

September 2020

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!

Village News

Long Marston No Show

Unfortunately the virus has another victim this summer. After 84 years of LM shows in August, this year's had to be cancelled. But with a nod to tradition we have devoted this edition to celebrating LM shows over the years. See inside and the back pages.



There are plenty of pictures of past LM shows. Can you remember which year (2006-2016) they were taken ?

See page 17 for years



For the people in Astrope, Gubblecote, Little Tring, Long Marston, Puttenham & Wilstone

Summer in the villages

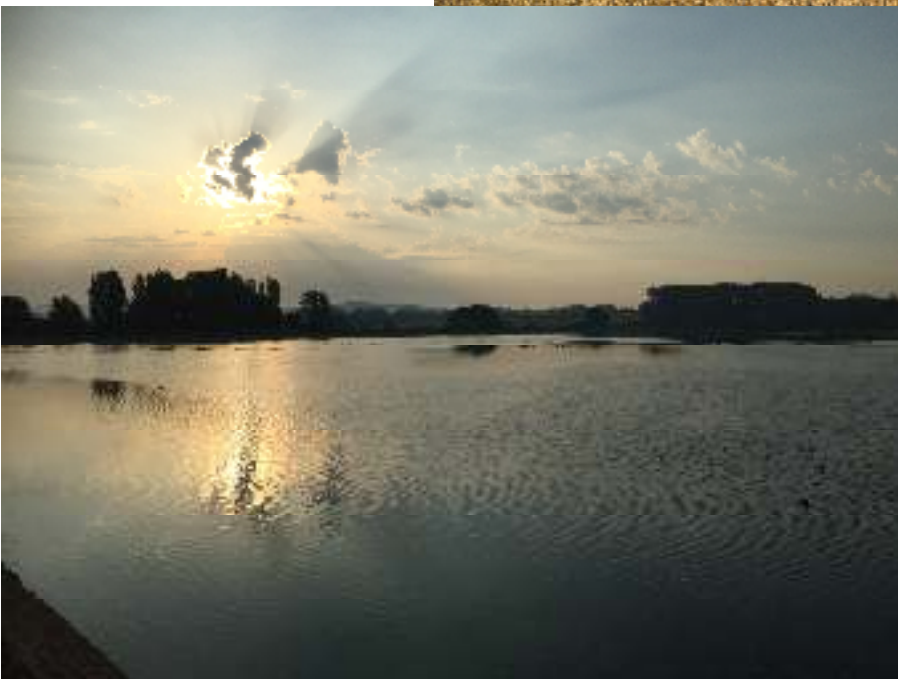


STALL ON THE WALL by Maggy Winship

At the beginning of Lockdown my husband and I decided to do a weekly walk across the fields from Long Marston to the Community Shop at Wilstone. One day I spotted your Stall on the Wall and bought some tiny geranium plants.

They have now grown and are making a stunning patch of red and pink in my garden. Many thanks to the person who offered these for sale, they are really beautiful!

Maggy Winship



Just in case we ever forget how lucky we are to live amongst such beautiful scenery.

Photographs by Peter Walker

Village News

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Village News is online at: www.wilstone.me.uk

A big thank you goes out to all the many contributors to this bumper summer edition. There may not be quite as much happening right now but lets hope the autumn brings with it new opportunities like the Wilstone Village Hall Film nights. Our pubs are open and although it's not compulsory to eat and drink in them, I know they welcome our continued support.

If you have never written a piece for this magazine, It's never too late to start. Don't be shy! Ed

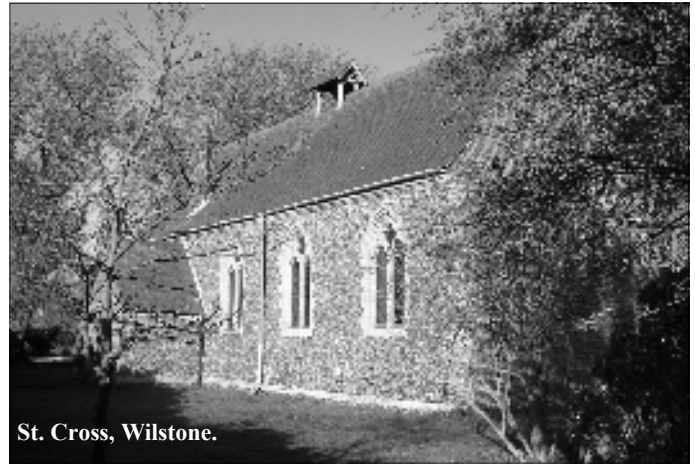
The next edition will be for October 2020 and the deadline for items for inclusion is Wednesday 16 September

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.

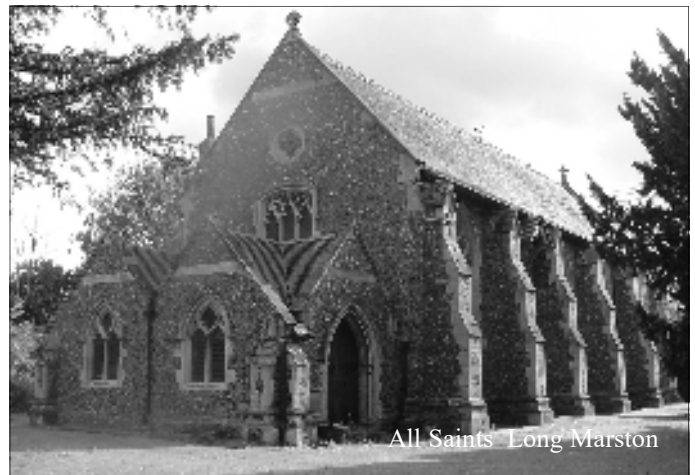
Let us know if we are not!

You can always find a copy of the magazine online at www.wilstone.me.uk where ever you are.

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



St. Cross, Wilstone.



All Saints Long Marston



St Mary's, Puttenham

I don't have any current information regarding church services, but Jane's contact details are on page 22

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What's on and what's not on

Diary Dates..

Saturday 5 September

Jumble Sale (Friends of Puttenham Church)

Friday 9 October

Cecilia Tea Rooms (St.Mary's)

Saturday 31 October

October Lunch (Puttenham Trust)

Saturday 28 November

A concert (to be confirmed)

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

MILLENNIUM EDUCATION FOUNDATION Registered Charity No. 1077157

Are you hoping to go to University or College in 2021, but are concerned that financial resources might not match up to the requirements? Are you under the age of 22? Have you lived in Aldbury, Long Marston, Marsworth, Pitstone, Puttenham, Tring, Wigginton or Wilstone for at least three years?

To see if you would be eligible for a grant, apply to Tring Charities' Millennium Education Foundation for information and an application form.

Website details: www.tringcharities.co.uk/education

Telephone: Elaine Winter, Secretary to the Trustees
01442 827913

Email: info@tringcharities.co.uk

Please note that the closing date is **15 November 2020** to lodge a completed application for grants payable from Autumn 2021.

Victory Hall - Long Marston

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

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

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gilliemann@gmail.com

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Wilstone Village Shop New opening hours

Monday—Friday
8.00 am—2 pm
Saturdays 7.30—1 pm
Sundays 9.00—12 pm

Teazels by Martin Winship

Walking past patches of waste ground and along field-side footpaths, you will often come across remarkable-looking tall plants, bearing what look like baby hedgehogs at their tips. These are Teazels (*DIPSACUS FULLONUM*). They are members of a discrete plant family (Teazel) which also includes the three varieties of Scabious – Field, Small and Devil's-bit. The Teazel's Latin name Fullonum comes from the mistaken belief that their flower heads were used by "Fullers" in the woollen trade. In fact, it was another, cultivated variety of Teazel (*DIPSACUS SATIVUS*) that was grown commercially in Somerset. The Yorkshire woolmen would travel down to inspect and buy the crop – bunches of 40 or 50 heads were combined into "packs" of 20,000. These were mounted in wooden frames back in the mills and used to "raise the nap" on the cloth. Steel forms gradually replaced the Teasel heads, but they were still used for the very top quality and important cloth such as billiard table covering.



Wild Teazels are biennials – only in the second year do the long flower stalks develop. The spikey "hedgehogs" contain 1500 tiny flowers or more, which bloom only for one day, starting with those in the middle and progressing up and down. Usually only a few flowers will be open at the same time, but in consequence they provide an on-going reliable supply of nectar for many insects between late June and September. The seeds which follow the flowers are small and scattered by the wind. They are an important supply of food for birds such as the Goldfinch. These were called "Thistectuike" by the Anglo-Saxons, meaning Thistle-tweaker, because of their fondness for the seeds of Thistles, Teazels and Knapweeds.

Teazels have many alternative names; Draper's Teazel, Indian Teazel, Adam's Flannel, Church Broom, Prickly Back, and Venus's Basin. This last name was applied by the Ancient Romans, in reference to the way that rain water gathers in the "cup" formed where the leaves meet the stem. The water was sometimes gathered by gypsies, and used to treat wrinkles and circles under the eyes – whence another name, "Gypsy Comb". Research has suggested that insects become trapped in the cup and decompose, and the plants absorb the resulting nutrients – so Teazels are carnivorous!

Extract of the roots has been used to treat ulcers, jaundice, warts, wens and whitlows. Lyme disease was also treated with the root, while an infusion of the leaves was used as a wash and to treat acne. Even when the plants have died after flowering, they are still useful, as florists use the everlasting heads in flower displays.

Thomas Chapman Award

Although there was no Long Marston Village Show one of the regular trophies was awarded this year.

The Long Marston & Puttenham Horticultural Society awarded the Thomas Chapman Award for service to the community to Gill Barber.



Gill has quietly assisted at numerous events and organisations over many years, is a trustee of The Puttenham Trust and is one of the many unsung helpers at The Village Show, often putting in a three day shift helping to set up, break down and tidy away.

Ian Nicholls

Gill Barber responded

First of all, I would like to say a big thank you for this wonderful award, I was blown away when Maggy (Winship) phoned me! I feel blessed to live in such a lovely community, surrounded by people who forgive me, when on occasions I "shoot from the hip". I shall treasure the tractor trophy, for the time it is in my possession, as it will be a constant reminder of Tom Chapman and all the remarkable "old timers", who have enriched my life in the years my family have resided in Puttenham.

Thank you.

Hopefully Long Marston Village Show will return on Saturday 7th August 2021 for Long Marston On The Farm.

The Show that Hitler couldn't close

by Alan Warner

Quite a year

1936 was quite a year for our country. A King died, his successor abdicated and a third King took the throne. Jesse Owens showed Hitler that 'Black Lives Matter' in the Olympics in Berlin. Crystal Palace was destroyed by fire and, overseas, Franklin Roosevelt was re-elected as President of the USA.

But in Long Marston, momentous events were also taking place that were to impact the lives of local people for many years to come. A meeting was held to launch what was to become the Long Marston Village Show. On Friday 21st of February, 29 citizens met in the Parish Hall and agreed to join together and run the 'Long Marston and Puttenham Flower and Vegetable Show'.

Quite a book

I found this out when interviewing Alan and David Winfield who I thought might be able to share some of their village show memories. It was a bonus when they brought along a small exercise book in which was recorded the minutes of that first meeting and every meeting held until the last entry in February 1946. David found the book among a number of old documents and thinks that it must have been kept by his late grandfather Joe Chandler.

Chandler is one of a number of local families that are featured in those first few years of the show's development; Southernwood (Chairman), Chapman (Treasurer), Gregory, Mead, Reed, Rodwell are among the names that feature, some with multiple family members. That first meeting was rather ambitious in its nomination (in their absence) of vice-presidents including Lord Rosebery and Lord Rothschild who seemed later to fail to respond to the call. But local MP Sir John Davison and local vicar the Reverend Anthony did accept.

Quite a prize

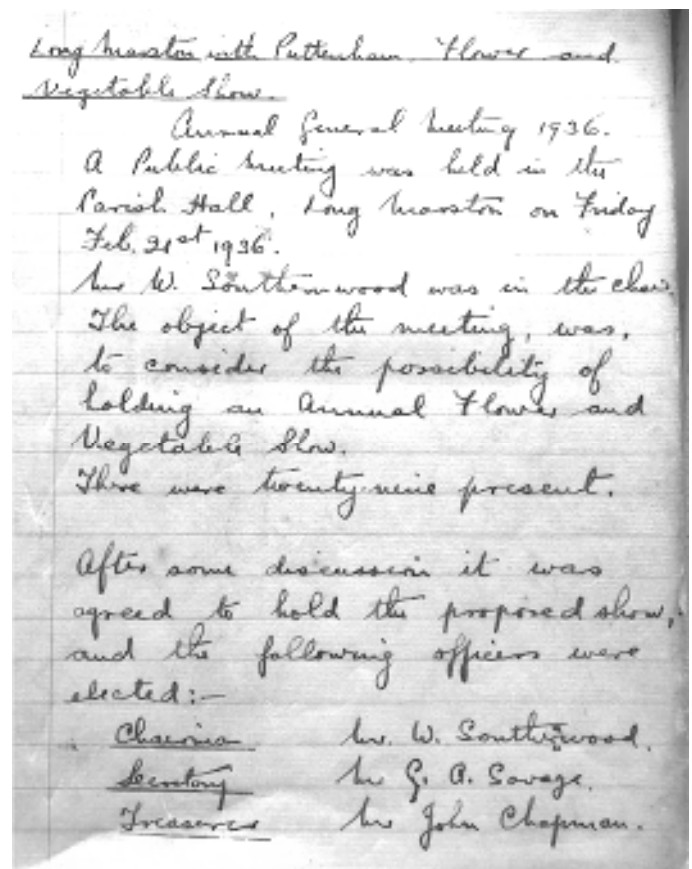
That first event was held in Long Marston School and the committee was charged seven shillings and sixpence (37.5p) for rent. It had many of the features of the shows that we have come to love and quite a few that we are unlikely to see.

The feature that we are (hopefully) most unlikely to see - and which caused the Winfields and me much amusement - was the special prize donated by John Chapman for the person who gained most points in the flower displays, a FREE LOAD OF MANURE. Less generous prizes for specific displays were donated by Tring businesses - Freemans Chemists donated 5 shillings and Johnsons Hardware 3 shillings (25p and

15p). However you had to pay for the privilege of competing and the entry fee was one old penny (0.4p)

The funding for the show was not mainly through entry fees; from the minutes of the meetings it seems that Whist Drives were the main source of finance to get things going.

Quite a competition



Right from the beginning, this was intended to be more than just a flower and vegetable show. There were to be sports events and there were attempts to provide more generous prizes. The minutes contain a fierce battle of motions between Southernwood and Chandler, pushing down Chandler's attempt to provide a prize fund of £5 and limiting it to only £4.

Even more innovative was the proposal for a 'Carnival Parade' with special prizes for the 'most humorous walker' and the 'most original walker'. And until now we thought that John Cleese invented the silly walks!

Let's mention the war

My assumption when I picked up the book was that there would be a pause for the war years but no way.

LM Show history continued...

Hitler could not stop the development of the show once it had gathered momentum in the late 1930s. In 1940, the minutes record a specific decision to keep calm and carry on. The Chairman William Southernwood continued to preside and the minutes reported successful shows every year until 1945 despite the reduction of entrants due to 'call-ups'; the main change was that the Sports and Carnival Parade were discontinued and profits were sent to the Local Nursing Association.

Childhood Memories

Alan and David Winfield made it clear that they were not around in 1936 so our discussion moved on to their first memories as schoolchildren in the 1950s. Alan remembers the competitions for children, particularly his triumph in the miniature garden competition. There were also events that would not be allowed today, like the picking of wild flowers and pressing them into a book. David also remembers the annual football match between gentlemen (who had to wear fancy dress) and ladies in football shirts.

They recall that new events were added every year and the show steadily gained momentum. The tug of war was introduced around this time and its popularity ensured that it became a permanent feature.

David also remembers a local character called Ray Pheasant who is mentioned in the wartime minutes as a key member of the Committee. David's memory is of him being a one man band, playing the drums as he marched along with children behind him, the 'Pied Piper' of Long Marston. (In the minutes he declined to become Secretary because of his 'capacity as head of the Amusements Section')

Memories of Responsibility

The Winfields' other vivid memories of the Village Show are during the years when they both became Committee members during the 1980s. David was Secretary for five years; intriguingly he told us that he had to resign because of the lure of 'other attractions'. He also told us that one year he had trouble with the Committee because, after doing most of the organizing, he went on holiday on the morning of the show. Maybe to enjoy more of the 'other attractions'?

Alan Winfield was on the Committee for more than twenty years but seems not to have had such problems. A lot of his and David's memories were about that great character Tom Chapman of Folly Farm who was President and the driving force of the Show for much of this time. His watchword was 'it'll all work out on the day' and it usually did.

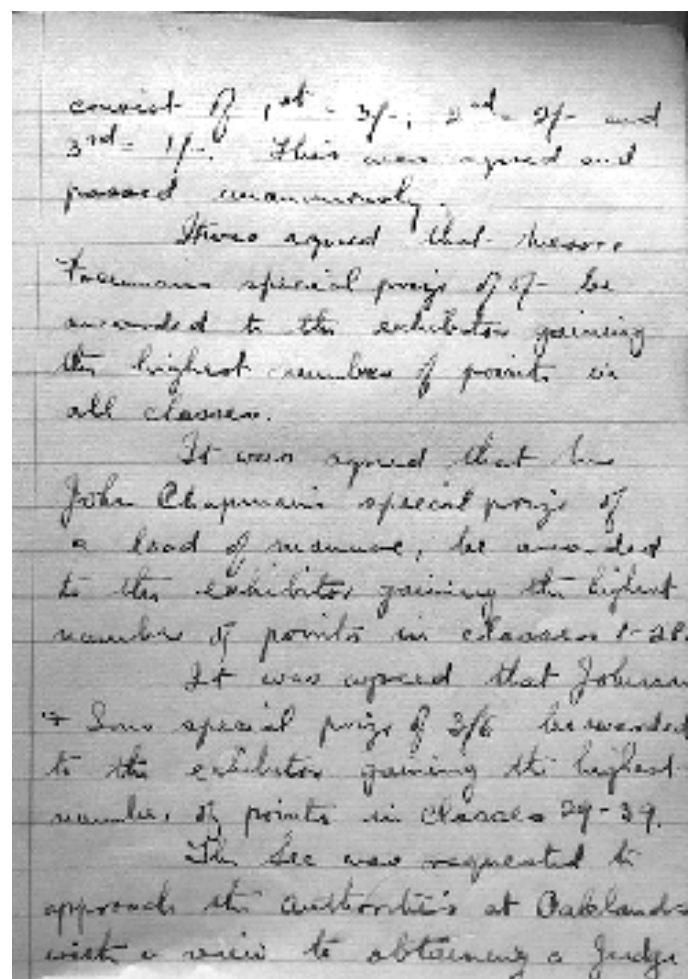
Tom's capacity for alcohol was legendary; he regarded the first four pints as just starters and it was only when the whisky chasers came out that things really got going.

Being a judge around that time was a big deal and required some stamina to keep up with Tom. A long lunch at the Boot was followed by liquid supplements, which may not have contributed to considered judgments in the competitions!

Dancing the Night Away

The innovations and extensions of the Show continued during this period. David Winfield recalled that for a few years, there was a marquee on the recreation ground where the drinking continued and there was even the opportunity to dance the night away to the music of the time.

This innovation was eventually discontinued in the interests of economy and the competitions were moved into the Village Hall and the marquee was replaced by a tea tent.



LM Show history continued...

Outside Intervention

Right from the beginning, the Show seems to have attracted visitors and competitors from outside the Village. It says something about the spirit of the show that these contributions were accepted as a benefit and a compliment, rather than unfair competition for villagers. An example was the man who arrived in a taxi from Kings Langley each year, carrying his onions in the back seat. He would lunch at the Queens Head and take another taxi back to Cheddington station. Even though this reduced villagers' chances of winning the onion prizes, his contribution was welcomed, everyone seeing it as confirmation of the prestige of the Show.

This prestige was confirmed by the visits of a number of celebrity judges, most notably John Branham of the Vegetable Society. He was not only a judge but also a competitor and Alan Winfield joyfully recalls his triumph in the Beetroot competition of 2018 when he consigned John to second place.

New Kid on the Block

To bring in some of the more recent history, I turned to Martin Winship who has been involved in later developments. Martin describes himself as a 'newcomer' to the village, with 'only' 30 years experience of the Show. It was interesting that one of Martin's first references was to Tom Chapman, even though he was no longer involved during Martin's time. Tom's past contributions are recognized by the Chapman Award – in the appropriate form of a model tractor - which is presented each year for outstanding contributions to the life of the community.

Martin described how the pattern of enhancing the Show with new features has continued, while keeping the old favourites like pony rides and tug of war. One year the tug of war involved villagers competing against a traction engine from a local firm with predictable results!

Competitions have been expanded to include artwork, cake baking and wine making (most popular with the judges!). One year there was an error in the cake recipe and the winner had to produce an inedible mess. Those who changed the recipe and produced an edible cake were disqualified amid much dispute.

Outsiders continue to contribute and I have to confess

that my own family is partly responsible. We invited a friend from Manchester to enter the cake competition and she was beaten into second place by a superb entry from someone in Carshalton. And our granddaughter who lives in the USA likes to time her visits with Village Shows so that she can make her entries into art competitions.

Recent innovations have included the creation of a different theme each year – Mary Poppins, Long Marston on Sea – and the use of a roving reporter and compere in the form of Phil Buchi. The races are now mainly for children and such delights as the three legged and spacehopper races provide hilarious entertainment for spectators. Music is still a feature and is much appreciated; except one year when a marching band took a wrong turn and disappeared from sight at the other end of the recreation ground.

More Powerful than Hitler

So to 2020, the first year that the Village Show has failed to take place since that momentous meeting in 1936. Covid has succeeded where Hitler failed. Even though everyone understands the reasons why this had to be, it is still a bitter blow for the village.

During our conversation, the Winfields raised concerns that the Show might not happen again, that the momentum has been lost, that people in the village in future may not be so willing to put in the hours of hard work that are necessary to make the show a success. On the other hand they admitted that maybe the lockdown has increased people's interest in growing things and their appreciation of nature. Certainly the allotments in our area seem to be more active than ever.

I recall talking to Chris Hodges at the show two years ago when, in addition to running the children's games, he also found time to talk to me about his role of Show Manager. He described to me how much it now all depends on the work of a small team from the Horticultural Society, which was down to six in that particular year. The extraordinary time and effort they put into setting up, running and – particularly - clearing up afterwards – is often not recognized and it needs a regular supply of willing volunteers. A key issue for the future is whether new villagers coming in will be as willing to put in the necessary hours and the same commitment that was shown by those 29 citizens who started it all off on February 21st 1936.



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Tring Rural Parish Council contacts

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smgodwin55@gmail.com

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nigel.fox@tringrural-pc.co.uk

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jeannefox@yahoo.com

The Clerk to the Council is :

Chloe Collins 07516 344248

clerk@tringrural-pc.co.uk

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

The Villages Warden is:

Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822031

Parish Council Website:

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

1st Wilstone & Long Marston
Scout Group



Could you get involved in helping with Cubs?

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

We are currently looking for

- Two more adults to join the Cub Leadership team

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

If you would like to become involved please
contact 1wlmscouts@gmail.com

Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 141 Moderate

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

Solution on page 25

You can always find a copy of the magazine
online at www.wilstone.me.uk where ever
you are.

Country living by Sarah Wickenden

Autumn has always been my favourite season. The colours of the landscape have an intense richness. The smells from the countryside evoke memories from my childhood. It is a time of plenty. The harvest festival has celebrated this since pagan times. Large farms with hundreds of acres along with small vegetable beds in city gardens display a wealth of delicious produce.

There is little better than sitting down to a meal where our plates are full of our own freshly picked vegetables or fruit. But that can be a challenge too. Because despite



our best intentions of getting a relatively constant supply of different fruit and veg we can guarantee that some will fail spectacularly and others will be intent on taking over the allotment plot. And this can differ from year to year, depending on seed quality, weather, pests and soil conditions.

This has in the past resulted in challenges in trying to create different ways of preparing and cooking an unexpected abundance of a particular crop so that their regular presence doesn't get repetitive. I have been busy gathering a set of recipes that can handle a glut of certain foods. One of my favourites is the marrow. But they can appear overwhelming in their productivity and size! Like many I have hideous memories of tasteless tinned marrow being served up in the school canteen. So here are a couple of marrow recipes that might help anyone faced with one of these majestic beauties.

Marrow melt (serves 4 as side dish, 2 as main course)
 1 small marrow (or half a large marrow) peeled, cored, chopped roughly
 2 garlic cloves crushed
 30g/1oz butter
 1 tsp dried sage
 1 tsp smoked paprika
 180g/6oz grated cheese

Melt butter in large pan and add garlic. Cook for a couple of minutes and add marrow and sage. Cover and simmer gently, stirring occasionally, until marrow is glistening. Add smoked paprika and stir. Cover again until marrow is soft. Stir in cheese and serve adding salt and pepper to taste.

Marrow, cheese and tomato pancakes (serves 4 as side dish, 2 as main course)

2 eggs beaten
 4tbsp flour
 2 large tomatoes
 1 small whole bulb of garlic
 210g/7oz strong flavoured cheese grated
 fresh parsley to taste
 Greek yogurt or sour cream
 olive oil
 1 medium marrow peeled, cored and grated (drain any liquid)
 salt and pepper to taste
 Set oven to 200 centigrade/gas mark 6. Once hot put the entire garlic bulb in for 25 min. Once cooked split the bulb and squeeze the cloves, the softened cloves will pop out easily. Toss the grated marrow, cheese and garlic together. Beat eggs and add them to the mix. Stir in flour and mix everything to combine. Adjust salt and pepper to your taste.

Wash and slice tomatoes thinly. Preheat oil in a frying pan and place spoonful's of the batter onto the pan. Add a slice of tomato to each. Cover this with more batter. Don't spoon too much batter, or the pancakes won't set. Fry the pancakes on both sides till brown and crispy. Transfer the pancakes to a paper towel-lined plate to let them drain and after put them on a serving plate and add

Secretary Wanted

Wilstone Village Hall requires a Committee Secretary to help the Chairman organise meetings (6 per annum), attend the meetings, produce minutes and manage communication with committee members.

Word processing and emailing skills essential. The pay is non-existent but you will the committee's eternal gratitude.

If you would like to join this vibrant team, please contact the Chairman, Peter Walker at: walkersandbrook@gmail.com

From our reporter at the Virtual Parish Council meeting

Never in Blue Jeans

The recently appointed Chairman of the Council, Steven Godwin, summed up all our feelings when he expressed his hope that this would be the last virtual meeting and that we will hopefully return to socially distanced face to face encounters in September. Certainly the predictions in the media that, in future, people will continue to favour remote communications seemed wide of the mark on this Wednesday evening.

The communication problems seemed to arise because, maybe in the interests of economy, we were using the technology of the 'Blue Jeans' platform, rather than the more widely used Zoom. Because of sound problems, several of us had problems logging in and I managed at the third attempt. We then found that we could see some councilors but others were on sound only, which made it difficult to establish whether a quorum was present and who was speaking. After about 15 minutes of checking who was in and who was out, we finally got under way.

The Chairman showed remarkable patience and composure during this battle with technology.

Gregorian Input

The first item on the agenda was brought forward so that a Mr Gregory could make a contribution, which seemed reasonable as the topic was an application to change the use of land associated with Gregory's Field. Apparently Mr Gregory had produced a 14 page document on the topic and was keen to hear the council's response.

It was fortunate that Councilor Jean Fox was able to provide an informative response, confirming that changing the use to residential gardens was not compatible with the rural environment and Dacorum Council would therefore be sent a recommendation that the application be rejected.

Mr Gregory, apparently satisfied with this outcome, signed off with a mysterious reference to Pinky and Perky that left your reporter in a state of puzzlement.

Planning for Planning

The Chairman was concerned that he was talking too much and asked Councilor Davis to redress the balance by describing what she had learnt from a recent training course on planning issues. Councilor Davis stated that she would not talk much but then disproved this by an excellent informative summary of what she had learnt.

The main points were:

Though TRPC do not make final planning decisions, we do have more influence than previously thought
There is a genuine interest in our inputs
Dacorum Council have had their target for building houses more than doubled by government directive and we need to appreciate their challenges

Later in the meeting, the Chairman expressed the view that we need to communicate the extent and limitations of our role in planning to a wider audience in the parish and that he would be taking an initiative on this communication later in the year.

Good Financial Tidings

The Chairman made a number of points regarding the financial position which, overall and despite Covid, were generally good news. One advantage of the 'Blue Jeans'

virtual world was that we could actually see the financials on screen, a nice contrast to the long distance Powerpoint slides of previous meetings. These were the highlights:

We still haven't spent the donation that Tesco gave us to use on a kid's activity event, every little helps!
We have changed our insurance provider but still managed to persuade the previous provider to pay up on a claim that was previously rejected
Covid 19 has caused a number of one-off cost savings, for example on grass cutting
Our strong reserves position would enable us to pay off our ten year loan but the low interest rate makes this inadvisable
We will be using some of our surplus funds to invest in improving our IT software, for instance email/dropbox (and maybe dropping Blue Jeans!!)

It was also agreed that financial presentations would benefit from showing comparisons with previous periods and that, despite the strong position, we should always be looking for savings to invest more in the community.

Taking the High Road

Councilor Nigel Fox provided an update on the work of the Highways Working Party. Following a meeting with Geoff Bailey of Herts CC, their support for the 'Freight Diamond' project was confirmed and would be implemented within the next 18 months. This would avoid heavy traffic from Cheddington Lane coming through the village but will require improvement to road signs and a review of maximum weight over bridges.

Councilor Fox also confirmed that Dacorum Council has agreed that, provided we have a firm plan to improve safety, the £15,000 payment to them in respect of building project by Long Marston Church, will be passed on to TRPC. Confirmation in writing is being sought.

Water, Water ...

Councilor Chalmers – who was among those on sound only – suddenly emerged from silence to talk about his favourite subject – flooding. He is in the course of preparing a briefing paper for the council and he gave a helpful summary of some of the issues which make this such a complex topic with no easy solutions. All remedies have high cost and it is often not clear who should pay, which creates an impasse that prevents action.

Although previous attempts at publishing explanations more widely had led to some 'flak' for the council, it was agreed to work towards the publication of a further explanatory document, probably produced by a third party.

Council Frustrations

As a final illustration of the difficulty of getting things done, came the saga of the Wilstone village green where there is a problem of cars parking on the grass. When the suggestion of fencing or boulders was made, it was revealed by Councilor Jean Fox that this can't be done because of ancient laws allowing sheep to be driven over the grass. Then Councilor Chalmers chipped in to say that, despite this, the project had been considered three years ago by Herts CC but was not yet thought to be a high enough priority to justify the money required.

Your reporter's reaction is to be selfishly grateful that I'm not a councilor but also very appreciative of those who have made that choice and have to cope with such frustrations.

A Memory of Ethel May Edmonds

Peter Dean

Ethel was the youngest of three children and is the last of her generation. She was born at Elstree, but at a very young age the family moved to Ivinghoe.

She first worked at Mursley Nursing Home, cycling there on a Monday morning and returning on a Friday evening for a short weekend break.

As she got older and more interested in boys she met and married Cyril Edmund (always known as Tubby) and they moved to Wilstone where she lived all her life. Ethel always loved little children and although not blessed with children of their own she and Tubby loved her sisters children like their own. Paul Miles, one of her nephews, remembers that on birthdays rather than only the birthday boy or girl receiving a present, a sixpence would be wrapped up for each of the other children in the family so they didn't feel left out. They used to go round to see Ethel and Tubby and her arms would go out and she had the largest smile on her face.

They didn't have a car for years, but after a couple of used classic motorbikes they bought a beautiful brand new Red Triumph Speed twin motorbike which Ethel loved.

Ethel went to work at the Egg Packing Station in Gubblecote, but that big warm personality soon took her into the family home to help look after my mother and me. Mother never had good health so Ethel soon became indispensable to us and ran the home like clockwork, nothing was too much trouble for her. My school uniform was always washed and pressed ready for the day ahead.

Probably one of the more challenging tasks was helping me with my homework. The teachers became very impressed with my marks, which unfortunately never matched up with my school work!!! She was also very good at understanding that on some days I was not well enough to go to school, particularly on the cross country run days!



She was a great help to dad (Len Dean) when he started running Bingo at Long Marston Village Hall on Friday evenings. The proceeds from Bingo was the seed corn for the purchase of the Cricket ground and was very popular. Dad and Ethel used to go down to Thame in the week and choose the prizes. Warm fluffy blankets, beautiful sheets and pillow cases, cushions, rugs etc., all finishing up on the stage in the Victory hall, waiting to be won by that lucky person shouting BINGO first.

When sadly mother died and I went into the business,

Ethel moved on to pastures new and worked in the village shop which she loved. Out early delivering milk and papers, that beaming smile never left her. She also took up tennis and when Tubby took up bowls at Tring she soon joined him and became very good at it, they made her an honorary member which not many players achieved.

After a long life together Tubby became ill, and suffered a long term illness which Ethel nursed him through to the end, but Ethel never really got over his dying and towards her latter years suffered from her own ailments.

Walter Bradington became a very good friend to Ethel helping her with gardening and jobs around the house and taking her out for coffee. When he took her shopping she would always say "we better have something to eat after didn't we duck?" the menu never varied, always spare ribs or fish & chips.

The tea parties at Puttenham were a special outing for her, and on her birthdays Christine always made her a birthday cake so she could blow out the candles and we all sang Happy Birthday to her which she loved.

A beautiful warm personality with a great heart, Wilstone will miss her.

A special thankyou

Carole Weedon and son Reeves and family would like to thank from the bottom of their hearts all from the villages who have sent letters of condolences, cards and flowers following the sad loss of a dearly loved husband and father Peter, who passed away at Luton and Dunstable Hospital on Saturday 15 of August.

Ivinghoe Library

We look forward to welcoming you back to the Library. The lockdown time has given us the opportunity to revamp and deep clean, and we are now open again. Full safety measures are in place so you will notice some changes, and we are adapting rapidly according the guidance issued by the County and the Government. Don't forget our online resources are still available using your Library card number and pin. We plan to hold our AGM on Saturday 19th September at 10am.

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The last witch hunt or Ruth Osborne revived

Chapter 3 John's drinking partners believe he has been possessed by witchcraft

by John Noakes

WE left John Butterworth's friends at his ale house near Gubblecote, confused, frightened and knowing not what to do.

It was now morning, they had partially sobered up but still remained, frightened and confused. John continued to have more fits and nobody knew how to help him. Then to everyone's relief one of them came up with a suggestion. He apparently had heard of a Wise Women over in Northampton who could undo spells, she was known as a White Witch. He felt that she might be able to help John, so hearing this they all agreed that a deputation should set forth urgently to Northampton to plea for help.

At Northampton, they flattered her by saying that they had heard she had great wisdom concerning witchcraft and other such matters. To which she replied "Indeed such matters do interest me and I have a passing knowledge of spells, potions and curses but why do you need my help so urgently? Perhaps, persuaded by their flattery she agreed to come with them to Gubblecote.

On arrival they explained at length John's predicament, the fear of witchcraft and that he might be taken from them. Furthermore running this ale house if harm came to him they would have no one to slake their thirsts and this would be a mighty pity.

On hearing their conversation John became very angry. Shouted "Is that all you are concerned about you drunken bunch of scoundrels. It is I who have the problem. To hell with slaking your thirst you drunkards"

At this point John fell to the floor frothing at the mouth and making crowing noises, whereupon they all fell back in horror and fright. Thomas Colley, one of their members said "This is terrible it's what keeps happening all the time. We are feared for him and ourselves."

This is indeed bad business, said the Wise Woman, there is something evil going on here. Something supernatural. My thoughts tell me a spell has been put on him and probably his whole farm too

A spell! Then they remembered John's story about this old woman, Ruth Osborne, who called on him about five years back and cursed him simply because he refused to give her and her husband, John, some buttermilk. She said the Young Pretender would seek him out and bring illness to him and his farm. At the time they all had laughed and now considered how wrong they were. Could this indeed be a spell? Could it be witchcraft? Tell us how can we stop this? Could Ruth



Osborne really be a Witch!?

The Wise Woman felt that she could verily be so and that John needed protection against further harm. They needed to guard him with staffs and pitch forks day and night. They also needed themselves to be protected by some ancient magic charms she had brought to be placed around their necks.

So our brave and gallant band of drinkers took up their positions around John. They kept their spirits up with

liberal tankards of John's ale. Yet over the next few weeks the fits continued unabated; they were becoming desperate and despondent and furthermore the ale was running out!

They felt the spell was too strong for them to break; then one member, Thomas Colley, said "If Ruth Osborne is indeed a Witch, only if she is stripped of her powers can John and all of us be safe. What say you all and how can we do this?"

Being the most vocal, he continued," She should be ducked, it's the only way to deal with witches. If she drowns she is innocent and Lord preserve her and if she doesn't we'll make an end of her because she is guilty anyway. Let's get on with it lads and have some sport! What do you feel?"

All agreed that one of their members, Daniel Nickols of long Marston, should seek out William Dell the Town Crier of Hemel Hempstead who for a price of four pence should deliver the following notice on Monday April 14th 1751, at The Hemel Hempstead's Market Day and the same notice to be cried at the Market days of Winslow and Leighton Buzzard.

"This it give notice that on Munay next there is to be at Long Marcon in the parish of Tring, two ill disposed persons to be ducked by their neighbours consent."

Little did they realise that a few years previously the ducking and drowning of those accused of being witches had been banned by act of parliament. Such information however was slow to reach remote areas of the country.

A mob reaction was now starting to take place and it would be unstoppable with ghastly consequences!

Next time : A mob hunt down Ruth and John Osborne

You can always find a copy of the magazine online at www.wilstone.me.uk where ever you are.

Letters to the editor ...

This month there have been several responses to Mark O'Sullivan's Dystopian Wilstone piece in the July edition Ed

Speeding in Wilstone by Colin Davenport

I don't know what kind of bubble *Norris Cole*, aka Mark O'Sullivan, lives in but I guess it is that tiny space between Long Row and the Half Moon. If he believes that there is no such thing as speeding in Wilstone then I suggest he gets out more.

I accept that it is not a major issue at the village hall end of the village nor even in the centre but perhaps he should wander more to the other end, where incidentally there ARE pavements.

To see and hear motor bikes, cars, vans, lorries, tractors and even on occasions the school bus undoubtedly exceeding the limit is far from unusual. It is worst during rush hour time with many commuters taking a short cut through the village with only occasional parked cars by the bus stop slowing down cars leaving the centre.

To see cars passing the derestriction signs both ways at well in excess of 50 mph is sadly not unusual, they seem to think that the derestriction starts at the school flats and accelerate flat out from that point or slows down there as the case may be if entering the village.

When the illuminated speed sign was in use it encouraged people to slow down, or just reminded them of the 30mph speed limit. The return of the sign (please) would be beneficial and as it was solar powered, it would not cost a lot to run.

Nobody likes speed humps, particularly if they are outside your house or if you are a driver yourself but something does need to be done despite the nonsense talked by Norris just to wind people up.

Animals have been known to get killed and some people have complained of having to jump out of the way of speeding vehicles.

Why wait until somebody gets injured or God forbid gets killed?

Thanks for your article in the July edition Norris by Neil Williams

Informative and entertaining though it was, it contained two statements which discredited it for me.

Firstly, your assertion that Wilstone's speeding problem is "perceived rather than real" is very much mistaken. You live close to the Hall corner, Norris, so vehicles from either direction will have been forced to slow down when you see them passing Chez Cole. I recently moved from a few doors away from you, across the road, beyond the pub and to the house behind the bus stop so I'm in a good position to recognise the difference in speeds that some drivers manage

between the two locations. I've got a fair idea of what 30 mph looks like and I'm confident in saying that a worrying percentage of vehicles are exceeding that when they pass our house – some of them going right to left must be hitting nearly 40 mph and still accelerating.

Secondly, saying "You have to ask who has actually died?" plumbs the depths of cynicism as far as I'm concerned. Happily, no-one has yet been killed or injured on the local roads but if a tragedy does take place due to a speeding motorist then maybe we can point grieving friends and relatives in your direction to answer your question.

New homes? by Patricia Smith

Although Rectory Homes have taken great pains to look into all the "fors" for erecting this housing complex in such a unique Village, I find it extremely hard to understand why we should have our Village turned into an urban town.

We have had many houses built in our Village over the years, but they have all been built on land that has had some sort of dwelling in the past and sensibly built, except for the outrageous homes built by the bridge on the old coal yard. These are sadly not in keeping with the area. They are so ugly. That is my opinion and several others in the village.

Although Rectory Homes have put forward all this information as to why it is beneficial to the village to have such a big estate built, they have not stated any against comments.

As it is, this Village suffers from low water pressure and water leaks.

The sewage works cannot cope with all the extra houses that have been built in the past.

The smell coming from the sewage works is revolting and there have been many complaints from the adjoining houses over the past years.

We are forever getting power cuts and power surges, therefore how will the electricity boxes manage with all this extra power needed.

This day and age we all need broadband. This is one of the poorest areas to get broadband. This will need to be updated even more. As it is they have struggled to get us a better signal, but not very successfully, it is still extremely slow.

We do not have enough room in our school for all the extra children moving into these homes.

There will not be enough room on the bus for extra children therefore we will either have to have more buses to cope or have to pay taxis to transport the excess number of children.

As to the complex itself. There will be an excess number of cars and delivery vehicles using our bridge which is having to be repaired regularly as the surface gets damaged at the brow of the bridge.

The bridge isn't strong enough to handle the weight of the

Letters to the editor ...

lorries full of building materials. The wear and tear to the road surface will be catastrophic, and the corner by the Village Hall isn't safe to be used by big vehicles, it is quite dangerous as it is with cars speeding round it on the wrong side of the road where people are having to walk with no pavement.

Once the youngsters with cars are in the village there will be the ones that think speeding is fun. As it is at the end of Tring Road where it joins with Wingrave Road they have at last done a great repair job to the road, but the boy racers are using it to do donut movements. (Just in case you don't know what donuting is it is where the lads like to show off to their friends doing car manoeuvres and racing to the corner jam on their brakes and make the cars spin round fast and do as many circles as they can) This is scuffing up the new surface so it won't be long before we have pot holes back.

As far as public transport is concerned we do have a bus route but not many buses. Rectory has said that there is a good bus service to the village, this isn't quite true.

Getting to the plan of the proposed estate.

Obviously there is nothing I can do to stop this outrageous idea of spoiling our very special Village, but as a resident of only a few years (1993) I know a little about the area you are hoping to build on.

At the bridge end of this lovely field it floods every time we get rain storms, as does the opposite end by the gap into the Tring Charity field, where I have photos of my Granddaughter and her dog swimming in the pool from the flood.

On the line of the plans, where we have a hedgerow from behind the flats in Grove Road going towards the canal, I see that there is marked down a gap halfway down to make a footpath to join the footpath off Rosebarn Lane.

This is not a footpath at the moment and this gap should not exist, as it will encourage dog owners (of which I am one myself with 6 dogs) to walk and let their dogs poo in the field, where children will also want to go to play, stepping in the dog poo, which is known to be extremely dangerous and unhealthy. Not all dog owners will pick up their dog poo. As it is the footpath from Rosebarn Lane is foul with poo that haven't been picked up.

Children will also want to play in the field even though you have made a dedicated play area on the flooding bit of field by the bridge. They will damage the farmers crop. We have already had this problem up by the allotments, but all the children here are very much aware that it is forbidden and get told off if caught.

Don't get me wrong but I guess that very few of the supposed residents will have any knowledge of Country Codes and will just wander wherever they like.

Someone suggested that this gap might be for the farmer to get into the Tring Charity field. He doesn't need a gap as we have a track already leading to the field up Rosebarn Lane.

Another concern I personally have about this gap, is that it will be a great hidey-hole for the drug users as they will be

behind the hedge out of sight of parents etc.

The hedge needs to be of tight prickly shrubs to deter the users of such activities getting through gaps in the hedge.

Looking at the pros for this number of extra people adjoining our Village, is that there will be extra trade for our Community Shop, Pub and Meads Farm shop.

The Village Hall will most likely benefit as will possibly the Church. But having said that, most will go to Tesco etc. for their shopping.

Hopefully you will inwardly digest this letter and think very hard as to why we need to spoil our great community village as it is. There are many places within our county that are more suitable for building homes without spoiling all the villages that we all love living in. If we didn't we would have chosen to live in a town. Please don't spoil our Villages, no matter where they are.

Tring is already building huge housing estates where there are factories, so this type of land is more acceptable, perhaps.

We have several unsold houses throughout our and neighbouring Villages, so why build more empty houses?

Ruth Osbourne may have died 200 years ago, but she is still causing a stir in 2020! Ed

Rosemary Thorpe..Tracey writes

Ivor Gregory is right...

..to raise concerns about the trivialisation of the Ruth Osborne story. Particularly as his brave ancestor, Robert Gregory, was the only person reported to have stood up to the rioters.

On 22nd April 1751 the mob dragged Ruth and John Osborne from the workhouse in Tring, where they had been given shelter, to Long Marston. But Robert Gregory prevented the mob from ducking them there so this terrified elderly couple were taken to Wilstone.

As Ivor Gregory says the true facts are easily accessible. The murder of Ruth Osborne was witnessed by customers of the Half Moon Alehouse. Their evidence to the Inquest and the Magistrates Court can be read in the County Archives, and their evidence to Hertfordshire Assizes can be seen in the Public Record Office in Kew.

Also held in the County Archives, along with other relative contemporary material, is the report by the Coroner, Samuel Atkinson, (referred to by Mr Gregory) and a series of letters from him and from the Revd. Rowland Johnson, Rector of Hemel Hempstead and Clerk to the Magistrates to Lord Cooper, the Lord Lieutenant,

The event is one of historical interest. The Witchcraft Act to abolish the hunting and execution of witches was passed in 1735 and the authorities were appalled at this wave of anti-witch hysteria and took swift action. Thomas Colley

Letters to the editor ...

is said to be the first person to be executed for the murder of someone accused of witchcraft. He had in fact suffocated her by pushing her face into the mud.

Ruth Osborne is buried at the Old Chapel in Long Marston

Response to Ivor's letter by John Noakes

I am delighted to respond to Ivor Gregory's critique of the first chapter of my story concerning Ruth Osborne. In writing this piece I have attempted to inform and also to entertain at this claustrophobic time of the Covid 19 lockdown.

I am certainly not trying to trivialize this local community as Ivor Gregory suggests. He seems unduly sensitive to issues that occurred nearly 270 years ago. I come from a poor uneducated rural Irish background that was oppressed but I do not let it upset me when people describe my past community, so far back, with levity or in robust ways.

At that time rural communities were dislocated from cities and government and hence they were denied good education and information so it is not surprising that suspicious behaviour and beliefs continued to persist.

Many famous writers within our country have taken past facts and woven a story not just to inform but to entertain. This country has a rich history of such approach. I don't put myself in their league but am simply following their examples.

On looking at some of the writings about Ruth Osborne the farmer has been confusingly referred to as both Butterfield and Butterworth. I chose the latter to avoid upset to any possible living relatives. Clearly I was wrong.

Incidentally apart from being the recipient of the curse and running an alehouse the farmer played little part in the ensuing train of events.

Ivor Gregory is running ahead of me in pre-empting my forthcoming chapters which do contain many documented facts. In levelling criticism at this stage in the narrative is rather like a person going to the opera, walking out midway through the overture without waiting to see the whole performance and then criticising the whole event. At the end of this if Ivor Gregory has any new information not in the public domain, I am sure the Editor of Village News would welcome it.

Meanwhile, be patient, put down your pen and read on. Then come back again if you wish. You might even enjoy it or it might make you angrier.

The annual sponsored Bike n Hike event will be taking place this year but in a slightly different format. If you would like to take part and raise money for your church, please call Jo Woodbridge to collect a sponsor form. Instructions and details of how the event will be Covid safe are included in the sponsor pack. Call Jo 01442 891444, Thank you.

LM show pictures

Page 1 Tug of War v Burrell Traction Engine from 2015
Onion Creature from 2014

Page 31 Three legged race from 2011
BBQ crew from 2013
Tug of war v Foden vehicle from 2016
Veggie creatures from 2012

Page 32 Coconut winner from 2015
Cauliflowers from 2012
Sumo Wrestlers from 2006. Also the odd one out as it was from the Puttenham Games !

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Many thanks
Dave the Paper Boy



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From the Vicarage

by Rev'd Jane Banister

It was some years ago that the Christian churches agreed to use the month of September as Creation Time. It ends on 4th October which is St Francis' day: he was the medieval saint was famous for giving up his wealth and living a very simple life, and who cherished all of God's animals and the natural world. He started the Franciscan friar movement and is recognisable in art through his tonsure, brown robe and usually a bird on his hand and a deer at his feet.

The aim behind creation month is to remember the value of the world around us, to be a reminder that we should not take the earth and its resources for granted. We are stewards, not owners, and we need to acknowledge that what we do affects both others living now and in the future.

This move of the churches reflects of course the wider one of trying to live what we term a greener lifestyle, although like so many ideas, it is not new. For centuries, humans have reused and recycled, have saved and not wasted, but now we call it upcycling, and turn it into a lifestyle choice rather than common sense, or simply as a way of saving money.

Creation month of course also coincides with when many of us celebrate Harvest: we rejoice in the huge variety of produce that the land has produced and that we are able to buy and use, and we give thanks to God for that. We also use it as a reminder that we should be generous with what we have, that we should share and not waste.

When this magazine goes to press, the dates of our Harvest services will not yet have been decided because of current circumstances, so do please check the Tring Team Parish website for more information. Our normal celebration of Harvest would have involved lots of school children coming to our churches, lots of us gathering on Sundays to process, to sing, to pray and to sit down together for Harvest lunches, whether picnics, soup, ham and piccalilli, or apple pie (or all of those if you are very lucky!).

There will be harvest celebrations, but they will be different, and while we will be conscious of what we do not have, we should also rejoice in what we do have. We are not going hungry or cold, we have shelter and fresh water, and those basics are so easy for us to forget.

Each year the Bishop of St Albans has an appeal for Harvest and this year it is about helping the bee farmers in Nepal. In 2015, the people of Nepal suffered two major earthquakes which destroyed much of the infrastructure. Many have had to find a new way of supporting families and communities, and they have done this through beekeeping, which not only provides an income and enhances crop production, but also helps maintain the fragile biodiversity

Maybe you have always been a gardener, or maybe it is something that you have taken up this year, but one of my great joys this summer has been picking fresh tomatoes from the plants outside our front door that my husband planted. We all know how vital it is to have fresh and healthy food, and what a crucial part bees play in that. So I hope that as part of your harvest celebrations this year, as part of your commemorating the Creation season, you will consider donating to the Harvest Appeal (details on our website).

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love

Jane

Team Vicar & School Chaplain, Tring Team Parish
01442 822170
jane@tringteamparish.org.uk
www.tringteamparish.org.uk

WI News

In July we received the shocking news that the beautiful country house Denman near Abingdon, centre of educational courses for the WI, is to close down due to financial difficulties. Many of our members enjoyed craft or cookery courses either staying for a few nights or just making a day of it, and had planned to take courses in the future, so the news of the closure came as quite a blow. However, at the moment Denman are still providing online courses which I understand are very well worth taking part in.

In August the Committee held our first indoor meeting since March, making use of the newly decorated Village Hall, where we were all impressed by the wonderful shiny polished floor. With so much room to ourselves we were able to sit well spaced apart. We have decided that we will not hold a monthly member's meeting in September but will review this each month and make a decision according to the current situation.

This is an up to date list of officers attached to the Berkhamsted and Tring **Safer Neighbourhood Watch Team**:

Sergeant Damien Hewitt
PC Laz Clark
PC Sarah Scanlon
PCSO Martin Leadbetter
PCSO Lindsey Cunningham

Contact Colin Reedman for more information

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- keeping prices fair
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Wanted—shop designer!



Exciting times here at the Community Shop. If you have experience in architecture or shop design, we need your help. It's time to start making plans for how our shop will look, detached from the rest of the property and with an additional storage room at the back.

Michael has kindly allowed us access to this room during the Covid pandemic and we have already been using it to package up items for delivery and for additional storage—at one point a couple of months ago it was stacked with toilet rolls!

What we need help with now is to draw up plans of how to incorporate this space into the new shop to maximum effect. We could do with extra storage of course, but we also need to install a toilet, fire escape, perhaps an office for the shop Manager. Could we make the shop space bigger? Have more room for coffee tables? If we can get this work done on a voluntary basis it will save precious funds, so please get in touch if you can help. This is a picture of the additional space as it appears now, as you can see it's a very good size and Michael says that all the antiques are for sale, so if anything catches your eye feel free to contact him!

New Opening Hours and New Volunteers

We are open:

***Monday—Friday
8.00 am—2 pm
Saturdays 7.30—1 pm
Sundays 9.00—12 pm***

On 3 August we reverted (almost) to our pre-Covid opening times. We were only able to do this with the support of our volunteers, many of whom have returned to their regular shifts. We have also been very fortunate to have been joined by some new volunteers, thank you very much everyone. Some of our younger volunteers will be returning to school or heading off to University in September, so if you have been thinking about volunteering, we'd love to have you join the team!

Face coverings are now mandatory in the shop, we are selling single-use masks for 50p for those who forget, or we are happy to serve customers outside. We also have a good range of washable masks in various sizes, made for us by the Wilstone Woolies, priced at £4.50 per mask. We are maintaining our policy of one customer in the shop at a time in order to maintain social distancing, and provide a safe environment for us to restock. We also have hand sanitizer available for customers to use on entering the shop. We are hopeful that the extended opening hours will mean fewer queues from now on, thank you to all our customers for your patience and good humour over the past few months.



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When will Wilstone Film Nights return? by Peter Walker

Judging from the many conversations I have had amongst villagers, many people are missing our film nights, brought to a dramatic halt in March this year; and those people are asking when will they be back?

The bad news is that, bluntly, we don't know yet. The better news is that we are getting plans together to reopen to a socially distanced (aren't you getting fed up hearing that phrase) audience. We are allowed a maximum of 30 people per showing, which will impact upon the atmosphere of the evening. Many just go for the social interaction, and the film is almost secondary.

But maybe we could have two showings of the same film over consecutive nights to allow more people to attend.

The precautions we have to take are stringent. The hall has to be cleaned before an event, and after. All the chairs and tables will have to be sanitized. Drinks will need to be pre-ordered and served to tables. And of course seats will have to be positioned to comply with current regulations.

The biggest challenge though is to find films that have not already been screened on Netflix / Amazon / Apple etc.. You will know that the production side of films has been brought to a halt so not much has been made for several months, but hopefully there will be films that have experienced delayed release dates.

So whilst we will have our plans in place for an first performance in October, perhaps, we will have to take a judgement call closer to the time depending on the status of the pandemic. Being legally able to run a film night is different from whether we should do. We cannot risk, and neither to we want to be responsible for, any local spike in the spread of the virus.

So for now, we wait and see.

Cricket News by Matthew Storey

Despite the Coronavirus pandemic severely impacting Long Marston CC's season, cricket has returned to Marlins in the last month or so and has proven to be a great success.

The usual league season has been scrapped meaning our teams are playing games more locally.

With no 1st XI competing due to Covid, the 2nd XI have enjoyed success in Tier 2B of the revamped pyramid and Yogesh Mistry's side sit joint top at the time of writing

Although two games have been rained off, the batting highlights include Ed Robinson's 70 against Banbury 3s, James Beesley's unbeaten 109 vs Great Brickhill 2s and Simon Robinson being unbeaten at the crease each time the side have won, scoring 106 runs without being dismissed so far.

With the ball, Huw Robinson took 4-37 in the victory over Horley and has seven wickets, while his younger brother Ed has taken six with his off-spin.

The LMCC youth policy has been in full flow in the 3rd XI and it shows, with James Swindlehurst grabbing seven wickets so far and George Walter picking up four with his pace bowling. Ten colts below the age of 16 have represented both sides in this short season!

Off the pitch there has been plenty of work going on throughout the summer. Our nets have been completely refurbished and look incredibly smart. They have been well-utilised by both senior players and youngsters alike throughout the pandemic, sticking to social distancing rules of course.

We are also running the LMCC 10K fun run again this Autumn. Taking place on October 25th, runners of all abilities are encouraged to sign up and take part. The run starts at Marlins and goes down private roads and some farmland to Mentmore, before returning. All the information is available on the club website, including how to sign up.

Solution No 141

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




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Being Prepared

by Sally Smith

There is one thing that I really like to be, and that is prepared! Unfortunately, plans can often go astray and whilst the intention to be prepared and organised is there, the reality is somewhat different. This article is a case in point – I had every intention of having it delivered well before the deadline but instead I am in a race against time to send it to the editor.

We all have occasions when we are naturally prepared because we know that we have to be, such as when we go abroad and need to ensure we have passports, money and tickets, and there are occasions when we can get away with only minimal organisation, such as when we pop down to the pub for a ‘quick one’ and end up spontaneously spending the whole evening relaxing with friends who independently had the same idea.

The funny thing I realised recently is that being ready for things is something that we do increasingly as we get older; during my teens I would leave home and not give a thought about food or money; I simply wanted to spend time with my friends. As I grew older, being organised and prepared became more important – if I didn’t leave home in time to catch the bus, I would miss the train and be late for work; no money in my pocket would mean no evening meal and if the washing wasn’t done I wouldn’t have any clean clothes.

The monotony of life actually gives us purpose and helps structure our days, without it we become vague, unsure, confused and lost. It’s true that we all enjoy a break from routine, but if we are honest with ourselves, knowing that some things simply have to happen is what keeps us sane!

Some annual events, such as birthday’s and Christmas are perfect for this, although I will admit that they seem to creep up and surprise us; indeed, I am almost certain that time is passing faster now than at any time in my life! September is upon us and I feel woefully unprepared for the autumn harvest of sloes, berries and damsons. Before I know it, it will be time to soak fruit and deck the halls – I’ve already spoken to Jonathan Lear about the turkey!

However, before any of that happens, there is still time for a little bit of wanton disregard for being sensible and I have found the perfect recipe for that. Admittedly some organisation is required to make sure you have the ingredients, but that is all. When I saw this in the Marsworth News, I simply had to try it for myself. I hope you enjoy it as much as we did.

Impossible Pie (with thanks to the Marsworth News)

Ingredients:

4 eggs	4oz butter/margarine
4oz white sugar	4oz plain flour
¼ tsp salt	½ tsp baking powder
16 fluid oz milk	4oz desiccated coconut
1 tsp vanilla essence	

Put all the ingredients into a blender and blend until all mixed together

Pour mix into a buttered 10 inch (deep) pie dish and bake in a pre-heated oven for 1 hour at Gas Mark 3 180° C (350°F)

When cooked, the pastry will be at the bottom, the custard in the middle and the coconut on top.



HIGHWAYS BULLETIN 8, SEPTEMBER 2020

by Peter Bygate

The July 'traffic calming' questionnaire produced the following significant response which along with the letters summarised below will clearly lend weight to the ongoing discussions with Borough and County Council officers:

The 4 questions asked were:

In principle, **I support** the introduction of 20mph zones in selected areas - **261 (88.5% in favour)**

In principle, **I do not support** the introduction of 20mph zones in selected areas - **34**

In principle, **I support** the installation of physical speed deterrents – **194(70.3% in favour)**

In principle, **I do not support** the installation of physical speed deterrents - **82**

17 residents added written comments to their slips, summarised as follows:

6 opposed speed bumps with 1 preferring chicanes

5 wanted 20mph zones with 1 asking for operation outside Long Marston school during drop-off and pick-up times only

1 preferred village gates over a 20mph zone

"parked cars are being used as speed deterrents"

Wilstone's speed deterrent at reservoir end only", and two proposals (see letters below) to make the village a no through road (but please note, expectations for this to happen, given Council policy, should not be high)

Cheddington Lane "physical deterrents are a 'must' because cars go easily over 60mph. There will be a serious incident if something isn't put in place". And another "Cheddington Lane please!"

"anything to slow traffic in Long Marston"

"don't forget Lukes Lane"

"more 30mph signs for Gubblecote"

In addition, three letters have been received which due to space considerations are condensed below:

1. from an Astrope resident:

"When I bought this house this was a quiet lane, however the volume of traffic has increased dramatically with the advent of Satnav.

They certainly have no regard for the speed limit and the 7½ ton weight restriction sign at the end of the road coming from the bypass (opposite the Drayton Beauchamp turn). It's a miracle that some of them get over the little humpback bridge between Puttenham and the main road.

However, the serial offenders are the skip lorries relentlessly hurtling back and forth from the bypass to the site. This goes back and forth ALL DAY LONG.

I honestly think that the only thing that will deter these

lorries from using our lane as a short cut, is speed bumps and chicanes and even speed cameras. In my dreams! The drivers certainly don't take any notice of the 30 limit, so why should 20 make a difference to their thoughtless behaviour.

I do hope that my voice will be heard. I realise that we are just a handful of houses on this lane and can't compete with the actual villages but our lives really are made a misery by the relentless heavy traffic that hurtles past every day".

2. "In Wilstone, the main speed culprits occur early morning and early evening, indicating to me that these are drivers who use the village as a rat run.

When drivers approach the bend by Wilstone village hall coming from Long Marston, they see a long straight road ahead of them and that is where they put their foot down. I have witnessed vehicles travelling at 50mph by the time they reach the bus shelter.

So I think that chicanes are the only answer. Failing that, let us close the village to through traffic and get some quality of life back. Seriously!"

3. Extracts from a long, thoughtful and well-argued letter 'Re: Traffic Calming in Wilstone village'

"I have voted against the two proposals in the context of Wilstone (*extensive rationales given*)

I would like to propose that there be a barrier put in place which prevents the village being used by through traffic. This would, at a single stroke, remove all the traffic volume, noise and pollution created by those using the village as a "short-cut".

Clearly this proposal for making the village into an effective cul-de-sac is not necessarily applicable to other villages in the area, but I believe it should be given serious consideration for the village of Wilstone".

Please stay tuned, and committed to the ambition of making our villages safer and more enjoyable places! Remember, any concerns you may have can be raised by email on tringruraltraffic@gmail.com

(Copies of this Bulletin have been emailed to the officers responsible for enforcement, namely Herts CCHighways, HCC and Dacorum BC Councillors, Bucks CC, and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Herts)

Local names and numbers

Herts Police non-emergency number: 101

Berkhamsted and Tring Safer Neighbourhood Team
Sergeant Ryan Hemmings supported by PC Mark Procter,
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Call the police if you see a crime being committed.

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Churchwarden Ken Martin 01442 822894

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Tring Rural Parish Council - Chairman

Steven Godwin 07487852830

Email: smgodwin55@gmail.com

Clerk to the Parish Council

Chloe Collins email: clerk@tringrural-pc.co.uk

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Colin Reedman 01442 822031

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Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

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Deadline for items to go in the October
edition is: Wednesday 16 September 2020

The editor will be Caroline Clist

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Long Marston Show memories



Clockwise from top left:
Wood Art, that man again with
Maggie? A vegetarian delight, and
can you spot yourself tugging?

See page 17 for years



Highlights from past LM shows



What a lovely pair of....

Three pairs coconuts, cauliflowers and sumo wrestlers
which picture is the odd one out?

See page 17 for years and answer.

