Village News: Long Marston, Puttenham, Wilstone, Little Tring

*September 2013*

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

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

# A bumper crop of entries for the Long Marston Show

***by our outside broadcast team***

LAST year the headline for this feature was: "The sun always shines..." referring to the local old adage about good weather on show day. Well, it still holds true, but the show's reputation for a fine day was looking distinctly rickety at 2pm when a text-book cumulonimbus produced a short deluge. But after that inconvenient beginning, the sun did indeed shine so the saying holds true still. Show Secretary Margaret Kaye said that entries to the show classes were up this year, perhaps reflecting the benefits to gardeners of the recent warm weather. Certainly there were many splendid horticultural achievements in the show hall, and the 'domestic' tables were laden too. Entries in the children's sections were of a particularly high standard, and the judges must have had a hard time.

Outside on the field, 'Friends of the Blues' played, all the burgers and sausages were eaten, and there were only empty barrels to return to Tring Brewery. Stallholders quickly recovered from the damp interlude, and it was as if it never happened. This annual event is organised by the Long Marston and Puttenham Horticultural Association. Committee members were no doubt relieved to see a successful afternoon in the sunshine. If you would like to help with the show next year, they will be pleased to hear from you.

**Not the flower stall but the BBQ crew!**

**Bouncy castle scene**

More pictures on the back page.
(Pictures: Village News.)

# Time please!

***by A.Drinker***

AFTER nearly 24 years at the Half Moon pub in Wilstone, Bob and Jan Findlay have rung the bell for last orders - for the last time.

Arriving from Plymouth in 1989, their first taste of Wilstone was sleeping on the floor of the lounge bar of the pub, as all their furniture had been mislaid en route.
Since then, they have built up a good business with an excellent reputation for pub food and well-conditioned beer, and have created a safe and enjoyable environment for locals and visitors alike.

They have earned their rest. Running a pub is a relentless business. You have a busy weekend and with a sigh you close the doors at the end on the Sunday night. But you have to be up and about first thing Monday morning, to do it all over again. You can never have holidays when other people do, or go to parties or other events.

So it was with mixed feelings that Bob and Jan and daughter Laura decided not to renew their tenancy and left the pub for the last time on July 15th. It is not just a business they are leaving, but their home and community.

On Saturday July 13th, in a packed pub bulging at the seams with well wishers, Bob and Jan were presented with a picture of the Half Moon, painted by local artist Deborah Chalmers, which was given on behalf of the village shop. It was a very emotional evening, heightened when Ben Reeves presented Bob and Jan with a scrap book containing messages from regulars and locals, even some who have moved away, together with lots of photographs of the many parties held in the pub. For once, Bob was lost for words. Jan tearfully thanked everyone for the good wishes and for the gifts that so many had contributed towards. Bob and Jan explained it was their hope to open a new café business somewhere in the local area, one which they can close at 5.30 and go home, like everybody else! Bob intends to improve his golf; he has a long way to go, said some of the nameless regulars. So farewell to them both and may you enjoy a good rest and successful new business.

*Thanks go to Jane Shirley, Phil Madley, Deborah Chalmers, the Village Shop and the Village Hall Committee, amongst others, for creating the scrapbook, organising the photographs, donating the painting and organising the collection.*

## Ode to Bob and Jan

***by Jane Shirley***

*This poem was read by Jane at the Half Moon, Wilstone, to mark the departure of Bob and Jan Findlay in July.*

We'll raise a glass and drink today
For Bob and Jan are on their way.
They'll sorely miss the blocked up loos
And people wearing muddy shoes,
The customers who get too rowdy,
And beer that comes out looking cloudy.
The dirty plates and roofs that leak;
The same old stuff week after week.
Those dreary souls with endless woes,
And losing games of dominoes.
The world wants dinner – no-one's booked,
The kitchen's hot – the chef is cooked.
She's started fish and chips for three
When BANG! No electricity!

But they'll remember good times too
When looking back from pastures new.
A kilted Bob at New Year's time
With fancy dress and Auld Lang Syne,
And people singing in the bar
With Jon and Toby on guitar.
A dram or two, the fire alight
And banter on a winter's night.
Those absent friends of Wilstone fable
Whose ghosts still haunt The Toilet Table.

They've served us well for donkey's years,
We'll miss them both. Good luck - and Cheers!

**Bob and Jan - final farewell** (Picture: John Painter)
**See their letter of thanks on page 25**

# Village News

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July saw the final farewell of Bob and Jan. They had run the Half Moon for 24 years and created a friendly atmosphere it was a pleasure to visit. Great times, fondly remembered. A full report is on Page 2.

Occasionally a television programme comes along which reinforces belief in human society. One example was a programme about the British Empire Medal (BEM). It was first introduced by the Queen's Grandfather, George V, in 1922 and became known as the 'working class medal.' It was scrapped in the 1990s because it was at odds with the Government's vision for a classless society and possible confusion with the MBE. However it was reintroduced in 2012 to coincide with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Today it rewards sustained local contribution. Essentially it is about rewarding ordinary people who have made a difference in their local community. They're looking for people who, when the award's announced, the rest of the community will think, 'this is just tremendous.'
Such a change from the bad news stories which seem to dominate the press and television today.

***Deadline for items for our next issue is Thursday 19th September 2013.***

***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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Denington Estate, Wellingborough, NN8 2RA. 01933 228855.

# Church services

## at
## 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 September**
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer
11.30am St Cross Harvest Festival

**8 September**
8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

**15 September**
10.00am St Cross Holy Communion
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer

**14 September (Monday)**
2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

**22 September**
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion and Sunday Club
3.30pm St Mary's Harvest Evensong

**29 September**
10.00am All Saints Harvest Festival

All Saints, Long Marston.

## Times for mobile library Route 72

***Thursdays, fortnightly: 5 and 19 September.***

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tringford** (Piggeries Pine) | **11.00 to 11.20** |
| **Wilstone** (The Half Moon) | **11.25 to 11.55** |
| **Astrope** (Astrope Lane) | **12.50 to 13.15** |
| **Puttenham** (Church Lane) | **13.20 to 13.45** |
| **Long Marston** (Queen's Head) | **14.00 to 15.15** |

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

# What's on...

## Long Marston Victory Hall

## TOBY'S FUN QUIZ

**FRIDAY 27th SEPTEMBER**

**7:30 FOR 8:00 START**

**BYO DRINKS AND NIBBLES**

**£3 ENTRY**
**TEAMS OF UP TO 8**

**(RAISING MONEY FOR THE CAR PARK)**

# Diary dates...

**Tring Rural Parish Council meetings** (8pm)
*The public are welcome to attend these meetings.*
**Wednesday 3 July** Puttenham Cecilia Hall.
**Wednesday 7 August** Wilstone village hall.
**Wednesday 4 September** Long Marston village hall.

**Saturday 31 August**
Jumble Sale. 2pm Cecilia Hall.
**Sunday 1 September**
St. Cross Wilstone Harvest Festival. Service 11.30am at Meads Farm Pond; Harvest Lunch 1.00pm in the Hall, tickets £5 each.
**Friday 6 September**
Cecilia Tea Rooms. 3pm, Cecilia Hall. TBC.
**Saturday 14 September**
Beds and Herts Bike 'n Hike. St Cross and St. Mary's will be open 10.00am to 6.00pm.
**Sunday 15 September**
Holy Cross Day. Special 10.00am service for Wilstone church, with blessing of new Processional Cross.
**Sunday 15 September**
Chilterns Countryside and Food Festival.
Ashridge Estate.10.00am to 4.00pm.
**Sunday 22 September**
St Mary's Harvest Festival. 3.30pm followed by Harvest Tea.
**Tuesday 24 September**
All Saints Social Afternoon. 2.00pm to 3.00pm
**Friday 27 September**
Toby's Fun Quiz. LM Victory Hall. 7.30pm for 8.00pm
**Saturday 5 October**
October Supper. 7.30pm, Cecilia Hall.
**Tuesday 22 October**
All Saints Social Afternoon. 2.00pm to 3.00pm
**Saturday 26 October**
Swinging Rascals. Wilstone Village Hall. 7.30pm.
**Friday 1 November**
"Cecilia Tea Rooms", Puttenham.
**Tuesday 5 November**
Rosemary for Remembrance Service, 10.00am, St. Cross Wilstone.
**Friday 15 November**
All Saints Quiz and Curry Night. 7.30pm for 8.00pm.
**Saturday 23 November**
Long Marton Cricket Club: End of Season Ball, Mentmore.
**Tuesday 26 November**
All Saints Social Afternoon. 2.00pm to 3.00pm
**Tuesday 17 December**
Carols round the tree on LM village green 7pm.

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

# Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

*Raising funds for your church*

## Saturday 14 September 2013
## 10 am to 6 pm

- Have fun Cycling or Walking
- Help save your local heritage
- Raise funds for your church or chapel
- Over 600 churches and chapels to visit!

Raise money for the repair of your local church or chapel by getting sponsorship for cycling or walking between churches in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Anyone can take part and there is a choice of over 600 churches and chapels for you to visit, most of which will be open.

*For more information please contact:-*

**Long Marston: Carole Harrison 01296 668526**
**Puttenham: Christine Rutter 01296 668337**
**Wilstone: Mary Minter 01442 823605**

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust

**Community Shop Wilstone opening hours:**

Monday to Saturday: 7.30am to 1.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am to 12.00noon.

**St. Cross Wilstone**

## Sunday 1st September
## Harvest Service 11.30am

starting at Mead's farm pond.

## Harvest Lunch at 1pm (£5)

For tickets please contact Olga (01442 822894) or Pam (01442 824394).
We look forward to seeing you.

# Herts Open Studios
# Come and visit an artist who paints with an Iron!

**"Makes me look at an iron in a completely new light...absolutely incredible"**

Phil Madley is taking part in Herts Open studios this year, which is on from 7 - 29 September. There are several other artists in this area also opening up their studios. Phil has got an artist-trail for the area which will be available at his studio during the exhibition. There is no obligation to buy and it's free to come and see the artist's work and watch him demonstrate his skills. Everybody is welcome. Phil also does demonstrations to art societies throughout Southern England, so don't miss out. Come and see him at work - you won't be disappointed.

Phil Madley Studio at 50 Tring Road, Wilstone, Herts HP23 4PD. Open 10am - 6pm. Closed Mondays and Thursdays.

# London to Berlin Bikeathon

*by Matt Short*

ON Sept 6th I will be cycling on my own from Berlin to London (600miles), with an aim to get to London in 8 days. On the 9th day I will do the 100 mile (ex Olympic route) of the London Bikeathon.

The reason I have decided to take on this challenge is that one of my closest friends (Matt Briggs), recently fell and seriously injured his head and brain. From his horrific, life-threatening, initial injuries, he's making a speedy recovery beyond anything anyone was expecting! This is due to the amazing staff and facilities at The London Royal Hospital. He simply would not be here today if it wasn't for them.

I wanted to raise money jointly for them and for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research as both charities are exceptional and deserve all the support we can give!

**Matt with his trusty bike!**

Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research is the leading charity in research into blood cancers and this research has saved countless lives including my own Grandmother. I know first hand how vital the work they do is and this will be a cause close to my heart forever.

I have set up JustGiving pages for both causes:
LLR = http://tinyurl.com/lv7q4mp
LRH = http://tinyurl.com/mw49hh3
By donating to my cause, you will be helping out two of the worthiest causes I can think of and ensuring I walk like John Wayne for at least 2 months. So please give all that you can.

I have taken on tough challenges before, but this is possibly the hardest thing I've ever done. However, every time I have a flicker of doubt I think of Matt and my Gran, and the strength and determination they have both shown in the face of challenges that make a bike ride seem as trivial as it really is. Suddenly cycling from A to B seems like child's play.

BritishRedCross

Volunteers Needed

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If you are interested, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Helen Kibbler on
07590 227890 HKibbler@redcross.org.uk

Refusing to ignore people in crisis

# Community Shop News and Information

## We are looking for someone special.

We are delighted that the shop is now able to support a part-time paid post for a Shop Manager. We are looking for a community minded person and hope to offer the successful applicant £100 a week (see advert below).

## Please join the new '100 Club'...

We would now like to start a programme of refurbishment for the shop and whilst we already can start this from profits from the shop we will need more than this in the short term. So we are starting a new '100 Club' in September, to run for a year. If you would like to have bit of fun and support us you can obtain the form from the village shop or by emailing info@wilstonevillageshop.org.uk or downloading from www.wilstonevillageshop.org.uk

## Community Calendar 2014 – URGENT Calling all budding photographers!

As many of you will know, over the past few years we have had a Wilstone Calendar sold at the shop in Wilstone. In keeping with it now being a Community Shop, we would like to produce a Community Calendar for 2014, showing pictures in and around the rest of the villages in the locality. In creating this Community Calendar we are seeking your help and would be very grateful to receive photographs from you to consider for inclusion. We are particularly looking for photographs that represent the character and interests of our villages. If you have anything that you would like to submit, then please email the photograph(s) to photos@wilstonevillageshop.org.uk. We have had some great contributions so far but more are still wanted so do please have a go. If you have any questions please contact Graham Thorpe on 01442 822923 or 07743896800 email g.thorpe@btinternet.com.

# Looking for a great local job opportunity? Wilstone Community Shop is looking for a Shop Manager

Wilstone Community Shop is looking for a Shop Manager to help to take the shop into its next phase. We're looking for a highly community-minded individual with excellent team working and customer focus skills to handle the day-to-day aspects of shop operations. Amongst other things this will mean ensuring that the shop is kept fully stocked and hygiene and food safety are maintained to the highest standards. The incumbent will provide a lead to our very enthusiastic band of volunteers who will provide the main customer service focus. He or she will also be responsible for volunteer induction and training.

The successful applicant will work closely with the Management Committee to identify and implement new strategies to meet the needs of our local community and enable the shop to continue to go from strength to strength.

We are looking for someone to officially work for 10 paid hours a week and willing to work additional voluntary hours as and when necessary. The selected candidate will be paid £100 a week with 56 hours paid annual holiday including bank and public holidays. Relevant training will be provided as required.

Like to know more? Copies of the job description are available from the shop or from Anna Evans by email at annaevans888@btinternet.com.

If you would like to discuss any aspect you can also contact Anna on 01442 822115. Please submit a CV outlining relevant experience to Anna either by email or leave it for her in the shop. Closing date for applications is 30th September 2013.

Luxury Beauty Salon in Wilstone

www.TheChapelRoom.co.uk

or call on 01442 890933

LONG MARSTON AND PUTTENHAM

# Annual village show

Our annual village show is over once again and seems to have been well received despite the showers we had on the day! The barbeque did a very good trade and the weather meant more people visited the hall. A 20% increase in entries helped intensify the interest.

We had an interesting debriefing session in the Queens Head the following week, discussing all aspects of the show and it was agreed that a principal aim for the future must be to utilise the arena a lot better. It was also felt that the event could do with some fresh ideas from members of the local community

We are therefore looking for anybody who would like to see changes to the way the field is run to come forward and join a NEW Village Organising Committee with new ideas for the future of our main village event.

Please contact Martin Winship on 01296 662388 or e-mail martinwinship@live.co.uk if you are interested.

# Long Marston village website

For years Long Marston has had its own website (www.longmarston.org) supplying information on local activities as well as local history archives.

Recently, following local encouragement, the Horti has now created a Facebook page which, it is hoped will be used by all the village organisations to promote their events. The idea is to ask people to "like" our new page and they will then receive information on all things going on in the village - from fundraising to sporting and leisure activities.

We also need local groups to sign up in order to promote their activities in the village. Please contact Vicky Hayes on vmh604@gmail.com or sign up on our Facebook page facebook.com/longmarstonhp23.

# Show secretary needed

The Long Marston Village show has been running a flower and produce exhibition since 1936, but is now looking for a new show secretary to run the hall. This a key position in the community and needs someone who is prepared to help set up and run the Village Hall on show day (the first Saturday in August)

Any interested parties should contact
Martin Winship 01296 662388 or
Margaret Kaye 01296 662975

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# From our reporter at the Parish Council meeting

## New Clerk appointed

LUCY BANCROFT, who lives in Long Marston, has been appointed as the new Clerk to the Parish Council. She responded to the vacancy notice which the Parish Council placed in Village News. Lucy will take over in September from Dawn Slade, who is standing down after 13 years in the job. Dawn is helping with training and handover arrangements. Chairman Cllr. Mike Tomlinson said: "We received four applications for the job and were very pleased with the level of interest shown. The selection panel had a difficult decision to make, but we were particularly impressed with Lucy's quiet confidence and pleasant manner, and with her versatility. I look forward to working with her. We are going to miss Dawn who has done a terrific job for the Parish Council and the community, and I wish her well for the future.

## ... and a resignation

Cllr. Jill Finlan has resigned from the Parish Council for personal reasons. As a Councillor, Jill had taken responsibility for improving the footpaths of the parish, and was instrumental in organising the programme of new gates and easier accessibility which has been successfully implemented during the last few years. Her resignation means that there are now two vacancies on the Parish Council.

## Planning officer to attend

A planning officer from Dacorum Borough Council will attend the next Parish council meeting, which is on Wednesday 4th September, 8pm, at Long Marston village hall. The officer will brief Councillors on the impact and implementation of the new planning guidelines, which from 31st May this year relax some planning rules. *(See Village News, July/ August, page 10.)* Villagers interested in planning matters are welcome to attend.

## £10,000 loan needed for changing rooms

Improvements to the football changing rooms at Long Marston recreation ground - under discussion for some while now - would cost £20,000 in total, Councillors were told. Planning permission for the extension to the existing building adjacent to the village hall had already been granted, and the footings had been dug. Efforts to fund the work through grants have so far not been successful. Accepting that the improvements would be an asset to the community, Councillors agreed a new strategy. The Parish Council would apply to Dacorum for a loan of £10,000 while at the same time seeking grant funding themselves for the remaining £10,000. If the grant could not be obtained, the Parish Council would not be obliged to draw down any loan agreed by Dacorum. The Parish Council felt that this was less complex and stood a better chance of success than the alternative of granting a lease to Long Marston FC to help them seek grant funding themselves.

## Reservoir ideas

Cllr. Mike Tomlinson had attended a briefing given by the Canal and Rivers Trust (previously British Waterways) during which ideas for a plan for the Tring Reservoirs were set out. This was the start of a consultation process, and there would be opportunities to comment on the plan as it developed, he said. Ideas put forward by CRT included: toilets at the car park, cycle hire and cycle routes, barbeque areas, more bird hides, circular walks, better access to footpaths, signposting and a heritage trail. Some EU funding may be available apparently. Cllr. Tomlinson stressed that these were all just first thoughts, and a long way from a firm plan.

## Memorial post repairs

Cllr. Richard Briant asked that the posts marking off the Wilstone War Memorial be replaced in time for Remembrance Services later in the year. A number of the wooden posts are now broken and the rest are clearly at the end of their useful life. said. It was agreed that the work should be carried out.

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***Your Parish Councillors are:***
Mr Michael Tomlinson (Chairman) 01296 661 311
Mr Chris Griffiths 01296 668 257
Mr Alan Winfield 01296 668 977
Mr Nick Murrell 01296 668 190
Mrs Olli Wheeler-Cornell 01296 662 207
Mr Richard Briant 01442 825 674

Two vacancies.

***The Clerk to the Council is:***
Mrs Dawn Slade 01442 824 138
Email: clerk@tringruralpc.org.uk

***The Village Warden is*:**
Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822 031

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

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

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# Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

**No 77 Difficult**

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

You should be able to spot a solution for at least a couple of squares. Then maybe concentrate on the bottom section but you will need your pencil and paper to solve this..

**solution on page 29**

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# Appeal for help

*By Rachael Friedli*

Would you like to work with girls aged 7-10?
Are you free on a Thursday evening?
Would you like to see girls develop in confidence and self-esteem?

If yes then please contact me; I am the Leader with the 1st Long Marston & Wilstone Brownies which meet at the village hall on a Thursday evening (in term-time) from 5.30pm to 7pm. Although I do have support in the way of two unit helpers; we would really appreciate some more. Perhaps you have a skill that the girls would be interested to learn or you have a hidden talent ?

Volunteering with Girlguiding is about more than just giving something back to your local community. It doesn't matter how much time you give whether it's every week or once a month; people who volunteer their time with Brownies feel truly rewarded in lots of different ways. If you're someone with a sense of adventure looking for a rewarding challenge, working at Brownies could be for you. From outdoor activities to pack holidays, you'll have great fun and help girls build their confidence and try something new at the same time – what could be better?

Either way please contact me on **01442 827577** or **rachel-friedli@mac.com**

# Long Marston Cricket Club

Superb season at Marlins with all three teams in the Cherwell league at the top of their respective divisions and only three games left to play. Added to this the Sunday side have already won promotion by winning Division 5 of the Chess Valley league - a great performance in his first year as captain by James Beesley. Earlier in the summer the club secured two trophies by winning the Coronation Cup and the Aylesbury Mid Week Cup.

Cherwell League presentation evening at the Kassam Stadium, Oxford in mid October has the potential to be a bumper night out and Marlins will be full for the club presentations on Saturday 5th October.

Very successful three day county game ended on Tuesday 20th with a resounding win for Hertfordshire in front of a packed ground for all three days.

Follow us on;
www.pichero.com/clubs/longmarstoncricketclub where you can keep up to date with team selections, results, club news, forthcoming fixtures etc.

Further reminder re our dinner at Mentmore on November 23rd. Separate advert in this magazine. Why not come along and join us? If you are interested – contact me – details on page 26 of this magazine. *Paul Dumpleton, Chairman*


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# News from the Long Marston and PuttenhamWI

*by Sue Barraclough*

THE summer has been a busy time for members of the Long Marston and Puttenham WI.

In June we had our annual Gardens Visit and were fortunate indeed in the two beautiful local gardens we visited and in that the weather remained kind to us. Our first stop was at Bridge Cottage, Cheddington which is laid out on ridge and furrow agricultural land and has been in some form of cultivation since medieval times and in more recently, commercially, as an orchard. In the hands of the present owners it is testament to what hard work and love can achieve and we had a lovely time exploring the various aspects of the garden. Then on to our second visit of the evening, West End House, Cheddington, yet another very beautiful garden with not only herbaceous beds but very well cultivated vegetable plots and an idyllic corner in which there was a pond complete with boat and summer house. We spent some considerable time exploring both gardens and at both venues we were shown the most amazing hospitality by our hosts and plied with delicious food and drink. Both of these venues open under the National Gardens Scheme and if you have not already seen them I would urge you to visit.

July was our birthday meeting and, to celebrate this year, we held an 'Indoor Garden Party'.The tables were laid with beautiful china and flowers and our members turned up in summer dresses and hats. We enjoyed a high tea of finger sandwiches, homemade cakes and scones and strawberries and enjoyed some silly competitions. The evening was rounded off by a good old-fashioned singalong and, judging by the smiles on people's faces, a good time was had by all.

The August meeting, which was arranged by our members, had a much more exotic theme as we were all invited along to try on a selection of Sri Lankan Saris. We had great fun dressing in these beautiful garments and were surprised at how comfortable they are to wear and how elegant they make you feel. Some of our members (including me) were very reluctant to take them off at the end of the meeting. A lovely evening was rounded off with a buffet of Sri Lankan and Indian foods.

The lunch club have enjoyed lunches at The Farmers Boy, Kensworth, Wendover Garden Centre (a good chance to stock up on bargain plants) and The Grand Junction Arms at Bulbourne where we were able to take full advantage of the lovely summer's day by having lunch in the garden. This month will see us at the Travellers Rest at Edlesborough.

The Theatre Group have been to see The Mouse Trap, the ballets Don Quixote and Swan Lake and have several other trips lined up including Save the Last Dance for Me and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers.

The Walking Group continues to stride out and have been exploring the Outer Aylesbury Ring and walking in the steps of the Great Train Robbers

Some of our members have also enjoyed an early morning guided visit to Covent Garden Flower Market, at which they had a class in making buttonholes for weddings, and a visit to the Embroidery Exhibition at Aylesbury Museum, guided by one of our members who is also a member of the Embroiderer's Guild. We have also had a busy day making and serving refreshments at the village fete.

Our next meeting is at Long Marston Village Hall on Tuesday 10th September, when the talk will be about The Story of the English Concertina – visitors are welcome at this meeting.

Our membership continues to grow and if you feel that you might be interested in any of our activities then why not come along to a meeting – you will find us a very friendly bunch. If you would like more information please ring Lynn 01296 662466 or Sue 01296 668272

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# Wendover Arm Trust Restoration Working Parties

Working parties are held throughout the year, and typically take place about the beginning of each month.

Do come and see our volunteers in action restoring the canal and don't be afraid to stop and make yourselves known. Any of the lads (and lassies) will be only too pleased to stop work and have a chat to explain what is going on and to answer any questions you may have. They are focussing on profiling and lining the canal between Drayton Beauchamp bridge and the footbridge, near Wilstone Reservoir. There is limited parking in Drayton Beauchamp village (HP22 5LT) and a car park at Wilstone reservoir (HP23 5LT).

**We urgently need further help for this highly rewarding work** - for further information, please contact Roger Leishman on 01442 874536 or Ray Orth on 01494 786868. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

## Working Parties 2013

The dates for 2013 work parties are (EACH DATE IS THE FRIDAY DATE AT THE START OF THE SEVEN DAYS)

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# Strawberry tea helps fix a hole in the roof!

*By Alison Cockerill*

Who's got a hole in the roof? St. Cross Church Wilstone, that's who. Although the main building is structurally sound, there is a hole in the roof where the bell turret is sited and when it rains water seeps through, and drips on to the floor below. This means the adjacent roof timber is damp, a situation which needs fairly urgent attention.

St. Cross does not have sufficient resourses to pay for the work and this is where the Tring Team steps in to help. There are five churches in the Team, including Long Marston, Puttenham and Wilstone, and all five enjoy the financial benefits of 'bulk buying'. Insurance, for example, covers all five buildings; a better option than each church arranging insurance independently. So to support the Team finances and contribute indirectly to the cost of repairing the roof, St. Cross took up the annual £10 Team Challenge—spend £10 and turn it into a profit.

The result was the Strawberry Tea on Sunday August 4th, originally planned to take place in the church garden but held in the church as the weather, although dry, was very windy, and paper plates and napkins tend to become airborne outside. We were absolutely delighted that so many people came along and hope they all enjoyed their afternoon tea and had enough to eat, even if they couldn't all find a seat.

**Helping to turn £10 into £160** *Picture Colin Reedman*

£10 was turned into £160 as a result of such generous support. Many thanks to all the people who made sandwiches and cakes, buttered scones and chopped up strawberries. And special thanks to everyone who came along to eat it; we will certainly do it again next year, hopefully with a few more seats. In the meantime, look out for the scaffolding, sometime towards the end of September.

# Tring Lions mark 40 years of service to the community

*by John Hunt*

**Founding member Tim Woodcock was presented with a Melvin Jones Fellowship to mark his 40 years service to the Lions and the community.**

TRING Lions Club recently celebrated 40 years of service to the community with a Dinner & Dance held at Pendley Manor Hotel. The event was graced with the presence of the local MP, Mr David Gauke (also a Lion from the Palace of Westminster Lions Club), the Town Mayor, Councillor Roxanne Ransley, Lions District Governor John Savell, and members from 15 other Lions Clubs .

A special presentation was made by the club to Lion Tim Woodcock - the only remaining founder member of the club - of a Melvin Jones Fellowship in recognition of his 40 years service, not only in the club but also to the wider community as a Councillor and a school governor over many years. The Melvin Jones Fellowship is for "Dedicated Humanitarian Services" and is the highest award which can be made from the Lions Clubs International Foundation to acknowledge service not only as a Lion but also more widely.

The club was pleased to use this special occasion to acknowledge the leadership which Lion Tim has provided throughout its life.

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# *The agricultural story line…* *by David Mead*

I'm writing this the morning after a trip up North. Three grandsons, one son-in-law and friend travelled by train from Tring to Birmingham for the 20/20 cricket finals at Edgebaston. Anything north of Leighton Buzzard must be treated with caution. From a slow train we had a good time to acclimatise. Weather not warm but the crowd and all locals were wonderful. We had a good day if a little cold. Saw some entertaining cricket with an entertaining crowd. Missed the last few overs to catch the last 10.14 p.m. train to Watford and then back to Tring. Those Midland trains are not very fast. Bed by 2.00 a.m - that's my excuse.

Now where was I? The combine harvester was out first week in August with the wheats ripening earlier than the oil seed rape, pleasing Chris. In the drier, the wheat didn't need drying. He blew some of the rubbish out and sent it into the wheat storage area. Now comes the next stage. Submitting samples for testing, hoping the millers will be interested. They are putting out tales that the Americans have a big crop of good milling wheat. The prices have already fallen. On my train journey there was a lot of wheat not cut. Every shower and the milling quality goes down. Nobody wants the expense of drying so we are marking time. With the wheat standing up it soon dries. Next year's oil seed rape needs to be drilled by the last week in August. So there we are, the wheats need some dry weather with sun. The oil seed rape needs sun for this year's crop and rain for the next year's crop.

The grass for the cattle and sheep usually has a rest midsummer with a spurt in the Autumn. So they are a bit short in places. The lambs have been weaned from the ewes. Some of the later lambs could have done with a bit more of mother's attention but they soon catch up with some fresh grass. The ewes have a well earned rest and should be in the mood by the first week in October. I must keep an eye on the rams feet. They are very prone to foot rot. There you are - keep your toe nails cut and all's well.

My daughter Sarah acquired some guinea fowl chicks from France, kept them in a shed under some heat and now I have 12 semi-adult birds in the garden, housed in pen with house during the night but running free during the day. They have no mother to warn them of dangers but show great intelligence, going back to pen with house at night. Its fingers - crossed time, I had better go out and take another look, they had found the mulberry bush this morning. Starlings in the top of the tree, guinea fowl underneath. Sarah's crowd went a bit haywire on release but are back in her garden Sunday morning. Teresa coped with ours while I was at cricket, but I still had to check at 1.30 a.m. after my cricket adventure.


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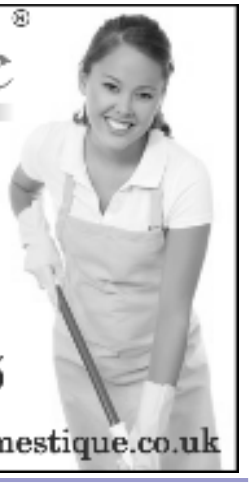

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# Letters...

### *From Chris Reynolds*

IN the 1850's a William Greening was farming 150 acres of land in Wilstone, his landlord being James Grout of Tring Park. William Brown, land agent of Tring, arranged the sale of some trees, almost certainly on this farm, in 1851/2. This included a number of "arbele" trees. A search of the Bucks Herald for this period shows other sales of arbele trees in the Vale of Aylesbury area. Other species of trees were named in sales, such as oak, elm and ash - but black poplar (or any other kind of poplar) was never mentioned. It would appear that the word "arbele" was being used in the area either for black poplar, or possibly any kind of poplar tree.

Originally the word probably applied to any poplar tree, although more recently (but very rarely) to the white poplar. I would be very interested to know if the name is currently used ***in the local area*** for the black poplar, or whether anyone knows of references in old local documents (such as leases) which clearly relate to the arbele trees in the area.

Any references to the former commercial use of black poplar (or arbele) in the area would also be of interest. Contact me at chris@hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk Or telephone 01442 381795

### *From Bob and Jan Findlay*

WE are glad of this opportunity to thank everyone who came to our leaving party, all those who contributed to the wonderful book of lovely good luck messages and photos and of course the gifts. It meant so much to us both, hopefully everyone could tell how surprised and delighted we were with your kindness and good wishes. It was also a sad time for us to be leaving what had been our home and business for nearly twenty four years where our customers had became friends. Our new venture is going to be an exciting time and we will be letting everyone know where we are so we can once again enjoy meeting up with friends. Our best wishes to everyone and most of all thanks.

### *From Ady in Hull*

AN email was received by Jill Walker from Ady in Hull, via the Fete page on Wilstone Village Hall web site, published here for those who will remember the family:
'Just come across your web site. I took part in the fete in 1986 & 87 before I moved (from Wilstone) in 1988.
I lived in Grange Road, Adrian Walton, grandson of Harry Collins. Keep up the good work; you have made my night. I hope to come next year with my own little family. My Mum still calls Grange Road, home.'

# Buckingham Palace invitation

***by Phil Buchi***

ALAN AND ALISON MUNT from Long Marston were honoured with an invitation to Buckingham Palace in July. Hosted by HRH The Princess Royal, this garden party was primarily for the armed forces, though plenty of other well-known figures were in attendance too. Alan was invited in recognition of his service in the British Army. He served in the Royal Fusiliers, City of London Regiment, during the 60s and 70s with ten years as a reservist after that. (Soldiers of this Regiment are entitled to march with fixed bayonets through the City of London, as they are protectors of the City.)

During that time in the Army his overseas postings included the Middle East, Cyprus, Gibraltar, and - unusually – Iran and he can claim to be one of the last British soldiers to visit that country.

After the garden party Alan said: "It was a fantastic day and a marvellous experience. We had a reserved parking space in Buckingham Palace and were invited to walk through the Palace itself into the magnificent gardens. We were served with glorious food: wonderful cakes, tea, cucumber sandwiches of course, followed by strawberries and cream, more tea and more sandwiches too if you wanted!

**Alan and Alison Munt at Buckingham Palace** *Picture Alan Munt*

Music was provided by the band of the Lifeguards, finishing in the evening with the Beating of The Retreat. Alison and I thoroughly enjoyed the day and memory of it will stay with us."

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# The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

**FRIENDS OF PUTTENHAM CHURCH**

## JUMBLE SALE

**SATURDAY, 31ST AUG. – 2 P.M. CECILIA HALL**

**Jumble may be left at any time (No videos, please). Any offers of help sorting, or at the sale on the day, please contact Christine: 01296 668337**

## *BIKE 'N' HIKE*

**SATURDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER 10a.m. – 6 p.m.**

**ARE YOU WILLING TO CYCLE OR WALK FOR ST.MARY'S? Please ask for a sponsorship form – the money you raise will be split 50/50 between St.Mary's and the Beds &Herts Historic Churches Trust. We hope to apply to the B&H Trust for funds in the future, so please support their cause. Ring 01296 668337 for sponsorship forms. CECILIA HALL will be open for refreshments throughout the day.**

## *ST. MARY'S HARVEST FESTIVAL*

**SUNDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER – 3.30 P.M. followed by Harvest Tea**

**We shall be singing all the favourite Harvest hymns. Church decorating will take place on Saturday morning, 21st Sept. from 10 a.m. If you have any offers of fruit, vegetables, flowers & greenery, they will be much appreciated. Please join us for decorating the church.**

**THE PUTTENHAM TRUST**

## OCTOBER SUPPER

**SATURDAY, 5TH OCTOBER – 7.30 P.M.**

**Book your tickets early for this enjoyable event.**
**Home Produce Table - Raffle.**
**Tickets: 01296 668337 or 01296 668267**

## "THANKFUL VILLAGES" BIKE RUN.

**Firstly, we must offer our very grateful thanks to so many people who came to help. It was a long afternoon's wait for the bikers to arrive, but the atmosphere when they finally came (much delayed) was fantastic. It is a great shame that Medwyn and Dougie did not get the motor-cyclist following they had hoped for. A week ahead of the big day we were told to expect between 100 and 1000 bikers – thanks to everyone involved in whatever way, we were prepared! In the end, just over 30 bikers came so we were somewhat over-catered, but the greeting, the service and presentation and final departure, were well worth the wait. All 51 of the Thankful Villages have been asked to unveil their commemoration plaques at the same time in 2014 to mark the 100 years since the start of the 1914/18 war. See main magazine for full report and pictures.**

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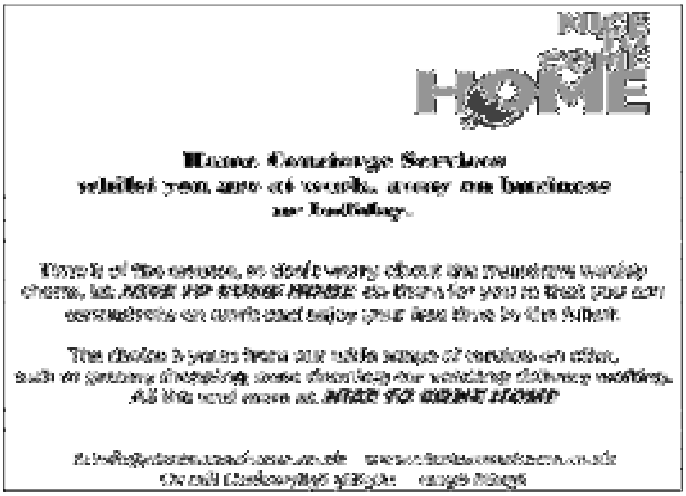


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# From the Vicarage

by Rev'd Jo Wetherall

## High Summer

THIS August walking the tow path from Wilstone to Puttenham was like stepping back to the summer days of my village childhood, days which were endless and hot, when the wild flowers grew above your head and teemed with buzzing insects.

I remembered sword fights with bull rushes and jam jars filled with sticklebacks gaping at us through green tinged water and I called out with joy on seeing the unmistakable iridescent blue of a kingfisher as it winged by.

It felt like a long time since I had been enveloped by high summer in England and all the impressions it had left on me – I tried to absorb it all, discover the reflections it would leave with me now.

Every individual thing I looked at seemed so secure in its own expression of its beauty and form. Diversity was necessary to the whole. What struck me even more was that in some cases the different aspects of nature, like the kingfisher, were virtually hidden from sight, yet continued to provide their quiet grace. They didn't need to be seen to be at their best. Their natural beauty simply flowed from what they were meant to be, where they were, whether seen or unseen – true to themselves and to what they were meant to be, without any praise, or affirmation, or recognition from elsewhere.

Through all this wonderful coexistence I glimpsed an identity absolutely at rest and at peace. Can you imagine, for one moment, feeling like that, where all your strivings to be, your performances, your evaluations and desired recognitions just cease, and you are perfectly still and at peace simply describing the uniqueness that is you?

What joy! What release! What peace! I suspect the more natural we are, the more real we become.

# HOLY CROSS DAY

## SUNDAY SEPT. 15TH 10.00AM

## JOIN THE WALK FROM THE VILLAGE HALL TO THE CHURCH TO CELEBRATE THE BLESSING OF THE NEW PROCESSIONAL CROSS.

## EVERYONE IS WELCOME

## REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE

# News from All Saints

*by Carole Harrison*

A big thank you to everyone who made and donated cakes for our stall at the Horticultural Show. We had a very successful afternoon.

Sponsored Bike 'n' Hike Saturday 14th September 10am – 6pm. We would welcome some willing cyclists and walkers to support this event. Money raised is divided between the Historic Churches Trust and the Church.
All Saints will be open throughout the day for visiting participants, so help with manning the Church would also be appreciated.

Social afternoon Tuesday 24th September 2pm – 3pm
All are welcome.

Quiz and Curry night 15th November 7.30pm for 8pm. Please put the date in your diary – more details

**Sudoku No 77 solution**

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

# Local names and numbers

*Herts Police non-emergency number:* **101**
**Local Police Officers (in emergency dial '999')**
PC Steve Hunneysett 01707 354192
PCSO Lee Clements 01707 354192
**Fly-tipping reports**
Call Dacorum Waste Services 01442 867858
*Call the police if you see a crime being committed.*

**Cecilia Hall (Puttenham)**
Christine Rutter 01296 668337
**Beavers**
Sarah Hodgson 01442 823787
**Brownies**
Rachel Friedli 01442 827577
**Cubs**
Jane Dawson 01442 827410
**Guides**
Sheila Hill 01442 823463
**Scouts**
Kate Blanchard 07971 404465
**LM&P Horticultural Society**
David Severs 01296 661021
**Wilstone St Cross**
*Vicar* Rev'd Joanne Wetherall 01442 851200
*Churchwardens*
Andrew Minter 01442 823605
Ken Martin 01442 822894
**Puttenham St Mary's**
*Rector* Rev'd Huw Bellis 01442 822170
*Churchwardens*
Christine Rutter 01296 668337
John Barron 01296 631351
**Long Marston All Saints**
*Clergy* Rev'd Jane Banister 01442 822170
*Keyholder* Carole Harrison 01296 668526
**Tring Rural Parish Council - Chairman**
Cllr Michael Tomlinson 01296 661311
**Clerk to the Parish Council**
Dawn Slade 01442 824138
**Villages Warden**
Colin Reedman 01442 822031
**Long Marston Victory Hall**
Hall hire: Liz Ayling 07973 786389
**Long Marston Cricket Club**
Paul Dumpleton 01296 662849
**Long Marston 1st Steps Pre-School**
Abigail Livermore 07966 154570
**Long Marston Baby & Toddler Group**
Ali Driver 01296 662482
**Long Marston Tennis Club**
Margaret Kelland 01296 668314
**Long Marston Football Club**
Daphne Bateman 01296 668054
**Long Marston School** 01296 668386
**Member of Parliament** (House of Commons)
David Gauke 0207 219 4459
Or to make an appointment call: 01923 771781

**Pet Dog Training**
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Evelyn Chapman 01908 502272
**Village News**
Phil Buchi 01296 661339
**Whitchurch Morris Men**
Nigel Cox 01494 481478
**Wilstone Allotment Assn.**
Jane Waterhouse 01442 826813
**Wilstone Village Hall**
Bookings:Tony Short 01442 823096
**Wilstone Toddlers**
Jane Cole 01442 828272
**WI**
Lynn Foster 01296 662466

*Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.*

## Thank you …

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

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

## Village News

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**Send your editorial contributions, articles, event notices, news and pictures to:**
**editorwlmp@yahoo.com**

**Deadline for items to go in the next issue is:**
**Thursday 19 September.**

**Editor next month will be Colin Moore.**

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

# A Thankful Village remembers

## Motorcycle ride commemorates safe return from war

*by Phil Buchi*

A FLEET of massive motorcycles converged on the tiny village of Puttenham on July 30th as part of a nationwide tour of the "Thankful Villages", those places whose men all returned safely from the horrors of the Great War, 1914 - 1918. Such was the carnage of those years that there are only 51 such Thankful Villages in the UK. Most towns and villages - including Long Marston and Wilstone - have memorials to the many who did not return.

**Receiving the slate plaque. Churchwardens Christine Rutter and John Barron with Keith Bayliss (centre), Chairman of the Berkhamsted and Tring Branch.**
(Picture Phil Buchi)

This commemorative tour was organised by Medwyn Parry and Dougie Bancroft, members of the Royal British Legion motorcycle club, to raise money for the Legion. They hope to raise £51,000 to match the 51 villages. A core group of bikers, all ex-servicemen, were doing the whole tour - this was their 19th village in three days - with other local members joining for the villages in their area. At Puttenham, the riders were welcomed by Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons, President of the Berkhamsted and Tring Branch of the Royal British Legion, and by the Rector, Rev'd Huw Bellis. The narrow lane to the church was transformed into a temporary motorcycle show, and the medals worn by riders showed an impressive record of service too.

**The Royal British Legion colour party flanks the 'poppy' Triumph.** (Picture: Phil Buchi)

After a brief service of thanks and remembrance outside St. Mary's church a commemorative plaque of Welsh slate was presented to the Churchwardens. This will be placed in the church next to the existing tablet which gives thanks for the safe return of all 15 men of the village who went to the war. (That inscription: "For their gallant service and safe return", can be seen just inside the church on the right.) Within 40 minutes the cavalcade had been give tea, cake and a break from the saddle, and roared off to their next Thankful Village.

Donations can still be made at www.royalbritishlegion.org.uk. Just enter "Thankful Villages Run" into the search box on their home page.

# Baby picture!

Welcome to potential new reader Jessica Carys Dollah, born during the Wilstone Fete on 8th June! A happy event for parents Sarah and Paul, though it did prevent Sarah from appearing with the Wilstone Showgirls that afternoon. Perhaps next year. The exercise may have proved to much although it could have been described as “hard labour!”

(Picture by Paul Dollah)

# The Long Marston Show

More pictures by Village News

Ladies of the WI at the tea tent

Careful inspection at the flower stall

"As time goes by." Sunflowers. First prize for Rita Morgan

Rita Magowan was so pleased to win first prize for her 18cm quiche.

Line-up for the 3-legged race

Fine display of eggs

Jazzercise demonstration

Spitfire model in the childrens' section

Busy tombola

Perfect scones