



June 2008

Your vibrant village magazine - delivered free to every home in Tring Rural Parish.

New village bus route 164

THE new bus route 164 serving these villages is a big improvement on the previous service. Operated by Redline on behalf of Bucks County Council, the straight-line route from Leighton Buzzard to Aylesbury running in both directions offers shorter journey times than the old 'circular' route and a timetable that makes more sense. It is now possible to visit Tring or Aylesbury in the morning, and get back in time for lunch, for example. There are still early morning services which get to Aylesbury in time for people to get to work there, or to catch trains to London.

As a bonus, the previously unknown delights of a trip to Leighton Buzzard are also available to us in the afternoons, giving enough time to visit friends and relations or sample the shops. The whole route is available free to senior citizens who hold one of the new 2008 bus passes. Bucks County Council fund this village bus service and if you haven't used it before you may like to give it a try. It would probably encourage BCC to continue with it if they had a few more passengers.

We have reproduced below the main times most likely to interest our readers. The full



Bus 164 leaves Wilstone at 1249 for Long Marston and Leighton Buzzard.

timetable is displayed at bus stops.

One example of the **afternoon service to Leighton Buzzard** (High Street) is: depart from Wilstone **1249**, Long Marston **1254**, arriving at Leighton Buzzard at 1320. Return services from Leighton Buzzard are at **1535** and **1630**. Journey time is approximately 30 minutes.

(Thanks to Jeff Rodwell for the information in this article.)

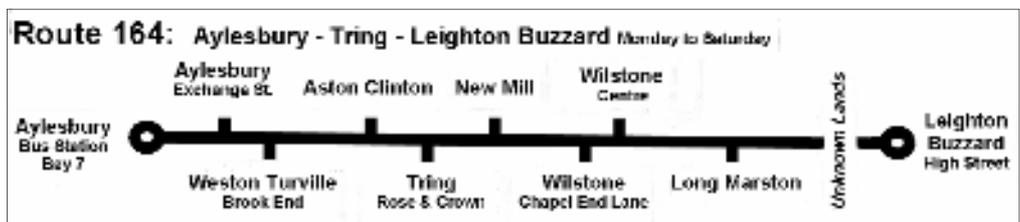
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- Let us have your item to feature here!

Service	Departs	Times - ns not on Sat - so Sat only							
To Aylesbury	L Marston	0646ns	0751ns	0807so	0930	1132	1600	1712	
	Wilstone	0651ns	0756ns	0812so	0935	1137	1605	1717	
From Aylesbury	Aylesbury					1215	1430	1645	1745
	Tring					1235	1450	1705	1809



Saturday 7th June 2008



WILDWEST WILSTONE VILLAGE FETE

Ride the
Rodeo Bull!

Kate and her
Dancing Dog
(a xmen friend
is that?)

Opened by
procession &
gunlight
1-5pm

& Fun
Dog
Show

All the favourite
stalls, games,
and BBQ!

Children's fancy dress
competition
Cowboys and Indians
Welcome!

Cowboy displays,
Can Can girls
and line dancing!

At Wilstone Hertfordshire - On the B489
between Iulghoe and Aston Clinton.
FREE PARKING - UP23 4PB

Village News

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It's that time of year again and this year Wilstone starts the season of fetes, fun-days, shows and other events that will be running throughout the parish for next few months. So keep your diaries at the ready and be sure to check our *Whats On* column for details.

I think many of this months contributors have already got into the mood and have produced a crop of entertaining and interesting articles. It good to see items by younger readers and we would like to see more.

However many of our articles have a more serious note and again we pick up (excuse the pun)on two of our more urgent social problems -litter and anti social behaviour.

Litter and the its more serious manifestation, fly tipping, is unlikely to helped by the impending closure of the Tring tip.

We continue to see improvements for walkers all over the parish with the replacement of the old wooden styles with metal kissing gates. These may not appear so rustic but are more easily negotiated by all. Well done to the footpaths people.

Deadline for items for our next edition (July) is Thursday 19th June 2008.

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

Let us know if we are not!

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Church services

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

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

1 June

10.00am All Saints All Age Worship
 6.30pm St Cross Evening Prayer
 6.30pm All Saints Evening Prayer

2 June (Monday)

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

8 June

8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion
 10.00am All Saints Holy Communion
 6.30pm St Cross Holy Communion
 6.30pm All Saints Evening Prayer

15 June

10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer
 10.00am St Cross Holy Communion
 6.30pm All Saints Evening Prayer

16 June (Monday)

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

22 June

10.00am All Saints Holy Communion and Sunday Club
 3.30pm St Mary's Evening Prayer
 6.00pm St John The Baptist Aldbury Team Evening Service

29 June

10.00am St Peter and St Paul, Tring Patronal Holy Communion



St Mary's Puttenham

Your friends and relations all over the world can read Village News on-line. Find us at

www.tringruralpc.org.uk and click 'Village News'
www.wilstone.me.uk and click 'Village News'

What's on...

Marsworth Steam Rally Sunday 15th June.

As in previous years we are providing the refreshments for this all day event. I would appreciate donations of cakes and any offers of help on the day.

Carole Harrison - 01296 668526 (Leave a message and I will get back to you).

LONG MARSTON AND PUTTENHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Children's

BIKE RIDE



Sunday 8th June 10.30am

Start & finish at the QUEENS HEAD - Entry Fee 50p

A PRIZE FOR EVERYONE WHO FINISHES

If you're new to this event -

It's a leisurely potter around the immediate area, which should take about 2 hours - with "clues" to entertain and a prize for all who finish. It's not a race, and the clues are designed for people aged 14 and under. Marking will be on the number of clues 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

MORE INFORMATION - MARGARET KAYE 01296 662975

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)

Sally Smith: 01296 661689

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)

The public are welcome to attend these meetings.

Wednesday 18 June, Wilstone village hall.

Wednesday 16 July; Puttenham Cecilia Hall.

Saturday 7 June

Wilstone village fete: Wild West Wilstone!

Sunday 8 June

Children's bike ride event.

Sunday 15 June

Marsworth Steam Rally.

Saturday 28 June

Midsummer Ball, Cheddington Village Hall.

Sunday 29 June

Family Games (Puttenham).

Saturday 5 July

Summer Ramble

Saturday 12 July

Family Fun Day 2-4 pm Wilstone Church Gardens

Tuesdays 29th July

Childrens Arts & Crafts Lm Village Hall pm

Saturday 4 August

Long Marston Annual Show.

Tuesday 5th, 12th & 19th August

Childrens Arts & Crafts Lm Village Hall pm

Sunday 10 August

St. Mary's Patronal Festival and fun day.

Saturday 6 September

Jumble sale at Puttenham (to be confirmed).

Saturday 13 September

Beds & Herts sponsored bike ride

26 - 28 September

Art exhibition at Tring School (FoTS)

Saturday 11 October

October Supper and Auction

Friday 17 October

Slide show Wilstone Village Hall

Saturday 1st November

DBC "Free Family Fun Day" 10am - 4pm, L. Marston

Tuesday 11 November

Remembrance Day Compline at St. Mary's.

Tuesday 16 December

Carols around the tree at Long Marston.

Times for mobile library

Thursdays, fortnightly: June 5th and 19th.

Tringford (Piggeries Pine)	11.10 to 11.30
Wilstone (The Half Moon)	11.35 to 12.35
Astrove (Astrove 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.

WILSTONE'S FANTASTIC FUN DAY

preview by Eileen Doley

OLDER-ish ONES: This year why not make this a really memorable event just for **YOU** and on **Saturday 12 July** sneak off a little early after lunch on your own, and be sure to arrive at Wilstone village church gardens right on the dot of **2 pm**. Why not make a point of picking up a home-made cake to amaze folk who just might later pop in unexpectedly that day for tea, not realising you've been out all the afternoon. Yes it is a juvenile game but why not even try yourself to Splat a Rat to serve on toast to satisfy the family pet - unless of course it happens to be a rodent itself. And to please the family cat even adults are encouraged to try a shot at the Ping Pong game to win a "jelly fish" - maybe not quite what your particular feline would enjoy!

With unexpected time on your hands and no juvenile distractions, there's the opportunity to really inspect the near antiques on the bric-a-brac table, with an eye to investment? Go on, you've seen all those shows on the box so why could it not be you in full magnificent close up at one of the TV auctions? And at last, metaphorically, put your feet up and enjoy a breather in the church gardens indoor mini restaurant area.

YOUNGER 'UNS: Thinking of coming to Wilstone's Family Fun Day this year? Well if you haven't been able to sneak off to a local casino lately, bring your pocket money along on 12 July, and you would not believe the outlets there where you can hazard a very very small wager. There's the **Number Board, Treasure Map, No. of Sweets in a Jar** (but if you win, remember your last visit to that *oh so friendly* local dentist, and share them out). And what about the always so popular **Money Game** where **EVERY** entrepreneur just **MUST** win, anything from as 1p to £1 for only 20p a shot.

And, here's a really tempting offer. If you bring a dog with you on Fun Day you can enter a **FREE RAFFLE**. Just come along with a dog, hopefully your own and write his/her name and your phone number on a ticket which will go into a draw, and you could win **£5!**. If you don't actually own a dog yourself, then borrow one, but we'll be logging its description so

PS: Oh, forgot to say all prizes will be declared at 3.50 pm!

THE HOT? BALL IS BACK!

Midsummer Ball

Saturday 28th June

Cheddington Village Hall

Champagne Reception with Canapés

Dancing to a live band playing ballroom, latin & modern music

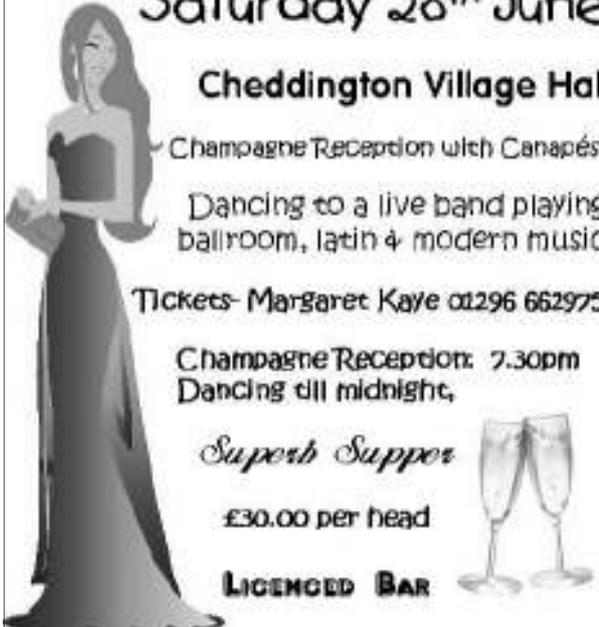
Tickets- Margaret Kaye 01296 662975

Champagne Reception: 7.30pm
Dancing till midnight,

Superb Supper

£30.00 per head

LICENCED BAR



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN OUTDOOR SPORT/LEISURE ACTIVITY?



CHEDDINGTON BOWLS CLUB IS A FRIENDLY YET COMPETITIVE MIXED CLUB, AND HAS VACANCIES FOR NEW MEMBERS. FREE TUITION GIVEN

FOR NEW MEMBERS WE OFFER A £20 REDUCTION IN MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2008

Please contact for further details without obligation:

NIGEL DOLTON (SECRETARY) 01442 824679
DAVID CHAPMAN (CAPTAIN) 01442 822109
EVE SHARP (LADIES CAPTAIN) 01296 668403

The Puttenham Page

THE PUTTENHAM TRUST

FAMILY GAMES

IN THE GARDEN OF

“OAKLEY HOUSE”

PUTTENHAM

(by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Kelland)

SUNDAY, 29th JUNE

from 2 p.m.

**Your annual chance to become a
“Champion” and win a medal !**

******* Fun for ALL the Family *******

**8 ‘Sports’ – Tea Marquee – Produce Stall
Wooden Horse Races**

MAY-DAY REPORT

WHAT a wonderful turn-out this year. So many people made that special effort and rose extra early to enjoy the May-Day singing and breakfast that followed, creating a fantastic atmosphere.

Our special thanks to The Ridgeway Chorale led by Richard Gylls, making it all possible and braving the very early morning by singing madrigals at 6am from the top of St Mary's tower to the enjoyment of those listening in the churchyard below. Afterwards over 50 people enjoyed a breakfast in the Cecilia Hall.



St Mary's Tower

Letters...

This is an edited extract from a letter to the Chairman of Tring Rural Parish Council about Tring Reservoirs Ed.

You have probably seen the recent press reports about the changes that are occurring at Tring reservoirs.

The reservoirs belong to British Waterways, however until recently the Rothschild Estates retained the ownership of the shooting and fishing rights. British Waterways have now acquired these sporting rights.



Angling, is now to be managed for British Waterways by two local groups.

Trout fishing at Tringford reservoir will continue very much as before but under the management of Mr David Wilkinson Phone 01296 632747, 07799 540001.

Coarse fishing on the other reservoirs Marsworth ,Startops and Wilstone will be controlled jointly by the Tring Anglers and British Waterways. Day tickets are available from the bailiff on the bank and night fishing season permits will continue to be available from British Waterways - email john.ellis@britishwaterways.co.uk or phone 01908 302556.

The Tring Anglers, are based in Tring, and have recently celebrated our 60th Anniversary. We are a small, friendly club, who take pride in our Junior activities. We hold regular Saturday afternoon teaching sessions, where youngsters are taught how to fish responsibly. A parent or guardian needs to attend but teaching, equipment and baits are all provided free.

Dick Pilkinton, Public Relations Officer The Tring Anglers. 01582 841985 RPilki6002@aol.com

Graham Thorpe recently complained to Thames Water concerning the unpleasant odours from the Sandbrook Lane pumping station and this is their reply so we all know now what to do! Thames Water can be contact at Thames Water Customer Relations P.O. Box 436 Swindon SN38 1TU

E-mail: Customer.Feedback@thameswater.co.uk Telephone 0845 9200800 (24 hours) Ed.

I am sorry to hear that this problem regarding odours from our pumping station is ongoing. The first report of odours here was early in November 2007, and was found to be due to a problem with the chemical dosing. This was rectified. Further foul odours have since been reported, and our engineers are investigating this matter further.

I would like to assure you that we realise the impact odours can have on our neighbours, and are taking this matter very seriously. A copy of your letter has been passed to the team investigating this, and we will endeavour to do all we can to minimise the risk of future odours.

Should the local residents ever notice any problems we would ask them to also contact us directly, as this gives us the opportunity to investigate the problem and check that our assets are working correctly. Our 24 hour Customer Centre number is 0845 9200800.

Thank you for taking the time to write to us about this.

Yours sincerely

Michelle O'Malley.
Customer Relations Thames Water.

Dear Editor

We would like to thank the people of Long Marston for being so friendly and helpful during our recent holiday in the village. Initially we were only going to stay for two days, but a stroke of luck meant that we had to extend our stay to just over three weeks.

Although our vacation was billed as an "archaeological working holiday digging for relics in an idyllic setting" there was in fact very little work for us to do. My friends and I slogged hard on the first day, digging holes here, there and everywhere and were lucky enough to unearth some very old and interesting pipe artefacts dating from the 18th Century.

Our reps from Thames Water Holidays told us to fill the holes with water to hide our treasure, put up a lot of red and white fencing, make some tea and guard the holes with our lives. So that's what we did...for three whole, lazy days. Our relaxing time ended abruptly when TWH asked us to extend our dig to a busy road junction in Aylesbury where some unusual free-flowing traffic had been discovered.

After two exhausting weeks of digging holes, stopping traffic, erecting red and white fences and drinking more tea we filled the holes, packed up our gear and headed back to Long Marston to resume our holiday and re-bury our treasure.

So thank you once again for receiving us with such friendliness and warmth. We look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

Fondest regards,

Walter Leaks.



In Brief...

CanCan costumes chosen

COSTUMES for the Wilstone Fete Cancan have been selected, and jolly fine they are too we are told. The troupe of local ladies who have daringly agreed to perform this once-banned dance will look splendid. We will certainly be seeing more of them than is usual, so don't miss the opportunity on Saturday 7th June. Boys and girls (and adults too) in Western costume can join them in the parade through Wilstone village. Be in place at the War Memorial by 12.45 and be part of the Wild West Wilstone show! Organisers say that everyone is welcome to join in.

Local farmer on medieval TV

DAVID MEAD, who writes our *Village News* Agricultural Story Line, recently appeared in the BBC TV programme "Christina: a medieval life", which followed the life of a small peasant farmer not far from here in the 1300's. In response to questions from well known TV historian Professor Michael Wood, David described how small farmers would have been affected by the disastrous rains and floods which culminated in the Great Famine of 1316. A number of Aberdeen Angus cattle had supporting parts in scene, with Simon and Chris Mead looking industrious in the background. This excellent programme must surely be shown again. If you missed it the first time it is well worth seeking out.

Bluetongue precautions

DEFRA have now made available a vaccine to protect against the Bluetongue virus for cattle and sheep in the official Protection Zone. Local animals are being vaccinated as Herts, Bucks and Beds are all in the revised Bluetongue Protection Zone. The virus is spread by the midge *Culicoides*, and the recent warm weather will have brought the midges out for another season. It does not affect humans, and there is no risk to public health. Bluetongue does have potentially serious consequences for ruminants: cattle, sheep, goats and deer can all be affected. The virus has spread gradually across Europe, directed by the prevailing wind and the flight of the midge. The first cases in the UK were reported last year though none of our local farms were affected. Farmers are hoping the new vaccine will prove effective. For more information see www.defra.gov.uk. (Also, *The Agricultural Story Line*.)

Tring Recycling Centre by Katie Barber

The powers that be in Herts. County Council are looking to close Tring Household Waste Recycling Centre in October this year. The decision has not been finalised yet, and for the next few months the County Council will be seeking views from local people and will collate these for a report to be presented on the **9 July**. Send your views in ASAP. The final decision is to be made on September 22 but your views need to be in by **9 July**.

Closure means to Tring and its surrounding villages that we will all have to travel to Berkhamsted HWRC to get rid of those extra items of waste. Tring HWRC is very efficient – the staff are friendly and always willing to help. It's received awards for its cleanliness and is convenient. However there are many reasons for them closing the tip, the main argument is the poor economic situation and that costs have to be cut.

Due to the busy lifestyle we all live people will not bother to dispose of their waste properly and will just fly tip and dump into the hedgerows, ditches, fields and any other unguarded space because they can't afford the time to travel further! However this is no great concern to Herts. County Council as the clear up costs of fly tipping are for Dacorum Borough Council incur – talk about every person for themselves!

I also feel that we should be following the policy of reduce, reuse and recycle. So what can you do? you can write directly to the powers that be to voice your opinion – every one will count – the more pressure that is put on the County Council, the more they will have to listen.

The contact address for the panel is:

Mr Ray Greenall
Head of Waste Management
County Hall
Hertford SG13 8DN



'April Showers' Wilstone 2008 Photo by Virginia Bailey

More In Brief...

Magazine Distribution

Wanted - Someone who would be prepared to deliver the Parish News, each month, to all the properties in Gubblecote from Great Farm to Gubblecote Farm (this does not include Lukes Lane).

Please Contact Carole Harrison
01296 668526 (Leave a message and I will get back to you)

Holiday care for dogs sort

Would anyone be prepared to look after our 2 very well behaved dogs on the odd occasion we go abroad? It is very rare, but we would be thrilled to find someone we could call upon if the situation arises.

They are lovely dogs, (one small and one medium sized), well trained and totally clean in the house. Happy to pay!
Tel. Fran on 01442 822351.

August Events

Please remember that there will not be an August edition of *Village News*, so make sure that any events for **August** are included in next months edition. Deadline for the July edition month is Thursday 19 June.

Double Trouble



These two delightful Jack Russell pups were born to Jasmine and are now 6 weeks old. Richard Mura helps them pose for the camera. (Picture: Village News)

Flamstead Scarecrow Festival

THE Flamstead Scarecrow Festival is now established as a must see annual event in Hertfordshire. This highly successful and very special three-day event in the picturesque village of Flamstead is extremely popular with its clever and creative Scarecrows.



Scary !

Every year the residents of Flamstead build over 100 scarecrows that are placed around the village. To join in the fun come along and collect a voting form and trail map at either the village hall or the car park for just £2.00. Then make your way round the village, listing your favourite scarecrows, then take your form back to the village-hall where there will be various attractions including Tombola, Cake Stalls, Refreshments, Puppet Shows, Face Painting, Bell Ringing and Morris Dancers to name but a few. There will be a Care Bus laid on to take anyone unable to walk around the village on the Scarecrow trail.

The proceeds are split between two charities - the Hertfordshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Letchworth and the Friends of St. Leonards in Flamstead. This year it will be taking place on Fri 15th, Sat 16th & Sun 17th August. The Festival takes place between 2.00pm - 5pm on Friday, 11.00am - 6pm on Saturday and 10.30am - 5.00pm on Sunday.

Come along for a fantastic day out for the whole family and help to raise money for these two very worthy charities.

Flamstead is just off the A5, South of Luton.

If you need any further information contact Charlotte at the Herts MS Therapy Centre Tel: 01462 684214 E-mail: charlotte@hertsmstherapy.org.uk

Visit our websites to see last year's scarecrows and to find out more about the Herts MS Therapy Centre and the Friends of St. Leonards www.flamstead-herts.co.uk & www.hertsmstherapy.org.uk



Heavenly Hat Hire
Cheddington, Bucks
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www.heavenlyhathire.co.uk

We stock over 500 hats and fascinators
in all sizes, shapes and colours.
Hire charges are
£10 - £15 for fascinators
and £25 - £35 for designer hats.
Telephone Carolyn on 01296 668494 to make
an appointment to view. Browsers welcome!

Parish Council News

AGM and election of officers

This was the opportunity to elect officers and a new committee to our council however trust was placed in the "old guard."

Mike Tomlinson was re-elected Chairman. Chris Griffiths elected as Vice-Chairman and Abbie Fermont as Chairperson of Planning. The rest of the committee were elected unopposed.

Affordable Housing

Aldwyck Housing has already made the successful bid for the development on land rear of Tring Road in Wilstone. However this is still subject to approval by Dacorum.

A visit was made by three council members to view the Chiltern Development in Northchurch being built by Aldwyck Housing. The company is using the same architect who will be supervising the work in Wilstone.

Council members were impressed by the quality of the work and found the company very approachable, cooperative and sensitive to the concerns of local residents. They came away reassured that they had made the right decision for Wilstone and the many families

waiting for affordable housing.

The level of demand is high. Currently there are 90 families seeking accommodation in the parish, in addition to 6 Wilstone families and 6 families from elsewhere within the Parish, making a 102 in total.

164 Bus Route

Information on this new route is written up within Village News. Residents will have already had prior notice of this as timetables had been displayed at bus stops. Not so in Long Marston! There appears to be no place to stick anything! Bus stop information boards appear not to exist. The council noted there was no bus shelter in Long Marston. If it was a cold, wet or windy day, refuge could be sought in the Queens Head. However one might be tempted to have a quick pint possibly leading to anti social behaviour on the bus - a bad image for the village!

I hasten to add this was not the view of the committee only that of your reporter.

Funds for 'Parish Go Extreme'

The Parish Council's project for young people, "Parish Go Extreme", has been given a big boost by an offer



*Michael
Armson (antiques) Ltd*

Mike & Diane Armson have now had the antiques shop in Wilstone for 15 years, and are always happy to advise or help anyone interested in buying or selling antiques. To get in touch phone 01442 890990 or 07860 910034.

armsonantiques@tiscali.co.uk

Our website is up and running and updated regularly.

www.armsonantiques.com

We are frequently on the premises, but to view the stock a prior phone call is definitely recommended.

*The Old Post Office
34 Tring Road
Wilstone, Nr Tring, Herts, HP23 4PB*

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Gates Supplied and Erected
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& Harrowing
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Alan Winfield

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Mobiles: 07803 058655 & 07778 919333

Email: ivy-cott@supanet.com

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New Inquiries Welcome.

by John Noakes

of funding from Dacorum Councillor Derek Townsend. Cllr Townsend has been so impressed with the project that he is to recommend to Darorum BC that his discretionary fund of £2,000 is allocated to it this year and next, potentially making £4,000 available. The 8 boys and girls who attended the last special meeting for young people had a lively discussion on which additional facilities were likely to be best used. They placed particular emphasis on good value for money, ruling out several attractive looking options because they were far too expensive to provide. Indeed, there were gasps when the quote they had requested for a skateboard park came in at a truly breathtaking £35,000. Not on, they said. Fortunately the top items on their list were more reasonable priced, and the meeting agreed that a five-a-side type goal frame would be provided at both Wilstone and Long Marston recreation grounds, and a basketball goal at Wilstone. (Long Marston has one already). Other possible additions are a double-twister and bird's nest swing. (Don't ask.) New quotes have now been obtained for the top items chosen by the young people. It was decided to apply for grants from Dacorum and Hertfordshire for these items in order to continue momentum to match the young people's enthusiasm.

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 Kim Deathe 01296 662 623

The Clerk to the Council is:

Mrs Dawn Slade 01442 824 138

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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Top brand pet foods and animal feeds.

Garden bird tables and bird food.

And have a break with a great cappuccino in
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comfortable surroundings of our restored
18th century barn.

Toasted sandwiches, salads
and ploughman's lunches.

Open 7 days

Lower Icknield Way, Wilstone Green

(01442) 828478

The Queens Head Long Marston

An appealing 16th Century coaching Inn that continues to retain that traditional pub atmosphere. With the original flagstone floor, exposed wooden beams and the open fire place, this is a comfortable place to spend time with friends when having a drink or a bite to eat. Our menu offers a choice of light bites or traditional pub grub sourced from local farms and butchers.

Jon & Beckie look forward to seeing you.



Richard Miller's open
mic night

last Monday of the
month.

Quiz night first Sunday
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Braving Borneo -The summer has begun!

by Max Baiden

WE are right back on track with the fundraising now after injuries for both Merle and I. This month, we are both trying to push on with our fundraising. We had a big meeting at school last month with loads of new ideas.

At school, an enterprise market has been set up, in which I have been participating. It happens every month on a Tuesday, just outside the canteen (for those who happen to go to Tring School). We are allowed to think of interesting ideas to raise money. There have been cake sales, Tombolas, Jewellery stalls and even homemade lemonade. These stalls all help a little bit towards our funds so its just another great way to get involved.

This month, both Merle and I have had our chef's hats on and have been busy baking cakes for a stall in Tring on 24th May. We are praying for long queues and fair weather. We'll let you know how we did next time. A big thank you to our mums, Belinda, Jenny and Sarah for their donations.

Sometime in the near future, we are going to have some practice for our community project. A group of us are going to get together at school to involve ourselves in a clean up project. This will include painting one of the toilet blocks and clearing rubbish around the grounds. We are trying to get some local businesses to sponsor us so if you happen to work for somebody who might be generous enough to offer us a few pounds, we'd really appreciate it.

On **22 June**, I will be doing a tennis marathon at Long Marston Tennis Club, playing non stop tennis for 12 hours, maybe I'll get a banana and loo break! I have already been lucky enough to receive lots of sponsorship from friends and family. The plan is to fill 48 fifteen minutes slots with a new player for me to hit with. We want everyone to get involved and have some fun. If you have time to spare on that Sunday, it would be great to see you. I am asking for a donation of £5 for each 15 minute session. I am prepared to hit gently and give you a bit of coaching - I'm not a bad player. I could even give you a good thrashing or maybe you could thrash me! Even if you don't want to play tennis, there will be a BBQ, a raffle, the court next door will be free to use and I will even lend you a tennis racquet. If you're 9 or 90, or any other age, please come and join in the community spirit. There are forms in the tennis club but if you can't get there, give me a ring on 01296 662097 and we can organise a time.

- Orangutan facts**
- ❖ Orangutans share 97% of the same DNA as humans.
 - ❖ Orangutans are the largest tree living animals in the world.
 - ❖ Orangutans live span ranges from 35-40 years.
 - ❖ Orangutans eat up to 300 fruits for their diet.
 - ❖ I really hope I get to see the orangutans.



Max ,Merle and the rest of the gang



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Long Marston: Dog fouling takes a turd for the worse

Vandals have now stooped even lower in their attempts to spoil the village. Sometime during the evening of Friday 16th May hooligans decided that it would be great fun to take the full doggy bags out of the bins and throw them at the sign and into the fenced play area. Several bags broke on landing spreading their fetid contents onto the grass where toddlers walk and babies crawl.



As if this wasn't enough to satisfy their sorry minds, they also dug several holes in the rubberised matting by the swings causing further risk to the very young. Of course, people may think (stereotypically) that it's yobbish youths who are to blame. But why would they do anything like this because it will do nothing to help them or their case for the Youth Project funding and hence more facilities.

So, whoever it was, if you're reading this please have a thought for others in the village, especially the very young and vulnerable, and remember it's your village too.

Wilstone: Giant wasp's nest

This huge wasps nest is over 3 feet across and was formed in an outbuilding at Wilstone Great Farm. The delicate design is beautiful, with the basic pattern repeated hundreds of times. How do they do it?



What a Whopper

Picture Mrs Teresa Mead.

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Littery Walk

by Andy Ashwell

HAVING abandoned carrying Florence in the backpack on health grounds I have taken to using the pushchair again to get to the Wilstone playgroup. Unfortunately this forces me to use the roads rather than the footpaths for obvious reasons. On my way to the playgroup the other week, whilst walking along Astrope Lane, I was struck by the amount of litter that was lying by the side of the road and in the hedgerows.

I remembered reading last year that the local litter pickers found some stolen silver in a hedge, so I started to daydream about what interesting or valuable artefacts might be lurking in the bushes or at the bottom of a ditch. Having assumed that most of it was jetsam from frantic, high-speed commuters on their important journeys to and from work, I was surprised to see what appeared to be a disproportionate amount of beer and cider cans in the mix.

As I was planning to take the same route the following week I decided that, instead of just looking and tutting at the rubbish, I would collect it, recycle it and check to see if the apparent excess of beer cans was indeed true.

So the next week, armed with some carrier bags and Florence's trigger-operated crocodile-on-a-stick to act as an improvised litter-picking device, we set off on our mission. We waved at the obligatory Thames Water men who were back in Cheddington Lane and headed down Astrope Lane in search of untold riches. The "crocodile" worked very well for two crisp packets and a sweet wrapper, but broke unceremoniously with its first bite of a half squashed can of Carlsberg - adding even further to the litter problem.

My first carrier bag was filled after travelling only 30 metres. Having slipped into a ditch full of water whilst stretching to rescue yet another can, I decided to limit my collecting to just the stuff that was easily accessible from the verge. I carried on briskly, easily filling four carrier bags to breaking point well before reaching the S-bend. In amongst all the "normal" rubbish there was a rubber glove, a plastic wheel trim, a can of male deodorant, a car radio and half an



Action Man™. Florence also spotted a mangled pink mountain bike on the verge opposite which I decided to ignore.

Feeling a bit like a tramp I carried my booty the rest of the way to the playgroup where I was greeted by the bemused mums and their derisory taunts. On returning home I emptied my four bags and separated the spoils into rubbish and recyclables. Out of the 89 items collected (excluding the crooked-croc), the bulk of my loot (44%) did indeed consist of empty alcohol containers, the majority of which was beer and cider cans. Soft drink containers accounted for 17% of my haul, crisps & sweets for a further 15% and cigarette packets for 12%.

With a quick "back of a fag-packet" calculation – and I had 13 of them - I extrapolated my findings to the 400,000km of British roads. My totally unscientific analysis indicates that there are about 160 million bits of rubbish, of which 70 million are beer cans, lying by the sides of our roads.

I might even venture as far to say that a typical commuter on the Astrope Lane rat-run is a beer-swilling, chain smoker with a sweet tooth who throws radios and toys at passing cyclists. So if you know of anyone who fits this description or of a more plausible reason for all the rubbish, then I'm sure the Village News team would love to hear from you!



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Local business feature

Is it time to go Barking Mad...?

by Fran Flowerdew

BARKING MAD is a nationwide company which has been going for the past 8 years. It's a professional home from home pet care service that arranges accommodation with one of their carefully selected host families who will keep to your dog's home life routine for exercise and feeding in a similar environment and most importantly maintain the one to one care and attention your dog is used to on a daily basis.

Esther Matthews has been running the Tring based Herts & Bucks branch of Barking Mad, as an owner operated franchise, for the past 10 weeks. She explained to me that their service includes collection and delivery, thereby ensuring parting is less stressful for you and your dog. The service is suitable for those dogs that would enjoy a holiday in a home from home environment

In the first instance Esther arranges to meet with you and your dog at home to find out about daily routines for exercising and feeding, their likes, dislikes, and healthcare. A suitable match is then made with the most appropriate host family. The host family has also had a long meeting with Esther to establish the kind of dog that would best suited to their home. Many of the host families are retired people who enjoy the flexibility of caring for a dog without the full time responsibility that comes with it. Alternatively, they may be at home during the day with children or pets of their own and a visiting dog complements their existing situation perfectly.

When Esther has met the dog she writes a profile about him or her and she does the same thing when she has met the host family. That way the dog owner can see photos of the holiday home and its residents, and the host family can read all about their guest/s before their arrival. Provided the guest dog is non-aggressive, Esther is likely to place him or her in a family who possibly already has a dog. However, if two dogs were going on holiday together from the same owner, it is likely that Esther would place them in a home without a resident dog. So in other words Esther carefully matches up the guest with the host and vice versa – a bit like blind dating!

If you are going away for more than 5 nights on your dog's

first stay with Barking Mad, the next step is for the dog to be taken to his holiday home for a trial run before the actual holiday. This way everyone concerned knows that it is a good match and you can go on your holiday with total peace of mind. Esther's delivery and collection service costs £30 at which time she takes the dog together with all his bits and pieces, i.e. his food, his bedding, his toys, his treats, his lead, etc.

Esther told me that her host families love having the dogs to stay and they very soon become part of the family. Whenever possible the dog returns to the same home next time the owners are away, thereby developing a good relationship with his carers. Esther has a Personal Indemnity insurance which covers both the host family and dog should anything happen whilst he is staying there.

If you are interested in sending your dog on a holiday like this it costs £18 per day for one dog and an additional £10 per day for the second one. Your dog must be fully vaccinated. If you are considering being a host family, you would be paid by cheque but its not a job to get rich on I am told! You must have a secure garden, not be out for more than 2-3 hours at a time, and not have children under school age.

Barking Mad can be contacted on 01442 827237 or email esther.matthews@barkingmad.uk.com.

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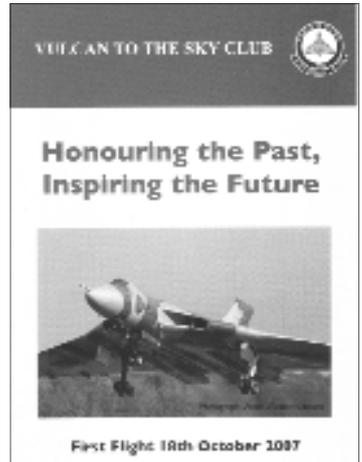
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Afternoon out Antique jets discovered at 'secret' base

by Phil Buchi

THIS afternoon out is 70 miles away, but an easy journey up the M1 to the Leicestershire border. To see something amazing, read on! The old RAF airbase at Bruntingthorpe near Lutterworth looks pretty secure, with wire fencing, barriers and security guards. Not much to hint at what goes on there; it all looks a bit hush-hush. Approach the gate... slowly. A guard will emerge from the gatehouse and ask if you have come to see "the jets". Give the code response "Yes" to this question and you're in. Just like that. The amazing sight is half a mile on. Deployed around a dispersal point is a whole squadron of ancient fighters and bombers, as if frozen in time at the end of the Cold War. Military jets from the 1950's and 1960's, including three Buccaneers, two Lightnings, a Canberra, Victor, Comet and even some foreign johnnies too. Is this a forgotten military scrap yard, or perhaps a set from The Avengers? But no, men in grimy overalls have their heads buried deep into the innards of intricate hydraulic systems and are soldering up complex wiring harnesses that could unleash seriously harmful emissions. These planes are being repaired! In fact, most of them can run their engines and on special days some are able to whiz up and down the runway making a huge noise. This is a retirement home for elderly jets!

In a nearby hanger is the main feature: an Avro Vulcan B2 bomber, formerly of Britain's nuclear strike force, which has now been restored to flying order. A group of enthusiasts have raised £1.2 million to make it work again, but without the bomb. Incredible. And on most Sundays between 10am and 4pm you can go and have a look at the amazing shape of Vulcan XH558 close up in its hangar. A donation of £5 is requested, but children under 14 are free. The massive delta wing of this V-bomber was a regular sight in my childhood, guaranteed to get us running outside to get a good look. It wasn't difficult to know it was coming - it made more noise than Concorde. The Vulcan to the Sky Trust is managing the restoration and hopes to get an airworthiness certificate this year (some test flights have been completed) so that XH558 can be seen at air displays this summer.



Avro Vulcan XH558 takes off on the cover of the Vulcan to the Sky Club brochure. (VttSC)



Handley Page Victor in its final guise as a refuelling tanker. Picture: P. Buchi.

Not content with one V-bomber there is another, back outside at the jet retirement home. A Handley Page Victor, the first of which entered service with the RAF in 1955. This example ended life as a mid-air refuelling tanker. By its side we found the best bit of the whole afternoon out. A real cockpit section from a Victor, previously used for crew training. And you can go in - through the hatch - sit in the pilot's seat and take the controls! And try the seats that would have been occupied by the co-pilot, the navigator, the flight engineer, the bomb aimer and the radio operator. Five people squeezed into a space

the size of a small toilet for hours and hours on end as this elegant monster cruised about with its lethal cargo. Speaking of conveniences, it is by no means clear what the arrangements could have been. Best not to ask.

The Cold War Jets can be viewed only on Sundays from 10am to 4pm. There is an admission charge to the airfield of £4 for adults and £2 for children payable at the gate. A separate donation of £5 for adults is requested to see the Vulcan, but children are free. They are at Bruntingthorpe Airfield, Bruntingthorpe, near Lutterworth, Leicestershire, LE17 5QS. Websites are: www.lightnings.org.uk and www.vulcantothetky.com

Reader survey: Village News in August?

DO you want an August edition of Village News? It was a subject for discussion at the recent AGM of the village magazine. The meeting decided to seek views from readers and distributors to see if there was support for producing an August edition. When Village News was re-launched as a free-to-every-home magazine four years ago, it was decided to produce 10 issues per year. August was left off the schedule because the single editor at that time could not manage it and get a summer holiday! But now we have a larger editorial team we could put back August if people wanted it.

We would like to know what you think. Please let us have your comments by email, phone, write a note, or by just speaking to a member of the team when you see them. Contact details and the names of Village News team members are at the top of the editorial column on page 3.

Phil Buchi

Recipe of the month

by Anna Ashwell

Rhubarb Chutney

With rhubarb now sprouting and appearing in the shops, now is a good time to make some early season chutney in readiness for picnics later in the year. This chutney is easy to make and gives sandwiches a bit of oomph.

Ingredients:

- 5 lb (2¼ kg) rhubarb
- 2 lb (900g) sugar
- 1 lb (450g) minced (or finely chopped) onions
- ½ oz (15g) of ground ginger
- 2 oz (60 oz) curry powder
- ½ oz salt
- 1½ pints (850ml) malt vinegar



Method:

If using your own rhubarb, remove the leaves first. Chop the rhubarb into chunks so that they fit into a large pan. Add all the solid ingredients along with ½ a pint of vinegar. Cook on the hob until the rhubarb is soft.

Add the rest of the vinegar and cook until there is no liquid left.

Allow the chutney to cool a little and then pour it into sterilised jars for storing. To sterilise the jars, put them into a hot oven for 10 minutes. Allow to mature for a month or more before enjoying.

This recipe makes enough chutney to fill three large jars. Obviously the amounts can be scaled up or down as required.

.....you could pick bright red strawberries, dig orange carrots (forks provided!), pluck yellow sweetcorn from plants taller than most of you, get pods and pods of green peas, pick up a heavy blue skinned pumpkin, get purple fingers picking blackberries and lots lots more.....

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Sudoku corner by Colin Moore

No 32 Moderate

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

Give your brain a work out. Fill in the grid so that every column, row and 3x3 box contains only the digits 1 to 9.

Picture Of the Month



'Bottoms up'

Picture Roger White

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The agricultural story line...

by David Mead

The price of wheat...

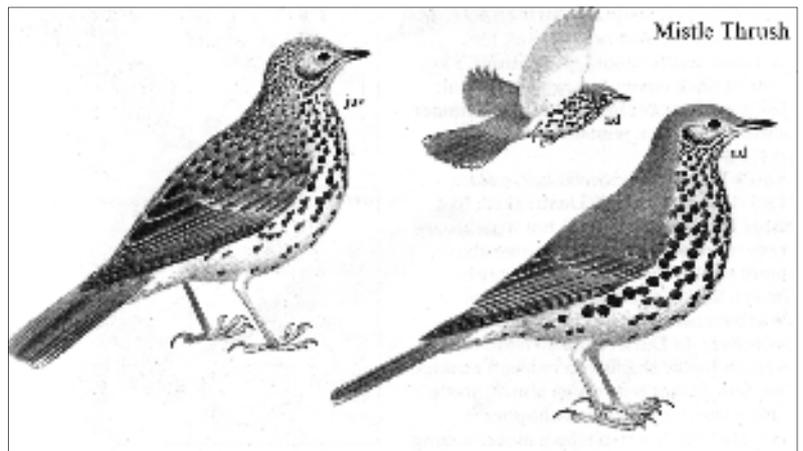
by David Mead

THE sun has shone and with a spectacular thunderstorm the rain has fallen. Chris has got the fertiliser onto the grass and wheat which looks very promising. I'm sure I heard a politician say: "We must help the farmers." We have little power when it comes to votes, so what's going on? As I remember, the last time that prices rose was during the Suez crisis of 1956. Barley rose from £20 to £30 a ton. I remember that this increase paid for two storage bins for barley in that year. Some blame the corn exchanges where gamblers anticipate the prices - the 'futures'. David Leach checks the Chicago Commodity Market where they trade in wheat, corn (*maize*) and pork bellies etc. One thing is certain - costs are rocketing. I'm sure suppliers are determined to cash in. Fuel, machinery and fertiliser have all risen substantially. Those unpopular "mountains" of wheat would be very useful now.

The cattle and sheep have all been vaccinated against Bluetongue. The ministry were very late in releasing the vaccine. The cattle will need a second jab. With this warm spell I expect the midges are already loaded with the virus and are out there. I believe there was a case in the Winslow area.

As I write we are waiting for the shearers. Tails and backsides have been trimmed. Simon reminded me of the price for last year's clip. 70 fleeces were collected. The cheque was worth waiting for. The grand total was £5 for the lot! Telling the tale to Malcolm Short he replied: "You were lucky. They charged me £8.50 handling charge." We are told on these history programmes that the big houses and churches in East Anglia were built on the fortunes made out of wool. I'm afraid Wilstone church won't get its new tower and nave this year.

Teresa and I have been able to watch a pair of Mistle Thrushes build their nest in a quince tree just outside the kitchen window. As it was finished it was covered in snow but they persevered. Eggs were quickly laid and they were soon feeding the young. Then, one morning Teresa was at the window, I was out of the door. A Sparrow Hawk was on the nest. Parents chased it off. Up ladder to see an empty nest. A parent returned and stood on the edge of empty nest and then flew into a neighbouring tree and sat there. Later the two parents were chasing in and out of the trees. Next day Teresa saw them gathering some moss. A new nest has been built higher in the lime tree. A second batch of eggs are being brooded. I suppose the horrible Sparrow Hawks are feeding their family. Please don't blame the farmers if there is a drop in the number of Mistle Thrushes. Now where's that cat? It's time for tea.



The Mistle Thrush manages two broods. (With acknowledgement to Ian Willis.)

Spotters' corner No.362

Another submarine?

SPOTTED in a car park near Bletchley station (honest!), this rusting U-Boat gave our snapper such a surprise he nearly drove into it. Well, it's not a common sight in these parts, and it was occupying several parking bays. Goodness knows what it's doing there - can anyone enlighten us? Is it perhaps a forlorn museum project, or left over from a film set? Or could it be the same submarine as was sighted on the Wendover Arm at Little Tring in 2005 and reported on these pages? (*See Village News, April 2005.*) Just how many submarines are sneaking about in Beds, Bucks and Herts? We should be told.



U-Boat in car park puzzle.

This appears to be a section of WW2 German Type VII U-boat of which over 700 were built. Only 4 complete examples remain one in the UK on Merseyside. Could this relic have some connection to Bletchley Park? Ed.

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Long Marston cricket report

by Paul Dumbleton

THE club is making excellent progress in the Npower Village cup competition, although the September final at Lords is still a long way off. A win away at Wormley, followed by victory at home in a thrilling match against North Mymms now puts the club into the area semi final with a tie against either Waresley or Reed. This is causing club managers a real headache as the date for the fixture is Sunday 1st June when Hertfordshire play Northumberland at Marlins. At time of going to press, negotiations are still in progress. A win in this fixture will mean an away tie in the area final on 15th June.

A victory against Stewkley in the first round of the Rodwells Cup means the club have to travel to Monks Risborough in round 2 but the date is still to be decided. The defence of the Coronation Cup started on Friday 23rd May with a home fixture against Little Gaddesden.

Its tough at the top in the Cherwell League for the clubs first XI who have recorded one draw against Bledlow Ridge and a defeat at Abingdon Vale in the 2nd Division this season so far. The second XI are faring much better in Division 6 with a win at Stanton St John Willows and a draw at Bledlow Ridge after the first two games.

Pre-season friendly matches resulted in defeats against Ealing, Tring Park and Great Gaddesden but victories over New Bradwell, Hatters, Bledlow Village and the return against Tring Park.

Results

Sat 19th April - LM v Ealing II (Lost)

LM: 186/7 - Mark Green 38, Mike Lyons 37, Martin Wright 36
Ealing II: 188/5

Tring Park II v LM II (Lost)

Tring Park II: 255/4. LM II: 147/7 - Geoff Graveson 71no

Sun 20th April - LM v Hatters CC (Won)

LM 236/3 - Chris Slade 130no, Adam Wells 43
Hatters CC: 88/10 - Adam Wells 3/17

Sat 26th April - LM v New Bradwell (Won)

New Bradwell: 156/10 - Lee Beesley 4/24
LM: 160/2 - Simon Robinson 73no Martin Wright 60no

Gt Gaddesdon v LM II (Lost)

LM II: 105/9. Gt Gaddesdon: 106/4

Sun 27th April - LM v Tring Park II (Won)

LM: 190/8 - Simon McLeman 59, Adam Wells 50
Tring Park II: 158/10 - Adam Wells 3/47

Sat 3rd May - LM v Bledlow Village (Won)

LM: 253/6 - Mike Lyons 110, Mark Green 46no, Martin Wright 34
Bledlow Village: 195/10 - Adam Wells 4/90, Mark Green 3/15

Bledlow Village II v LM II (Won)

LM II: 171/9 - Richard Adams 41, Andy Pierce 30
Bledlow Village II: 161/10

Sun 4th May - NPower National Village KO: Wormley v LM

(Won) Wormley: 93/10 - Matt Wareham 4/17, Lee Beesley 4/21
LM: 96/3

LM II v Warners End (Won)

Warners End: 157/8 -
LM II: 159/1 - John Beardmore 73no, Rory Miscampbell 32no

Sat 10th May - Cherwell League Div 2: LM v Bledlow Ridge

(Draw) Bledlow Ridge: 208/10 - Lee Beesley 3/59, Martin Wright 5/26. LM: 156/7 - Martin Wright 64no, Mark Green 33

Cherwell League Div 6: Bledlow Ridge II v LM II (Draw)

Bledlow Ridge II: 255/10 - John Roberts 3/31, Tom Joyce 3/49
LM: 192/5 - John Roberts 63, Brian Evans 61

Sun 11th May - LM v Rivets (Lost)

LM: 124/10 - John Beardmore 62
Rivets: 127/8 - Matt Wareham 3/21, Adam Wells 3/30

Fri 16th May - Rodwells Cup: LM v Stewkley Vicarage (Won)

LM: 131/5 - Paul Marsh 65. Stewkley Vicarage: 87/7

Sat 17th May - Cherwell League Div 2: Abingdon Vale v LM

(Lost) Abingdon Vale: 144/10 - Pete Toovey 6/54 LM: 72/10

Cherwell League Div 6: LM II v Stanton St John Willows

(Won) Stanton St John Willows: 59/10 - Martin Keable 3/15, Matt Wareham 3/17. LM: 62/0 - Robin Gaymer 32no

Sun 18th May - NPower National Village KO: LM v North

Mymms (Won) LM: 157/10 - Martin Wright 55no, Mike Lyons 36, Will Dallimore 30. North Mymms: 136/10 - Will Dallimore 4/41

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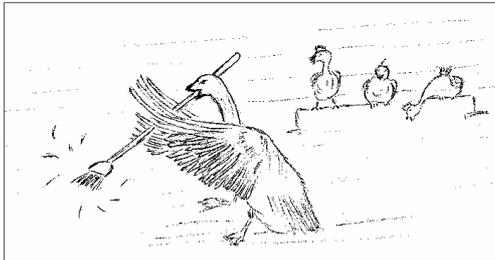
TALES FROM TRINGFORD FARM

by Gary and Minty

WE have often told you about Mr Gander being a crusty old blighter and always beware of him if walking the footpath adjacent to the orchard. Well this month one of his tirades was a spectacle to behold. Firstly an explanation of events leading up to this outburst. When Bo Peep goes into the orchard at any time, which is his main domain, she always takes a defensive weapon with her to fend him off if he feels like biting the hand that feeds him, and that is on most occasions. Her favourite weapon is the corn broom with which she sweeps the yard. Her method is to display the broom in front of her and swipe him around the body and poke him with the bristles to shoo him away. This is usually accompanied by quite loud goose squawks and a great flapping of wings while he beats a hasty retreat, to be followed up by a counter attack if you are not keeping an eye out for him.

On this occasion she happened to leave the broom in the hen house after attending to the girls' bedrooms and collecting their contributions to their upkeep. Before long Mr Gander makes a visit to the hen house to check up on Mrs Gander who was sitting on a clutch of eggs in the corner of the hen house. It would appear that he saw the broom leaning against the wall and decided to wreak retribution on this subject which had attacked him so often. Bo Peep arrived to the sound

of goose cries and thumping and a banging from the hen house. There was Mr Gander with the broom in his beak and



Violence in the hen house

beating hell out of the bristles with his wings, which resulted in the bristles flying all over the hen house. So who says "bird brain"; he had enough sense to work out this was his main tormentor and he would do something about it - result a new broom will sweep him clean again.

While on the subject of birds, our newly hatched chicks are growing rapidly. So far they have had their own stable to sleep in, actually where they were hatched, but now they can fly out over the half door and roam around with their mums and dads. By their colouring one would never guess who belongs to whom. As they have settled and been accepted by the main flock they are allowed to sleep in the big hen house so we await the day of the tiny pullets' eggs appearing in the not so distant future, because it looks like we have six pullets and one cockerel who is the chickduck as it turns out.

Scruffy Ed has had a slight trauma on one of his morning walks. One of the days he was in company with his friends Tilley and Cobber. As it happened they picked up with another two village dogs and as a group made their way



Gary is nuts about nuts Picture Roger White

towards the canal passed the pumping station. Lots of rushing about by the group less Tilley and Ed who prefer to take their time about these walking affairs - they are of course a couple of OAPs. When crossing the plank bridge over the gudgeon stream, there must have been a bit of pushing and shoving because all of a sudden there was a big splash and there's Ed up to his neck in the water, big round eyes looking up for someone to rescue him as the banks there are very steep and overgrown. Good job the stream wasn't in spate otherwise he would have gone through the tunnel and into the canal. As it was there was human aid on hand to rescue poor old Ed from his early bath. None the worse for wear he carried on his walk quite unaffected.

Apart from these goings on, life just continues in a routine manner but we do hear about us having our coats off and having to have a jab to protect us from the mossies. More next time.

Cheers from us all at Tringford.

Poets Corner

'THOUGHTS' by Don F Bezant

As fondly all my fingers stray
around your smooth, curvaceous build,
My mind begins to dream, to play
with future joys, as yet unfilled.
Untouched you be, like virgin snow,
A vision of the perfect gift,
My pulse beats strong, my nerves all glow.
With you, a mountain could I lift.
I would you treasure to my death,
You are my dream, you are my life,
Oh could I still my sobbing breath,
and join with you, and end my strife.
But no! you are to be not mine,
I can but see you from afar,
I now must part with thoughts so fine,
You are too dear - Oh! lovely CAR!!



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From the Rectory...

by Rev'd Huw Bellis

HAVE you been praying for your Team Parish during the vacancy? Well maybe you need to pray for it even more now.

On 8th April, the Bishop of Hertford, the Rural Dean and our team wardens interviewed the four candidates short-listed from the eight applicants, for the position of your Team Rector. I was one of the candidates.

During the vacancy, I have become excited by the possibilities which the job of Rector offers. I have been here in the Team as a Vicar for 5½ years and have got to know the communities which make up the Tring Team. If I were to sum up why I wanted to apply for the post it is simply that "they are good people and we have work to do together"

The Monday before the interviews was slightly surreal because I was shown around the parish. Those who welcomed me in each of the churches were amazed to discover that I own a jacket. They would have been even more shocked to have seen me at the interview itself because I felt it was important to dust off my suit. It is no secret that I hate in-



**The Rt Revd Christopher Foster
Bishop of Hertford**

terviews so I was immensely gratified to find that my vision for the parish was one that found resonance with the appointing group. When the Bishop called to offer me the post I had no hesitation in accepting. The appointment was announced in all of the churches in the Tring Team on Sunday 13th April.

It is an exciting time in our parish with: the parish project to build homes in Kyrgyzstan starting this year; a commitment to grow our churches both spiritually and numerically; a desire to work more closely with our church schools; a desire to involve more people in the life of our churches; and discussions

about how to revitalise our youth work.

It does of course mean that in the fullness of time we will need a new Team Vicar and when they are in post we will work out everyone's area of responsibility. Until that time I will continue to have responsibility over all of the churches in the Team, and, even when a new Team Vicar is in post, the village churches, especially All Saints where I have had greater involvement, will have a special place in my heart and I will continue to be involved in some way in all of them.

VILLAGE VIEW

BY JOHN PAINTER

THERE are many interesting old buildings in the Tring Rural – John is building a collection of photographs of them as they are today in the early twenty first century. Although perhaps not everybody would agree, the simple lines of the pumping station quite attractive when viewed from the towpath opposite.



The Pumping Station, Little Tring c1817

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Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

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Village News

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Astrope, Little Tring, Gubblecote,
Startops End.

Your editor for the July edition will be

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01442 826976

editorwlm@yaho.com

Our Advertising Manager is:

Colette Bernard

01296 661172

Deadline for next month is

Thursday 19 June

for the July edition,
published on 1st July 2008.



We are on line at:

www.tringruralpc.org.uk (Click on Village News)

www.wilstone.me.uk (Click on Village News)

Dogs train to steal show

OUR investigator has discovered that a group of dogs are being trained at a secret location off Watery Lane. We have been led to believe that some of the dogs will be making a surprise entry at the forthcoming Wilstone fete and dog show. With their high degree of training and discipline they could be more than a match for the local pooches. Locals out walking have reported seeing extensive tail wagging exercises and others that appear to have something to do with sausages? When we visited the location all was quiet but we did see that the grass had been carefully mowed to give show ring conditions. However they may have over done this and their dogs may not be able to cope with undulating rougher ground at Wilstone.

by I Snope.



Carefully prepared training camp at Astrope

photo Village News

We also learnt that preparations for the other main attractions and themes are progressing well. There have many furtive conversions in the Moon about western saddles, chaps— no, the ones you wear, stetsons and even six shooters. Let just hope the local swat team doesn't want to get in on the act! It is even reported that Jenny is intending to increase her stock of *Milky Bars* as it is expected to be a sell out after the show! The reason for this remains a total mystery.

Unfortunately we have not been able to get you a preview of the CanCan but we have been assured that all will be revealed on the day.

Some local 'indjuns'- Wilstone doesn't have cowboys - have been calling for a pow-wow with the rest of the tribe in the traditional way. If you walk past the the Half Moon you can often see their smoke signals rising from the pub garden. We have not been able find anyone who can interpret these but that's not surprising having overheard some of the parle that goes on.

Just keep Saturday 7 June free and join the fun in Wilstone at 1 pm.



Smokey talk above the Moon

WI scoop award for their Black Poplar Project

by Fran Flowerdew

CONGRATULATIONS to Margaret Noakes and the Long Marston & Puttenham Women's Institute who gained second place in the Countryside Management Service supported schemes for the Black Poplar Project in our area. Countryside Management Service supported schemes have gained the top two places at the inaugural Chilterns Landscape Design Awards. The winning project was Sarratt Parish Council's restoration of a pond on the village green.

The native Black Poplar is one of Britain's most endangered trees, and the Vale of Aylesbury is their classic location. Currently there are reckoned to be about 5,000 trees here, of which around 1,200 are in the Long Marston, Wilstone and Puttenham area. Black Poplars prefer to grow with their roots in damp ground, so you find them mostly along streams, ditches and by ponds. Although this habitat is common in the locality, some ditches and ponds may be filling in because of lack of maintenance. None of these trees are female and there are only a few young trees. The tree death has mostly occurred within the last 10-15 years.

As a result of this initiative led by Margaret, a local com-



munity project was developed to identify and survey all the Black Poplar trees from the Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal to Wingrave. This area of approximately 14 square kilometers forms part of the Aylesbury Plain. Their survey identified over 940 live and about 160 dead trees. Local volunteers, armed with maps from Dacorum Borough Council and record sheets identified each individual tree and its status within the survey area. Since the original survey was completed, CMS have provided funds, in the form of grants towards the management of our Black Poplars. This has enabled many of our most vulnerable trees to be conserved hopefully well into the future.

In addition it has been possible to instigate a programme of planting, particularly making use of pollard material.

Careful records of the work are being kept together with constant changes to the status of the trees that result from changing climatic conditions and other events. But equally important is raising the awareness of the Black Poplar and its significance, both within our local community and countrywide. So a big 'well done' to Margaret and the W.I.