



July 2016

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

Country style and animal farm fun

Coverage of Wilstone Fete by our outside broadcast team

Sunshine certainly brings out the crowds and our pictures show what a successful afternoon this was. Goats, chickens, sheep, rabbits and ponies added to the country theme and proved popular with the children.

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Dog show antics.

ORGANISERS of outdoor events are no doubt taunted by weather forecasts. So much depends on the undependable climate it is astonishing that the tradition of village fetes continues at all. But, after weeks of damp and grey, it was a lovely afternoon for this year's Wilstone 'country-style' fete and dog show! So what was all the fuss about?

The procession through the village was led by Queen Jane of Wilstonia, resplendent in country green, with the royal carriage driven by a sheep. (*Are you sure about this? Ed.*) More sheep and other animals followed, then Wilstone Showgirls in their Land Girl outfits, the Beavers impressive Morris side, vintage tractors, village children, and the Hemel Hempstead band. Queen Jane was holding the magic key with which she would open the fete, but villagers lining the street were alarmed to witness a six-foot high chicken make off with the key outside the Half Moon. After some moments of pantomime chaos, Trevor the Naughty Chicken was cajoled into dropping the stolen key and the procession could resume.

The fun dog show (which this year was run by volunteers from Chiltern Dog Rescue) was an entertaining attraction and many rosettes were awarded. In the arena the Wilstone Showgirls (and guys) performed a rural hound dog routine, and there was a surprise new act, the Wurzelettes.

As the final tunes from the band wafted gently around the ground, volunteers at the bar, barbeque and tea room were ready to sit down.

(Pictures by John Painter.)

Special features

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



A resplendent Queen Jane of Wilstonia enjoying the carnival procession.



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The Vale Musical Society production of 'Casual Tea' written & directed by Neil Gurney.



See report on page 14

Photos:- Sue Batson.

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

Loxley Farm afternoon tea charity event

See article on page 12

Photos & report Geoff & Karen Southam



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WELCOME to this bumper edition of the village news. When I first started working on it, I was told by my mentor that the average number of emails received each month was 42. I remarked this must be because this magazine must cover 'the life, universe and everything' in the villages!

This month's edition is packed with articles covering sport to recreation and a lot more besides. We include 2 recipes for you to try (and enter in the Long Marston village show if you would like). We also have reports from last months Wilstone village show.

You will also find interspersed amongst the articles a selection of sonnets as created in honour of William Shakespeare by the 'LM bard', Kingdom Brunel.

This has been a tough introduction to editing the magazine in the middle of the cricket season, but has also been very rewarding.

I hope you all enjoy!

***The next edition will be for September 2016
and the deadline for items for inclusion is:
Wednesday 17 August 2016.***

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!

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.*

July 3rd

St Cross
All Saints

10am Holy Communion
10am Sunday Worship

July 10th

St Mary's
St Cross
All Saints

8:15am Holy Communion
10am Sunday Worship
10am Holy Communion
6pm Evening Prayer

July 17th

St Cross
All Saints

10am Holy Communion
10am Sunday Worship

July 24th

St Mary's
St Cross
All Saints

3:30pm Evensong
10am Worship for all
10am Family Communion

July 26th

St Cross

10am Holy Communion

July 31st

St Cross
All Saints

10am Sunday Worship
10am Holy Communion

August 7th

St Cross
All Saints

10am Holy Communion
10am Sunday Worship

August 14th

St Mary's
St Cross
All Saints

8:15am Holy Communion
10am Sunday Worship
10am Holy Communion
6pm Evening Prayer

August 21st

St Cross
All Saints

10am Holy Communion
10am Sunday Worship

August 23rd

St Cross

10am Holy Communion

August 28th

St Mary's
St Cross
All Saints

3:30pm Evensong
10am Worship for all
10am Family Communion

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

What's on...

Tring Rural Parish Council Vacancy – Clerk to the Council

Tring Rural Parish Council has a vacancy for the post of Clerk to the Council. This is an interesting, part-time, paid appointment and is an opportunity for someone to make a significant contribution to our community.

The Clerk supports the Parish Council by organising its meetings, preparing papers and minutes, attending meetings, preparing budgets, managing finances and advising Councillors on procedural matters. The job also involves liaison with local government officers and elected representatives to follow up actions agreed by the Parish Council. The role is home based with attendance of monthly Council meetings on a Wednesday evening.

PC skills and financial numeracy are required. Training will be given and the successful candidate would need to attend training courses and seminars.

If you think you can make a contribution in this way, please contact Lucy Bancroft at clerk@tringruralpc.org.uk for more information and a full job description.

Minor Counties Championship Cricket

Hertfordshire
V
Buckinghamshire

At Long Marston Cricket Club

Sunday 31st July - Tuesday 2nd August
Play starts each day at 11am
Free entry - Bar open all day

THE AGM of **Beacon Villages Community Library** will be held on Saturday 9th July at 10am in the Town Hall, Ivinghoe. Please do come along to hear about our activities over the past year and elect the new committee for 2016/17.

If you are keen to join our committee, or just want to find out more, do get in touch with the secretary@bvcl.org.uk. We meet about every two months, and usually manage to get through the business in a reasonable amount of time!

Secretary
Beacon Villages Community Library
General enquiries: 01296 387890

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)

The public are welcome to attend these meetings.

Wednesday 6 July, Puttenham village hall
Wednesday 3 August, Wilstone village hall

Sunday 3 July

Cheddington Bowls club v Wingrave 2.30pm.

Friday 8 July

Cecilia Tea Rooms, Puttenham, 3pm..

Sunday 10 July

Cheddington Bowls club v Winslow 2.30pm.

Sunday 17 July

Wilstone allotments open afternoon 2-4 pm.

Cheddington Bowls club v Bletchley 2.30pm.

Saturday 30 July

Cheddington Bowls club v Newport Pagnell 2.30pm.

Sunday 31 July

Cheddington Bowls club v Shipston on Stour 2.30pm.

Sunday 31 July - Tuesday 2 August

County cricket at Long Marston. Minor Counties Championship: Herts. v Bucks. 11am start each day.

Saturday 6 August

Long Marston & Puttenham Annual Village Show.

Victory Hall, Long Marston.

Saturday 3 September

Jumble sale, Puttenham, 2pm.

Saturday 1 October

October Supper at Puttenham..

Friday 21 October .

Church Quiz Long Marston Victory Hall 7pm

Wilstone Film night village hall 8pm.

Friday 28 October

Cecilia Tea Rooms, Puttenham, 3pm.

Saturday 5 November

Long Marston fireworks display 6:30pm.

Old Toms field.

Friday 18 November

Wilstone Film night village hall 8pm.

Tuesday 13 December

Carols round the tree 7pm.

Long Marston village green

Friday 16 December

Wilstone Film night village hall 8pm.

Community Shop Wilstone opening hours:

Monday to Friday: 7:30am to 2:00pm Saturday 7:30am to 1:00pm Sunday: 9:00am to 12:00 noon.

Follow Long Marston Cricket Club at
www.longmarstoncc.co.uk

An update on the Queens Head

by *Tim Ayling*

WELL what can I say! In November, this was supposed to be for 8-12 weeks. 7 months on, I am still at the helm of the Queens Head with my merry band of investors behind us.

So what's happened? Well, we've supported numerous local events and charities and helped raise several thousand pounds for good causes in and around the village. We've had some great nights in the pub and seen wonderful things happen.

So what's next for the Queens Head? The straight answer is I don't know. We have now started serving food on Saturdays and Sundays between 12-4 with a flexible menu to cater for as many people as

possible. We will also soon be offering food on Friday nights as well.

Your local village pub is doing well, but continues to need the support of locals to use it.



Stop Press ...

The UK decides to 'Brexit'

by *our local correspondent*

IN the early hours of Friday morning, it was announced that the people of Great Britain had voted to leave the European Union by 51.9% to 48.1%. After all the campaigning, the turnout was 72.2%. As a result of the vote, David Cameron decided to quit as Prime Minister, continuing in the role until a successor can be found by the Conservative party conference in October. There was also a challenge to the Labour Party leadership, with Dame Margaret Hodge and Ann Coffey tabling a vote of no confidence in Jeremy Corbyn.

As predicted, the markets reacted badly to the result, the FTSE 100 opening down 550 points, but recov-

ered a bit during the day to close down 199 points. Markets across the world have also suffered as a result of the news, Wall Street falling 3%. Some of the biggest losers were the construction and banking industries with company share prices ending down 20% or more. Sterling also lost dramatically, losing 7.5% against the dollar and 6% against the euro. One of the first negative effects of these changes will be the price of petrol going up at the pumps.

Locally, the Dacorum result showed a narrow victory for the 'leave' campaign by 43,702 (50.7%) votes to 42,542 (49.3%) on a turnout of 79.1%.

Half Moon Scrabble Night
Last Sunday of every month

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

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

Long Marston Crash in Village Cup

by Lee Beesley

THE replay between LMCC and Reed was played at Marlins following the storm last week at Reed and we were hopeful that home advantage and a slightly stronger team would result in us progressing into the national stages of the competition.

The day started well with James Beesley winning the toss and batting. At 105 for 1 off 22 overs, we were looking at a competitive total. However when we lost Simon Butler who batted well for his 48, we needed someone to stay in and build again with James. This was not the case, Sam Bastin, Zack Wade, Chris Slade and Simon Robinson falling very cheaply and left James with the tail. Despite a very well compiled 63 from the skipper, Long Marston were bowled out for 153 in the last of our 40 overs.

With the ball James Beesley and Matt Wareham started well and James struck early. We had one dropped catch at gully but that was it with the new ball. In a bid to make something happen Alistair Bee was introduced and he toiled away but with no scoreboard pressure he could not force an error. Lee Beesley and Simon Butler also rolled their arm over to no avail and we ended up losing by 9 wickets to a very well organised team to end our dream of a trip to Lords in 2016.

Thanks to Chris "Harry" Bowles and the popular return of Helen Moore for officiating. It was great to see Helen return after many years and we would love to see you again soon.

Long Marston Cricket Club

by Paul Dumpleton

WELL under way with the 2016 season and what progress. At the time of writing our First XI sit proudly at the top of Division One of the Cherwell League for the first time in the clubs history. Excellent progress for a youthful side who are developing the knowledge and skills to win matches at this high level. Good support also from our Second XI who are clear at the top of their division.

Cup progress continues on a couple of fronts. Friday 24th June sees the Coronation Cup semi Final at Wing against Gaddesden CC followed by a home Tie in The Aylesbury Cup against Monks Risborough on Friday 1st July.

Sadly we were defeated in round 5 (the Regional Final) of The National Village Cup against a very strong Reed side at Marlins on Sunday 19th June. (See report above)

A reminder re the big local derby in Minor Counties Cricket on 31st July, 1st and 2nd August when Hertfordshire host near neighbours Buckinghamshire in the three day match. Large crowds expected for this game.

A further reminder regarding a unique event and fundraiser for our junior section at Marlins on Friday 19th August. In partnership with M D Spring autos, we present a darts exhibition by Fallon Sherrock, ranked world number 2 ladies darts player. Tickets are £5 in advance or £10 on the night. Lee Beesley is in charge of this and can be contacted on develop@longmarstoncc.org.uk or mobile 07923 462037. Why not come along to the clubhouse and see a top class darts player in action?

As always follow progress and keep updated on: www.longmarstoncc.co.uk

Wilstone Allotment Association

are holding an

Open allotment afternoon

Sunday 17th July 2.00 - 4.00pm

Tea and cakes

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HANDS UP FOR ADVENTURE!



We need new Leaders & Helpers for September! ...for the 1st Wilstone and Long Marston Group

- **Do you, someone you know, or a group of you have some time to offer to local, enthusiast kids?**
- **Would you like to make a difference to your community and learn new skills along the way?**
- **Could you help on a regular weekly basis, or maybe on a rota and share the role with other like-minded adults?**
- **Would you enjoy the satisfaction of helping youngsters achieve?**

There's plenty of resources, with support and training available.

**Come along to a meeting and have a look, --we'd love to hear from you!
Beavers (aged 6 to 8) meet Mondays & Cubs (aged 8 to 10^{1/2}) on Wednesdays.**

For further details, please email: wilstone@whscouts.org

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Chiltern Dog Rescue Society step in to help with the dog show ...

barked up the right tree and were donated £180 from the dog show proceeds! By Jill Walker

Karen New, chief fundraiser for the dog rescue centre near Wendover was more than happy to offer her support after contact was made with them to help run the Fun Dog Show this year. (Evelyn Chapman and her team were not available to run the dog show this year after 13 years of brilliant support. Unfortunately the date of the fete had to be changed by the committee due to a family wedding.)

However our appreciation this year, goes to the team from Chiltern Dog Rescue Society who offered great support for the judging of the event this year and a special class was added to celebrate their important work at the centre.

A Best Rescue class was included and the dogs entered walked away with CDRS rosettes and a basket of goodies kindly supplied by the charity.

In appreciation of the very important work they do at the rescue centre Wilstone Fete committee were happy to donate the proceeds of £180 from the dog show this year to the centre.

From our reporter at the Parish Council meeting

Plans, drains and automobiles

'FILM' night came to Wilstone on June 8th, when again the TRPC meeting was video recorded. The public participation item received a lot of comment, mainly concerning planning.

Firstly, the architect for the proposed housing development at Loxley Farm in Long Marston and its owners were present to answer questions: the revised planning application and flood risk report had been circulated to the councillors. Several villagers expressed concerns about the development's impact on drainage of both sewage and floodwater. It was pointed out that the Chapel Lane pumping station cannot cope with the sewage for Long Marston as it is, and that rainwater also infiltrates the pumping station. It was thought that the swales at Loxley Farm were blocked and that draining them into the brook would only increase the risk of flooding; the owner agreed that the swales needed to be cleared. Questions were asked about the proposed access road onto Astrope Lane; residents were assured that the access road would be water permeable, so there would be no run-off of rainwater. Inclusion of new school access (a turning circle for vehicles) is still on the cards although it will be the subject of a second application; this is apparently currently held up by the Diocese. The TRPC voted against the development, largely because of their concern about flooding.

Secondly, it has been suggested that a barrier be installed at Victory Hall in Long Marston to prevent drivers blocking the fire exit at school times, but this would encroach on the roadway. Cllr Wheeler-Cornell agreed to add this issue to July's meeting agenda.

Lastly on the planning front, Cllr Wheeler-Cornell was asked about the proposed matting on Long Marston recreation field to form an overflow car park. She replied that it was not a proposal, it was just being considered; parishioners would be informed via a leaflet if necessary.

Now starring...

A round of applause from the audience welcomed Malcom Morgan, who was the successful candidate at the local election on June 2nd. He immediately volunteered to lead on the issues of Finance and Flooding, and assured the parishioners of his attention and responsibility. Cllr Morgan's view is that flooding throughout the whole parish needs a pragmatic, self-help approach. He stated he would be happy to lead a working party of parishioners, if the TRPC would support this, because if waiting for the county council to act, nothing was likely to happen. Cllr Wheeler-Cornell agreed that this was the way to proceed and agreed to add it to the agenda.

The clerk will be arranging training for all eight parish councillors, by the HAPTC trainer.



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Cars 2

Cllr Thirkettle reported that the speed devices are supposed to be in place for six months before being moved and the data reviewed to establish how effective they have been. He is still waiting for information on how to access the data. The parish will have four posts in total; Cllr Wheeler-Cornell stated Wilstone's is being paid for by Dacorum and two more will be ordered under next year's budget.

Play for today...

Cllr Thirkettle confirmed that the revised report for the play equipment has been resubmitted and that Dacorum will find us another £20k **and** will take over the procurement process. There is a separate opportunity for a skate ramp and BMX bike track: the TRPC would need to identify sites for them.

Credit(s)

Cllr Morgan, as the new Finance lead, proposed monitoring the council's budget on a monthly basis, in order that all councillors understood how the budget was being spent and to manage any associated risks. He was keen that the council are seen to be managing the programmes carefully. Cllr Wheeler-Cornell agreed that this was the way to go.

The clerk advised that members of the public can exercise their rights to inspect the accounts from June 13th. Summaries of the accounts will be on the TRPC website (www.tringruralpc.org.uk). Anyone wishing to look at receipts, invoices or cheque books can do so in person, or by appointment.

Tring Rural Parish Council contacts

Your Parish Councillors are:

Mr Richard Briant 01442 825674

Ms Andrea Garnham 01296 660767

Mr Chris Griffiths 01296 668257

Mr Nick Murrell 01296 668190

Mr John Thirkettle 01296 661825

Mrs Olli Wheeler-Cornell (Chairman) 01296 662207

Mr Alan Winfield 01296 668977

Mr Malcolm Morgan 01296 661747

The Clerk to the Council is :

Mrs Lucy Bancroft 07590 989202

email: clerk@tringruralpc.org.uk

The Village Warden is:

Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822031

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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July—perfect for ice-cream

Over the past few months we've had our Parkinson's Awareness coffee morning, a 'veggie deli' for vegetarian week and strawberries, cream and Pimms for Wimbledon. Now the sun's finally making its appearance it's time to relax and enjoy that perfect summer snack—an ice-cream. Our freezer unit is fully stocked with all sorts of delicious varieties, from kids' favourites like Twister to tubs of Yeo Valley organic ice-cream. Why not treat yourself next time you're in?



Some of the ice-creams in stock



What a choice!

Eggs-citing news!

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News from the Treasurer

Our treasurer was pleased to report that our sales and profits remain good and steady throughout the first six months of the financial year (to March 2016). This is great news, especially as the six months takes in the cold, dark and damp winter. Thank you to all our customers and volunteers who continue to support us.

Vac Pack

We've invested in a vacuum packing machine in order to keep some of our deli items fresher for longer. This is all part of our on-going drive to provide our customers with top quality fresh food—we hope you approve!



Vac-packed Gala pie

Promotional feature sponsored by Wilstone Community Shop

Dairy free chocolate chip brownies

by Karen Bunce

AS Sally Smith wrote in her Recipe for June, food intolerances have become more acknowledged over recent years. As someone with a dairy intolerance, improved food labelling has made life easier, but something I really miss is tucking into a dairy free chocolate dessert!

However, a friend gave me inspiration with a recipe for vegan chocolate brownies, which I have crossed with a Mary Berry recipe to produce this one. The only difference is replacing butter with rapeseed oil. I baked it for Long Marston's Big Lunch and it seemed to go down very well!

Ingredients

145g rapeseed oil (I weigh it in a jug)
375g caster sugar
4 large eggs
75g cocoa powder
100g self-raising flour
100g plain chocolate chips

Equipment

30 x 23 cm baking tin (about 3cm deep), greased and lined with baking parchment, measuring jug, large mixing bowl, small mixing bowl, spoon, and a spatula
oven preheated to 180c / 160c fan / gas mark 4.

Method

1. Preheat your oven. Grease and line the base and sides of your chosen baking tin.
2. Measure the sugar, cocoa and flour into a large bowl.
3. Measure the oil into a jug and weigh it.
4. Break the eggs into the small mixing bowl and beat lightly to break up the yolks.
5. Add half the oil and half the egg mixture to the dry ingredients in the large bowl and stir in, then add the rest and beat until blended. (Or add it in all at once if using an electric mixer.)
6. Add the chocolate chips and stir in with a spoon.
7. Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin, using the spatula to scrape the sides of the bowl to make sure there's none left! Spread the mixture gently to the corners of the tin and level the top with the spatula.
8. Bake in the preheated oven for 40 - 45 minutes or until the top of the brownie has a crusty top and a skewer or sharp knife inserted into the centre comes out clean. If the mixture is browning too much, cover it loosely with foil for the last 10 minutes.
9. Leave to cool in the tin and then cut into 24 squares.
10. Enjoy with Booja Booja Hunky Punky Chocolate dairy-free ice cream.

Yum!

'Girl Friday'

To raise funds for my World Challenge to Borneo in the Summer of 2017, I would like to offer the following services:

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- * **Babysitting** * **Dog Walking**
- * **Holiday Plant Watering**

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Letters to the editor...

Loxley farm afternoon tea charity event

THANK you very much to everyone who supported us with our fundraising for the Mellon Educate Project. It was wonderful to see so many people on such a wet Sunday afternoon! We raised an amazing £430 from online donations and monies taken on the day! It was lots of hard work, but well worth it and we really enjoyed the day! Thankyou!

Geoff and Karen Southam

Mellon Educate is an African development charity and the enormous collective effort of some 25,000 volunteers, has built houses for 125,000 homeless people in Africa's poorest townships. In November, Geoff will be a helping hand on an annual "building blitz" in South Africa. He will be part of a team committed to those less fortunate in Africa, with the education development programme to provide better education to more than 100,000 African children. Mellon Educate has already extended educational access and standards of education to 10,000 primary school children aged between 4 and 12 in Kenya & South Africa, built schools in Eastern Cape homelands on Mthatha, Qunu. Masi-phumelele, Cape Town, safeguarding the education of 1,650 young boys and girls. Formerly they lived in dilapidated shacks and went to a school that was tumble-down and under-resourced. Now they have a solid roof over their heads and the foundations are set to support education that lasts a life-time.

Every year volunteers create inspiring stories of possibility for children deprived of opportunity in their lives. The work accomplished in those 7 days, the hard labour and heavy lifting of long days, is a huge achievement. Geoff will go out on a 7 day building blitz in South Africa, quite an arduous undertaking. What's more, fundraising to travel and support the construction projects is a colossal challenge before he even volunteers to set foot on African soil. This is where your support has been fantastic! In our short time in Long Marston we have appreciated the community spirit. Thank you! Geoff, with your support is already well on his way to rolling up his sleeves to help lift children to a higher level of education, a level where they can contribute and shape their society. Nelson Mandela once said

"Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world".

It is our hope that the school will give these children in Africa the gift of education to help them create a sustainable future for themselves.

Councillor Malcolm Morgan

Parish Council elections

MY sincere thanks to all those who voted for me at the recent parish by-election. I'm delighted and honoured to become a member of our Parish Council and to serve our community. The strength of your vote has given me a clear mandate to pursue the commitments made in my pre-election communication.

I attended my first council meeting on 8th June and was pleased to fully participate and contribute to the discussions and decisions of the day. Being accessible is an essential part of my new role and I encourage those who would like me to represent their concerns or ideas to the council to please contact me by email on mfmorgs@gmail.com. Please also see page 9 for my contact details.

I am looking forward to being of service to you and the whole parish.

Steve and Ursula Collyer

Wilstone allotment news

HAVING moved into the Village in August 2015, we decided that rather than destroy our beautifully laid out garden, we would see whether an allotment was available in Wilstone. We had already found where the allotments were, on a further visit to the property we were considering purchasing, and had already spoken to John Evans who very kindly gave us all the necessary information.

What could be easier an allotment across the road!!! The vegetable grower's book (by Dr D G Hessayon) was purchased, plans were drawn up, site clearance and digging began: so did the never ending weeding, particularly of thistles and dandelions.

Our original plan was to concentrate on one half of the plot, but I think we have done a lot better. There is still plenty of digging, weeding, raised beds to install and fencing to erect, but by the end of this year hopefully all will be done.

Now nine months later and having received much advice from our fellow allotmenters, a variety of vegetables and soft fruits have been planted. With improved weather conditions all is starting to grow and we are hopeful that there will be a bumper harvest, particularly following our picking of one spring cabbage and numerous strawberries. Both made good eating!!!

By the time this article appears we should have dug our first early potatoes.

NORTH

LONG MARSTON AND PUTTENHAM

A village show sonnet to honour the bard

Long Marston is holding its annual village show
And we hope that you'll all come along to enjoy the fun.
We start planning our fete in the pub where the beer doth flow
And hope that our efforts are bathed in plenty of sun.

This year, our theme marks the passing of Will Shakespeare
As its 400 years since the death of the celebrated scribe.
His works are performed in theatres throughout the year
Much better than this drivel I write whilst trying to imbibe!

He wrote about kings like Henry parts one two and three
Then started on comedies whose stars would oft run amuck.
There's Romeo and Juliet with its iconic balcony scene
Or fantasy roles like Titania, Bottom and Puck.

But his 14 line stanzas of love known to all as sonnets
Means I must play my part and write in this way. I'm on it!

Letters continued...

Jane Dawson

Beaver leader required

I am the Group Leader of the thriving local Beaver, Cub and Scout Group which meets weekly at Wilstone Village Hall. We have a number of dedicated, voluntary leaders in all three sections but unfortunately Sarah Hodgson (of Wilstone) is sadly leaving at the end of the summer term as Beaver Leader after 3 years as an excellent Leader. She has been an enthusiastic leader who has brought the excitement and adventure of Scouting in its youngest form to many children over this time.

This means we are now looking for some new Leaders for September or Beavers will fold in the villages. I have written to all the parents, but so far no-one has come forward.

Leaders do not have to be parents of current children, just willing members of the community.

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The Whitchurch Morris Men – July already! By John King

MAY and June have gone and so have all of the Spring tours but our Tuesday evening programme continues:-

5th July; The George and Dragon at Quainton
 12th July; The Hampden Arms, Great Hampden
 19th July; The Half Moon at Wilstone with guests New Moon Morris
 26th July; The Broad Leys, Aylesbury

We've had a couple of really good evenings out with Owlswick and St Albans and we intend to continue these ventures next year. On the other hand comes some sad news that the Offley MM will perform their last Day of Dance on the 20th August before they fold due to lack of numbers. Offley are a Hertfordshire side and their details can be found at:- www.offleymorris.org.uk

It's perhaps a little late but I had a truly fantastic tour with Towersey Morris to Lithuania. Lots of photographs are circulating privately but we'll have to get them published on the website. In the meantime, try this:- 'Towersey Morris LollipopMan' on You Tube. *sic(it's not a typo)*. That's me leading the second set on a church roof, Sv. Pranciskaus Ksavero (jezuitu) baznycia, Kaunus, Lithuania whilst attending XXXI Atataria Lamzdziai. We had just been taken there to enjoy the

view and it cried out for an impromptu dance. These things just have to be done. By the way, the beer is nice and available at only 1 euro a pint!!! Lovely.

Elsewhere, the BBC is getting into the historic folk scene again, this time with Ben Elton's new comedy starring David Mitchell in Upstart Crow about a young William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616). The theme tune is now known as the Jovial Broom Man or to us Morris Men, Jamaica. This rousing tune first appears as 'Jamaica' in John Playford's *Dancing Master* (Fourth edition, 1670), although earlier in that century it was known as 'The Slow Men of London'. There is no definitive dance that goes with the tune but it can be used for several. If you want to listen to it, it can be found on Dartington Morris' CD Proper Job. Again it shows just how old the Morris tradition is. It's almost as old as some of the dancers.

Wassail
 John King
 WMM
www.whitchurchmorris.org

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Recipe for July

by Sally Smith

Shakespeare, bees - and honey

SHAKESPEARE and his many assorted works have been in the news a lot recently, not least of all because this year marks 400 years since the Bard's death. As a consequence, I have been struck by how often he refers to food in his writings – “the sweetest honey is loathsome in his own deliciousness”; “for so work the honey-bees, creatures that by a rule in nature teach...”, “if music be the food of love, play on”, “enjoy the honey-heavy dew of slumber”. I could go on, but if I did there wouldn't be room for one of the most simple, and yet delicious recipes I have ever found.

At a mere five ingredients, this has to be worth a try. Since discovering the recipe I've made this cake three times already and each time to rave reviews. I'm assured that it will last for 4-5 days wrapped up, in a cake tin, although it's never remained uneaten long enough for me to test this out! Hope you enjoy it too.

Pssst!!! Village Show Spoiler!!!!

In case you were wondering, I do enjoy cooking other things as well. So when Tim Ayling spoke to me about a competition to find the best savoury pie, my mind began to race with ideas.

As part of the new food menu at the Queens Head, Tim would like to include a signature pie and he has asked me to help him in this process, by means of a competition. The idea would be that the winning pie would feature on the menu at the pub, and 50p from the sale of each pie sold would be donated to the charity of the winners choice.

I am therefore delighted to announce that there will be a new class in the Village Show, taking place on Saturday 6th August, for pies, savoury or sweet, meat or vegetarian. The choice of filling is yours. As we always say, 'why not have a go, you never know you might even win' and this time you might even find that your winning recipe can help boost the coffers of your favourite charity.

Good luck, and watch out for your show schedule, coming through your door very soon.

Sticky Honey Cake

Ingredients

225g unsalted butter
250g clear honey (plus a little bit to glaze the cake)
100g dark muscovado sugar
3 large eggs, beaten
300g self-raising flour

Equipment

20cm round cake tin, greased with butter and lined with baking paper

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 160°C (Gas Mark 3)
2. Cut the butter into pieces and drop into a saucepan with the honey and sugar. Melt slowly over a low heat. When the mixture is completely liquid, increase the heat under the pan and allow it to boil for one minute. Remove from the heat and leave to cool for a minimum of 20 minutes (this is essential)
3. Beat the eggs into the cooled melted honey mixture using a wooden spoon.
4. Sift the flour into a large mixing bowl and pour the egg and honey mixture in. Beat with a wooden spoon until the mixture is smooth and runny
5. Pour the cake mixture into the pre-lined tin and bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour or until the cake is well-risen and golden brown. A skewer inserted into the centre should come out clean.
6. Whilst the cake is still in the tin, brush a little honey over the cake to glaze and leave in the tin to cool. Once cooled, turn the cake out and serve.



Village Show

Sat 6th August 2pm

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MG car club European Event of the Year 2016 *by Colin Davenport*

IN LAST month's edition I wrote about our trip to Denmark in 2014 in our 61 year old MG car, and I commented that we were about to go to a similar event at Le Touquet in France. I said I hoped the French organisation was as good as the Danes, it wasn't.

There were five cars in our little group, some travelling through the tunnel, but we and another couple chose to use the ferry. We drove to Dover together and, having booked Priority boarding and Club lounge, had a very pleasant crossing and were the first cars off the boat at Calais. Having only 50 miles to journey to our destination, we drove along the coastal road in the sunshine.

There were 360 cars from all over Europe arriving at the (horse) race course on the first afternoon, where we had to check in and get all the details of the event, plus the usual "goody" bag. A reception party and briefing for all of the participants, over 700 of us, was due to take place, but after an hour we gave up waiting since nobody seemed to know what was going on. We checked into our hotel, met up with our friends and went into Le Touquet for dinner. The weather was fine so we found a nice restaurant and sat outside watching the world go by.

The next morning, after breakfast, we set off with others from our group following what is known as a 'tulip rally' where we are given details of the route to follow. Unfortunately none of the organisers had checked it the day before and parts of the route were completely closed for road works, so after that we were totally lost. However, we did drive around some lovely countryside in the Somme area and managed to find the lunch stop. Dinner that evening was in the "Palais de Europe". Catering for over 700 people in one sitting is not easy and turned out to be fish for both courses. I guess as Le Touquet is on the coast that is not surprising.

The following day was much the same, we managed to get lost due to the wrong road numbers being quoted. Very frustrating bearing in mind that we have previously driven hundreds of miles successfully following 'tulip rallies'. With good humour and a little ingenuity we found the lunch stop, after which a ride in a steam train following the coastal line had been arranged.

The cars had been split up into 3 groups over the three days, so not everybody was chasing around the same bit of French countryside upsetting the locals. On the contrary we were waved at and photographed everywhere we went.

The Gala Dinner that evening was farcical with an hour of speeches, all congratulating themselves on the event. So much so that the first course did not arrive until 10pm and it was almost midnight before dessert arrived - we gave up on coffee. The buses laid on to take us back to our hotels were due to finish at midnight, so I guess some people had a long walk back to their beds.

Next day we visited a wartime bunker known as the Blockhaus (www.leblockhaus.com) where the V1 and V2 rockets were assembled and fired towards London and elsewhere. This was an awesome construction made up of over half a million tons of concrete with roofs so thick the Germans thought it would be impenetrable. It wasn't, a 6 ton bomb, known as a tall-boy, dropped by the RAF caused such an earthquake that it was eventually abandoned. We then visited le Coupole, another wartime bunker, now a large museum about the V1s and 2s. (www.lacoupole-france.co.uk). After the farcical dinner the previous night we decided to forego the organised meal. So 10 of us agreed to go into town again and had a very pleasant dinner, only slightly disturbed by a few well oiled Rumanian football supporters on the next table! The last morning saw all of the cars going into Le Touquet for the public to view, the drivers to compare notes and the judging of the Concours d'Elegance, where one of our friends won 1st prize for his 1938 MG VA tourer. This was followed by another sit down lunch for 700 at the Palais de Europe and more speeches, so we declined and set off to meet our ferry at Calais. After embarkation we enjoyed a glass of champagne, a delicious meal and a comfortable trip back. We stayed in an hotel near Dover in order to have an early start the next day. This trip was uneventful until we reached Enfield on the M25 when the heavens opened and we had to do a very quick stop to put the roof up. The rain was so heavy that we decided to pull off the motorway and into a Tesco petrol station to shelter under their canopy, much to the amusement of the two ladies in the kiosk. One exclaimed "you drove on the M25 in THAT" to which I explained that we had just come from Dover and had done several hundred miles in France in THAT. At the same time I repaired one of the windscreen wipers that had decided not to work.

All in all an enjoyable trip with good friends and we made new ones. One of the MG mottoes is **The Mar-que of Friendship.**

It is. ~ Roll on 2017 and Oporto in Portugal!

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A bridge too fat ... A story of Longub Puttastone *by Martin Winship*

WHEN the village show committee met to make plans and discuss ideas and options, a topic which was never far from the top of the agenda was *Increasing Profits*. The money raised by the show was used to help fund projects and good causes in the village, and there was, of course, never enough to go round. So any proposal – however unusual or radical it might seem to be – was always considered.

The vicar therefore felt no qualms about mentioning an advertisement he had recently come across. The vicar was a serial subscriber; he was an avid reader of periodicals and magazines. Some of his reading material was fairly predictable – The Church Times, The Fortean Times, and The Racing Times, for instance – others less so. Circus Weekly reflected a passion for the sawdust and grease paint which he had had from boyhood. It was in the pages of this learned journal that he had seen the announcement of a fully-functional Carousel for sale.

“If we bought it,” he explained enthusiastically to the committee, “we could keep all the fare money, instead of that Mr. Junks making a fat profit with his rickety old merry-go-round, and us only getting the pitch fee. We could store it behind the church hall – and Jake could keep it in order; he can fix anything.” The vicar paused for a moment, as usual slightly out of breath.

Of course, there was a good deal of scepticism at first, and the other committee members put up objections on several grounds. But one by one the apparent obstacles were demolished, or shown to be non-existent, and in the end, to the vicar’s delight (and secret surprise) the scheme received universal approval. The price (on approval, too) seemed singularly reasonable – and well within the budget of the committee. The only remaining fly in the ointment was the stipulation that the buyer must collect.

This did look like a real poser at first, until Rodney Shoemaker offered to do the driving. Up until quite recently, Rodney had been a driver for Plumbers Coaches, but had lost his job over a “misunderstanding” about some tickets, and was keen to keep his hand in by doing any odd driving job that came along. His only stipulation was that someone would have to lend him a car with a towing hook – his battered old pick-up was not fitted with one. Another committee member readily agreed to lend him his equally old, but serviceable Range Rover, so that was that, and a few days later, Rodney set off on his mission to collect the Carousel.

Now, it is a fact, though few residents of the village are today aware of it, that it was the Third Earl of Bilgewater who financed and built the Great Onion Canal, which snaked across the surrounding countryside, sending branches to wend over the fields to other towns. Longub Puttastone was effectively surrounded by steep, narrow humped-back bridges over the various cuts; none of the bridges being much more than eight feet wide. Certainly Rodney did not give the canal or its bridges a thought, as he collected the Carousel – which, even when folded up on its rigid and extremely solid steel girder frame, was a good ten feet across.

Next day Rodney appeared, as usual, for his midday pint in the Half Head. Curiously, there was no evidence of a Carousel, and when questioned about it, Rodney was uncommunicative, and would mutter only “Gone when I got there” or some such, and plunge his face back into his pint.

Later, many people noticed that the parapet of one of the humped-back bridges – the one on the road from the nearby town of Bling – was severely damaged. The brickwork was smashed, and a large part lay in ruins on the towpath below. Despite subsequent inquiries and investigations, the person or persons responsible were never identified. And Mr. Junks made a handsome profit at that year’s show.

Village Broadband update

from Peter Walker

ACCORDING to Village Networks, the provider of wireless based broadband to the Tring rural area, they have now connected 14 customers on the new network. The bulk of those are in Wilstone, as that has proven to be easier than originally thought. There are three nodes installed in Wilstone; the silo at Mead’s farm, a house in New Road, and the Village Hall, which will soon be able to offer its own wi-fi facility. This gives good coverage of the village with the exception of Chapel Fields, but they will soon be testing to see if the Village Hall node provides a link through to the west side of the village to reach Chapel Fields. There are 15 more installs to be carried out in the village.

As a result of the problems in finding a good node in Long Marston, installs there have been held back there.

They have now identified a suitable property which gives line of sight to the main transmitter and will be installing there soon. This will give reasonable coverage to most of the village but we’ll need another node at the south end of the village to reach the north side of Gubblecote. Any volunteers?

The roll out has been exasperatingly slow due to VN’s limited resources. The fact is that Village Networks is a small company and like every business, has to monitor its cash flow carefully, and it is a shame that they did not receive the financial support they asked for at the beginning of the project. They still have over 50 potential customers, but are having to develop this project carefully to avoid overstressing themselves. I think the service it is still worth waiting for. I am told that the performance of BT Broadband is declining, and those that have had the wireless broadband installed have been very pleased. Any comments please to Peter Walker at walkersandbrook@gmail.com

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by Rev'd Didier Jaquet

Dads n Lads n Daughters n Dogs: being together

IT being July, it is of course the start of the Summer Holidays as well as our annual camping weekend at Puttenham. Each year, a collection of fathers, their children and pets from the Tring Team Parish descend upon a small paddock just in front of St Mary's on Saturday afternoon for an overnight camping trip involving bonfires, barbeques and burgers. There's not a vegetable in sight – though one year someone brought couscous. Unsurprisingly the culprit has never admitted to this offence and the bowl of couscous was as full when it left the site as it was when it arrived.

We also relax the normal limits on the number of biscuits, crisps and ice creams that may be consumed. The Dads usually pay for this with wildly overexcited children that refuse to accept their father's requests/demands/bribes/desperate pleas for them to go to bed despite their obvious exhaustion (I could, of course, be talking about the parent or child at this point). The next morning, there's always someone up with the lark but the rest of us emerge from our tents (I use this term widely given the startling array of canvas on show: 70s style camping tents through to tented mansions with guest quarters and awnings) bleary eyed, parched and desperate for the bacon baps which we hope whoever is on breakfast duty is starting to cook.

Exhausted but well fed we amble to church. This year we shall be going to All Saints in Long Marston. It is said that the fragrance of 30 children and 15 men as well as several dogs – none of whom has washed – signal their arrival long before any of them set foot inside of the church. Together we join in an informal service giving thanks for the last 24 hours (and for some of us older ones, surviving it another year without incident – or at least overnight hospitalisation).

There's been a huge amount of talk in the run up to the referendum about how we are governed, our freedom as a country and who gets to make, and enforce, the rules. Then as I think about these weekends in Puttenham, I am reminded of the importance of living by some set of rules. Because, although we like to pretend that this weekend is entirely free and rule less, it's not. We are not playing out the Lord of the Flies. Actually, all we are doing is living by a different set of rules for a short time. For without some rules, we aren't all free: free to play and spend time together peacefully and safely.

And what goes for this weekend, also goes for our lives. Sometimes God is mistaken for some sort of impossible judge – making laws we can't or don't wish to follow and then punishing us when we fall short – but it's not true. When Jesus was asked what were the most important commandments, he gave only two: to love God and to love our neighbour.

When we act out of genuine love, out of an unselfish concern for others, it's not about complying with a load of regulations. Instead it's much more about serving others in their needs, celebrating with them in their joy and, more often than not, simply being there with them. I suppose that's when these Dads n Lads n Daughters n Dog weekends work the best, when we are there for one another, whether that's in sharing ice-cream, helping to set up each other's tents or all avoiding the couscous!

I hope you all have a very happy Summer holiday.

Didier



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A popular place is the stall that is covered in books
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Tring team welcome new vicar

THE question I am asked most often when I meet people is, 'What made you decide to become a priest?' In my final term at university I was involved in a road traffic accident and suffered a catalogue of severe injuries. Having almost died, I experienced life and my faith in an entirely new way. The church played an important part in my recovery, and my faith in the



love of God grew, as did my commitment to the church as a healing and life-giving presence. It was out of this experience that my sense of priestly vocation grew.

After experience as Chaplaincy Assistant at King's

College London and Pastoral Assistant at a parish in North London, I went through the rigours of the church selection process and finally, in 2002, began training at a theological college in Cambridge. I was ordained at St Paul's Cathedral in 2005 and enjoyed four years as curate at Hampstead Parish Church 'learning the trade' within a busy, sociable parish. This experience in an area that thought of itself as a village in the heart of London will hopefully equip me as I serve in Aldbury – a different kind of village but one with a similarly strong sense of community.

In 2010 I returned to St Paul's, this time as Minor Canon and Chaplain; little did I know that I would be there during such a significant time in its history when the presence of the 'Occupy' demonstrators would throw us onto the public stage in a way no one could have anticipated.

After a few years I began to miss the intimacy of parish life (preaching to a congregation who are sitting about 30 feet away can feel quite remote!). Last year I took a sabbatical, partly to take stock and discern the future direction of my ministry but also to undertake research for a book I'm writing – a project which I hope to continue in the other half of my life whilst Team Vicar.

When not working I enjoy time spent with friends, singing in a choir, being with my nephews (aged four and eight) and chilling out with my cat Phoebe.

Someone once described the role of a priest as being someone who turns a full stop into a comma, meaning our work involves discerning how what looks like a dead end can simply be the point where we take a breath before we embark on the next phase of a journey which is ongoing and life-giving. All our journeys, both as individuals and as communities, take place in the light and love of Christ. I look forward to being alongside you in the next stage of our journey as God's pilgrim people.

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Tring Parish Men's Society

The role of sport in society

by Leslie Barker

AT the May meeting someone suggested the Olympics as a topic for the next discussion; but John Hawkes decided to widen the scope to *The Role of Sport in Society*.

We began with a minute's silence in tribute to Philip Owens who died on 7th May after contributing so much to keeping the Society going when it was near to closing down due to decreasing numbers.

A team of nine met on the day that professional boxers were admitted into the Olympics, and when Radio 4 reviewed a book that claimed that women who take part in sport are also more likely to succeed in other areas of life.

John began by reading out the dictionary definition of sport, which includes it being entertainment. This definition excluded sedentary sports like chess. So he did not realise what a monster topic he had released, particularly when Andrew played devil's advocate, and claimed that whatever sport had achieved war had achieved more economically.

John then described his wide interest in sports from winning the 80 yard race at school, being a founding member of Wallingford Rowing Club, and winning the tennis singles at Tring four years running. However there was also a downside, as John neglected his wife and three children, and suffered long term affects on his health. Two other men admitted that activities like jogging had damaged their knees, but Jeremy and David now enjoyed pain free cycling.

For some sport was to win at all costs, for others like David it was for enjoyment and companionship. As expected the cost of salaries to top footballers was raised. Many football clubs had been founded by Christians in the 19th century to keep young men off the streets, but it is now a multimillion pound industry. However earnings reflect the market rate for this entertainment, and equate to the salaries of CEOs in both the private and public sectors. Sport has also bred gambling, and the horse racing industry is funded and regulated by it.

English sports have spread across the world; what about sport in other cultures? Roman gladiators had their followers. Chinese martial arts, archery on the village green, and the sports played by the public schools a century ago were all preparations for war.

The "devil's advocate" admitted having played football only once – he was in goal and his team lost 25 – 0.

Today school sports and encouraging young people to continue is seen as team building for a future in the workplace, and to prevent obesity with its cost to the NHS of ensuing illnesses like diabetes. Many of these activities are now primarily seen as exercise rather than sport, and in spite of beginning with a dictionary definition we never came to any definitive answers on the many questions raised.

We agreed that in general sport is a good thing.

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The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

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Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 104 Moderate

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

Solution on page 33



Hertfordshire Year of Walking

Thank You from the Hertfordshire Year of Walking Team!

Thank you for helping the Hertfordshire Year of Walking go off with a bang. We had a fantastic response to the Hertfordshire Walking Festival with over 1000 attendances to 72 events in the month of May. Please let us know if you enjoyed the festival and you'd like to see it repeated. We hope to repeat many of the walks throughout the year so bookmark the Walks and More website to find events near you.

www.hertsdirect.org/walksandmore

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There are loads of classes for people who don't grow their own.
There's handicrafts, jewellery, painting for anyone who's keen
or maybe a selfie you regularly take on your phone!

Your children could all have a go at baking a cake.
There's a chance of some charity money if you come to our venue.
Just cook us a savoury pie – it must be home baked.
The winner will go to the pub and appear on the menu.

And after the judging, the hall is open looking splendid.
I can say that a look at the exhibits is most recommended!

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I am a 16-year-old girl, I attend Tring School and I am currently in my GCSE year. I'm going to Borneo on World Challenge in summer 2017 where our trip will include trekking and project work. I would like to do some babysitting in order to raise funds, please let me know if you would like my services.

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BRIGHT GREEN FUTURE

The Centre for Sustainable Energy is looking for young people to take part in *Bright Green Future*, a new programme to inspire the next generation of environmental decision-makers.

Those aged 14-17 with an interest in the environment and climate change can apply now to take part in the two year programme starting in September 2016.

Joining Bright Green Future will help young people to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to embark on a career path which could influence decisions on energy and climate change, and really make a difference to our planet.

Wilstone Village Fete has a lot to be thankful for ...

Local businesses give generously to village fete

by Jill Walker

Local businesses donated generously to Wilstone Village Fete Grand Raffle and the Wilstone Fete Committee would like to offer thanks for their support for the event.

Thanks for raffle prizes go to:

Altered Image Hair Salon, Totality Day Spa, Champneys, Maggies Jewellers, Pendley Manor, Fancy That, The Market House, Da Vinci Restaurant, Colledge Lake, Tring Brewery, Rex Cinema, Meads Farm Shop, Tring Tesco, Tring M&S, Wilstone Community Shop.

Special thanks go to Jenny and Simon Mead from PE Meads Farm Shop, Wilstone who have been so supportive to our event once again and their sponsorship of the raffle tickets, offering free advertising at the farm shop, and of course donating the burgers for the fabulous BBQ once again. In particular for this year their grey Fergie vintage tractor was a great attraction for all on the day and Chris and Rachel Mead's vintage tractor procession was a real show stopper both in the procession and on the showground all afternoon. What a country picture they made. Thank you all again.

Guy and Abi Campbell from the Half Moon were so supportive to the Fete and their help and involvement made huge differences to the bar and the whole event and their extremely generous offer of the superb buffet laid on for all the volunteers on the evening of the fete. A wonderful evening was had by all, thank you both.

There are always too many thank you's by name to put in one article but for anyone who offered their valuable time, ideas, muscle power, time on the committee, brought your animals, baked cakes, cooked burgers and sausages, pulled pints, ran the stalls, ran the dog show entry desk, hand made bunting, dressed as a giant chicken or Shaun the Sheep, sang, danced, cut the grass, collected bric-à-brac, commentated, directed traffic, served refreshments, counted the money, washed up. All of these activities and more are critical to ensure the fete can take place and run smoothly. Thanks to everyone.

One last huge thank you but by no means least...Queen Jane of Wilstonia and her fabulous entourage and menagerie made the procession and opening ceremony extraordinarily unique and fabulous fun. All your hard work and creativity is quite simply wonderful and hugely appreciated. Brilliant.

As well as receiving training and attending work placements and a summer school, participants will take part in hands-on activities that'll really benefit their own local community.

Applications are now open to take part in Bright Green Future from Sept 2016. See www.bright-green-future.org.uk/join for more details.

The deadline for applications is **Sunday 17 July**.

The agricultural story line... by David Mead

Sunny fete and a family surprise

WELL. How do they do it? The sun shone and the band played. The crowds were there to march down to the Wilstone Fete. Fantastic! The hay-makers would like to know how it's done. We've got a couple of fields mown and washed. Most of the grass is made into silage but some good hay is needed for the horses - very particular beasts, and very particular owners. Chris will have to tell the tale. We are getting good yields of grass, as they have found with the contract work. The wrappers have been coming home either side of midnight. The grass has grown, with the cattle not really coping - but there is plenty of time for things to change.

The new building at the farm shop is making great progress. Floor finished, water and electrics connected. That man with his gin distillery will soon be in production. The open evening in November will not be the same.

The wild flower field is looking quite spectacular. The ewes grazed it off in early spring. Now the flowers are there. There

is a lot of the white ragweed. This plant seems to like the system. I know that Tom had a similar problem with his patch up here at the buildings. On the farm we have two noticeable things to worry about: pigeon damage to the oil seed rape, and black grass in the wheat. The spray that was used to control the second problem has been suspended by Europe. What can be done? I believe spring-grown wheat prevents it, but you don't get good yields and drilling in January/February is not always possible.



Well, the family had a lovely surprise. A willow-framed igloo was secretly made on the moated area down the meadows at Gubblecote. Alex persuaded Becks that it was the place to be. Ring found, down on one knee. Congratulations all round! The willow frame is growing a very special place. Well done Alex!

Congratulations from the Village News team to Alex and Becks on their engagement.



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And, by rotating, cook them.
To flip, to burn no more and by chance to say we end
The heartache of a thousand uncooked burgers
Those ribs are heir to-'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wished. To fry, to smoke on a spit,
perchance to smother. Aye, there's the rub.



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**Deadline for items to go in the September
edition (no August edition) is:
Wednesday 17 August 2016.**

The editor is John McCall

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Long Marston annual village charity football match *by Toby Davidson*



Pub Side



Photographs courtesy of Adam Hollier Photography



School Side

ONCE again, we had a lovely evening for this year's football match between the 'school' side and the 'pub' side on Friday 27th May. The pub side went in as favourites, having won the previous 3 matches, but a close game ensued. With ref James being delayed by traffic, the game started late with a substitute ref. The pub side took the lead thanks to a penalty converted by Adam Blischke before his brother Pete made it 2-0. Long Marston football club striker Oli Garnham scored one back before the break to make it 2-1 at half time. Life was made tough for the school side, now going uphill in the second half. The pub side then took a 3-1 lead thanks to Dave Whicker, but the school side stuck to the task and scored a deserved second through Josh Runham. The pub side however controlled the remaining few minutes to win 3-2.

After the match, I went to the vicar's barbeque to find him and his team packing up after having sold out with projected profits of £450! Then Mark Swales from Flame Catering took over with his wood-fired pizzas and had long queues all night until he too sold out after making

over 80 pizzas! After the presentation of the trophy and the man of the match award, given to Josh by Long Marston football club coach, Nik Sabatini, the party carried on into the night thanks to Dave Severs' disco and copious amounts of beer and wine courtesy of Fullers Brewery and The Queens Head. We had a record year and made just over £2200 for the 5 village groups, the school PTA, the pre-school, the football club, the church and the victory hall.

My thanks to all who helped make it a successful day, donating cakes and their time to the event. Special mentions to Alan & Daphne Winfield for the football kits and sorting out the pitch, Dave Severs for the disco, Jackie's Café for their donation of Sunday lunch for 4, Tim & Liz Ayling from the Queens Head for all their help and support, Simon Gifford of Fullers for the beer and especially Debbie & Lee Dimond, as without their drive and enthusiasm this event would not be possible.



Queen's birthday party in Long Marston *by Toby Davidson*



DESPITE the weather which meant an intrepid team having to put up the marquee in the pouring rain, over 40 people attended the barbeque on the village recreation ground on Sunday 12th June. We managed to get the school barbeque over and had loads of sausages and burgers as well as salads and several puddings, including a lemon meringue pie courtesy of Jackie's Café and some very messy eton mess. The children's play area was well used when the sun came out and a good time was had by all.

My thanks to Martin Kelly for all his help supplying and setting up the marquee, gazebo and transport and all the villagers who supported the event during the afternoon.

Wilstone Fete Photo Parade

photos by John Painter

