading, not only that but all direction signs had been removed, which was intended to confuse the Germans should they invade us. Trouble was it confused us.

Of course there was no television in those days, we were

lucky to have radio, one of my favourite comedy programmes was ITMA (It's That Man Again) Tommy Handley, with characters such as Mrs Mop his cleaner lady, and Fumff the German spy.

The clothing was rationed with an allocation of points, it was a case of Make Do and Mend, I remember darned socks and repaired clothes, when they were so worn out they would be made into something else such as floor mats.

VE day arrived on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 and it was a wonderful experience to hear Winston Churchill declare the Germans had signed surrender documents and that the war was over.

People started to celebrate, by evening time it seemed as if everyone was dancing in the street, in Berkhamsted the High Street outside the Civic Centre was totally packed with people dancing and merry making everywhere. Torch light parades and street parties continued the celebrations. The relief and joy that everyone felt was enormous.



### Fake News –Reuters fact check

This claim is unfounded. Reuters found no evidence of this prophecy being written by Nostradamus. Stephane Gerson, Professor of French, French Studies, and History at New York University, told Reuters this text does not come from Nostradamus's 'Prophecies', nor from other prognostications made by Nostradamus. ED



### CHILTERN CHIMNEYS

01442 890041  
07921 847317



### TRING BASED—FAMILY RUN CHIMNEY SWEEP

- \* Power sweeping Using the Latest Technology
- \* Wood-Burning & Multi-Fuel Stoves Supplied & Fitted
- \* Cows & Chimney Pots Fitted
- \* Safety Inspections
- \* Certificates Issued for House Insurance Purposes

## Lost Marble Building Conservation

- Heritage building specialist
- Lime mortar repointing
- Garden wall repairs
- Chimney restoration
- Damp issues resolved

Stewart Ivory: 07976 653213  
stewartivory@yahoo.co.uk



**FIND YOUR FIT**

FIT IS UNIQUE TO EVERYONE. DON'T LET NEGATIVE THOUGHTS OF SHAPE, SIZE, AGE, OR PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS, KEEP YOU FROM CLASS.

**YOU BELONG HERE...**  
*find your tribe*

Morning, evening and weekend classes in Wilstone, Cheddington, Pitstone & Tring

Find our schedule on [www.jazzercise.net/uk-aylesbury/tring-wilstone/](http://www.jazzercise.net/uk-aylesbury/tring-wilstone/)

Contact Keri - 07900 987230  
jazzercise1@hotmail.co.uk

## THE LITTLE IT COMPANY

Laptops, PCs, Tablets, Apple Macs, Wifi Internet, Repairs & Upgrades, FREE collection & delivery

Experienced Tech Professional will solve all your computer/technology related problems.

NO FIX - NO FEE GUARANTEE

Facebook Page:  
@thelittleitc

Website:  
[www.thelittleITcompany.co.uk](http://www.thelittleITcompany.co.uk)



Make your Computer Smile - Call Mark based in Cheddington 07789 304 274



## Know your editorial team

This Month:

Colin Moore

COLIN, as editor in chief, is responsible for the start and finish of each edition of the *Village News* leaving the main collation of articles to the other four editors, although he is equally responsible for at least two of the months.

His role starts with the preparation of the master pages, which includes adverts and regular items such as the *What's on* page and local contacts and deleting old items and out of date features. This is then sent to one of the four other editors, or for two editions, completed himself. He also prepares the Sudoku, although I suspected this came from a book and was not designed by himself! But I was wrong it is made by a computer program that he wrote which also provides the solution and an indication of its degree of difficulty. When the designated editor for the month has completed his edition, this is then forwarded to Colin, either by memory stick or by wire for Colin to check over, modify if necessary and add any last minute changes. He then forwards it to the printers as well as putting it on line.

Colin was born in 1941 in Beccles in Suffolk and was educated at the local schools. After leaving school at 18 he worked for the Department of Government Chemist at a Laboratory in Clements Inn in between the London School of economics and the Law Courts, working on analysis of tobacco and cigarettes for determining duty.

He later worked at Burroughs Machines who were a major supplier of accounting machines and early computers before switching to Kodak in 1965 at Harrow joining the Industrial

### Life in Lockdown

Fortunately unlike some countries we have not had total lock down so he has managed to go out for a short time most days. If you own an old house there always plenty to do

### What are you doing differently?

Shopping is different, for food once every two weeks with odd trip to the farm shop for fruit and veg. Every thing else on line.

Change in exercise from swimming to exercise bike .

### What music are you listening to?

Not a lot

### What is your favourite food?

He likes Italian or Thai food but will try most things.

Radiography School which provided customer training. He moved to the Industrial Radiography Sales Department in 1969, which at the time was situated in Kingsway London, before transferring to Hemel Hempstead in 1972. He maintained an interest in training and continued to give an introductory talk on all the courses. After some time in Marketing he moved back to training now based in Gadebridge and ran the Industrial radiography section. During this time and later when back in Marketing he regularly travelled to many eastern European Countries, Middle East and America. In 1987 the American parent company asked him to make a tour of Far East countries to give a presentation to the local Industrial Radiography organisations. He visited Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Bangkok, Mumbai and Calcutta. In all he recalled it involved 14 flights in 21 days with an unplanned diversion to Dubai on way back. Later he made several visits to North Sea pipe laying barges either by boat or helicopter. His first impression of these massive structures was of a football pitch on legs. Getting on and off the barge from a boat, particularly in middle of the night, was quite an experience which involved a large crane. On one visit the barge was short of accommodation as they were subject to a surprise audit. They put Colin up in the hospital and asked him to act ill if the auditors appeared.

Colin moved to Wilstone in 1983 and retired from Kodak in 1995. Colin never married. He lives in the centre of Wilstone in part of what used to be The Buckingham Arms or as some people insists what used to be the music room.

Hobbies include bird watching, fishing, gardening, his shared allotment and interest in computing and programming. Since retiring Colin has not been particularly interested in holidays (every day is a holiday). In the past he had several holidays exploring the USA and Canada. On one trip, driving from Atlanta to the blue mountains in Tennessee, he recalls that he decided to stay overnight in Cherokee - a nice little town. Only to later discover it was on an Indian Reservation and like American ships totally dry!

### What do you miss most

He misses visiting the Half Moon and having a chat about this and that.

### Favourite TV programmes

Travelogues, Nature, History

### Favourite drink?

Holstein Pils in the pub, the occasional G & T, Whisky at home.

### Post lockdown ?

Getting back to normal and going swimming

## The Queens Head

Long Marston



Food served  
Thursday, Friday 5-9pm  
Saturday 12-3; 6-9pm  
Sunday Lunch served  
12 noon to 4pm  
Live music  
01296 668368

[www.queensheadlongmarston.com](http://www.queensheadlongmarston.com)

## Berkhamsted Oven Cleaning Ltd

All ovens hob and extractors

- Professional service
- Excellent value and fully insured
- Free consultation and quote

**01442 876622 • 07884 058795**

Berkhamsted Herts HP4 3ZQ  
[www.berkhamstedovencleaning.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedovencleaning.co.uk)

1<sup>st</sup> Wilstone & Long Marston  
Scout Group



## Could you get involved in helping with Cubs?

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

We are currently looking for

- **Two more adults to join the Cub  
Leadership team**

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

If you would like to become involved please  
contact [1wmscouts@gmail.com](mailto:1wmscouts@gmail.com)



## “WILSTONE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION” and “WILSTONE COMMUNITY SHOP”

### OUR PLANT STALL IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

NO NEED to order plants online or break the lockdown rules to visit a nursery when you can find an excellent range of bedding plants, annuals and perennials, vegetable plants, fruit bushes, and fresh rhubarb, right on your doorstep in Wilstone village.

The Plant Stall is set up every day outside 18 Tring Road (*many thanks to John and Anna*) on the corner of Rosebarn Lane, close to the village shop. Look for the Allotment Banner! Customers are asked to donate payment of their choice for plants.

All funds raised by the plant stall will go to the “Save the Wilstone Community Shop Campaign”.

The stall has raised £632 so far (10<sup>th</sup> May) which is a fantastic contribution for the campaign, BUT we are continuing to run the stall throughout May and June, possibly July – and we need many more plant donations and any surplus fruit and vegetables when grown. Please bring along any ‘spare’ plants that you may have as soon as you can, and leave them inside the gate of 18 Tring Road or add them to the trays on display. Make sure that each pot is clearly labelled. We also need empty pots – any size, for potting on plants when they are ready to bring down to the stall. Please leave these inside the gate.

THANK YOU to everyone who has donated plants and bought plants so far – by the time you receive this magazine let us hope we will have reached £1000+ for the Village Shop Campaign!

*Ruth Patterson*  
*Secretary Wilstone Allotments Association*

See photo on page 2.

## V.E DAY – 1945 A MEMORY (And the legacy it offered.)

by Joan Dean and Eunice Hall

WELL I AM afraid this is not so much a memory as a non-memory!! I cannot believe that such an important event did not leave a lasting memory with me. I was only 9 at the time, but I don't feel that is an excuse, probably *anno domini*.

So here's what Eunice and I between us do remember.

We had a tea party in the Parish Hall (now 56 Station Road looking very different to how it did in 1945) we did not have a street party we are sure of that, which seems to have happened in every other village in the vicinity. We both remember the jelly and the sandwiches and the trestle tables. And the outside lavatory!!

No water in the Hall Eunice thinks.

My main memory is being sent to fetch a child from the Rose & Crown cottage in the middle of the village who had not turned up. I remember being very proud to have been entrusted with this task, but in the event her parents wouldn't let her come so I even failed at that.

I seem to remember the grown ups dancing in the evening to a wind-up gramophone, probably no electricity either.

But the village should be proud of how it celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary under lockdown this year

What we do both remember vividly is that the money left over from the event (which we think was only around £2.00) was the seed corn for the new Victory Hall, hence its name. So (as always) a committee was formed. My dad was Chairman Len Dean, Eunice's dad Cyril Chandler was Secretary and we think John Chapman was Treasurer. There were about 18 on this committee and neither of us will ever forget the fund raising that went on for years and years until the foundation stone of the new hall was eventually laid in 1954. The committee members then each had their initials carved into a brick as the hall was built, and these can be seen to this day on the front of the Victory Hall. For quite some time Long Marston's Victory Hall was the only one in the area, demonstrating the significant benefits to the community that could be achieved and paving the way for the surrounding villages to follow suit.



Sadly the Victory Hall, for so long the beating heart of Long Marston, has seen better days, and whilst as busy as ever, has become increasingly uneconomic to run and maintain. Community requirements evolve, as they always have and always will and the hall now lacks many of the facilities now taken for

granted in more modern village halls.

We must now meet the challenge of what to do about our beloved Victory Hall, in order to meet community needs for the next sixty years. A committee has once again been formed to take up the task of creating a new hall fit for purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They have picked up the baton of the post-war generation and are busy developing plans that will build on

their foresighted VE Day vision.

They have our wholehearted support and we wish them well in their endeavours. What is certain is the 'new' Victory Hall must be designed with the foresight and flexibility needed to ensure it can serve the village community as it evolves over the next sixty years as effectively as has the current Victory Hall over the past sixty.

Again a Committee has been formed and they have picked up the baton. We wish them well and look forward to hearing their plans in the not too distant future. But what is certain is that it must again be ahead of its time in order to serve the community for the next 60 years.

## Jacob's Sword by Martin Winship

MANY of our local streams and pools have for some time seen the growth of tall, blade-like leaves along their banks and edges, and in the water itself. These belong to the Yellow Iris or Flag, the elegant flowers bloom from May to August, to be replaced by large seed pods resembling young cucumbers. The seeds, when ripe, skinned and thoroughly roasted can be made into a superb coffee-type drink. The juice of the root (or rhizome) was once considered to be an effective cure for "Evil Spleens" and snake bite, amongst other problems. Old local names for the Flag included "Segg", "Skeggs" and "Cegg" – all originating from the Anglo Saxon "Segg", meaning a small sword. Chaucer would have known the plant as "Gladyne". It is said to be the inspiration for the Fleur de Lys, named after King Louis VII of France, who adopted it as his heraldic bearing during his crusade against the Saracens, but an alternative explanation is the abundant growth of the plant by the river Lys on the Flanders border.



## International Rescue

*By Amanda Russell and Claire Shepherd*

**LAST** October, when our black lab, Louis, died suddenly and unexpectedly aged just 6, we were totally devastated. Anyone who has lost a beloved pet will know how heart-breaking it is. Nothing was ever going to replace Louis but the emptiness in our house and in our lives told us we just had to get another dog soon.

We wanted another black lab boy and decided we would start the process to rescue one. We registered with a charity called Labrador Retriever Rescue Southern England (LRRSE). We were vetted to ensure our home and lifestyles were suitable to take on a rescue dog and then waited to be matched.

LRRSE are a well-established charity, which has been rescuing dogs from around the UK for many years. Unbeknown to us, however, LRRSE had begun the process to rescue a family of 5 black labs... from China. The dogs' story is hard for animal lovers in this country to comprehend. They had been destined for the meat trade. A Chinese breeder had arrived at the abattoir with the 5 dogs to sell them for meat. We have since seen videos of the appalling conditions such dogs are kept in and how they are slaughtered. To us, it is brutal and barbaric. We wish we hadn't watched the videos. When the dogs arrive at the meat market, they are strung up on chains to weigh their value. Absolutely terrified, they must sense and hear the destiny befalling those poor dogs, who have arrived shortly before them. But on this day, these 5 labs got lucky. Chinese volunteers from a local rescue charity (now partnered with LRSSE) had been at the meat market that day to try and save what dogs they could. The charity was able to pay a higher price than the abattoir and so they were saved.

And so, began the turning point for these 5 labs. After months in quarantine in a Beijing dog shelter, they were eventually fit enough to travel to the UK. Two LRSSE volunteers flew out to collect them. It's a complicated process to transport dogs across the world and something LRSSE was not used to doing. It took a lot of planning and expense to rescue them. The dogs required numerous vaccinations, vet checks and a passport to travel. They are sedated in special heated cages in the hold of the plane. The rescue took both the dogs and the UK volunteers well out of their comfort zones.

We had no idea you could even rescue a dog from China. Neither did we really understand the culture that exists around dogs being bred for the meat trade. We had seen on the charity's website that the family of 5 included 3 young boys. If we wanted to rescue one, we had to decide straight away. There were others who also wanted to give these dogs a loving home. We had no idea what we were letting ourselves in for. It felt risky and we were nervous about the whole situation. We couldn't even begin to get our heads round the dogs' background. We had only seen one or two photos of the dogs and our first impression was that we weren't sure they were even labradors! Nonetheless, a few days after the dogs arrived in the UK, we drove to Surrey where the dogs were being kept in emergency shelter.

It was love at first sight. The 3 boys were side by side in separate runs, barking loudly and standing up on their hind legs to get our attention. We went into each pen one by one but couldn't get near any of them to stroke them. They were just

too scared of us. It was at that moment that we saw for ourselves how untrained they really were, barely used to any human contact. Even though we had been told this, it was a bit of a shock. It was hard to choose but we picked the one who did eventually allow us to touch him, as he covered in the



corner. He had the most beautiful face and lovely big ears, although he wouldn't make any eye contact with us. It took a while to even get a collar on him. He had been registered as Tobias in his passport, so we decided there and then that we would call him Toby.

Toby arrived in Wilstone on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019. He was 9 months old. Even the car journey home was a terrifying experience for him. He was skinny and traumatised. We put him straight in the garden when we got home and he immediately came to life, tearing around the lawn at his new sense of freedom. It took us hours though to coax him inside the house and this continued for many days. He simply wouldn't come near us. He didn't trust us at all and bolted at anything unexpected.

The first few weeks were very tough for Toby. He wasn't house trained, so he behaved like any puppy. He had no clue that a collar and lead meant going for a walk and that this was a good thing. He was lonely and withdrawn and pined for his brothers. He would hide for hours in his cage. He refused to leave the house and we had to carry him to the fields to get him started on a walk. He wandered around like a lost soul, with his tail between his legs. A few days after we got him, he then fell sick. We were back and forth to the vets for various drugs for him. He was diagnosed with Kennel Cough. On top of everything, this was the last thing Toby needed. It meant he couldn't come into close contact with any other dogs for a while. And at this point, this was the only thing that made his tail wag.

6 months on, Toby has transformed into a wonderful, loving boy. He is now the right weight, is much more confident and he's learnt some basic training commands. He's got used to his collar and lead and particularly loves going for walks with his favourite playmate, Dexter. He is still anxious in unfamiliar surroundings but his personality is starting to shine through, including his stubbornness if he doesn't want to walk in a particular direction! We can mostly trust him off the lead and he loves to be cuddled; something he gets in abundance. We feel very lucky to have found him. It seems he is now starting to realise that he is much loved and in his forever home. In a sense, after the heartache of losing Louis, Toby rescued us, as much as we rescued him.

## A few new phrases creeping into the English language

### **Coronacoaster**

The ups and downs of your mood during the pandemic. You're loving lockdown one minute but suddenly weepy with anxiety the next. It truly is "an emotional coronacoaster".

### **Quarantinis**

Experimental cocktails mixed from whatever random ingredients you have left in the house. The boozy equivalent of a store cupboard supper. Southern Comfort and Ribena quarantini with a glacé cherry garnish, anyone? These are sipped at "locktail hour", ie. wine o'clock during lockdown, which seems to be creeping earlier with each passing week.

### **Blue Skype thinking**

A work brainstorming session which takes place over a videoconferencing app. Such meetings might also be termed a "Zoomposium". Naturally, they are to be avoided if at all possible.

### **Le Creuset wrist**

It's the new "avocado hand" - an aching arm after taking one's best saucepan outside to bang during the weekly 'Clap For Carers.' It might be heavy but you're keen to impress the neighbours with your high-quality kitchenware.

### **Coronials**

As opposed to millennials, this refers to the future generation of babies conceived or born during coronavirus quarantine. They might also become known as "Generation C" or, more spookily, "Children of the Quarn".

### **Furlough Merlot**

Wine consumed in an attempt to relieve the frustration of not working. Also known as "bored-eaux" or "cabernet tedium".

### **Coronadose**

An overdose of bad news from consuming too much media during a time of crisis. Can result in a "panicdemic".

### **Getting on your Wicks**

Vexing noise levels from neighbours doing their daily workout with Joe Wicks, the Body Coach. Star jumps and burpees sound like a stampeding herd of buffalo.

### **Miley/Billy Ray**

Rhyming slang for coronavirus, as in popstrel Miley Cyrus (ie 'virus') or her country crooner father Billy Ray. Sample usage: "I'm suffering with a touch of the Mileys" or "I'm achy-breaky and displaying Billy Ray symptoms". Which one you use is a useful indicator of your age.

### **Claphazard**

Someone so enthusiastic about saluting our care workers that they forget all social distancing guidelines, start hugging their neighbours and high-fiving passing pedestrians.

### **The elephant in the Zoom**

The glaring issue during a videoconferencing call that nobody feels able to mention. E.g. one participant has dramatically put on weight, suddenly sprouted terrible facial hair or has a worryingly messy house visible in the background.

### **Doughverkill**

One's social media feed being dominated by smug photos of home-made sourdough or banana bread. If making sourdough is so great, how come you'd never done it before March?

### **Quentin Quarantino**

An attention-seeker using their time in lockdown to make ama-

teur films which they're convinced are funnier and cleverer than they actually are.

### **Covidiot**

One who ignores public health advice or behaves with reckless disregard for the safety of others can be said to display "covidioy" or be "covidiotic". Also called a "lockclown" or even a "Wuhan-ker".

### **Space invader**

Someone who routinely comes closer to you than the recommended two metres and who you'd like to zap like in an arcade game.

### **Goutbreak**

The sudden fear that you've consumed so much wine, cheese, home-made cake and Easter chocolate in lockdown that your ankles are swelling up like a medieval king's.

### **Caught between a shop and a hoard place**

The dilemma of needing to purchase basics but not wanting to be accused of stockpiling. I'm not stockpiling, I usually buy this many tins of beans.

### **Zumping**

The recent phenomenon of ending a romantic relationship via video call. Depending on the platform used for the break-up, it can also be known as "FaceTumped" or "Housepumped".

### **Antisocial distancing**

Using health precautions as an excuse for snubbing neighbours and generally ignoring people you find irritating.

### **Dinfluencer**

Someone so proud of their new-found cooking ability that they artfully photograph every supper to boast about it on social media.

### **Quaranteam**

The people and/or pets you're in lockdown with are your "quaranteam". This era's equivalent of #squadgoals.

### **Coughin' dodger**

Someone so alarmed by an innocuous splutter or throat-clear that they back away in terror.

### **Tandemic**

A sun-kissed glow acquired from sitting in one's garden or (gasp!) flouting the rules on park sunbathing.

### **Mask-ara**

Extra make-up applied to "make one's eyes pop" before venturing out in public wearing a face mask.

### **Doom 'n' Zoom**

The feeling spread by the most miserable or pessimistic participant in a videoconference, aka the "Zoommonger" or "lockdowner".

### **Co-runner virus**

An infection potentially spread by selfish fitness fanatics taking up an entire path by jogging two abreast.

### **Covid-10**

The 10lbs in weight that we're all gaining from comfort-eating and comfort-drinking. Also known as "fattening the curve".

...and finally,: One sentence to sum up 2020, so far: At one point, 1 loo roll was worth more than a barrel of crude oil!

## Flaming June

*“Ask me no more where Jove bestows, When June is past, the fading rose; For in your beauty’s orient deep There flowers, as in their causes, sleep”. (Thomas Carew c. 1595-1639 A Song)*

June is the sixth month in both the Julian and Gregorian calendars. In the UK this month is celebrated for its reliably warm sunny weather (!) – hence “Flaming June”. An alternative explanation for the sobriquet is the painting by Lord Leighton of 1895, depicting a sleeping beauty clad in a diaphanous peach dress. Remarkably, the painting was lost for many decades, only to be found again in the 1960s – a time when Victorian art was held in low esteem. When the painting was put up for auction it failed to make its reserve price of \$140! – and was snapped up by the Museo de Arte de Ponce in Puerto Rico where it still hangs.

*“For every marriage then is best in tune, When that the wife is May, the Husband June”. (Rowland Watkins 1662)*

Farmers and farm labourers were (and still are) very busy in the spring, ploughing, planting, ditching and hedging, and a thousand other tasks. When June brought the summer, there came an easing up, and time could be spared for fun and frivolity, like getting married! An abundance of flowers and nectar ensured a good supply of honey from the hives - so the “honeymoon” to follow the wedding.

*“And that sweet city with her dreaming spires, She needs not June for beauty’s heightening”. (Sir Edwin Arnold 1822 – 1888 Thyrsis)*

One popular theory is that the month is named for the Roman goddess of marriage Juna (wife of Jupiter). However, some believe the origin of the name is the Latin “iuniores” meaning “younger ones” (and that May derives from “maiores” meaning “elders”). And yet another version is that the month gets its name from Lucius Junius Brutus, the founder of the Roman Republic. The Anglo Saxons called June “Sera Monath” – Dry Month.

*“To mine, it serves for the old June weather, Blue above lane and wall; And that farthest bottle labelled “Ether” Is the house o’ertopping all” (Elizabeth Barrett Browning 1806 – 1861 Confessions)*

June begins in the segment of the Wheel of Life called Beltane (May 1<sup>st</sup> – June 20<sup>th</sup>) and ends in Litha (June 21<sup>st</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>). In the northern hemisphere the summer solstice (Latin; Sol – the sun, Sistere – stand still) occurs on June 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>, known as Midsummer’s Day. The Zodiac signs are Gemini until the 20<sup>th</sup> and then Cancer for the rest of the month. The birthstones are Pearl, Alexandrite and Moonstone, the birthflowers Rose and Honeysuckle.

*“Their meeting made December June, Their every parting was to die”. (Alfred, Lord Tennyson 1809 – 1892 In Memoriam AHH)*

Historically, June has had its fair share of world-changing events; Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band was released on the 1<sup>st</sup> in 1967, Alexander Ball rang for the first time on the 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1875, while the YMCA was founded in 1844 on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Donald Duck quacked his first quack on the 9<sup>th</sup> in 1934, and that great Yorkshireman Captain James Cook discovered Australia on the 11<sup>th</sup> in 1770, much to the surprise of the Aboriginals. The Stars and Stripes were adopted as the US flag in 1774 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and on the 15<sup>th</sup> in 1911 IBM was incorporated. Napoleon met his Waterloo on the 18<sup>th</sup> in 1815, Charon, the moon of Pluto was discovered on the 22<sup>nd</sup> in 1978,

and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> in 1894 the International Olympic Committee was founded. The Battle of the Little Big Horn was Custer’s last stand on the 25<sup>th</sup> in 1876, the Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919 on the 28<sup>th</sup>, the snowmobile was invented in 1937 on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and on the 30<sup>th</sup> in 1936 Gone With The Wind was published.

*“In the Junes that were warmer than these are, The waves were more gay, When I was a boy with never a crack in my heart”. (William Shakespeare 1564 – 1616 Sonnets 104)*

As ever, June would have hosted a great variety of Local, National and International sporting events – all sadly postponed or cancelled. Similarly shows and theatre productions are greatly missed. But there are plenty of excuses to have a (very) private party, on your own, at home. Here are a few :

- 1th Dinosaur day
- 2nd Radio patented day
- 3rd Egg day
- 4th<sup>th</sup> Aesop’s birthday
- 5th World Environment Day
- 6th D-Day
- 7th Daniel Boone day
- 8th World Oceans Day
- 9th Accession King Abdullah II Jordan
- 10th Duke of Edinburgh birthday
- 11th Kirkcudbrightshire day
- 13th Sewing machine day
- 14th Falkland Islands Liberation Day
- 15th Fly a kite day
- 16th Fudge day
- 17th Iceland Independence Day
- 18th International picnic day
- 19th Ugliest dog day
- 20th World juggling day
- 21st Father’s day
- 22nd St Alban’s day
- 23rd UK Independence Day
- 24th RAF day
- 25th Global Beatles day
- 26th Take your dog to work day
- 27th Djibouti Independence Day
- 28th Insurance awareness day
- 29th St Peter and St Paul day
- 30th Meteor day

# Puzzle Page

by Colin Moore

## Truth or lie?

MANY years ago a strange divided Village was found where the people born in the West side of village never told the truth but people born in the East side village always told the truth.

A visitor was sitting on a bench in the middle of the village musing about this when a man from the village joined him and they got into conversation.

The visitor was trying work out from which side of the village his new companion he came from. He then spotted another man nearby and asked his new companion would you please go and ask that man from which side of the Village he comes from? A few minutes later his new companion returned and pronounced “he said he is from the West side of the village”.

Ah ha just as I thought mused the visitor. What had he deduced about his new companion from that answer and how?

## Find the fake

You have a 12 coins and one is fake. The fake has a different weigh compared to the genuine coins but is otherwise undistinguishable from the genuine coins.



With a simple scales and just 3 weighings determine which is the fake and whether it is heavier or lighter than the genuine coins.

No simple task!

## Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

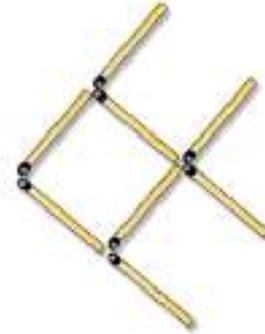
No 139 Moderate

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

Solution on page 26

## Fishy tale

Turn the fish around and make it swim in the opposite direction by moving just three matches ( no overlapping).



## Logical logistics

You are at an airport and facing you is a row of five different freighter aircraft ( Boeing B747F, B777F, B 67F ,Macdonald Douglas MD11F and Airbus A330F. The UK, France, Germany, Italy and Spain have each chartered one of the planes to bring back cargoes of PPE- gowns, gloves, visors, masks and test kits. Each plane carries only one type of PPE. This is what you know about the operation.

1. The B747F departs at six and carries gowns.
2. The middle plane has a grey fuselage.
3. The MD11F departs at nine.
4. The B777F has a blue fuselage and is to the left of a plane that carries gowns.
5. To the right of the plane carrying gloves is a plane going to France .
6. The B767F is heading for Spain.
7. Next to the plane carrying masks is a plane with a green fuselage.
8. The plane going to Italy departs at five and carries gloves.
9. The A330F freighter departs at seven and is to the right of the plane going to France.
10. The plane with the yellow fuselage goes to Germany.
11. Next to the plane departing at seven is a plane with a white fuselage.
12. The plane on the extreme right or left carries masks.
13. The plane with a grey fuselage departs at eight.
14. The plane carrying masks is parked next to the plane carrying visors.
15. The plane to Germany departs at six.

**You have to work out: Which plane goes to the UK and which plane carries the test kits?**

You do not need to know anything about the type planes to solve this, their names are given solely for identification. *To the right of or left of* does not implies the planes are necessarily adjacent to each other.

The puzzle is derived from the so called “Einstein ship puzzle” and I have adapted it to a more topical situation..

See page 26 for answers

## Problem with your windows?

- Double glazed windows or door unit broken, or is the seal damaged?
- Want to clean the inside of the glass but can't?
- Water getting into the double glazed unit?
- All misted up inside the unit?
- Handles & Hinges repaired
- Cat flaps fitted

Guarantees on all units fitted.

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.

## F.R Jeffery & Son Coal Merchant

**Coal, Smokeless Fuel,  
Kiln Dried Logs,  
& Compost**

**Also spare parts for solid fuel appliances**

**Delivered to your door at low prices**

**Contact us on: 01296 661258**



**L.L.Heating**

Local family business over 30 years serving  
Tring, Long Marston & Villages

**Gas Central Heating, Boilers, Fires & AGAs,  
Servicing, Repairs and Upgrades, Megaflo,  
Landlords Certificates and Energy Saving Controls**

Email: [service@llheating.co.uk](mailto:service@llheating.co.uk)  
Rocamora House, Woodrow,  
Wigginton, Tring HP23 6HT.  
[www.llheating.co.uk](http://www.llheating.co.uk)  
Tel: 01442 890750






### APPLIANCE REPAIR SERVICE

Specialist in the repair of Bosch, Siemens and Neff kitchen appliances as well as many other leading manufacturers.

Fully trained engineer with over 20 years experience.

Contact Renato on  
01494 776554 or  
07771 706380

[www.appliancerepairservice.co.uk](http://www.appliancerepairservice.co.uk)

**10% off call-out charge with this advert -  
please call for further information.**

## MJ Electrical Engineering Ltd

NICEIC Approved Electrical Contractor

An established family business with courteous, prompt service,  
covering Beds, Bucks & Herts for more information  
please visit our website or contact Mike

Tel: **01296 630703**

Web: [www.mj-electrical.co.uk](http://www.mj-electrical.co.uk)

Email: [mrockett@mj-electrical.co.uk](mailto:mrockett@mj-electrical.co.uk)

 Lighting • Power • Heating • Testing 

## T&S TREECARE

TREES LOPPED, PRUNED OR FELLED.  
HEDGES SHAPED, PRUNED OR REMOVED.

WE ALSO DO STUMP GRINDING,  
TURFING, GRASS CUTTING & FENCING.  
ALL GARDEN RUBBISH REMOVED.

MINI DIGGER FOR HIRE.

**FREE ADVICE & ESTIMATE  
Telephone: 01296 662167**

## From our reporter at the Virtual Parish Council meeting

### Fox-y lady!

The second of the virtual parish council meetings took place on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Chair Steven Godwin welcomed Jean Fox as the newest recruit to the fold, as she took up her post as councillor.

### Leaning lampposts – part 2

Cllr Chalmers was able to report that the two leaning lampposts in Long Marston are owned by Herts CC. Phew! And, as we have more lampposts in the parish as originally thought, it means we can ask for a larger contribution from Herts towards them. Who would have thought that these innocuous items of street furniture could be so interesting?

### Reservoir logs

Some months ago trees and scrub were cleared along the road which runs between Startops and Tringford reservoirs. Whilst providing a stunning view, this has resulted in the steep drop to Startops reservoir becoming very visible. Cllr Chalmers reported that Herts CC and the Canal and Riverside Trust, who were responsible for the clearance, have been written to by the TRPC to warn them of the roadside safety issue.

### Planning ponderings

At Lendon Grove, Gubblecote, the Ruddy storage area is *still* being used as a storage area, six months after it was last reported in Village News. *(This reporter has noticed it whilst on their daily cycle ride round the parish, and isn't surprised that the house it is adjacent to hasn't sold!)* It was agreed to write to Dacorum's planning enforcement officer in support of the correspondent making the original complaint.

The proposed Glebe Meadow development in Long Marston was discussed at great length again. Cllrs Godwin and Davis were not impressed with the revised plans, which had reduced the planned number of properties from ten to nine, included six car parking spaces for the church and the removal of the hedge at the front to improve visibility on the bend in the road. Cllr Godwin felt that not enough had been done to address previous objections.

The new plans do not appear to include any affordable housing. Cllr Chalmers asked whether Dacorum had changed the rules on this provision. He stated that, otherwise, the developer appeared to be following the rules. Cllr N Fox felt the proposal to extend the path at Church View would enhance pedestrian safety. Cllr Chalmers was concerned that if the TRPC objected on the wrong grounds, the objection would then be ignored. Cllr J Fox suggested negotiating changes to the design and payments might be an option. The conclusion was that a delay would be requested due to Dacorum's inconsistent affordable housing policy.

### Bins and dins

Correspondence to the TRPC revealed that there is a

problem in Wilstone with bin collections frequently being missed. This is because of parked cars blocking the access of the bin lorries, particularly in the narrower roads. There was a brief discussion about whether parking bays could be considered.

The TRPC has also been alerted that a film company has a six-month permit for filming at the airfield site off Lukes Lane, Gubblecote. Residents have previously had to put up with the din caused by increased lorry movements, late working, noise and 'light spill' when filming takes place at night. Cllr Chalmers will write to Bucks CC to object to the permit unless these issues can be dealt with.

### Date of next meeting

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, online.

Lastly: On a personal note, may I thank all those who put on a splendid show of bunting, scarecrows, teddies tea parties and so on, to commemorate VE Day 75. It made my (and many others) daily exercise around the parish a joyous occasion. Thank you all!

### More VE Day gatherings

I HAVE attached a photo of a little gathering at the East End of Wilstone on Friday 8th May during the VE celebrations. We were joined by our octogenarian neighbours, Roy Tomlin and Frank Cozens. We chatted about their war experiences whilst enjoying a cup of tea and scones. Roy has lived in Wilstone for 62 years and was in New Mill during the war. He recalls the Luftwaffe bombers flying overhead on their way north to the Midlands and being young did not regard it as a worrying time. He also has memories of American bombers taking off from Long Marston Airfield and can remember the US Airmen being present locally.

Frank's family lived in London and he was evacuated to a family near Bideford in Devon. He recalls having a lovely time with the family who were kind to him.



Thanks - Jo & Mark Woodbridge

**OPEN YOUR BUSINESS SAFELY**

*The new government guidelines for organisations to resume trading are going to create challenges.*

Advanced Design Build & Management Ltd are perfectly placed to help you meet these challenges and allow you to comply with the requirements quickly.

This may include a revised plan of your current workspace, adaptations of existing equipment and installations of any protective measures required.

It's likely that there will be a rush for equipment and materials and we can assist with this.

Please contact [sales@adbm.ltd](mailto:sales@adbm.ltd) or 07973 501438 for more information.

**ADBM**

**WORKING DISTANCE BY DESIGN**

## Tring Rural Parish Council contacts

*Your Parish Councillors are: (May 2020)*

**Steven Godwin (Chairman)**

**Nigel Fox** 01296 662922  
[nigel.fox@tringrural-pc.co.uk](mailto:nigel.fox@tringrural-pc.co.uk)

**John Thirkettle** 01296 661825  
[john.thirkettle@tringrural-pc.co.uk](mailto:john.thirkettle@tringrural-pc.co.uk)

**Doug Chalmers** 07885 962818  
[doug.chalmers@tringrural-pc.co.uk](mailto:doug.chalmers@tringrural-pc.co.uk)

**Mary Davis** 075160344248  
[Mary.davis@tringrural-pc.co.uk](mailto:Mary.davis@tringrural-pc.co.uk)

**Jean Fox** 01442 825846  
[jeannefox@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannefox@yahoo.com)

*The Clerk to the Council is :*

**Chloe Collins** 07516 344248  
[clerk@tringrural-pc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@tringrural-pc.co.uk)

Address:- Tring Rural Parish Council, PO Box 6444,  
 Leighton Buzzard, LU7 6FX

*The Villages Warden is:*

Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822031

*Parish Council Website:*

<http://www.tringrural-pc.co.uk/>

## Could you be a News Reporter

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

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

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

## JOBS FOR JO

No time, energy or inclination?

Ask Jo to do the job for you

Garden tidying – regular and one offs  
 Plant pots replanted and herbs for sale  
 Fence painting  
 Small internal decorating  
 General help and assistance-Clutter clearing  
 Administration assistance  
*Small jobs a speciality*

**Jo Woodbridge**

**07719 434620 or 01442 891444**



We can offer a delivery/collection service for those in the local villages that are isolating themselves.

Minimum order £20

Orders can be emailed to [info@pemeadandsons.co.uk](mailto:info@pemeadandsons.co.uk)

Please include your name, address, phone number and of course your shopping list.

We will do our best but supplies of some items are short.

We will call you to confirm.

Thank you.

01442 828478 [www.pemeadandsons.co.uk](http://www.pemeadandsons.co.uk)

# Television in the Lockdown; a Survival Guide *by Alan Warner*

I SHOULD first of all set out my qualifications for advising others how best to watch modern TV during the lockdown. These are absolutely zero. I first watched TV when it was all black and white and the cabinet was five times bigger than the 10 inch screen. My first experience was a Cup Final in the early 1950s and the neighbours were invited round to share this new wonder. I also remember the Queen's Coronation which, even in black and white, blew our minds. Could this really be happening, live pictures in our living room? Even the test card, with the little girl drawing on the blackboard, was exciting.

But within a few years, watching TV as a family became central to our lives; Sunday Night at the London Palladium was the highlight of our weekend. Though we initially found the adverts on ITV a bit tacky, these soon became part of the attraction as we joined in the jingles advertising Murray Mints and Fairy Liquid.

There was very little choice of course. BBC 2 came along but, in the TV dominated homes of the 1950s and 1960s, you watched any programme that was on, the one you liked best or hated least. The advent of colour and bigger screens hooked us even more into this amazing medium that was central to our lives. As I married and we started our own family, the pattern was repeated; everyone had to observe the Sunday Night Palladium ritual.

Fast forward to 2020. Things are rather different. We never seem to watch anything live. All adverts and anything boring is subject to fast forward elimination. There are now so many channels that it's impossible to make a rational choice. Our children and grandchildren find the idea of watching TV together rather odd; why do so when I can choose something I really want to see on my iPad? And of course they are able to choose from even more options on their many streaming channels.

I have not been immune to these trends. The moment test cricket was handed over to Sky, I had to have it; there is still some of that 1950s wonder when I can sit at home watching England play South Africa live in Cape Town. In my list of financial priorities, the Sky subscription became only just below food and drink

. Then I was persuaded to have Netflix by my children and grandchildren, only to find that this was so that they could somehow use my password to log in for themselves. I hardly watched it myself but it was only a few quid a month. Then I found that, because I had opted to have my Amazon deliveries more quickly, I was suddenly able to watch a channel called Amazon Prime. This was too much choice; I began to long for the simplicity of the Queen's Coronation in black and white with no other channel to choose from.

But then came the lockdown. I now realize that this new complexity and extensive multiple choice have advantages. I began to develop a special lockdown strategy, advised by

my younger family members.

Here's my lockdown menu for success, three top tips:

Avoid the news programmes on the main channels and go for the bulletins on the specialist news services, like Sky News or BBC News; you actually find that there are things happening outside the UK and news other than Coronavirus.

Never watch anything live, particularly news and government press conferences; otherwise you miss the chance to fast forward.

Keep the remote in your hand ready for this fast forward treatment, in particular; Government spokesman repeating themselves with clichés that we have heard before many times.

Impossible questions from sanctimonious reporters, eg Minister, what do you say to the relatives of NHS staff without PPE?

Reports which seem to dwell intrusively on the unhappiness of chosen sufferers

And those who love to criticize with hindsight but offer nothing positive.

Here also are three tips around lighter aspects of lockdown life:

Avoid the specialist movie channels and go for Amazon. Here you can hire almost any film ever made, not restricted to those being shown that week. You may pay a small amount to hire but it's worth it.

Netflix's films are nowhere near as good but look for their specially made series; The Crown was the most well known example and a more recent success has been their series on Formula 1 racing, gripping even for non-fans like me.

Look on Catch Up for the old classic series on the minor channels like Drama, Alibi or ITV3; for instance Judge John Deed, Morse, Foyle's War. They are all worth seeing for a second time, the story lines are strong, you can actually understand the dialogue without captions and any sex scenes are subtle and short. So much better than much of the current dramas on the main channels, in my predictably old fashioned view.

Despite my disclaimer at the beginning of this article you may still justifiably still be thinking; 'what qualifications does he have to tell us how to manage our TV viewing during the lockdown?' I say again; absolutely no qualifications but it works for me and maybe has given you food for thought. Good watching!



**KENNETH BROWN  
ROOFING**

Specialist in  
Tiling, Slating, Chimneys and Flat Roofing  
Guttering, Facias and Building Works.  
56-57 High Street, Tring, Herts, HP23 5AG.  
Tel: Tring (01442) 823031      Mobile: 07951 220904

*Friendly village pub - open all day*  
**Food served 12 to 3pm and 6 to 9pm**  
(except Sunday evening and Monday evening)

**The Half Moon**



*Wilstone*

*(off the B489  
near Tring and  
Aston Clinton)*

**Real Ales • Great Food • Children's Menu &  
Play Area • Large Garden • Open Fire • Heated  
Patio • Car Park • Dog Friendly**

**Tel: 01442 826410**  
*A warm welcome guaranteed!*  
[halfmoonwilstone@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halfmoonwilstone@hotmail.co.uk)

**M.D.SPRING AUTOS**

**All mechanical repairs**  
**Very competitive prices**  
**All work guaranteed**  
**Vehicles collected and returned at  
no extra charge.**

**MOTs available on site (class 4 & 7)**  
**Welding -**  
**Tyres -**  
**Wheels balanced -**  
**Batteries -**  
**Exhausts -**  
**Diagnostic Tuning -**  
**Air Conditioning servicing  
and repairs**

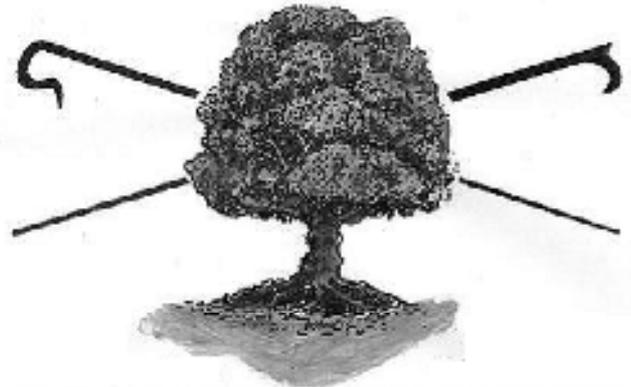


**Phone: 01296 662280**  
**New Fax: 01296 662347**  
**Mobile: 07860 847328**  
Unit 9, Airfield Industrial Estate,  
Cheddington Lane, Long Marston.



**WILSTONE STICKS**

*Handcrafted by John Evans*



*Member of The*  
**BRITISH Stickmakers Guild**

[www.wilstonesticks.com](http://www.wilstonesticks.com)  
**Telephone: 01442 822115**

Kumon's maths and English study programmes are tailored to your child's individual needs, nurturing their independence and enthusiasm for learning.



To unlock your child's potential, contact your local Instructor for a Free Assessment.

**Tring Study Centre**  
Louise Ogelman **01525 378 840**

**Develop  
your child's  
independence**

**KUMON**

[kumon.co.uk](http://kumon.co.uk)

***Hello! If you are self-isolating, we can help you***

Name: .....

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

My phone number is: .....

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

Fulfilling a shopping list from Wilstone Community Shop, or if they don't have what you need, we will try and get it elsewhere.

Posting mail

Urgent supplies

A friendly phone call from someone in the villages

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

This is a voluntary community service provided by **Wilstone Community Shop** in these difficult times. We will do our best to help you, for free.

Coronavirus is contagious. Avoid physical contact within 2 metres. Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly for 2 minutes. Shopping will be left on your doorstep and we let you know it is there.

**THANKS**

**by Jane Waterhouse**

WE HAVE all been in lockdown now for several weeks and I feel absolutely overwhelmed by the effort the volunteers at the village shop have put in to make all our lives easier and safer. Because many of the usual volunteers are from the older members of our community who have more time, being free of work and family commitments, our younger community has really stepped up to offer a brilliant service to the community.

I feel so fortunate to live in a beautiful area where we can exercise in lovely surroundings and also benefit from an active, community minded village. Without the work of the volunteers we would all be risking infection more frequently by having to use shops further a field. I have been able to live quite well by using the village shop and the farm shop for my daily needs.

Thank you all for your selfless efforts to support your friends and neighbours through this unprecedented emergency. I am forever grateful to you all. I hope that we will continue to see the benefits of shopping locally, by both supporting local businesses and reducing planet pollution when this is over.

I would like to add a note of thanks to Peter Walker who, unknown to most people, has been delivering doctors prescriptions from the Rothschild surgery to those locally who could not get into Tring to collect them.  
*Colin Davenport*

**IN PRAISE OF WILSTONE by Gill Glasser**

HOW fortunate we all are to live in such a village as Wilstone. Despite all the trials and tribulations of living in lockdown, life has been made infinitely more bearable and even enjoyable, precisely because we live in such a special village.

The community shop team have gone more than the extra mile to consistently source and make available all that's been needed to sustain us over the past weeks, whilst staying remarkably upbeat and cheery.

More than once, whilst queuing outside the shop, I've got chatting to people I've only seen in passing before. Other locals have said the same, and have enjoyed having the time to have a natter and slow down from the previous hurly burly of life.

We've also really enjoyed a weekly takeaway from the Half Moon, thanks to Abby & Guys' enterprising spirit. A real bonus.

As if all these assets weren't enough, we also have the Farm Shop with its abundant supplies of fruit and veg etc. Social distancing has been very carefully managed everywhere, helping us feel safe and secure.

Admittedly the weather has been exceptionally kind, but it's the kindness and generosity of many local people in so many ways that has been so evident.  
Thank you Wilstone.

## Wilstone Community Shop

*Run by the community, for the community*

We aim to serve the Community by:

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



## COVID update

FOLLOWING the Prime Minister's announcement on 10 May, we perceive that nothing has altered as far as the operating of the Community Shop is concerned and we shall carry on with all the measures that we have in place at the moment. This means we will continue to stick to our 9-12 opening hours, our one-in-one-out policy and all volunteers will wear face masks until further notice.

We have a small band of volunteers delivering newspapers to reduce the amount of footfall into the shop and we will not be serving hot food or allowing customers to sit in or out until restrictions ease. We have increased the number of lines that we stock to help our customers reduce their shopping trips and we are still taking orders and delivering to local people who are vulnerable or self-isolating, so let us know if you needs this service.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers and volunteers who have continued to display patience, humour and support during these difficult times.

## Veggie Week



*Boursin Tart*

*National Vegetarian Week took place during the second week in May. Our deli had a 'veggie' make-over and delicious offerings including; rice salad, pasta salad, veggie pot noodles and Boursin tart were on sale. We also published five simple veggie recipes, one a day throughout the week, the ingredients for which could all be purchased at the Community Shop. we hope you enjoyed our offerings!*

## VE Day Celebrations at the Community Shop



75 YEARS AGO on the 8 May 1945, Churchill declared Victory in Europe and the beginning of the end of the second World War. Although today we face an invisible enemy, a lot of parallels can be drawn between then and now, and community spirit is just as high.

The Driver family decorated the shop in splendid fashion for the day and we had plenty of lovely cakes for our customers to take away and enjoy in their own homes. As well as Churchill's fruitcake, we had a Battenberg cake and patriotic cup cakes. It helped that the weather stayed fine, and although we couldn't celebrate with a specific community event, it was still a bright day amongst so many grey ones.



*Churchill's Fruitcake*

Promotional feature sponsored by Wilstone Community Shop

# OBITUARY

by Tony Stedman

MAURICE ALBERT STEDMAN - 14/11/24 – 26/03/20



My dad would have loved today – VE Day. He was very proud of his war-time contribution and very mindful of all the soldiers who were unlucky enough not to return, as he did.

My dad passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> March after a short illness – he was 95. He had only lived in the village for six years but, in that short time, he seems to have made quite an impact. He was well known to many for the conversations that took place

during his morning walk to the shop to collect his paper and so popular with the lady workers in the shop whom he ‘chatted up’ without fail.

He was married to Joan for 72 years – we lost her nearly two years ago and life was never really the same for him after her passing.

Each year, on Remembrance Day, he would lay the wreath at the Village Memorial, reciting the ‘Lest we forget’ Rudyard Kipling poem – this gave him immense pleasure and sense of pride.

Born in Lowestoft in 1924, an early move to Lincoln and brought up as a young boy in the family newsagent shop, where he learned values of hard work, a sense of duty, fair play and neighbourliness.

Dad was an excellent young sportsman, excelling at snooker and at cricket.

He would have had many more good times on the sporting field had the war not interrupted and changed his life.

He was called up in 1943 – 18 years old, can you imagine it! He trained to be a signaller, part of that training being conducted at West Ham United’s Upton Park stadium which must have delighted him.

Training completed, he joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division and was shipped off to France in June 1944. His first assignment was to help secure the important, German-held Pegasus Bridge. It was such a significant part of the D Day advance and was later called the most perfect operation of the Normandy invasion. He writes about his first experience of battlefield death in Caen “seeing Black Watch soldiers lying dead and being shelled by mortars continuously for 3 days.”

A short break back home brought the prospect of Christmas in blighty but no such luck as the Germans broke through in the Ardennes and his division was ordered back. They landed in Ostend on Christmas eve 1944, spending that night in the open in sleeping bags in sub-zero conditions. This left an indelible mark on dad as he would often tell us this story when we were about to enjoy our Christmas celebrations.

On to February 1945 and he was in a glider with a jeep, trailer, 2 motorbikes, 5 other soldiers and 2 pilots, with a mission to go

on an offensive into northern Germany. It didn’t go well because they missed their planned landing spot and in fact ended up in a wood, surrounded by Germans with an array of machine guns. They found the comparative safety of a farmhouse but were soon flushed out by the Germans and captured.

From here, the march to the prison camp took about 4 days. His best pal was sick and needed my dad to support him for the best part of the trek until they reached the camp.

Conditions at Stalag 11B in Fallingbostal, northern Germany were pretty horrendous – very little food, beds full of lice, freezing cold temperatures. Six weeks in the camp left him frail and ill with dysentery and malnutrition and one can just imagine the elation when the Americans arrived at the camp in April 1945 and released them.

By this time his parents had given up hope – “missing, believed killed in action”, the local newspaper had reported and so the joy of their reunion in Lincoln must have been immense. He describes his view of Lincoln Cathedral on his return as “a sight I will never forget”. He had survived where so many had perished.

His release papers described him as “of exemplary character, clean and tidy and entirely reliable, presently holding an acting role of sergeant”.

Married in 1946 and living in Watford for the next 60 years, 35 of those years working in the print at Odhams, friendships wherever he went, colleagues at the Chorleywood branch of the British Legion, fellow players at the Herts Bowls Club.

A big step in moving out to Wilstone in 2014 to join us, with mum leaning on him heavily to overcome her anxiety and misgivings about such a move. But both of them so happy in the village. He died, as he had lived his life, bravely, without a big fuss, stoically facing up to the situation and never losing his sense of humour and, deep down, longing to be with his Joan again.

## Magic Square

16	3	2	13
5	10	11	8
9	6	7	12
4	15	14	1

Not an answer to a Sudoku but a creation by Albrecht Durer , a German mathematician who lived from 1471- 1528 who referred to it as a magic arithmetical square. What is special about it?

Answer

The number 34 because whichever way you look at a line of 4 numbers, they always add up to 34. Horizontally, vertically, diagonally, the 4 corners, the central 4 or opposing pairs the answer is always 34.

## From the Vicarage

by Rev'd Sarah Marshall

**'In my Father's house there are many rooms.....'** (John 14:2)



I'D BE LYING if I said that during lockdown I hadn't wished on several occasions that this statement applied to my house! I imagine that there are many of us who, although in many respects are loving spending time with our families, are also at times praying for a few more rooms in our homes!

Personal space is important, but, conversely, those forced into self-isolation or who live alone, may feel that they have far more space than they would like. It's a difficult balance to strike; at times feeling alone and at other times praying for room to breathe.

Whatever our circumstances, it's important to remember that not everyone feels the same way, we are all reacting to this current situation differently dependant on our mood of the day. Those of us living with other people need to bear this in mind when we lose our patience with our loved ones, remembering that they probably feel the same way about us at times!

We may not have many rooms to escape to in our homes, but if we are able to venture out, we do have the most beautiful town and countryside to take our daily exercise in. Whether we are self-isolating or not, if we find ourselves craving some kind of a sanctuary, it's important to find a quiet space indoors or outside, God is, after all, in all things and places.

Of course, outside our front doors there is plenty of space, especially living in the Chilterns! There are endless 'rooms' for us to inhabit, beautiful scenery, reservoirs to walk around, stunning architecture, nature, creation to be in awe of, birds to listen to and a whole community of people to wave to, even if out of our windows. The list could go on.

No one would blame us for dwelling on the negatives of lockdown, heaven knows there are plenty of people seriously impacted by it. Our faith or positivity at this time certainly feels put to the test and trying to find the good amidst the frustrations is a challenge, yet there is hope in the beauty we see around us, not least this can be found in the people living in and around our villages.

The VE Day celebrations were a perfect example of this community at its best, remembering and thanking a generation of people who faced much tougher times than we and who fought for the freedom we enjoy today.

Listening to the many interviews of people who experience VE Day 75 years ago is inspiring on so many levels, but the one thing they all shared was a sense of hope, the resolution that they would not be beaten, that a brighter future would be ahead. Whether they had a religious faith or not, hope is what kept them strong.

As the lockdown measures hopefully continue to improve, we again, as a nation, are encouraged to remain hopeful, to overcome the current tragedies and look to the future. We shouldn't expect an over night change back to 'normality', however recognising what we should be grateful for isn't a bad place to start. To quote one of my most favourite hymns;

'All I have needed Thy hand hath provided..... Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!'.  
(*Great is Thy faithfulness*)

The ultimate hope can be found in God, seek him out and although difficulties may not suddenly disappear, God certainly gives you the strength to bear them. I pray that during this time we all manage to discover our own personal 'room' and unearth the inspiration we individually need for a hopeful future.

**WI**

**by Maggie Winship**

WE HAVE been lucky enough to have some beautiful weather to enjoy our lockdown situations, and especially for our VE Day celebrations when hopefully most of our members were able to enjoy tea on their front lawns whilst staying suitably far from their neighbours. There were wonderful displays of flags, door wreaths and bunting all around the villages.

The WI played a significant part in both World Wars by their community spirit and generally keeping life on the home front going. By the beginning of WW2 there were over 300,000 members and they became involved in many different ways from helping to organise evacuees, to collecting rosehips to be made into syrup, and blackberries for jam, organising Pig Clubs and even breeding rabbits for fur to be sent to the allies in frozen Russia.

The same spirit lives on in the WI today and when the call for help came from the NHS they rose the occasion. The Bucks WIs (which includes our group) produced over 6000 laundry bags and face masks which have been distributed to local hospitals, ambulance services and any other needy organisation. Medical scrubs have also been made by some of our members. In our own group members who can get out and about have proved invaluable to those who are vulnerable and housebound by bringing supplies, and this is very much appreciated.

However, I'm sure we are all dreaming of the day when we can push our own trolley around the supermarket again, and hope we all keep safe and well until that day arrives.

## The Return of the Hedgehog

by Joan Dean

I WAS SO pleased when I got the first response to my request for hedgehog sightings in my last article in Village News, so imagine my delight when I got a further four! The first sighting was of hedgehog droppings in Church View, I had no idea what that looked like so Richard Adams very kindly sent a photograph, it is amazing how little things give so much pleasure during this time of isolation!

The second email was from Irene Miller in Station Road who has seen an actual hedgehog, excitement indeed especially as they think it is living under their garden shed.

The third email came from Lizzie Maddox who also lives on Station Road this one was seen in the middle of their front lawn and then in the bushes.

The fourth sighting was in Chapel Lane and they have a resident hedgehog who loves unsalted peanuts, and comes out at dusk for his evening feed. He is quite big and healthy and he was seen last year as well with his family!

And the piece de resistance came yesterday when our neighbour in Potash Lane knocked the door, eyes shining as they had found a hedgehog in a nest in the garden and would I like to take a look – I didn't need a second invitation. And there she was hunkered down, hopefully keeping hoglets warm.

So what a great result, it seems we have a community of the little fellows in the village thriving and hopefully breeding here.

So a big thank you to everyone for getting in touch



## Cogs – making the world go round

by Sally Smith

RECENTLY I've had more time to think than I usually do and one thought keeps popping up. It's this - people are very much like the cogs of a clock.

Cogs come in a variety of sizes from those that move slowly and seem really important because they are so visible, to others which are much smaller, move more quickly and aren't always so easy to spot. All move constantly and are inter-dependent, working together to ensure that the clock keeps working. If one cog is damaged or removed then everything stops until the affected part is replaced or repaired.

You are probably ahead of me with this analogy – life today is like a clock where those smaller cogs are suddenly being more noticeable, more valued and appreciated for their contribution. Obviously, it has always been the case that the larger cogs depend totally on those smaller ones to keep working so that they can do their, much more visible and seemingly important, role but now it is very much the case that those smaller cogs are in the public eye.

We in Long Marston, Puttenham, Wilstone and Gubblecote have our own cogs, and we are extremely fortunate to have far more small cogs all working together to help the largest cog – the community – to keep working and functioning. The number of people who have volunteered to help others is amazing and we should all count ourselves fortunate that we have such a Community Of Givers. People have shared offers of help, seedlings, collection of medicines, food, smiles and so many other things which have all helped to boost the community as we try to keep things going.

In the spirit of this generosity, this month I offer the classic 'Cut and Come again' cake (a staple of the Long Marston Village Show). Why not make one for a neighbour!

### CUT AND COME AGAIN CAKE

<b>Ingredients</b>	8oz (200g) Self Raising Flour	4oz
(100g) Sugar	¼ teaspoon salt	9oz
	(225g) Mixed Dried Fruit	
	1 level Teaspoon Mixed Spice	
	1 Egg	
	4oz (100g) Butter	¾gill
	(105ml) milk and water	

**Method** Sieve or mix flour, salt and spice together in a mixing bowl.

Add butter and rub in, then stir in sugar and fruit.

Add egg, milk and water.

Spoon into a lined seven inch round tin and sprinkle with sugar.

Bake in the centre of the oven at 180°C (350°F), Gas Mark 4, for approx. 1 hr 20 mins

It goes without saying that without this community spirit we would be in a far worse place, so on behalf of everyone, I would just like to thank the COG's of the local area for everything they are doing.

# J B SERVICES

**PATIOS AND DRIVES  
BLOCK AND SHINGLE  
DRAINAGE WORK  
EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE  
BRICKWORK**

**NO JOB TOO SMALL  
TEL: 07799 398335**

# Underhill Services

*For all your home maintenance needs.*

Gardening - Landscaping - Decorating -  
Groundwork.  
Garden clearance, pruning, hedge trimming,  
fence painting etc.

*Odd Job Man.*  
**Call Gary (Pixie): 07779 497669**

Ofsted rated  
Good  
December  
2016.



\*Tax-free  
vouchers,  
  
\*30Hours and  
County funding  
registered.

## FIRST STEPS PRESCHOOL

HELPING OUR CHILDREN BECOME WORLD READY

Monday 9-3pm Term time Tuesday 9-3pm Term time  
Thursday 9-3pm Term time Friday 9-3pm Term time

[www.firststepspreschool.org.uk](http://www.firststepspreschool.org.uk)  
[firststepspreschool@gmail.com](mailto:firststepspreschool@gmail.com)

**Victory hall, Station Road, Long Marston  
HP23 4QS**

**Tel: 07925185311**

# SBH GENERAL MAINTENANCE

For all property repairs and maintenance

**BUILDING • POINTING • GUTTERING  
PAINTING • GLAZING • TILING  
PATIOS • PATHS • FENCING  
PLUMBING • BLOCKED DRAINS  
FLAT PACK ASSEMBLY**

**No matter how small the job  
call for a free quote**

**Telephone 07739 985923 or 01442 382078**

SBH, 50 Lakeside ,Tring, Herts HP23 5HN  
[sbhgm001@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sbhgm001@hotmail.co.uk)

# Mrs. Doolittle's

PET SITTERS Since 2000

**WE CARE WHEN YOU'RE NOT THERE!**

We walk feed clean out & Cuddle.  
Dogs, Cats, Chickens, Goats, & All small animals

Registered with NARP  
Call Beverley Cornthwaite  
Tel.no 01442822191 Mob 07967019031

[www.spoilyourdog.co.uk](http://www.spoilyourdog.co.uk)

# Seaton's Catering

Established 1990

*We cater for all occasions:  
working lunches - buffets - parties - weddings  
and other family events.*

*Please call to order or discuss your menu.*

Tel: 01296 630279 or 07812 818375

[www.seatonscatering.co.uk](http://www.seatonscatering.co.uk)

Email: [seatonscatering@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:seatonscatering@hotmail.co.uk)

*"A five star hygiene rating"*



# The Old Pastures

*Luxury accommodation for  
dogs*

Icknield Farm, Icknield Way,  
Tring, Herts. HP23 4JX



VISITING, KENNELING AND COLLECTING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Luxury heated accommodation for your dog with a  
personal touch giving your dog the extra attention  
they deserve. All dogs are walked twice a day.

*In association with Mrs. Doolittle's Pet Sitters*

Tel: 01442 824856  
[www.spoilyourdog.co.uk](http://www.spoilyourdog.co.uk)

# Puzzle page answers

## Truth or lie

He had worked out that his new companion came from the West side of the village and could he could never tell the truth. How do we know? Well, if you ask a truth teller (East villager) where he is from, he's going to tell the truth and say he's from the "East side of the village". On the other hand, if you ask a liar (West villager) where he is from, he is going to lie and also say he's from the "East side of the village". So, regardless of where man was from, when asked, his answer had to be that he is from the "East side of the village", but our visitor's new companion had said, "He said he's from the West side of the Village" so he must be a liar.

## Logical logistics

B747F	6.00	yellow	gowns	Germany
B767F	8.00	grey	gloves	Spain
MD11F	900	white	Visors	France
A330F	700	green	Masks	UK

## Find the fake

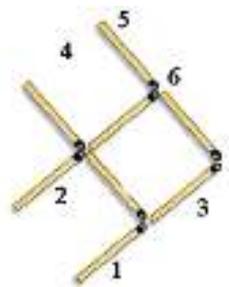
I not providing a full answer but some hints to get you going. The key is to split the coins into 3 piles of 4 and to keep track of the coins. If the 1st weighing balances then you have 2 more attempts to find the fake from a pile of 4. Weigh 3 of the 4 coins with 3 genuine coins. It will either tell you which is the fake or whether the fake is heavier or lighter. One more weighing and you have done it.

If the coins do not balance at the first weighing then you need to do a bit clever manoeuvring which involves moving 3 coins from the heavy side and using them to replace 3 coins on the light side. What do you put on the heavy side to make the comparison? If you do it right you will have for the final weighing a pile of 3 coins containing the fake or 1 coin from either side of the balance one of which is the fake. You can work out from previous weighings whether the fake is heavier or lighter before making the final weighing. Good luck.

### Solution No 139

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

## Fishy tale



Move 1 to 4 to complete the upper square  
 Move 2 to 5  
 Move 3 to 6

## Sound of the times (with apologies to a number of artists—chose the one you are more familiar with!)

By Caroline Clist

WHILST Paul asked last month for what we had been listening to, after hearing some of these on the radio recently, I thought about compiling a top ten of the times. And here it is:

(If you are too young / too old you might need to check the lyrics for this to make sense.)

### 10 Dancing with tears in my Eyes, Ultravox

One of my favourite Ultravox songs and although about nuclear war and the four minute warning, it also seems appropriate in these times of sudden

### 9 Yesterday, the Beatles

Well, in February who thought that we would be where we are now?

### 8 School's out, Alice Cooper

For ever? For parents of school age children everywhere

### 7 Living in a Box, Living in a Box

So good, they named it twice. For everyone who has had their copy of Village News delivered to them and is lucky enough to have a home, whether it feels like being in a cardboard box or it's your Xbox that's keeping you going, we're living in a box.

### 6 Are 'Friends' Electric?, Tubeway Army

For all those following AI social media 'influencers'.

### 5 Everywhere, Fleetwood Mac

For those doing their daily outside exercise with the some people, every day. And on a similar note:

### 4 Every breath you take, The Police

It can get a bit intense in a small house for weeks on end. And, for all those who have had unplanned home events being shared with their colleagues which they (or other family members) would rather not have.

### 3 We'll meet again, Vera Lynn

(Don't know where, don't know when.) Yes, one of the more obvious ones and very VE day themed. On a more positive note, stay safe until then, and in the meantime;

### 2 Living on my own, Freddie Mercury

Not by Freddie Mercury and Queen, as stated on the radio (and Roger wrote that "everything I need to know, I heard it on my radio"! ). Who has not felt that they get so lonely?

And... at number 1

### Crazy, Seal

Yes, we've (probably) all gone a little

### Special offer

If anyone would like some Whiskas pouches for cats over 11 years old, please contact the Editor, as due to bulk buying when they were on offer there were a lot (best before end May 2021) unused when the planned eater of them died. Fish and meat selections available, free to a good home (or two!).



**Hair Therapy Tring**  
 39 Christchurch road, Tring, hp23 4eh

10% off your first appointment with this flyer

call 01442 826537 to book or visit our Facebook page

Frustrated with your Home Technology not doing what you want it to? 

... Let the Technology Doctors do it for you!



- Wi-Fi/Broadband boosting or extending
- Smart TV and Wireless speaker configuration
- PC and iPad help and tuition
- Smart home security installations and set up

Contact us via email: [hello@thetechnologydoctors.co.uk](mailto:hello@thetechnologydoctors.co.uk) or call us on 01296 534537

[www.thetechnologydoctors.co.uk](http://www.thetechnologydoctors.co.uk)

# Tring's Independent Travel Agent

## We're here to help!

Come in and talk to us about your holidays plans. We are located behind Costa Coffee on Tring High Street.



**Travel Impressions**  
*A word of Experience*

01442 890265  
[enquiries@travelimpressions.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@travelimpressions.co.uk)  
[www.travelimpressions.co.uk](http://www.travelimpressions.co.uk)  
 144-146, Longwalk, Longwood, Tring, HP23 4JN

# The last witch hunt or Ruth Osborne revived

## Chapter 1

by John Noakes



### Introduction

In 1751 Ruth Osborne became the last woman to be ducked and drowned in this country. She was a local person but many people new to the villages may have not even heard of her.

Her story has been told many times but only in a fragmentary way. Facts, conjectures, myths have swirled around so it is unlikely that the full truth will never be known and the places where events were said to take place cannot be accurately verified.

Having researched the limited facts at the Hertfordshire Archives I have come to the conclusion that no new light is likely to be shone on this story. Therefore I thought I might weave a story using the information, fact or myth, in a series of chapters to chart the journey of Ruth Osborne and her husband, John, involving the perpetrators of the crime, her death and the trial of all those involved.

I invite you to read on and share with me this shameful local crime that took place around our villages so many years ago.

### Chapter 1

At the western end of the Chiltern Hills and on its Southern side lie scattered towns and villages, Tring, Long Marston, Puttenham, Astrope and one with the strange name of Gubblecote. Back in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century these would have been hamlets with many small farms together with a sprinkling of more isolated and lonely properties beyond.

Run off from the hills meant the land was damp; villages such as Marsworth and Long Marston became corrupted from Marshworth and Long Marsh town.

Water from this area flowed through a series of streams to the River Thames and thence on to the Thames. This flow of water would serve to fill the five reservoirs which would hold water for the Grand Union Canal to be dug out over a century later.

It was one of these isolated, lonely properties that an old and weary couple approached on their long journey back to Tring. They had been working in the fields, scratching a meagre living. They were an odd, eccentric and harmless pair but in those days such people were in the main tolerated in rural communities. Not by all; some of the more isolated farms

were owned by curmudgeonly individuals. Living alone in such areas warped their feelings to the outside world particularly if meeting equally strange people even if they were benign.

The couple perhaps should have guessed at the likely demeanour of the owner of this property, its very appearance sent a foreboding and forbidding message. Its thatch was slumped and moss covered. Numerous thatchers had been dismissed by the owner as too expensive and untrustworthy. Even the cattle looked unhappy and unwell.

The couple were weary and had not taken the message put out by this abode.

So it was an inevitable collision meeting when this couple, Ruth and John Osborne, called at this dwelling seeking some buttermilk to slake their thirst on that hot day. John Butterworth, the owner, saw few people in his lonely life. Since a young man he had suffered from drop attacks and strange behaviour, consequently folk had given him a wide berth; his companions were his cattle and his hogs from which he no doubt learnt his manners.

On appearing at his door Ruth politely asked if could spare a little buttermilk as they were so thirsty after their long walk. The collision now took place. John Butterworth bristled and glared at them. "I don't welcome or give charity to beggars and folk such as you. Be off!"

Though the old couple had in their life experienced many difficult encounters but they had not met with such rudeness. They were taken aback but nevertheless Ruth persisted and explained again that they were tired and still had a long walk ahead and could he not be kind and then they would be quickly be on their way. John Butterworth's anger whelmed up further and he threatened to set his dogs on them if they did not depart at once! The couple felt frightened and retreated but Ruth after a few steps suddenly found courage of reply, unusual for her who normally tried to avoid trouble and confrontation.

"Then we shall be gone but before I go, I tell you that you are a mean unkind man. I hope the Young Pretender will put a curse on you if he ever passes this way. I hope he will seek you out. A plague on you, your cattle and your farm"

"Good riddance you mad old woman." He shouted at them as they fled.

One must remember that the year was 1746, just following the 45 Jacobite Rebellion when the young pretender, Bonnie Prince Charlie, had tried to lay claim to the British Throne. Although the Rebellion was put down, people were still fearful of his memory and likely return. None more so than John Butterworth who was now disturbed being a deeply suspicious and paranoid man.

Ruth too was disturbed and overcome by her outburst and trembled as she walked wearily away with her husband from that strange unfriendly farm back to the Workhouse where they were lodged in Tring.

*Follow the story next month, when John Butterworth abandons his farm through ill health and takes on an inn of ill repute*

© John Noakes 2020

## Berkhamsted Carpet Cleaning Ltd

### Carpets • Oriental Rugs • Upholstery

- High quality professional service
- Residential and commercial
- Excellent value and fully insured
- Free consultation and quote
- References available

**01442 876622 • 07884 058795**

Berkhamsted Herts HP4 3ZQ  
www.berkhamstedcarpetcleaning.co.uk

## Looking for a Window Cleaner?

Call Nigel on 07775 671611  
Or go to my website at  
www.nigelbrowne.co.uk

## CURTIS CARPET SERVICES

Parsons Lane, Bierton

All types of carpeting supplied & fitted  
at excellent rates.

Adaptions - Domestic & Contract.

Phone David Curtis: 01296 482652

Mobile: 07773300054

Why Pay Shop Prices?

## Victory Hall - Long Marston

Although the hall has been 'dark' during the lock down we will be taking provisional bookings from September onwards and, as the social distancing rules are gradually eased, we look forward to welcoming old friends and new.

**Facilities include** a large hall with stage and lighting rig available for hire. There is a fully equipped kitchen as well as tables and chairs.

**The ideal venue** for societies, clubs, informal groups, parties and live music.

**For details and availability please contact Gillie Mann:**  
[gilliemann@gmail.com](mailto:gilliemann@gmail.com)



DAMIAN STEWART  
PLUMBING & HEATING

### PROFESSIONAL QUALIFIED PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER

- For all your Plumbing, Gas, Oil & Heating requirements
- Boiler & appliance installations, system upgrades, servicing, fault finding & repair
- Oil – boiler and tank installations, service & repair
- Complete bathroom installations & design
- No job too small / Free no obligation quote/ No call out charge

Tel : 01296-688968 / 07527900028

E mail : [info@damianstewartplumbing.co.uk](mailto:info@damianstewartplumbing.co.uk)  
[www.damianstewartplumbing.co.uk](http://www.damianstewartplumbing.co.uk)

7 Chiltern Road, Wingrave, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP22 4QQ



## Bethany Mead

I provide mobile treatments in Tring and the surrounding area. Enjoy spa treatments in the comfort of your home.

**Swedish Massage - Deep Tissue Massage**

**Reflexology - Indian Head Massage**

**Manicure - Pedicure**

**OPI Gel Nails**

**Gift vouchers available**

07935 821846 [BMtreatments@gmail.com](mailto:BMtreatments@gmail.com)

## Rachel's Dog Grooming

Level 3 City & Guilds Qualified

City & Guilds  
Qualified

- Brand new grooming salon
- Safe, friendly environment
- 1:1 grooming sessions
- Nail clipping, Bathing, Breed Specific Styling & Handstripping
- All breeds welcome
- Located in Wilstone

Please call 07706676142 for pricing & availability

# Local names and numbers

## **Herts Police non-emergency number: 101**

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

## **Fly-tipping reports**

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

## **Reports of river flooding**

Environment Agency 0845 988 1188

## **Cecilia Hall (Puttenham)**

Christine Rutter 07514 548289

## **Cubs and Scouts**

Jane Dawson 07759 888085

## **LM&P Horticultural Society**

David Severs 01296 661021

## **St Cross Wilstone**

Clergy Rev'd Jane Banister  
Churchwarden Ken Martin 01442 822894

## **St Mary's Puttenham**

Rector Rev'd Huw Bellis 01442 822170

Churchwarden Christine Rutter 07514 548289

## **All Saints Long Marston**

Clergy Rev'd Jane Banister 01442 822170

## **Tring Rural Parish Council - Chairman**

Doug Chalmers 07885 962818

## **Clerk to the Parish Council**

Chloe Collins email: [clerk@tringrural-pc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@tringrural-pc.co.uk)

## **Villages Warden**

Colin Reedman 01442 822031

## **Long Marston Victory Hall**

Hall hire: Gillie Mann 01296 668548

## **Long Marston Cricket Club**

Chris Bowles [chair@longmarstoncc.co.uk](mailto:chair@longmarstoncc.co.uk)

## **Long Marston 1<sup>st</sup> Steps Pre-School**

Jo Zygiert / Maria Adams 07925 185311

## **Long Marston Tennis Club**

Jackie Anwyl 01296 663810

## **Long Marston Football Club**

Daphne Bateman 01296 668054

## **Long Marston School**

01296 668386

## **Member of Parliament (House of Commons)**

Gagan Mohindra MP 02072 193000

[gagan.mohindra.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:gagan.mohindra.mp@parliament.uk)

## **Sing-Wilstone**

Jo Woodbridge 01442 891444

## **Village News**

Colin Moore 01442 826976

## **Whitchurch Morris Men**

John Bush 01296 641382

## **Wilstone Allotment Assn.**

Mick McManus 01442 828748

## **Wilstone Village Hall**

Bookings: Tony Short 01442 823096

## **WI**

Pam Edmonds 01296 661370

Wilstone Community Shop 01442 891167

*Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.*

## ADVERTISING IN VILLAGE NEWS

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

Ad size Height x width	1 issue	10 issues**
1/8 page* 80 x 90mm	£12	£60
1/4 page* 125 x 90mm	£23	£115
1/2 page* 250 x 90mm or 125 x 185mm	£46	£230

Please contact:

Amanda Russell, Advertising Manager

[villagenewsadvertising@gmail.com](mailto:villagenewsadvertising@gmail.com)

Mob: 07444 747010

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

\*\*We publish every month except January and August

## Village News

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

Send your editorial contributions,  
articles, event notices, news and pictures  
to: [editorwlmpp@yahoo.com](mailto:editorwlmpp@yahoo.com)

(Please note this is EDITORWLMP in lower  
case)



Deadline for items to go in the July edition is:  
Wednesday 17 June 2020

The editor will be Colin Moore

## Thank you ...

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

Distribution enquiries to: John Taylor 07940 206056

Read Village News online at:  
[www.wilstone.me.uk](http://www.wilstone.me.uk) (Click on Village News)





A selection of the many VE Day celebration photograph we received. We apologise for not accrediting our happy snappers but we choose the to use a montage on the 4 cover pages to give the maximum impact. Ed.

### Lock down doorsteps photos.

These have become all the rage on social media and even made it on to the BBC.

Local photographer Karla Hatrick from Long Marston has been out and about snapping trapped families. *Village News* hope to publish some of these in our July edition.

If you would like a doorstep lockdown photo pleaser contact Karla at [karlahatrick@gmail.com](mailto:karlahatrick@gmail.com)