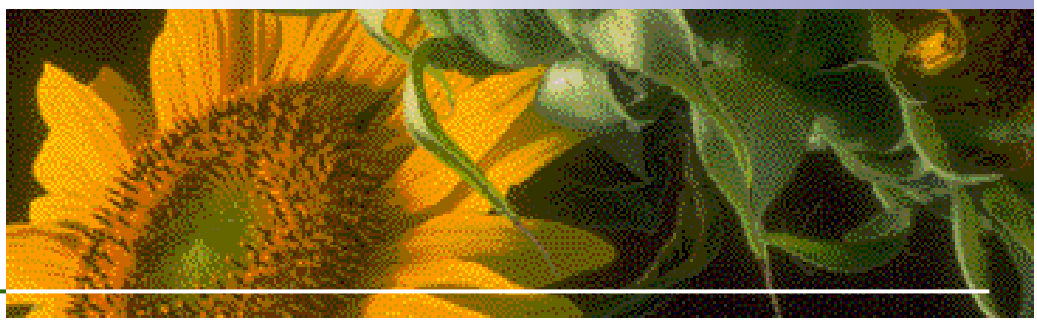
Village News: Wilstone, Long Marston, Puttenham, Astrope

June 2010



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

Showgirls caught revealing their talents

Water ski escapade is part of 'Hi de Hi' Wilstone fete rehearsal

How do they do it? L to R: Showgirls Sam, Sheena, Jill and Sarah practice their water ski routine in preparation for the fete on Sunday 6th June. (Picture: Phil Buchi/John Painter.)

REHEARSALS for the Wilstone village fete are usually kept under wraps, but this water ski stunt apparently needed more rehearsal space, giving those in the right place at the right time an opportunity to see four of the twelve Wilstone Showgirls in action. All part of the Showgirls seaside spectacular apparently, to tie in with the Hi De Hi holiday camp theme of this year's fete and fun dog show on Sunday 6th June. Organisers were not willing to say how the girls managed to walk on water - we will have to turn up and see the final performance to find out. *(No great hardship. Ed.)*

All the Showgirls will be taking part in the parade at 12.30 from the war memorial in Wilstone, led by a vintage bus as the jolly campers and camp Yellow Coats travel the short distance to the 1950's style seaside holiday camp at the recreation ground, pausing at the Half Moon for a 'battle of the sexes'. Fete organiser Jill Walker said: "Everyone can join in. Come dressed for the seaside and join the parade at 12.30, or just come and watch. It will be bags of fun." There are prizes for children's seaside fancy dress, a roundabout, old time swing boats, seaside donkeys, a brass band and of course the Wilstone rock at 99p a stick.

In the fun dog show there are six all-new classes to enter including 'cutest couple', 'knobbly knees' and 'beach ball relay'. Full details of the fun dog show and children's art competition are included in the free programme which will be delivered to local homes during the week before the fete. The anniversary of the D-Day landings will be commemorated during the afternoon with a ceremony just after 2pm. Veterans are invited to wear their medals.

Wilstone village fete is on Sunday 6th June. See page 2.

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Readers' contributions are welcome. Send them in!

Wilstone Village Fete
Sunday June 6th 2010

Our fine BBQ
Open at 1 pm.

HideHi WILSTONE HOLIDAY CAMP

Toddler's play area . . . with Sand Pit

Mega Slide

Bungee Run

Seaside donkeys

The Hemel Hempstead Silver Band

OLDE TYME ROUNDABOUT & SWING BOATS

Wii Dance

All Your Favourite Stalls

Fun Dog Show

Entry form in Fete Programme

Crazy Golf

Tea & Cakes in The Camp Café

The Wilstone Showgirls

Ale and Pimms in The Hawaiian Bar

Don't forget your Wilstone Rock!

Children's Fancy Dress

Come dressed for the Seaside
Procession from War Memorial 12:30

Village News

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AS I write this editorial, I do believe that summer has arrived so I am stuck in front of my computer while the temperature outside is approaching the 80s. I must remember to volunteer for the winter editions next time!
However after such a long drawn out winter and spring it is so nice to feel some warmth now that the summer festivities are upon us starting with the Wilstone fete.
The girls on the front page really make it look like summer.

Wind is in the news in this month's edition with the wind farm being proposed locally and the wind blowing the volcanic ash into our airspace – I hope I can get away on my holidays this year!

Have a good summer.

Colin Davenport

Deadline for items for our next issue (July/August) is Thursday 17th June 2010.

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

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Church services

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

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

30 May	**Trinity Sunday**
10.00am	St Mary's Team Service
	Walk and Picnic
6.00pm	All Saints Evening Prayer
6 June	
10.00am	All Saints Morning Prayer
4.00pm	St Cross Messy Church
6.00pm	St Cross Evening Prayer
7 June (Monday)	
2.00pm	All Saints Toddler Worship
13 June	
8.15am	St Mary's Holy Communion
10.00am	All Saints Holy Communion
6.00pm	All Saints Evening Prayer
20 June	
10.00am	St Cross Holy Communion
10.00am	All Saints Morning Prayer
21 June (Monday)	
2.00pm	All Saints Toddler Worship
27 June	
10.00am	All Saints Holy Communion
	and Sunday Club
3.30pm	St Mary's Evensong

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

What's on...

Long Marston & Puttenham Horticultural Society

CHILDREN'S BIKE RIDE

Sunday 13th June 10.30am

Start & finish at the Queen's Head
Entry Fee 50p

Sweets for all children who finish the course.
This event is for children & accompanying adults.
Come along and enjoy a leisurely ride of about 2 hours around the immediate area, following clues and answering questions along the route.
THIS IS NOT A RACE.

This event is designed for children aged 14 and under. Competitors will be judged on the number of questions answered correctly without adult help.

Competent children may cycle without an adult only with the consent of their parent/guardian who will be required to sign them in at the start.

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)
The public are welcome to attend these meetings.
Wednesday 16th June, Wilstone village hall.
Wednesday 21st July, Cecilia Hall, Puttenham

Saturday 29 May
Jumble Sale, 2.00pm. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham.
29, 30, 31 May
Mentrmore Arts Festival. See ad page 5. £2, kids free.
29 and 30 May
Hertfordshire County Show, Redbourn (J9, M1).
Sunday 30 May
'Paganini and a little Britten'. Tring Chamber Music. At St. John the Baptist, Aldbury, 7.30, £13. 01442 822732.
Wednesday 2 June
Minor Counties cricket: National side v. Northants 2nd XI at Long Marston. 50 overs, coloured kit and black screens.
Sunday 6 June
Wilstone fete: Hi de Hi seaside holiday camp, from 12.30.
Friday 11 June
Quiz night LM village hall. 7.30 for 8
Saturday 12 June- Sunday 27 June
Bucks open studios. See advert on page5
Sunday 13 June
Children's Bike Ride, 10.30am from the Queen's Head.
Tuesday 15 June
Herts v. Northants over-60s XIs at Long Marston CC.
Sunday 20 June
Marsworth Steam Rally. 10.30am - 5pm
Sunday 20 June
"Beethoven's Five" Tring Chamber Music. Church of St Peter & St Paul, Tring, 7.30, £13. 01442 822732.
Tuesday 13&Wednesday 14 July
Hertfordshire v. Oxfordshire development XIs at Long Marston Cricket Club. (Tom Orford trophy.)
Saturday 17 July
Fun Day. Wilstone church garden. 2-4pm.

Wilstone village shop opening hours are:
Monday to Saturday: 7.30am to 1.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am to 12.00noon.

Times for mobile library

Thursdays, fortnightly: June 3rd and 17th.

Tringford (Piggeries Pine)	**11.10 to 11.30**
Wilstone (The Half Moon)	**11.35 to 12.35**
Astrope (Astrope Lane)	**13.15 to 13.35**
Puttenham (Church Lane)	**13.40 to 14.40**
Long Marston (Queen's Head)	**14.50 to 16.20**

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

1, 2, 3 August
Minor Counties cricket: Hertfordshire v. Staffordshire at Long Marston Cricket Club.
Saturday 7 August
Long Marston village show.
Saturday 11 September
Sponsored Bike 'n Hike in aid of Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust
Saturday 25 September
'Mozart by Candlelight'. Tring Chamber Music. All Saints Church, Long Marston, 7.30pm, £13. 01442 822732.
Saturday 2 October
Jumble Sale 2:00pm. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham.
Saturday 30 October
Supper & Auction 7.30pm. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham.

Your local event details can be included here for free.

No ballroom dancing

Wilstone Village Hall Committee is sorry to announce that the "Not only Ballroom for Fun" dance scheduled for Saturday 12th June has been cancelled. Although similar events have been a big success in the past, there were very few ticket sales in the three weeks after they went on sale on 1st May, and the decision has been taken to cancel the event.

Wilstone's artist Phil Madley opens up his studio for…

BUCKS OPEN STUDIOS

25th Anniversary
Saturday 12 - Sunday 27 June

Artists and crafts people all over Buckinghamshire open up their studios for two weeks in June. Phil paints in wax using an iron, paint stripper and other heat inducing equipment. His paintings certainly have the "Wow" factor and a visit is guaranteed to be an experience. Phil teaches wax painting and does talks and demos to art societies. He exhibits widely throughout Herts and Bucks but this is a real chance to see and meet the artist in action as well as seeing loads of his new work.

So pop in at 50 Tring Road, Wilstone between 10am - 6pm Phil has loads of Bucks Open Studio brochures which give details of all the artists involved. So come and pick one up its all Free. Everybody welcome.

www.philmadley.com

There is a competition for everyone at this year's Wilstone Fete!

CHILDREN please come along dressed up as **sea creatures, monsters, mermaids** or indeed anything related to the beach. The children's fancy dress competition is going to be judged at **1.15 pm** giving you the chance to win some spending money!

Following on from this will be a chance for the adults to shine in our '**Glamorous Granny**' and '**Mr Wilstone**' competitions. The winner of 'Glamorous Granny' will be the candidate our judges feel adds the most glamour to the afternoon's proceedings, where 'Mr Wilstone' will be judged on the quality of his knobbly knees and his ability to carry off a knotted handkerchief! Trophies will be awarded to the winners, and of course international fame is bound to follow.

Our **Yellowcoats** will be there to support and encourage you all the way so don't be shy, get your costumes ready and make sure you are ready to join in the fun at 1.15pm on the day – Sunday 6 June.

News in brief…

Long Marston Village Show 2010 - help required

PLANNING is underway for the annual village show which will be held on Saturday 7th August. Anyone wanting to have a stall at the show please contact me for information. Any help on or around the day of the show is very welcome. There is a lot to do setting up, dismantling and putting away on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday. If you would like to help out please contact me.

David Severs home 01296 661 021, mobile 07742 262 116 email davidsevers@aol.com

Your village hall needs you

AS has been mentioned in previous edition of village news, the village hall in Long Marston has been identified as in need of some modernisation. At a recent meeting of the village hall committee, particular attention was drawn to the roof and we are now trying to take action, subject to planning approval. This will involve replacing the roof tiles and renewing the insulation layer underneath which should stop the leaks in the serving area. It is then proposed to work on modernising the interior.

The problem now is how to raise the money to pay for this. It is the committee's intention to put a 'fundraising' thermometer on the outside of the building and hold a series of fundraising events. The first of these will be a quiz night hosted by a village quiz favourite, Toby Davidson, on Friday 11th June. This as always will be a fun quiz for all ages and all will be made most welcome. We also have a bingo night planned as well as the annual fireworks display in November.

We could however as a committee do with some other fundraising ideas to help raise the money needed and we need the help of the public. Anyone who is willing to help in this venture should contact either Margaret Kaye (01296 662975) or Toby Davidson (07970 636168)

Speed checks

A TEAM of five police officers carried out speed and mobile phone checks at several points in the villages one morning this month. Cllr Mike Tomlinson said that the police would be repeating the exercise, unannounced, at intervals.

Keep up with **Long Marston Cricket Club** progress and events by visiting **www.lmcc.org.uk**

Fit for a swing

(By our roving reporter Andy Ashwell)

THE Long Marston baby swings have just had their new seats fitted by our village warden, Colin Reedman. These snazzy, orange-trimmed affairs replace the old manky seats that had the annoying habit of blackening hands and clothes, especially in damp conditions. Colin did have a bit of trouble when removing the old seats and managed to break both a hammer and a socket wrench in the process. His efforts were not in vain and, as our picture shows, Talia Williams was delighted in joining him in testing the new seats.

Council grant for Village News

TRING RURAL Parish Council has made a grant of £240 to *Village News* to cover the cost of buying software licences for a new editor. The grant was approved at the May meeting of the Parish Council. Editor Phil Buchi said: "Although 80% of the cost of producing the magazine is covered by advertising revenue, we depend on sponsorship and grants from local organisations to make up the rest. It is great to have this tangible support from the Parish Council, who also paid for our digital camera which has been in use for the last four years."

Model rail dates

MODEL railway enthusiasts will want to make a note of the next two big exhibitions being organised by the Tring and District Model Railway Club. Their famous (and huge) TaD-Rail 2010 exhibition at Ashlyns School, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, is on Saturday 9th October from 10.30am to 5pm. 25 layouts are promised, and last year the exhibition filled four of the large halls. Looking forward to 2011, the club's exhibition at the Red Cross Hall, Tring, will be held on Saturday 26th March 2011. Information about the club can be found on their website: **www.tdmrc.co.uk**

Letters...

Dear Editor
It is with some perturbation that I notice that the area around the old village forge is being fenced off. Since 1526 this was the village green where the inhabitants of Wilstone practised by law their right to practice archery and as such is part of our ancient rites and privileges and should not lightly be ignored. I have also heard that it will be an enclosure for Vietnamese potbellied pigs and I deplore this intrusion of this foreign species into the village. Do we not have enough trouble with the edible Dormouse without encouraging this intruder into our quiet haven of peace.
Wilstonian

Dear Editor,
I do love walking with my dog around Wilstone village. What makes it so exciting is that I never know what I am going see next. Now I hear there are to be some new pets arriving soon to the village green area. The other day I heard two people talking outside the village store about pigmy llamas, now I know they must be arriving soon 'cause I have seen the fencing put up to keep them in. Pigmy llamas are so sweet (no pun intended as they eat them in Nepal where my husband and I first saw them) children love them, they are such delightful, cuddly little creatures. Do you think they will be a breeding pair? I am so excited I can hardly wait.
Joy Nightly.

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Walkers website gets better – and goes national

Walking in Herts **www.walkinginherts.co.uk** is a website packed with useful information for walkers.

With more than 150 walks to download and print, free, and details of around 100 guided walks every month, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

Now, after three years hard work local man John Harris has taken the concept Countrywide. Walking in England **www.walkinginengland.co.uk** has thousands of walks to download and print – and all free of charge!
John said: 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in England has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home or away on holiday you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

Did you know that walking for just 30 minutes a day can help you to:

- Feel good (you will feel fitter, your body will be more toned, and you will feel better about yourself).
- Have more energy.
- Sleep better.
- Reduce stress (have you ever noticed how it's difficult to walk and worry at the same time?).
- Reduce your blood pressure.
- Manage your weight.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS

in your natural pond (¼+ acres) ?
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Enjoy your pond, *don't endure it!*

Goodbye to Friends of Youth In Need Project ...

Sadly the time has come to close the Friends of Youth In Need Project, after nearly 6 years of operation. We started the project back in 2004 after I returned from a trip to Tanzania volunteering in a centre for street children. Upon my return I felt I had to help these vulnerable children, and with the support of family and friends, Friends of Youth In Need Project begun. Sadly we have come to a point, where raising the level of financial support required to fund the project has just become too difficult. Over the past couple of years we have downsized by closing the residential unit where the boys were taught carpentry to a more outreach based project, where we have provided practical and emotional support to boys by linking them up to apprenticeships.

Although sad that we cannot continue, we must hold onto the fact that we have supported a significant number of boys during this 6 years period. The project has been involved with over 200 boys at different levels. We have made a real difference to these children's lives, and given them an opportunity that if we had not started the project, they would not have had. We have also provided employment for 8 members of the staff over the years, which has helped them gain experience and enable them to provide for their families.

So I therefore wanted to say a big final thank you to all of you, who have contributed and supported our project, this may have been by giving a donation, or baking a cake, giving us your jumble, making sweets, attending or helping out at our events such as coffee mornings, the fashion show, band nights, jumbles sales and helping clear up afterwards! We could not have done it without you.

Asante sana - Thank you very much
Sarah Henshaw

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JESSICA

Tring Parish Men's Society

ON 5th May members of the Society had a private tour of Frogmore Paper Mill (FPM) at Apsley. This historic complex includes a working heritage paper mill, an education and training centre working closely with local schools, a research and development centre, and a business centre with 34 small units let. There is also a visitor experience with audio-visual presentations, and demonstrations of hand paper making and traditional letterpress printing. The FPM was one of five paper mills between Two Waters and Kings Langley originally powered by water from the River Gade. The other four were owned by John Dickinson but the FPM was always independent and historically the most important. Our guide, Peter, told us that the world's first mechanical paper mill was installed at the FPM by the Fourdrinier Bros in 1803.

Previously, paper could be made only by hand. Similar machines were subsequently installed all over the world. The mechanisation enabled paper to be made much more cheaply and gave rise to mass communication of knowledge to the people with very important social and economic consequences.

Peter explained that the raw material could comprise anything with a cellulose structure, such as cotton, linen, previously used paper, and even banana skins (the fruit going to the elephants at Whipsnade). This material is reduced to a fine pulp comprising 99% water with impurities removed and any dye added at this stage. The pulp is then rolled out on a wire mesh and finely adjusted further rollers set the thickness required. The pressed pulp is then passed through a series of steam filled rollers, which dry it and turn it into paper. A film of china clay is added to produce glossy paper. The FPM uses recycled paper, particularly from local schools - this can be recycled up to five times before it loses its cellulose structure.

We then inspected the letterpress printing machines and were given a demonstration of typesetting by hand with each letter cast on a separate piece of metal. This method is essentially the same as that invented by Gutenberg around 1450. The printing firm at the FPM produces small numbers of Parliamentary notices ordered by the House of Commons.

The valuable and ongoing project at the FPM will cost some £18m, of which £9m has been raised so far. Much more fund raising is now required, including £1m to match a promised Heritage Lottery Fund grant. **Martin Wells**

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Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 50 Easy

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

Another straightforward puzzle you can make a start with the 7's and 9's on the right hand side and you are away.
Solution on page 18

FIRST STEPS PRE-SCHOOL, LONG MARSTON

Places are available for children between 2½ and 5 years old.

We are open 4 mornings a week from 9.15am to 11.45am
We have a great team of Fully-Qualified Staff
Lunch Club on Tues & Fri: 11.45am – 1.15pm
For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact our Playleader: Teresa Giddings on 07925 185311

LONG MARSTON BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Everyone Welcome. Come And Meet Some New Faces:
Wednesday mornings (term time) 10-11.30am
Victory Hall, Long Marston
£1.50 per child (50p additional children over 1 year)
Vicky Hayes 01296 661586

Marsworth Pre School

Opening Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
Sessions: 9.00am – 11.30am and 12.30pm – 3.00pm
Lunch club: 11.30am – 12.30pm
Children from ages 2½ to 5 years

Baby & Toddler Group every Tuesday 9:00-11:00am

Marsworth Pre-School on 07506 179658 or Tracey Kennedy on 01296 660973

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Ash Wednesday *by Lawless Kenn*

ON Wednesday April 14th I just happened to be on my way to the village store in Wilstone to buy some of Liz's lovely fresh bread and delicious ham when I bumped into my neighbour who was out cleaning his car. He asked me if I was having the same problems as he with film on the car. "I swear it's the volcanic dust," he said. "Surely you must have noticed it, or do you need to go to Specsavers?" I replied that I'd not noticed anything different and he seemed amazed. As it so happened I noticed two other neighbours car cleaning. Ah well, I thought. Maybe villagers are trying to impress HRH the former Queen of Wilstonia who usually passes by around this time in her vehicle and gives her fan hand wave. Of course some will do anything to gain brownie points. By the time I reached the shop my mind was wandering. Once inside I noticed the large variety of newspapers on display all showed headlines detailing 'The Volcano Ash Cloud invading our skies'. Whilst buying my goods I overheard people asking if others had seen the vac? Being polite I offered to supply a Henry or Hoover upright if the vac wasn't found. I was immediately ushered out and rushed home to make the sandwiches. What was going on?

Whilst eating I started reading the news in the papers and was now understanding people's concerns about the headlines regarding the ash cloud. Maybe it was causing the car cleaning craze. Who knows? Harula next door had mentioned that the air "seemed stuffy and muggy like". Well I never. Later in the day I was out walking the dog and heard a trucker mention that Alfie was out watching Sky at Night. Was this connected with the VAC? Her indoors complained about the cloud formation being hazier and also a difference in the air, saying it was stuffier! Things like this were mentioned by others in and around the village. And the news on the TV and radio mentioned nothing else. Ash, ash, ash.

Now incidents like this took place all week and when Friday night arrived this was another topic to discuss at the Half Moon, the famous eatery and watering hole in Wilstone. There we all sat at the Table by the Toilets; the Captain, Pete, Horatio and I. As sure as eggs are eggs the conversation turned to the Ash Cloud and the effects it had. We were re-educated fully that evening when Phillanderous assured us that this wasn't a one-off as Eyjafjallajokull had erupted before. What knowledge exudes from one person's beak is phenomenal. What a mouthful. A lot more than from Robbie of Madchester the Frighted, or Anne of Bay Leaves Steak and Kiddleye Pies. Now we respected his knowledge of eruptions as some of us experience many an eruption from our you-know-who's. Pete reiterated he was fed up washing the Ash off his car daily and stand-in for Yan, that well known Panto actress, said: "The problem is widespread". It was even mentioned that Deter Pean of Fean Darm Pegs had swapped his jet for a hellydopter in order to fly low on his ways in and out of Long Marston. Was he worried about the VAC? Or was he having a bash to avoid the ash? Who knows. Even Ash was leaving Coronation Street, was another comment. Chief Log Master David did say that customers were cutting back on log orders not wishing to add more ash to the skies.

Ben Nevis of Reeves suggested windows should not be left open at night especially. From his years in the field of battle he found sleeping with your mouth open could prove to be a gritty experience. Quite soon we learned that not all was doom and gloom and as far as some were concerned the ash was proving its worth. Take for instance Dave of Slab Tidyings. He was over the moon stating how it was saving him a fortune on grout in time and money. He said: "Take grouting for a start. Having an abundance of product available buckshee has enabled me to be more competitive and couple that with the damp weather the job is half done before we start in the mornings. It was suggested that the weather forecasters should be severely dealt with as we had had snow and ice recently without detection, and now grit from the VAC, which wasn't forecast either and which could have been collected and stored for later use thus saving money for local councils to grit our roads.

What effect this will have in the weeks to come is anybody's guess. It may however be around for longer than we think so it might be an idea to let *Village News* have your views. Maybe you have been disturbed by recent happening regarding the VAC. If so let the editor know. *LK.*

Long Marston Parent & Toddler Group

Do you have a youngster who is not yet at school? If so, why not pop along to Toddler Group at the Victory Hall?

We meet every Wednesday morning from 10am – 11.30am *during term time* and all children who are not yet at school, from newborns to active pre-schoolers, all are welcome. There is always a craft activity for the children to do and toys to play with, as well as somebody for you to talk to.

So if you find yourself at a loose end, in need of adult conversation and your children need to let off steam, why not come along. For £1.50 you can enjoy a morning of tranquility whilst the junior members of the family have fun in a safe environment.

Contact Vicky Hayes on 01296 661586 for further information.

Parish Council news

by Phil Buchi

New Councillor

Mrs Olli Wheeler-Cornell from Long Marston is the new Parish Councillor filling the vacancy left by the departure of Mrs Kim Deathe. She was sworn in at the May meeting of the Council and signed the register accepting her duties. Mrs Wheeler-Cornell was one of several people who expressed an interest in filling the vacancy. As no request to hold an election was received by the Parish Council (electors have to make a formal request to trigger a ballot) the process is that candidates are interviewed by a panel of Councillors who then make the appointment. Mrs Wheeler-Cornell has lived in the area for five years, previously at Bulbourne, before moving to Long Marston recently. She told *Village News* that she had come forward because she was interested in local government and wanted to make a contribution to the community. At the AGM of the Parish Council, Cllr Mike Tomlinson was re-elected chairman. Cllr Chris Griffiths continues as vice-chairman and Cllr Abby Fermont is chairman of planning.

No extra parking for Grange Road

A consequence of the failed affordable housing scheme in Wilstone is that additional parking spaces in Grange Road will not now be provided either. The extra parking spaces were to have been paid for by the developer, Aldwyck Housing Group, who abandoned the site in March after walking away from their contract with Dacorum Borough Council. In a letter to the Parish Council, James Doe, Head of Housing at Dacorum, said that DBC did not have any control over the decision of the chosen developer. They had now offered the contract to two other developers of affordable housing who had until the end of May to respond. In the meantime the site had been properly fenced, and arrangements would be made for its maintenance. Ownership of the land had reverted to Dacorum. The reason given by Aldwyck for walking away - the high water table and the cost of storm water disposal - still does not ring true with those connected with this project, which was after all, five years in the planning.

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Dog mess posters

FIVE children from Long Marston School have produced colour posters illustrating the problem that dog mess is causing in the villages. Councillors agreed that these were all much better than the official notices and awarded each child a book token as a prize. The posters will be reproduced and used around the parish in the hope of encouraging some careless dog owners to be more responsible and bag it up. The Council has also bought two poo-bag dispensers, and will supply free bags for a trial period. One of the dispensers is already in use at Wilstone village hall (on the front wall) and the second will be fitted at Long Marston village hall.

Wind test

PLANNING approval has been given for a temporary mast 80 metres high to be erected in Aylesbury Vale to gather data for a possible renewable energy project using wind turbines. Cllr Abby Fermont had been to see the experimental station at Kings Langley, and reported that there is likely to be a planning application to construct eight wind turbines in the Vale if the test data proved the case. Each turbine can produce electricity to power 1,000 homes, and will be fed to the national grid. There is an open day at the experimental station at Beaufort Court, Kings Langley (by the M25 viaduct) on Saturday 19th June if anyone wants to go and see these things up close. Open from 11am to 4pm. *See article 0n page14.*

Your Parish Councillors are:

Mr Michael Tomlinson (Chairman) 01296 661 311
Mr Chris Griffiths 01296 668 257
Mr Alan Winfield 01296 668 977
Mrs Abby Fermont 01442 825 352
Mr Nick Murrell 01296 668 190
Mr Peter Foster 01442 825 282
Mrs Jill Finlan 01296 661 716
Mrs Olli Wheeler-Cornell

The Clerk to the Council is:
Mrs Dawn Slade 01442 824 138
Email: clerk@tringruralpc.org.uk
***The Village Warden is*:**
Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822 031

Parish Council website: **www.tringruralpc.org.uk**

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

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Wind farm coming our way…?

by Abby Fermont

RES, the renewable energy company based in Kings Langley, has been awarded planning permission for an 85m meteorological mast to be placed on farmland between Long Marston and Wingrave.

Having objected to the initial planning application, I was invited on a tour round their company office, which is set up as a renewable energy model. It's certainly impressive. The wind turbine you may have seen near Junction 20 of the M25 powers their office. At 60 metres it's much smaller than the ones planned for Wingrave, as they will be 85 metres at the hub (i.e. the blades will reach much higher). RES also have solar panels and an underground heat store, so they can gather the power in the summer and use it through the winter. A local farmer grows the energy crop 'Miscanthus' or 'Elephant Grass' which is baled, shredded and fed as required into the biomass boiler, again providing heating for the building.

An aerial view of the RES site at Kings Langley

RES say the meteorological mast near Wingrave will be put up in June, and as well as measuring wind speed it will also monitor background noise. From this data RES will be able to decide where they can place their planned eight turbines for the site for which further planning application will be required.

According to Amy Bambridge (Community Relations Manager), who showed me around, RES will be conducting consultations in the local area to inform residents about their plans. They have arranged for a firm of design consultants to assess various 'viewpoint locations' - to try and ensure that the turbines look good from all angles I guess as there's certainly no hiding eight 85 metre plus turbines! The turbines also need to be at least 800 metres from houses and avoid power lines and footpaths. There will also be an environmental study done to ensure that there are no rare birds nesting on the site, although Amy told me that recent studies showed that birds were less affected by wind turbines than originally thought.

On the renewable energy side, I'm informed that each turbine is capable of powering 1,000 homes – so the Wingrave site would produce the energy required for 8,000 homes per year. This energy goes straight into the National Grid for use countrywide; it is not used for local energy requirements. I did ask if local residents would receive any reduction in energy bills but the answer to this is 'no – sorry'.

I also asked how long a turbine is expected to last and the answer is – 25 years. Apparently planning consent is usually for the same period of time at the end of which the company are required to remove them or reapply for planning permission.

Concerned as to how these huge pieces of equipment will be transported to the site – I asked Amy whether any new roads would have to be built. At the moment nothing is decided on this but the intention is to come off the A418 and access the site using a combination of upgrading the existing farmers' tracks and possibly, if needed, the creation of some new tracks on site (but these would be quite rough - certainly not of normal "road" standard and designed to take up as little land as possible).

Finally, I showed Amy an article from the Daily Telegraph which stated that wind turbines never produce the amount of energy they are supposed to and that it is questionable whether this is worth the impact that they have on the landscape. Amy told me that the actual calculations of how efficient wind turbines are is quite complicated (and I didn't want to go into that!) but it is apparently impossible for wind turbines to be 100% efficient, the maximum they could ever be is 50% efficient and all the figures are worked out on 30% efficiency. So the turbines at Wingrave would power 8,000 homes working at 30% efficiency.

The Daily Telegraph article quotes Dustin Benton, senior policy officer at the Campaign to Protect Rural England as saying that although they were in favour of renewable energy development, such as wind power, it was vital that such schemes got 'maximum wind gain for our landscape buck.' He went on to say that the subsidy system for renewable energy projects was 'blind to the impact on the landscape and the importance of beauty and tranquillity'. The question for us is then, what is our landscape worth? Is it more important to have the beauty and the tranquillity, or the power for 8.000 homes? Something to think about before RES put in their planning application for the wind farm itself.

Anyone interested in having a look around RES's facilities, are invited to attend their **Open Day** which is being held on Saturday 19 June 11-4 pm. Details can be found at www.beaufortcourt.com where there is also a lot more information about their renewable energy ideas.

Is this what is coming our way?

Ashridge hosts Hospice's annual garden party. Bank holiday fun for all the family

IT'S Bank Holiday weekend and you need to entertain the kids! Have you got anything planned? Why not get the kids involved in learning how stilt walk, have their faces painted and enjoy a Punch & Judy show, whilst you relax with a pint of beer from Tring Brewery or do some retail therapy at the variety of stalls! The Hospice of St Francis is holding its annual Ashridge Garden Party on Sunday 30th May between 2pm-5pm at Ashridge Business School in the beautiful Ashridge estate. It's a rare opportunity to browse in the gardens which are rarely opened to the public. Tickets are priced from just £4 if purchased in advance or £5 on the day.

There is plenty to entertain the younger members of the family, they can try their hand at circus skills at the Alight Fingers circus workshop, use up some energy on the Bouncy Castle and enjoy traditional Punch and Judy shows throughout the afternoon. There are also fun stalls in the Kids Zone to keep everyone happy including face painting, decorating a cake or gingerbread man, plus a treasure hunt to take them around the garden.

Adults can browse a wide variety of stalls selling crafts and plants such as Italian hand painted ceramics by Cia Ceramica, mosaics by JA mosaics, Apple & Sage jewellery, Berkhamsted based Fennel delicatessen will be selling its products and local wine will be available by Frithsden wine.

When you are ready for a rest there is a fabulous choice of refreshments including hot food, cream teas, local beer and refreshing Pimms, plus a special refreshments stall in the Kids Zone. The Jolly Jazzers jazz band will add to the party atmosphere throughout the afternoon, so do come and join us, it a great way to help raise vital funds for the Hospice of St Francis.

The Hospice of St Francis cares for people from Dacorum, St Albans, Harpenden, Markyate, Chesham, Amersham and the surrounding villages. It is the only inpatient unit with special facilities that allow patients to be cared for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It also helps patients who are seriously ill at home and in day hospice but needs to raise more than £3.3 MILLION every year. See www.stfrancis.org.uk for more information.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at £4 per adult from any of the Hospice of St Francis shops or from the Hospice main reception located off Shooters Way . Entrance on the day is £5 per adult. **Children under 16 are free.**
If you would like any more information about the Garden Party please email or call 01442 869555
For directions to and information about Ashridge Business School visit http://www.ashridge.org.uk
For further information regarding the **Hospice of St Francis** please call Abbi Langan. Tel: 01442 869555 or email abbi.langan@stfrancis.org.uk

Not only steam at Marsworth

The Isetta 'bubble car' at a previous Marsworth steam rally. (Picture: Village News.)

THERE is more to see than just steam engines at the Marsworth Steam Rally, this year to be held on Sunday 20th June at Startops End. Although the rally now attracts a big line up of big engines from all over the area, there are also dozens of vintage vehicles including cars, lorries, busses, motor cycles and tractors. Our picture shows one of the smallest exhibits from a previous year: a diminutive Isetta 'bubble car' made by BMW from 1954 to 1962. This quirky one-door three wheeler was ahead of its time as a cheap and economical town car, popular with young people because you could drive it on a motorcycle licence. Using a motorcycle engine driving the rear wheel it featured a full sun roof (used less steel) and an ingenious linkage which allowed the steering wheel to be swung clear for the driver to get in. I seem to recall that they had a motorcycle style kick-start and no reverse gear (am I right about this?) so needed a passenger to get out and push back, but would fit into a tiny parking space sideways. I think they could be rolled rather easily too if careless with cornering. I'm told the drill was to keep you head in and the momentum would carry you right over and back on to three wheels - or did someone make that up?

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The agricultural story line… *by David Mead*

'Gliders in hayfields' puzzle solved

SPRING arrived at last. Daffodils, wild plum and blackthorn blossom all competing for the attention of surviving bees. It's meant the jobs on the arable side - fertilising, weed control etc. - were late and we're told must be done at a certain growth stage. Thanks to modern machines Chris has battled on and has found time to spray some weeds on a polo field, Berkhamsted Way.

At the beginning of May, Simon with Chris and Jenny had four days at Earl's Court at the National Food Fair. It's the place to make contacts, size up the opposition, look out for new ideas, meet customers and find out that a proportion have gone to the show for a free lunch. There were seven other rapeseed oil producers but Simon was the only one doing flavoured oils: smoked, lemon, thyme, basil etc. I know there are plans 'in the pipeline'.

Simon exhibiting at the recent National Food Fair at Earl's Court

I made an enquiry in the last edition of *Village News* about gliders in hay fields. The story was read via the internet version of the magazine by Pat and George Bishop. They know someone who knows. I think the internet should be strained to store all their knowledge. Anyway, on the side of the road between Puttenham Canal Bridge and Puttenham, Chris Lear has some corn silos. Well, it happened in that field. A decoy airfield to distract attention from nearby Halton and Cheddington airfields. I know there was another arrangement in between Thistlebrook Farm and Aylesbury. Well, they worked.

I was talking to a customer over a heap of top soil when the High Speed Rail Link was mentioned. His mother has been notified that the line is going in a tunnel under her shop in Chesham. Remembering what happened at Heathrow and Gerrards Cross when tunnels under construction collapsed, decisions will have to be made.

The sheep shearers are due. A New Zealand gang who fit ours in between tea breaks while they do Tom and Sophie Leache's in Ivinghoe. There is talk that the wool might be worth something this year. I had to take it to a collecting point outside Chearsley last year.

I'm looking out my baggy shorts, socks and sandals and knotted handkerchief hat for 6th June. Now where did I put that special shirt, my favourite? There'll be some Watney's Red Barrel to drink no doubt. There should be Chalet No. 213 somewhere behind the hall. That's where the best parties happen. It doesn't matter if it rains - we will have Phil's and Stephen's knobbly knees to judge. Hi De Hi campers!

(No Grotney's Red Barrel, only Tring Brewery Jack O'Legs & Fosters Lager but at 2010 prices! Ed.)

WEST HERTS AGAINST CRIME (WHAC) offer FREE home security checks for your property. They check security on doors and windows as well as surveying sheds, garages and boundaries. While at the property they will also carry out free Home Fire Safety Checks on behalf of Herts Fire & Rescue Service and fit free smoke detectors. In addition to the free surveys, WHAC will supply and fit security equipment free of charge for those who qualify as vulnerable (over 60s, disabled, lone parents, repeat victims of burglary, victims domestic violence, race or hate crimes). To book your free survey call West Herts Against Crime on 01923 801138.

I am still receiving a large number of messages about phone 'scams' and cannot put out OWL messages to cover them all. I apologise if I am repeating myself, but please advise watch members to **'never'** reveal credit card details to phone callers who say they are from the banks or other companies. The banks do of course already know these numbers (especially the three security numbers on the rear of the cards) These three numbers are the ones they require to steal money from bank accounts. Many different 'ploys' are used to try and get hold of these numbers so please be especially cautious!
If you need to reply by email click on my address here: andy.reynolds@herts.pnn.police.uk

Regards,
Andy Reynolds

Watch Liaison Officer
Neighbourhood Watch

Pre-School News

WE held our AGM at Pre-school at the end of April, shortly before the country cast their votes and, because we are a parent-led pre-school, all the parents had the opportunity to stand for election. In the event, it was a unanimous decision and Vicky Hayes took over the mantle as Chair from Sally Smith who had held the post for the previous 2 years. Also retiring were the treasurer, Carolyn Pankiw, and the fundraising co-ordinator, Emma Brough. All were thanked by Vicky for their hard work and contribution to the continued success of First Steps Pre-school.

Melanie Williams has been appointed as the new Treasurer, and Kathy Sartin was re-elected as Secretary for another year. There is currently a vacancy for fundraising co-ordinator although several parents were heard to murmur 'I'll help with that'. Needless to say, the children noticed no difference as the pre-school staff ensure that the ship continues to sail smoothly.

Happy giggles and laughter are regular sounds as the children explore, amongst other things, the way earth feels beneath their fingers and wonder at the way in which plants grown from seeds. Paul Jackman kindly brought in some runner bean seedlings which the children have taken home and planted immediately, waiting with great anticipation for growth! The children have also been watching the development of frog spawn into tadpoles thanks to Patricia Smith who regularly brings in a bucket of rapidly growing creatures. The staff are just left wondering who will have to catch them when, as frogs, they jump out of the bucket!!

Our collection of Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers is growing and we are well on our way to obtaining the gardening equipment that has been chosen as this year's target. Thank you to everybody who has contributed to this, and please continue to collect the vouchers for as long as the scheme runs. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

First Steps Pre-School is held at Victory Hall, Long Marston every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.15am – 11.45am during term time, with lunch clubs on Tuesday and Friday until 1.15pm. We welcome all children aged between 2½ and 5 and as a result many children stay with us until they 'cross the road to big school'. If you would like to know more about Pre-School, come and look round, or put your child's name on our waiting list, please contact either Teresa Giddings, pre-school leader, on 07925 185311 (during pre-school hours) or our Chair, Vicky Hayes, on 01296 661586.

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Recipe

by Anna Ashwell

Rhubarb Pastry

With rhubarb in the shops again here is an alternative way to serve it. The end result is similar to a large Danish pastry.

Ingredients:

- 1 x 375g (13oz) sheet of ready-rolled, all-butter puff pastry
- 1 large egg yolk
- A pinch of salt.

Topping:

- 500g (18oz) rhubarb cut into 3cm (1¼ in) pieces
- 150g (5½oz) caster sugar
- Juice of ½ a lemon
- 15g (½oz) unsalted butter
- 2 tsp arrowroot or cornflour
- 8 fresh lemon balm or mint leaves, chopped

Method:

Place the rhubarb, sugar and lemon juice into a stainless-steel saucepan, and cook until soft and pulpy. Then strain well, keeping the juices.

Trim the pastry into a circle, roughly 23-24cm (9-9 ½ in) in diameter. You can use a dinner plate as a template. Lay the pastry on a baking sheet, then carefully, using a sharp knife, cut an incision about three-quarters through the pastry, about 1cm (½ in) in from the edge all round. It's best to have the pastry as cold as possible when carrying out this task. Then prick the inside of the pastry well with a fork, and put to chill again.

Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas mark 6

Mix the egg yolk and salt together well and glaze the edge of the pastry, taking care not to fill in the incision or run over the edge too much (which would stop the pastry from rising evenly).

Once the rhubarb is strained, spread evenly onto the pastry base, keeping away from the incision. Bake for about 20-25 minutes. The pastry will glaze well and the outside will rise and hold in the rhubarb.

Strain the rhubarb syrup into a saucepan and add the butter, then bring to the boil. Once the butter has melted, thicken the sauce with the arrowroot or cornflour, slaked first in a little cold water. The sauce needs to be fairly thick, but you may need to add a little more water if too thick. Finally add the chopped lemon balm or mint.

When the pastry is cooked, remove from the oven and immediately spoon over the warm glaze, including the pastry edges. Leave the whole thing to cool completely.

Cut into four slices, and serve with a large blob of clotted cream.

Credit for this recipe goes to Phil Vickery and it comes from his book entitled "Britain: the cookbook."

News from All Saints

WE had a very successful stall at Aldbury May Fair and thanks to everyone who donated prizes and also helped on the day.

Sunday, 20th June MARSWORTH STEAM RALLY - a date for your diary. Again we are providing refreshments. It's a long day, 10.30 to 5pm, and there are always lots of cups of tea and pieces of cake to be served. CAN YOU HELP US either by providing cakes (home made of bought) or by giving an hour or two of your time to help with serving on the day? It is good fun and the rally is really worth attending.

Don't forget Toddler Worship Mondays 7th and 21st June, 2 – 3pm, Sunday Club 10am 27th June. Social Afternoon will take place on Tuesday 29th June at
2pm – tea and biscuits in
Church.
Everyone welcome so please join us.

Sudoku solution No50

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

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GUGGS Mugs

by Andy Ashwell

HAVING read in the March edition of the Village News about our failed fishing expedition on the reservoir, Neil Williams, an avid local angler, contacted me to offer some help. He suggested that we try the canal instead of the reservoirs and even claimed that "at the moment it's difficult *not* to catch gudgeon, perch & roach if you have half-a-clue what you're doing!" Although neither Florence nor I had even 'half-a-clue' I decided to accept his kind offer and arranged to meet up.

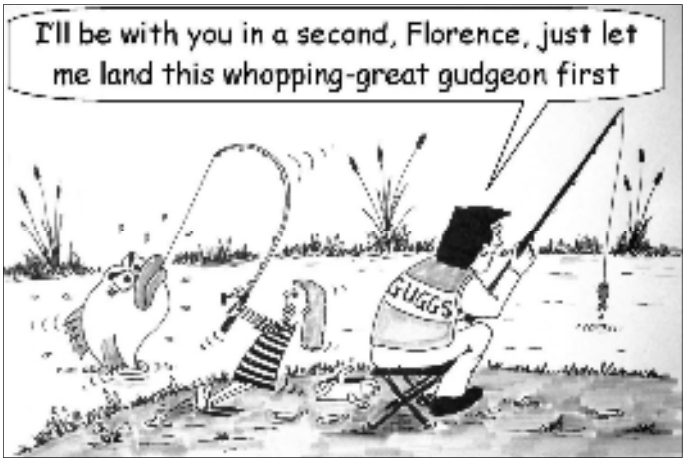
Neil agreed to supply all the gear, so all that Florence and I had to do was to turn up and learn from the maestro. I packed some snacks and drinks, a couple of collapsible deckchairs and my rod licence and we set off for Wilstone. We met Neil in the car park where, as promised, he had all the gear which included a pretty, pink rod for Florence.

As we walked to the canal Neil oozed confidence and assured us that the fish would be literally jumping out of the water and onto our hooks. I wasn't so sure about our chances but was quite happy to tag along and be proved wrong; Florence didn't care either way and was content just to carry her 'girly' fishing rod. We set up camp in a spot allegedly teeming with fish. Gudgeon was our prime target and as Neil showed us how to set up the line and load the maggot onto the hook, he enthused about GUGGS, the local gudgeon-catching club with its main aim: to catch gudgeon.

So in went our baited hooks with a handful of tasty maggots for company and we braced ourselves for the inevitable fish-fest. Forty minutes and many more handfuls of maggots later we were still waiting for our first bite. It hadn't been all bad news, though, as there had been two brief moments of unexpected excitement: Florence somehow managed to tangle her line so badly that Neil eventually had to cut off the hook; then Neil caught what he thought was a large crayfish which turned out to be nothing more than a rotten old twig. It was around this point that I began to wonder whether there was more than an element of truth in the rumours of fishermen making wild and exaggerated claims about their fishing prowess.

"I can't understand it," sighed Neil for the umpteenth time. "We should have had loads by now." So he got out his extra-long, extra-special, retractable rod, attached a nice fresh, wriggling maggot and cast over to the other side of the canal. Almost immediately he had a bite on his hook and a huge look of relief on his face. It wasn't a gudgeon but a lowly rudd instead. A rudd, just by not being a gudgeon, is considered by the GUGGS fraternity to be a 'nuisance fish'. Florence and I didn't care what sort of fish it was (or wasn't, for that matter) – at least it was a fish and I took a photo of it just in case it was the only fishy thing that we caught all day. Then, as Neil handed his prize catch to Florence, it jumped out of his hands and into the box of maggots, scattering them everywhere – the most excitement of the day thus far.

Florence enjoyed collecting the far-flung, red and white maggots because they tickled her fingers and as she did so we suddenly realised that Neil had caught his fish with a red maggot. We immediately swapped our useless white one for a juicy red one and, hey presto, within a matter of seconds we too had caught ourselves a fish. Ours was a gudgeon and it weighed an impressive 16g. After that there was no stopping us: a 51.2g perch was next, several rudd and numerous more gudgeon soon followed, including one that weighed 18.2g – the best 'proper' fish of the day.



After having caught virtually nothing in the first hour we ended up with a total of 14 fish in all: Florence's 8 to Neil's 6. To be fair, Neil did do most of the catching but Florence did do most of the 'putting back' because she enjoyed the 'plop' as they dropped into the water.

Florence is now an honorary member of GUGGS with her 18.2g gudgeon (classed as something between a goblet and a clonker – see www.GUGGS.net) and is presently ranked 22nd out of 26 on the 2010 list. Neil, on the other hand, recently caught a club-record of 44.5g which he named Hermione. But, despite their proficiency, they both have a long way to go to beat the UK gudgeon record of 140g. Even though our fish were all rather small, we had a marvellous time and thank Neil for his time and enthusiasm.

And, of course, there was the one that got away: it was absolutely enormous – but, there again, nothing makes a fish bigger than *almost* being caught.

jazzercise

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Trees & birds

FOR many years my family and I have lived in the country and enjoyed all of the wildlife that lives here. Over the last few years there has been a decline in some species and others have thrived as our ways of living and farming have changed. Many people feed birds and mammals and provide shelter for hedgehogs and bees in order to help them. Some farmers change the ways in which they plant crops, trim hedges and leave unsown areas around the edge of their fields to assist the wildlife.

Last year a work colleague, who has visited us many times with his family enjoying the walks, cricket matches and fishing, decided that they loved the area so much they would move here from their house in the London suburbs. Their children loved the extra space at home and my wife helped them to fill their garden with pretty shrubs then we all helped to dig a pond.

Imagine our surprise, upon visiting a short while ago to have lunch in the garden, when we were told that they intended to cut down three beautiful trees that grew alongside their garden because 'they cut out the light and will cast shade on the patio area'. Not only that, but they wanted to remove all of the ivy that grew over the trees. After long discussions, not all of them amicable when I tried to explain that neat, suburban houses belonged just there, in the suburbs and not in the Country, they pointed out that they wanted more sunshine in their garden, I tried to explain why trees and ivy are so important to our wildlife. The trees provide food and shelter for small mammals and birds through out the year and many have harboured nesting sites for generations of British birds, as for ivy berries they are often the only natural food available to them in a hard winter. Without these many of our indigenous birds like thrushes would starve. After a lot of talking and a few bottles of wine we all calmed down and agreed that the best solution would be to top out some of the tree branches, which would allow more sunshine into the garden and leave the ivy where it was. At this point a great tit helped itself to a nut from the feeder and flew into the ivy, possibly to a nest, I couldn't have staged it better myself!

Now all I have to do is help build the patio - well that's what friends are for isn't it?

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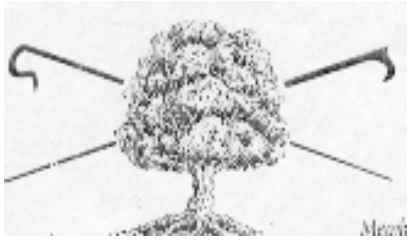

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The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

FRIENDS OF PUTTENHAM CHURCH

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FRIENDS OF PUTTENHAM CHURCH

FINAL REMINDER…..

JUMBLE SALE……Saturday, 29th May.

2.00 p.m.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, PUTTENHAM

SUNDAY, 30th MAY - 10 a.m.

Team Service for Trinity Sunday

Followed by a walk, then a B.Y.O. picnic and children's games in churchyard.

MAY-DAY REPORT - Well over sixty people gathered to welcome in the 1st May, and enjoy a hot breakfast in Cecilia Hall. "Thank you" to everyone who donated most generously.

LOST/FOUND: Following the event, a pair of black gloves was found in the road outside Ivy Cottage – Were these yours? Please contact Christine.

From the Rectory

by Rev'd Jo Wetherall

YES, **I do** like to be beside the sea side

Like many people some of my happiest child hood memories are from sea side holidays.
Holidays were magical times filled with once a year treats - milkshakes in Fortes cafe, lighting the candle lamps in the winter gardens at Bournemouth, the end of the pier show (I once won a plastic Sooty puppet and a box of smarties!) dripping ice creams, sun oil, push penny machines... I loved everything about holidays especially the sea itself and remember my parents having to haul me out shivering and purple as I protested that I needed yet another five minutes.

I have never lost my delight in the sea side re-living my own happy memories through our daughters as they discovered their own wonders of rock pools and body boarding.

Now that we no longer have to pack up buckets and spades, windbreaks and all the other paraphernalia of a family day at the sea, visits to the coast have changed, they have a simplicity to them which has helped me find a real spiritual depth to the sea side.

Old habits die hard and I still go with an appropriately striped and oversized beach bag stuffed full with good intentions - sometimes a sketch book, always a book to read and post cards to write and I never actually do any of it.

I have discovered the beach is no place to work, that the miles of beautiful deserted beaches of Northumberland and Norfolk are places where you can let your thoughts be carried away on the tide.
Sometimes I wander bare foot collecting the treasures the sea washes up, shells and pebbles and sea glass, but mostly I just stare, hypnotised by the beat of the waves, the rhythm of sea birds wings and their harsh cries.

I watch the sea change colour as clouds pass and gradually all the stresses and anxieties, the lists and activities stuffed into the corners of my mind begin to level out like the sand, and slowly but surely new treasures, new insights come drifting in with the breaking waves.

There is something in the provision of the sea, its power and the respect it requires that gives it a transcendent, God like quality for me. Beside the sea I have time and space to consider what things in my life have significance and beauty and what things are just about being busy and acquiring more stuff.

Yes, I do like to be beside the sea side and I still love to swim although these days it takes me as long to get in the water as it used to to get me out – unless we happen to be in the Med' !

Messy Church.

THE first Messy Church took place in St Cross on the 2nd May.
Aimed at, but not exclusively for families, some 45 people enjoyed a new way of coming to Church and finding out about the Christian faith –

It was a real joy to see so many children and teenagers in St. Cross all relaxed and getting involved

A few struggled to name all the bones on a diagram of the

human skeleton, but they were the adults, everyone aged 2- 70 enjoyed making playdough, people and finger painting and they certainly enjoyed the lovely buffet at the end of the afternoon.

Messy Church is the first Sunday of every Month from 4-5.30 p.m.
Our next Sunday will be June 6th

We have the same Sea Side theme as the Fete why not join us to continue the celebration and have tea – we will find a space to keep all your plants and tombola prizes safe!

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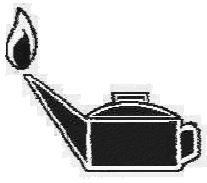

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Dawn Slade 01442 824138
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Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

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Deadline for items to go in the next issue is: Thursday 17th June 2010.

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

People: Thomas Montgomery

Herts Police

OUR local Police Community Support Officer, Thomas Montgomery, who also writes the Herts Police column for *Village News*, was at the Wilstone village shop recently for one of a series of 'police surgeries' being held in the villages. He explained that these surgeries are an experiment to help officers keep in touch with the community they serve. Various locations such as village halls are being tried, publicised in advance by posters. An officer will be present for a few hours at each event to talk to villagers and hear their concerns and priorities for policing. It is all very informal; no appointments are necessary. Just turn up and say hello.

Thomas has been a PCSO for three years and hopes to make a career in the police force, going on to be a Police Constable. He previously worked as a manager in the licensed trade, but says joining the police is the best job he has ever had. "It's a pleasure coming to work, and I really like my area around Tring and the villages", he said. Wilstone village shop has been the best venue for the surgeries so far, and he expects to do more there, courtesy of Liz Faulkner.

Villagers can approach Thomas and other officers while they are on the beat, or leave messages via the Herts Police non-emergency number 0845 33 00 22. Even better, using an impressive piece of technology, you can speak to him directly via his police radio when he is on duty. To do this call the special number **01707 354192**. An automated response asks you to speak the name of the person in full (e.g. 'Thomas Montgomery') and you are through. It works! We tried it.

Thomas Montgomery outside Wilstone village shop.
(Picture: Village News)

Hello All,
HOPE you are all well, as I look out the weather continues to get better which is fantastic news. Like last issue please remember the crime prevention advice for being **At Home/In the Garden/In the Car.**
I have held two police surgeries at the village shop in Wilstone, these have been useful as a few residents have popped along to see me, and so we will try a few more out and decide if it's something that is benefitting the residents. Our next surgery will be at the Long Marston Village Hall on Saturday 12th June from 10.30-12.00. Further times and dates will be available in the next newsletter. So if there is something you wanted to discuss please pop by. Again thank you to Liz and Mags for their help. A few residents have raised concerns over speeding in the village and drivers using mobile phones, please can you all ensure that we are paying attention to the speed limit and that we only use our phones when safely pulled over. We have and will be continuing to carry out mobile phone and speeding operations in the village.

At home:
- Lock all doors before you go out and when you go to bed, and ensure all windows are secure before leaving your home.
- If you have any UPVC doors, make sure you lift the handle AND use the key to lock it properly.
- Register your possessions on free online property database www.immobilise.com - it can help police return them to you if they are lost or stolen.

In the garden:
- Keep your shed securely locked by using a strong padlock as the bare minimum, and remember to lock your garden gate.
- Keep hedges and shrubs in your front garden below window-sill height to prevent a burglar having a 'screen' to work behind.
- ALWAYS put away any gardening equipment and tools when you've finished with them - a shovel could be just what a burglar needs to break in.

In the car:
- Don't leave any valuables in your car - even if you know the bag on the front seat is empty, a thief may still try their luck, leaving you with a broken window to deal with.
- Remove your sat nav and its holder from the car - don't leave it in the glove box as that's the first place a thief will look - and make sure you wipe away any suction marks.
- It may sound obvious, but remember to shut your windows and sunroof when you leave your car.

If you have any other questions or concerns and can't make a surgery please feel free to contact me anytime.
Enjoy the weather.

PCSO Thomas Montgomery
Tring Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

What's Up DOC-WRA?

Text and picture by Andy Ashwell

An alarming number of holes have been appearing in Long Marston recently. Are they the work of a certain Bugs Bunny or is it something much more sinister? We sent one of our crack reporters to investigate.

Spring is in the air

The answer appears to be related to the spring migration of the Thames Water Willow Warbler with its characteristic call so reminiscent of the sound of a pneumatic drill tearing up tarmac. The Warbler loves creating wet habitats in unexpected places, such as in the middle of the road, and adores visiting the same sites year after year.

Eau dear – Water Par-laver

In previous years there has usually been plenty of warning as to when the TWW-Warblers would be diverting water from our taps into their nesting sites. This year, however, they appear to have gained renewed confidence and have given no warnings to the local residents – just the gurgling noise of empty taps.

Eau revoir?

The holes have now been filled and the TWW-Warblers have returned to flood somewhere else in Hertfordshire. But never fear – they *will* be back!

VILLAGE VIEW

BY JOHN PAINTER

This is a view normally only seen by the birds. It shows the Half Moon and Tring Road, Wilstone from the roof of the Editor in Chief's house in Long Row taken during repairs to his chimney.