

October 2012

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

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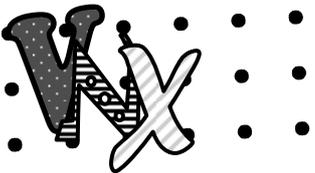
Strong wind warning for scarecrows

FORTUNATELY the high winds abated by the time of Long Marston's scarecrow competition and hog roast, and it was possible to assemble the large number of entries in the field at the end of Chapel Lane on a fine sunny evening. The scarecrows were an arresting sight around the village during the preceding week, particularly the entry on the right, which stopped the traffic in Tring Road. Here are just a few of the innovative entries.

(Pictures: Village News.)



Village News Extra!
Pages 15-18



County needs you to lobby for superfast broadband to come to superslow villages

ONLY 5,400 people have registered with the Herts and Bucks County Councils' campaign to get better broadband speeds for rural areas, and only a handful of users from these villages. With local users struggling to get speeds near 2MB on 01442 numbers, and worse still on the 01296 exchange, the information superhighway is bypassing us on its way to the big cities. The campaign needs at

least 10,000 people to sign up if it is to have any chance of success. So don't delay - get your neighbours, friends and colleagues to register at:

www.superfastforherts.org

Hertfordshire County Council can lobby for funding to improve the local network, and we need a share of that around here. Registering is simple, quick and free.

Special features:

- The Horti Page 7
- Suduko 13
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- West Side Story 18
- Agricultural 20
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We depend on readers' articles and pictures.

So let's have them!

Police Commissioner election on 15th November, but voters in the dark. See page 10.

Harrisons to stand down from the *Village News* team after 25 years service to this community

New distribution manager and treasurer needed

CAROLE AND JOHN HARRISON have announced that they intend to stand down from the Village News team at the end of this year. Carole is currently distribution manager and secretary, while John handles the finances in his role as treasurer. They both have an astonishing track record of community service, having been involved in the production of Village News and its predecessors for over 25 years.

Carole first got involved in the days when the parish magazine was produced - virtually single handed - by the redoubtable Mrs Margaret Vincent on a typewriter and a photocopier in a bedroom. When Mrs Vincent became ill, Carole gave her a hand. The photocopier was moved to Carole's home when Mrs Vincent died, and thus began a task which has spanned three decades (and two centuries!) In those days Carole would type the copy and operate the photocopier, and then Pam Cockerill would collate and staple the magazine pages before they went out to distributors. Carole also dealt with the advertisers and looked after the money. The magazine was at that time a subscription publication and did not go to every home, but it was still a big commitment each month. In 2003, Paul and Jane Lovis suggested that the whole thing could be re-launched in a new format, free to every home - and the Village News you are reading now was the result. They asked Carole if she would continue to help, and she agreed to organise distribution. John took on the job of treasurer and finance manager when he retired. They both now feel that they are at a time in their lives when they need to have fewer commitments.

Village News Chairman Phil Buchi said: "Carole and John have been the mainstay of this voluntary operation for a generation. They are the longest serving members of the team by far. Without them there would have been no magazine to re-launch as Village News, and they have maintained the continuity of this publication which we can trace back to the 19th Century. We owe them a great deal, and our AGM agreed that they had more than earned the right to stand down!"

Volunteers needed

The Village News team now needs to seek volunteers to fill these mission-critical posts, without which the magazine



Carole and John Harrison to stand down from Village News team.

would not be able to function. If you would like to join the team and make this valuable contribution to your community, Phil Buchi (01296 661339) would be very pleased to have a discussion with you so you can find out more. There is scope to tailor both jobs to fit in with other commitments.

The **Distribution Manager** receives the finished magazines delivered direct from the printer, bundles them up into delivery rounds and takes the bundles to the homes of the regular distributors. A car is helpful.

The **Treasurer and Finance Manager** issues invoices to advertisers, receives their payments, pays bills, manages the bank account and draws up the annual accounts. A basic knowledge of straightforward accounts is all that is needed. Our finances are the same as a club or society - we are not a limited company and there is no VAT.

John and Carole have agreed to continue for the remainder of this year, so a handover early in 2013 is the objective.

Village News: Distribution Manager and Deputy vacancies

Your village magazine needs to recruit a volunteer Distribution Manager who will get the finished magazines to our regular volunteer distributors each month. We also need another Deputy who will act as a holiday relief when necessary. Please call Phil Buchi, 01296 661339, if you think you might be able to help with these vital jobs.

Village News: Treasurer/Finance Manager vacancy

We need to recruit a volunteer Treasurer/Finance Manager to handle our straightforward financial affairs. We are run as a club/society and our annual turnover is only £4,000. Accountancy qualifications are not necessary, just a basic knowledge of accounts. Training will be given. Please call Phil Buchi, 01296 661339, if you can contribute in this way.

Village News

Editor this month: Phil Buchi

Advertising Manager

Graham Thorpe: 01442 822923

Email: villagenewsadvertising@googlemail.com

Editorial Team

Phil Buchi, Colin Davenport, Fran Flowerdew,
John McCall, Colin Moore, Harriet Rogers,
Mark Woodbridge.

Email: editorwlm@gmail.com

Post: 3 Ravens Court, Long Marston, HP23 4AN.

Phone: Phil Buchi: 01296 661339

Distribution Manager & Secretary

Carole Harrison 01296 668526

Finance Manager & Treasurer

John Harrison 01296 668526

Information superhighway? Not here mate.

THE superslow broadband speed that we have to endure in rural Herts and Bucks is not just an irritation (though it certainly is that). It is a constraint on business and jobs, as anyone trying to work at home knows. Even the modest task of downloading your contributions to this journal often comes to a grinding halt - particularly after the school bus returns in the afternoon! I know that the existing network is doing its best, but out here it is operating at the very limit of its technology. We need to get further up the list for investment in fibre optics. Superfast has reached Berkhamsted, so why not us too? Make a fuss. Lobby MPs. Complain to phone companies. And register at www.superfastforherts.org.

Vacancies on the Village News team

WE owe a great deal to the efforts over many years of Carole and John Harrison. (See page 2.) Now that it is time for them to go on to other things we would be delighted to have others join our team of volunteers. *PB.*

Deadline for items for our next issue is Thursday 18 October

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!

Printed by **Lonsdale Direct Solutions**

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

Church services

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

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

30 September

10.00am All Saints Holy Communion

7 October

10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer

6.00pm St Cross Evening Prayer

14 October

8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion

10.00am All Saints Holy Communion

21 October

10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer

10.00am St Cross Holy Communion

28 October

10.00am All Saints Holy Communion and
Sunday Club

3.30pm St Mary's Evensong

Advance notice:

Tuesday 6 November

10.00am Rosemary for Remembrance. A service for All Souls. St. Cross, Wilstone.

Sunday 11 November

10.00 am Remembrance services.



St. Cross, Wilstone.

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

What's on...

Wilstone Allotment Association

invite everyone to come and celebrate the renovation of the Well and the Allotments on **Saturday 6th October** from 11am at the Allotments, Rosebarn Lane. There will be an **official inauguration of the Well** at 11.30am. **Tea, coffee and bacon butties too!**

All Saints Church

?	Quiz and curry (Home- made by Huw)	?
---	--	---

Toby Davidson Quizmaster

Friday 19th October 7.30 for 8.00pm
(in Victory Hall, Long Marston)

Tickets £12
Teams of eight. BYO Drinks

Contact: Carole Harrison - 01296 668526

Wilstone village shop opening hours are:

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

Times for mobile library Route 72

Thursdays, fortnightly: 4th and 18th October.

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

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)
The public are welcome to attend these meetings.
Wednesday 17 October Puttenham Cecilia Hall
Wednesday 21 November Wilstone village hall.

Friday 28 September

Macmillan coffee morning. Wilstone shop 10am-12 noon.

Friday 28 September

A talk on the restoration of the Wendover arm canal. See ad on this page. 7.30pm Wilstone village hall.

Saturday 29 September

Jumble Sale at Cecilia Hall, Puttenham. 2pm.

Saturday 6 October

Wilstone allotments and well inauguration, 11am. See ad.

Tuesday 9 October

WI talk by John Noakes. "The gardens of Sweden and their ancient waterway." 7.30pm at Long Marston village hall. Visitors welcome.

Saturday 13 October

Puttenham's October Supper with John Bly.

Friday 19 October

Film Night. Wilstone village hall, 8pm. Doors open 7.15. "Best Exotic Marigold Hotel". See page 25.

Friday 19 October

Quiz and curry night LM village hall 7.30pm for 8.

Tuesday 23 October

All Saints social afternoon 2pm-3pm.

Friday 26 October

Ferret Race Night in aid of Long Marston School. 6pm.

Saturday 27 October

Halloween Disco at Long Marston village hall. 8pm.

Saturday 3 November

Jumble sale at Wilstone village hall. 2pm - 4pm, in aid of the Save Wilstone Shop Fund.

Saturday 3 November

Firework Display at Old Tom's Meadow, Long Marston.

Tuesday 6 November

Rosemary for Remembrance, a service for All Souls. St. Cross, Wilstone, at 10am.

Friday 9 November

Mead's Farm Shop Christmas Food Fair, 6pm - 9pm.

Saturday 10 November

'Live & Swinging' at Wilstone village hall.

Friday 16 November

Film Night. Wilstone village hall, 8pm.

Tuesday 27 November

All Saints social afternoon 2-3pm.

Friday 30 November

Tring's Christmas Festival. High Street from 6.30pm.

Saturday 1 December

Maggie's Christmas Cracker, Wilstone VH. See ad.

Friday 14 December

Film Night. Wilstone village hall, 8pm.

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

Jumble Sale

in aid of the Save Wilstone Shop Fund.

Saturday 3rd November
2pm - 4pm at Wilstone Village Hall.

Donations of jumble are very welcome.
Contact Diana Crapnell on 01442 826043,
or bring them to the hall on the morning of the 3rd.

WILSTONE VILLAGE HALL

Friday 28th September
at 7.30 p.m.

AN ILLUSTRATED TALK ON THE HISTORY AND RESTORATION OF THE WENDOVER ARM CANAL

Tickets £5, including tea/coffee/biscuits, from
Pam (01442) 823605 or on the door.

Proceeds to The Friends of St. Cross

Wilstone Village Hall Committee presents

Maggie's  *Christmas Cracker!*

A glitzy fun party night

to get the festive season rolling.

Full of surprises and prizes! Music by

Johnny Dansette and
The Luton Disco Kid

playing you their favourites from '50s '60s '70s '80s '90s
on shellac, vinyl and CD. Great sounds all night.

Prizes for **snappy dressers**, **groovy dancers** and lots more.
(Delicious party snacks included in the ticket price.)

Saturday 1st December 2012.

Doors and bar open 7.15pm. Licensed bar.

Tickets £10 from Wilstone village shop. 

Payment: cash or cheques payable to "Wilstone Village Hall".

An early visit to the shop is respectfully suggested.

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**CHRISTMAS
FOOD FAIR**

Festive Gifts and Food for all the Family

*We look forward to welcoming you to our annual Food
Fair in our charming 16th century barn on*

Friday 9th November 2012
6.00 - 9.00 pm

*Enjoy browsing around our shelves of delightful and
unusual gifts for all the family. Relax with a comple-
mentary glass of mulled wine and taste our selection of
cheeses, biscuits, meats, fish, preserves and chutneys.*



Telephone: 01442 828478

At Wilstone Village Hall, by popular demand



The boys are coming back!

With an all new show, following their sell-out appearance in June.

Saturday 10th November 2012

Tickets available now at Wilstone Village Shop.

Follow Long Marston Cricket Club at
www.pitchero.com/clubs/longmarstoncricketclub/

Jonathan Saunders, Gazette reporter, dies age 24.

WE are very sorry to learn that the Gazette's Tring reporter, Jonathan Saunders, has died from cancer. He was only 24. Jonathan covered a number of local stories, both from the Parish Council and from Village News, during his period as Tring reporter and had regular contact with this magazine. He was an enthusiastic and charming man who had a good career ahead of him. He was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer in July last year. Just weeks ago on 6th August he married Adella, and died a month later. The Gazette reported that tributes to him have flooded in. The funeral was at St. Peter & St. Paul, Tring, on 17th September. *PB.*

Footpath 43 dispute could go to the High Court

THE long running dispute between Dacorum Borough Council and landowner Mr T Foy over the width of Footpath 43 could be destined for the High Court. Abena Bailey reported in The Gazette that DBC were expecting to get a date for a hearing. This footpath runs behind Pear Tree Cottage from Wilstone Green to the reservoir. There have been numerous enforcement notices issued to clear the path.

Memorial to American airmen listed by Imperial War Museum

THE new war memorial at Long Marston, dedicated last year to three airmen from the 36th Bomb Squadron, USAAF, has been included on the official list of War Memorials by the Imperial War Museum in London. Chas Jellis and Heda Kootz from Pitstone, who organised the memorial and the dedication in May 2011, sent all the details to London so that they could be included on the UK National Inventory of War Memorials. The information is available for all to see on the museum's memorials website: www.ukniwm.org.uk. The reference number for the Long Marston memorial is 63354.

The memorial remembers Carl E. Lindquist, Fred K. Becker and Howard F. Haley who all died when their B-24 Liberator bomber "Beast of Bourbon" crashed outside Long Marston shortly after take off in fog from Cheddington airfield in 1945. The dedication service, on 7th May last year, was attended by US veterans including 1st. Lt. Des Howarth who was navigator on that ill-fated flight. Lt. Col. Driscoll, the present commander of 36th Bomb Squadron in Florida, addressed villagers, and colour party from the US Airforce base at Alconbury provided full military honours. The memorial is located next to the War Memorial in the centre of Long Marston.

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The Horti page

Sponsored by
The Long Marston and Puttenham Horticultural Society

WHAT a superb summer of sport we have had this year! The Olympics were superb and I thoroughly enjoyed my day out at the Olympic Park. By all accounts, everyone also enjoyed their day out at this year's village show with all the stalls doing well and the children's games in full swing once again.

The Horti now has a well-earned break between events after spending a lot of hours putting the show together, but we continue to focus on our future activities. In support of the Victory Hall committee, our next major joint event is the annual fireworks display. This year, we will once again be at Old Tom's Meadow on the edge of the village on Saturday 3rd November. The Bonfire will be lit at 6.30 and the fireworks start at 7.00. Tickets remain at £6 adults and £2 children, but they can be bought at a discount (£5 / £1.50) from the Queens Head or direct from David Severs on 01296 661021.

The Hall itself will be hosting a special Halloween disco on Saturday 27th October at 8pm. This is a 'bring your own booze' event with a door charge of £5 and promises to be a good night out.

My personal favourite event each year is the annual 'Carols round the Tree' this year being staged on Tuesday 18th December. We are so fortunate to have the services of a small band that makes the evening so more enjoyable whilst trying to raise a lot of money for 'Help for Heroes' and really brings home the spirit of Christmas. The free mince pies and mulled wine help as well! *TD*.

Ferret Racing

*Fun for all the family
in support of our local school*



*Friday 26th October
Long Marston
Village Hall*

Tickets available from the
Queens Head and
Wilstone village shop or contact
E: scooplasar@btinternet.com
Tel: 07960 099815

Long Marston & Puttenham Victory Hall present

a Halloween Disco



Saturday 27th October at The Victory Hall
8pm until midnight.

It's time for the grown ups to dress up and party to the sounds of the 80s and 90s with DJ Matt spinning the vinyl.

Prizes for best Halloween costume
and spookiest dancer.

Bring your own drinks.

Entry £5 a head on the door to raise money
for the Victory Hall.

For more information call Dave on 07742 292 116.

The Committee of The Victory Hall Present a

Fabulous Firework Display



Saturday 3rd November 2012

Gates Opening: 6.15pm; Bonfire: 6.30pm
Fireworks: 7.00pm

At Old Tom's Meadow, Station Road, Long Marston
(Adjacent to the Junction With Potash Lane)

BARBECUE, MULLED WINE, SWEETS



Admission: Adults £6 or £5 in advance

Children (5yrs to 14yrs) £2 or £1.50 in advance

Tickets available from: The Queens Head or David
Severs 01296 661021 or Vicky Hayes: 01296 661586
(until 2nd November).

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.

No car parking (except disabled badge holders).

Cars can be left at the Village Hall.

Please do **NOT** bring your own fireworks.

NO SPARKLERS ALLOWED

The Committee reserve the right to postpone or cancel the event at short notice if they decide conditions on the night may compromise safety.

Allotment diaries *by Jane Waterhouse*

All welcome at our allotment and well opening event: Saturday 6th October

AUTUMN feels as if it is upon us and the allotments are full of courgettes, tomatoes, squash, pumpkins and winter greens. The chutney and pickling months are here, and freezers are full of summer vegetables ready to enjoy through the less fruitful months.

I have to confess to doing very little on the allotment this month apart from pick. I have been on a field trip to Greece to observe their gardening techniques and produce. With the Greek climate being so different it seems that things such as tomatoes, beans, cucumbers and okra which we spend our time tying up, protecting, watering and nurturing are tossed into the ground and left to fend for themselves. Of course the variety and flavour was quite different to ours, but as our diet moves to becoming more Mediterranean I did wish that those types of vegetables were less labour intensive to grow in Wilstone. Sadly as the climate changes and global warming heats the world it will not be so long before perhaps we can produce those sun loving crops. I don't think though that I will be gazing at an orchard of lime and fig trees on the allotments anytime soon!

We have finally managed to get the perimeter fence to the field put up, so we are ready if, and when the wildlife of Wilstone realise they have a new restaurant in the area. This is the final large project that we need to do for some time and it remains amazing to me that we have managed to do all this in 9 months on top of preparing our individual plots and producing some half decent crops. Thanks go to all who have helped on the communal projects as well as their personal plots.

As advertised in the last magazine, we are having a

Well and Allotment opening event on Saturday October 6th at 11.am.

Please come and join us and have a look at our efforts. There will be hot drinks and bacon butties to enjoy and the Well, without which we could not grow, will be officially opened.

Look forward to seeing you there. *JW.*



(Picture: Graham Thorpe.)



Allotmenteer Stan Smith was amazed to see this 'mother and child' marrow among his crop. Weirdest vegetable of the week, we think.

**Follow Long Marston Cricket Club at
www.pitchero.com/clubs/longmarstoncricketclub/**

LONG MARSTON VICTORY HALL COMMITTEE

are looking for a **Bookings Clerk** to be responsible for the hiring of the Victory Hall. The person appointed will need to give quotes for the hire of the hall, issue booking forms, confirm booking, collect deposits and issue invoices and receipts.

This is a voluntary post and the appointed person will need to become a member of the Victory Hall Committee who meet four or five times a year. Please contact:

Mike Tomlinson (Chairman) on 01296 661311.

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WI News THIS month our speaker was Dru Ellis who talked about fashion and fabrics through the ages. The member's competition, linked with this was 'your oldest fashion item'. It was very interesting hearing from members about their 'vintage' clothes, some of which were more than 50 years old.

Next month we will be seeing a slide show and listening to John Noakes as he tells of his holiday in Sweden and about the waterways and gardens there.

The WI is always welcoming new members, if you are interested in joining us please do come along to any meeting. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Victory Hall, Long Marston at 7.30pm. As well as the monthly meeting we have a craft and a walking group. There are also visits, workshops, and talks organised by the Buckinghamshire Federation that you can go to.

Thanks to our new distributor!

THANKS very much Councillor Richard Briant who has kindly stepped in to fill the vacancy on our panel of volunteer distributors. Richard is distributor for New Road and Wilstone Green. He has taken over from Vanessa Iley, who handled these deliveries for a number of years even though she no longer lives in the village. Vanessa did a great job, so thank you to her too. *PB.*

Flower festival 2013 at St Cross

IT is fourteen years since we held a flower festival in Wilstone and we think it time to remedy this omission and put the village on the floral map. We have chosen the first Bank Holiday weekend in 2013, Saturday 4th May to Monday 6th May. There is really no need to ask who will be designing it - the one and only Neil Gurney, recent recipient of the B.E.M. (British Empire Medal), a well deserved award for all his many contributions to local charities. Congratulations Neil! Alongside the flowers there will be refreshments, bric-a-brac, books, raffle etc. and a village Songs of Praise on the Sunday evening. This is just a preliminary announcement and further details will appear in a future edition of Village News. Flower festivals need lots of helpers (think three days of refreshments and stewardship in the church!) and if anyone would like to join in we shall welcome them with open arms.
Contact: Pam 01442 824394.

Smell wafted away

OUR correspondent reports that the 'Wilstone Smell' (*Village News, September, page 8*) has now gone away following work by Thames Water at the local pumping station in Sandbrook Lane. The pump has been replaced, and the chemical dosage unit has been cleaned and fixed.



TAXING NUMBERS

2012 Tax Returns are now due
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TODAY!

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From our reporter at the Parish Council meeting

Elections for a Police Commissioner on 15th November: why are we in the dark?

WITH the elections for our first Hertfordshire Police Commissioner set for 15th November, awareness of what this is all about is dangerously low. Official predictions put the likely turnout at only 20%, said Kate Belinis, chief executive of CDA for Herts, at the September meeting of Tring Rural Parish Council. Which makes one ask: what sort of democracy is this?

A consequence of the Localism Act, directly elected Police Commissioners are to replace the current Police Authorities in England in November. Police Authorities are made up of local borough and county councillors, and the idea is that a directly elected Commissioner would, like the Mayor of London perhaps, be more accountable to local voters. Hmm. Yes, perhaps, but only if the local voters know what it is all about and think it is important enough to turn out and vote. Otherwise, what's the point? Ms Belinis' organisation is attempting a rather feeble publicity campaign, but she admitted there is no government budget for this, and not likely to be.

The Police Commissioner will produce a policing plan and be able to appoint (or dismiss) the Chief Constable, though the latter will remain in command of all police operational matters. Nominations for the post, which is a paid (£75,000) public appointment, close on 19th October. Any citizen can put themselves forward if they can stump up £5,000 for a deposit, but the obstacles then facing candidates are huge. The constituency comprises the whole of Herts, and at 1.1 million voters it will be the biggest we have ever voted in. The costs of making oneself sufficiently well known to voters to stand a chance of being elected are significant. Not surprisingly then, the two candidates nominated thus far are from Labour and the Conservatives, and one of them is the current chairman of the Police Authority. Without a major public information campaign (like that currently on our screens for workplace pensions) this bit of 'localism' seems doomed to a dismal launch, and possibly worse if a small group of voters are allowed to engineer a 'democratic' coup. Some information is available on www.hertspa.org, ironically the website of the doomed Police Authority.

THE CHAPEL ROOM WILSTONE

A SELECTION OF 'CRYSTAL CLEAR' FACIALS
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Objections to Dixon's Wharf

PARISH Councillors decided to object to Cala Homes plans to turn the brown-field industrial site at Dixon's Wharf into an estate of 21 new houses. The plans, which are more or less the same as those presented to villagers at a consultation earlier in the year, have now been formally submitted to Dacorum Borough Council. A previous planning approval exists for development of the site, but for commercial units, not housing. Councillors said that in their view the location was not appropriate as it would create an isolated enclave not attached to any of the villages. It was only possible to get in an out by car, as there are no footpaths to Wilstone or Long Marston, and the Wingrave and Tring Roads are narrow and busy. The development was contrary to the Parish Plan, they said, and the approved scheme at Gubblecote was already providing 26 new homes.

Lobbying for the 'S106' money

Speaking of which, the Parish Council is to propose that the £34,000 developer's contribution to highways (which is part of the Gubblecote planning consent) is spent on providing a proper footpath connecting the hamlet to the rest of the world. It will be sometime before the developer has to hand over the money, so the Council thought it was a good idea to get in early with a firm proposal.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Mr Michael Tomlinson (Chairman) 01296 661 311

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Mrs Abby Fermont 01442 825 352

Mr Nick Murrell 01296 668 190

Mrs Jill Finlan 01296 661 716

Mrs Olli Wheeler-Cornell 01296 662207

Mr Richard Briant 01442 825674

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

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Review: *by Sue Barraclough*
A wonderful evening at a local venue
'Music by Candlelight' - Tring Chamber Music

WHAT a treat we enjoyed at the weekend when we attended the Tring Chamber Music – 'Music by Candlelight' concert at All Saints Church, Long Marston.

Mindful that churches can be cold and that the seats can be hard we wrapped warmly and took cushions but really we needn't have bothered as there was heating on in the church and the power of the beautiful music would certainly have compensated for a hard seat.

The concert was performed by pianist Howard Shelley with Paul Barritt (violin), Louise Williams (viola) and Josephine Horder (cello). The wonderful acoustics in the candlelit church made it the perfect setting for the glorious music and the opening performance of Beethoven's Quartet for Piano and Strings Op 16, was sublime and set the standard for the rest of the evening. This was followed by excerpts from Mendelssohn's '48 Songs Without Words' and then a rarely performed piece by Sibelius 'String Trio in G Minor'.

Following the interval, during which we enjoyed a glass of wine, we settled down to enjoy a masterful performance of Gabriel Fauré's melodically sensuous 'Quartet for Piano and Strings, No1 in C Minor, Op15', at the end of which the tumultuous applause left the performers in no doubt as to how much the concert had been enjoyed.

I left feeling stunned that I was able to walk up the road to my local church and enjoy a performance that I would have happily travelled to London and paid far more to hear, so that's me hooked and looking forward to next year's season of local concerts and if you are a music lover I would certainly urge you to join me.

Here's to a jumbling good time!

IF you love having a good rumble through the jumble then do please come along to Wilstone Village Hall on the 3rd November, 2-4pm. There'll be jumble, bric-a-brac, nearly new clothes plus Christmas goodies on sale. Teas will also be available. All profits will go to the Save Wilstone Shop fund.

Any donations of jumble are also very welcome, either contact Diana Crapnell on 01442 826043 or bring them to the hall during the morning of the 3rd November.

Village News: Distribution Manager and Deputy vacancies

Your village magazine needs to recruit a volunteer Distribution Manager who will get the finished magazines to our regular volunteer distributors each month. We also need another Deputy who will act as a holiday relief when necessary. Please call Phil Buchi, 01296 661339, if you think you might be able to help with these vital jobs.





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ROSEMARY FOR REMEMBRANCE

A service for All Souls

on Tuesday 6th November at 10am.

A short service to remember all those people who have passed away, where family and friends who wish to do so can record their loved ones' names on the list in church, to be read out during the service.

Sprigs of rosemary, Shakespeare's flower of remembrance, will be available in church, to be placed on the altar, or taken home after the service.

We hope you will join us for this service, followed by refreshments, including Shropshire Soul cakes.

Sudoku Corner

by Colin Moore

No 70 Moderate

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

You should be able to get all the 1s and some of the 9s before you have to get the pencil and paper out. Try to complete the centre box and the right of centre box for a good start. **Solution on page 31.**

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Village News Extra!

Edited By Harriet Rogers



HELLO! Welcome to the October edition of VNX! If you're already bored with school and can't wait for half term, hopefully this issue will cheer you up! This month there is an exciting new Sports Star, news of my Duke of Edinburgh expedition and some great reviews!

If you have not yet contributed to VNX and would like to, I would be delighted to hear from you! Just email your articles marked for the attention of **Harriet at VNX** to editorwlm@yahoo.com. Thank You!

In this Edition...

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FERMONT CARRIES FLAME FOR WILSTONE

Earlier this month I interviewed Abby Fermont who was one of the proud Paralympic flame bearers for this year's London 2012 Paralympics!



How did you get chosen to be a Paralympic torch bearer?

I am secretary of a charity called Friends of St Luke's Redbourn (FOSLR), which raises funds for St Luke's school, which my daughter Ellen attends. St Luke's is a special school for secondary aged children (9-16) with moderate learning difficulties and additional needs including autism and communication disorders. The organisers of the Paralympic torch relay wanted 'inspirational teams' to carry the torch and FOSLR was nominated because of the large amount of money we have raised over the last three years. This money has enabled FOSLR to install a state-of-the-art interactive sensory room and some much needed playground equipment at the school.

Who did you do it with?

My four other team members were our Chairman and Treasurer, Shirley and Aileen (also parents of special needs kids) plus two other committee members, Ros (another parent) and Jane who works at the school and helps with all our fundraising activities.



Continued on the next page...





PARALYMPIC TORCH RELAY CONTINUED...

Why did you want to carry the torch?

To be honest I was really surprised when we were chosen and it seemed like a great honour. The Olympics and Paralympics were such inspirational events which carried the whole country along on this great wave of togetherness and positivity that I was really excited to be involved.



When did you run with the Olympic flame?

When I heard the torch was coming through Tring I was obviously hoping to be running through my home town, and I had lots and lots of people asking me about it. However, we didn't know for sure until about a week before when we got told that we were Team 50 running, setting off at 4.58 am from Honeypt Lane in Harrow. As everyone knows, it ended up being about two hours late so we eventually ran around 7.00 am with a view of the sun coming up over Wembley Stadium!

What was the uniform like?

We actually had two different pairs of trousers. The first pair was aqua blue and matched the stripes on the top. However, about two days later we received another pair of white trousers with extra visibility flashings on them and were told to wear these trousers. I guess someone had realized that lots of us would be running in the dark and perhaps needed to be a bit more visible.



What was the best thing about doing it?

Arriving on the bus at my starting location to find a big group of all our friends and family waiting for us, all of whom had been waiting for over two hours! We had about ten minutes waiting for the flame to arrive with Team 49, so had time to have photos taken with everyone before we set off on our $\frac{3}{4}$ mile

run. For that ten minutes we felt like celebrities!

Do you know a local talent who you'd like to nominate for next month's edition? Please email your nominations to editorwimp@yahoo.com marked for Harriet at VNX. Thank You!



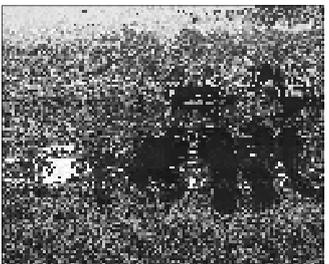
My Duke of Edinburgh Expedition!



After a year of hard work doing volunteering at the Wilstone Shop, learning how to edit VNX, doing vocational ballet training and a very wet practice expedition, it was finally time to do my assessed Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. On Saturday 15th September, I set off at 8.30am at Green Park with 5 other school friends ready to trek to Ivinghoe Beacon. Not only did we have to walk 19km (plus more for a 3 hour detour) on the Saturday, followed by a further 16 km on the Sunday, we also had to take all the food, water and tents we would need for the weekend in 60 litre rucksacks!



We did not get off to a very good start and our map-reading skills were a little rusty since the practice expedition in July. Within half an hour of setting off we were lost. In our attempt to get back on route, we ended up walking through a private golf course! After much debate on which way to go, we thought we were on track for our first check point where we were due to meet our supervisor to check we are all alive and fit to walk. But instead of walking to Ivinghoe we ended up in the middle of Wendover Woods with no clue where the nearest road was! This was when a man told us we were near Wilstone. Having lived in Wilstone for 10 years, I knew we could not be anywhere near Wilstone, so this was no help. When we eventually reached the road out of the woods we had our first encounter with the deadly cows! After 2 near-death experiences of charging cows on the practice expedition, I was adamant we shouldn't go through the field, but the only other route would have been an hour detour and we were already running 3 hours behind schedule! Luckily we bumped into a party of 4 fearless friends who offered to escort us through the cows!



We managed to stick to our route for the rest of the journey but since we were the last group to reach Town Farm campsite, our supervisors said we were in danger of failing and we would now be judged on our cooking and putting-up-tent skills. So luckily we were able to bribe the teachers with our famous smores! (Biscuit, chocolate spread, melted marshmallow, biscuit!)



We set off on Sunday morning with aching backs and blisters. However, we managed to make it home before 4pm without getting lost once! Overall it was a great experience and I can't wait to start my Silver!

Harriet Rogers, Editor



VNX REVIEWS!

What a West Side show! West Side Story - Tring Festival Company at the Court Theatre



When the audience rose to their feet to applaud the Tring Festival Company's 'West Side Story', they had good reason to cheer this impressive performance. There were no concessions to the youth of many of the performers in this dramatic portrayal of life in New York - you would not have seen



better on a West End stage. The scenes were realistically depicted at the Court Theatre by stripping out the stage area and including the brick walls (and the audience) in the sets. This was a huge cast (around forty, I think) and the organisation and rehearsal needed to mobilise all these people on the relatively small stage must have been mega. Shows like this also need to find a great deal of musical talent in



addition to the dancing and in this the production succeeded, with fine performances from soloists and chorus too. The highlight was the excellent showpiece song 'America', delivered with energetic excitement. A word also about those heard, but not seen. The members of the orchestra did a brilliant job and I enjoyed their performance too. I think Bernstein and Sondheim would have been pleased. *Review by the VNX arts correspondent.*

Thank you to all this month's contributors! I am looking for some pets for the November edition of furry tails so if you love your pet and want everyone to see how great they are, email your article and pictures to editor.wlmp@yahoo.com marked for the attention of Harriet before **Tuesday 16th October**.

Harriet :)

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The agricultural story line...

by David Mead

The nights are drawing in

I DON'T think we can complain about the weather this September. It has given us a chance to catch up with all the cultivations ready for the autumn wheat drilling. Because of the poor quality of this year's wheat harvest, reasons have to be sought. Black grass is a choking weed which is becoming resistant to control. With wheat being drilled earlier over the years it gets a firm hold and competes for any nutrients. So the drilling won't be starting for another week, the beginning of October. Having said that we will now have the wettest autumn!

This year's barley crop was very promising. Initial tests were good, we won't know until the first load is delivered and examined. The price for malting barley is way above the price for feed barley - feed that is for pigs and poultry.

We brought in the first two yards of beef cattle on the 18th September. The grass has kept on growing so they look quite fresh. On a clean bed of straw, they seem to enjoy this year's silage. Let's hope the beef trade is good this winter: replacements are very expensive.

Simon has started pressing this year's oil seed rape crop and all seems to be going well. The new bottling department is not quite ready. As the apple yields are non-existent there isn't the battle for space. The Saturday farmers' market sales teams are still out in force.

Long Marston Show: cup winners

Thomas Chapman Award for contribution to village life:
Mike Tomlinson

William Dean Cup (fruit and veg.): Alan Winfield

Grace Trophy (veg. collection): Alan Winfield
& Jane Murrell

Ernest Gregory Cup (flowers): John North

John Chapman Trophy (roses): John North & John Rowe

Val Brash Memorial cup (floral art, novice): Not awarded

Parker Cup (floral art): Margaret Rowe

William Huckvale Cup (domestic): Emma-Lea Davis

Katherine Severs Memorial Plate (domestic - cakes):
Emma-Lea Davis

'Woman' Magazine Cup (handicraft): Rita Morgan

Frank Hopkins Trophy (art): Debbie Chalmers

Sir Harry Vaisey Cup (most points - child): Isabel McAuliffe

Sheila Wood Trophies (collection of vegetables - child):
Not awarded

Sheila Wood Cup (veg. & flowers - child): Isabel McAuliffe

Astrop Cup (photography, child): Pheobe Galloway, Sofia
McAuliffe, Isabel McAuliffe

Hales Trophy (most points - lady): Jane Murrell

Alan Taylor Cup (most points - gent): Alan Winfield

Information provided by the Long Marston & Puttenham Horticultural Society.

Now then, what about those Olympic Games? I found them quite inspiring. It included thousands of people to organise them and they all went off brilliantly, no traffic jams, no terrorist threat. There was one comment which I never thought of. Jenny, Simon and family sat behind the Olympic flame. The heat waves distorted the events the other end of the stadium. But I gather it was only a minor detail and they had a wonderful day. That Saturday with Jessica Innis, Mo Farah and that long jumper, where did he come from? The Tour de France, all those Olympic medals, and then Mr. Murray winning the New York tennis. I hope I don't wake up and find it was all a dream.

There is another dream going on up at the Wendover Arm canal project. I must admit I would love to see the restoration completed. I speak to people who are very doubtful and even suggest it is a waste of time. The water does go that way - in pipes at the moment - but just think on a summer's day: take a boat from the Cow Roast and travel without locks to Wendover with picnic on board through the Tring Cutting, along the section with views over the Wilstone Reservoirs and then the wooded section to Wendover and then you can float back home. Ah well.

The nights are drawing in - film nights will soon be here. Veronica, my wood burning stove, is coming out of her summer slumbers and I'm delivering logs again. Never mind, I'm sure someone will bring out DVDs of the Olympics and we can cheer with tears all over again.

Spotters' Corner: No. 721 Austin 7 Commercial



Spotted at the Mentmore Fete, this Austin 7 Commercial looks diminutive compared with today's freight monsters. Beautifully finished in royal blue, it was clearly big enough for William Williams of Bangor. (Picture: P. Buchi.)

Grit Expectations

by Andy Ashwell

THERE'S a bit of a problem with our chickens at the moment. Two of them have not been producing eggs – well, not usable eggs, anyway – for about two months now. I know that it's quite normal for them to have off-periods when they don't lay and occasional instances of the odd soft-shelled egg, but these two are now beginning to get beyond a joke. Millie, Anna's chicken, has stopped laying altogether and Mandy, Florence's bird, is laying shell-less eggs that get trampled and squished in the coop before we have had a chance to collect them.

It appears that my chicken, Molly, is the only one that's working correctly and actually laying decent eggs. The way I see it is that if the other two aren't careful they'll soon be heading for the cooking pot. Expensive meals I know at 15 quid a pop, but the idea of keeping them in the first place was mainly to furnish us with a regular supply of fresh, free-range eggs and not just for them to make a mess of the garden and eat expensive chicken feed.

Anna began to get worried that there was something seriously amiss a couple of weeks ago and a quick internet search (always a risky thing to do in this kind of situation) confirmed her gravest fears: Mandy had a deadly virus that could, if not treated immediately, potentially wipe out the whole human race. My web-search, however, was a little less pessimistic and most of the blogs that I looked at suggested that the solution was probably to feed them more grit.

When, after a fortnight of feeding them more grit, nothing had improved (and with no news of a global pandemic), I suggested the cooking-pot route to salvation. I was met with a stony stare and reminded that the chickens were our pets and that we had bought them instead of a dog. As pets they would therefore have to be treated as *pets* and not just thrown in the bin like a broken toy.

I was left in no doubt that, eggs or no eggs, none of them would ever be allowed to see the inside of a cooking pot. So, instead of enjoying a nice roast-Mandy with all the trimmings, I was instructed to take her to the vet. I phoned the vet and discovered that, bizarrely, Tring's vet doesn't do chickens – a bit like the Doctor not doing coughs, I suppose – but fortunately Berko's vet did. So with Mandy squashed into our cat-box I headed off to Berko to determine her future.

Mandy was very quiet all the way there; so quiet in fact that before I took her in to see the vet I checked that she was still alive – after all, there's little point in paying good money for someone to tell you that your obviously dead chicken has popped its clogs. Anyway, there was a faint cluck when I shook the cat-box so I picked it up and went in to hear the worst.

"Soft-shelled eggs, hey?" said the receptionist. "More grit, that's what you need, more grit." I told her that I'd already tried that and she shrugged her shoulders and showed me through to see the expert.



I took Mandy out of the cat-box and stood her on the table. I then found myself in the weird position of peering, with the vet, at a chicken's bottom as it demonstrated what chickens' bottoms do best. "Well, nothing wrong with that," said the vet as she casually wiped away the steaming glob. "Give her more grit. It might take a couple of months, but more grit, that's what she needs." And with that, my consultation was over.

So five minutes after walking into the surgery, I found myself walking out again, £14.96 lighter and with the words "more grit" whirling around in my head. And I'm sure that I heard the receptionist tittering smugly to herself as the door closed behind me. I was a bit peeved because for only four pence more I could have bought a replacement chicken; a proper, decent-egg-laying one. But apart from that, at least Anna's mind had been put at rest, Florence still had her pet, and I had gained a few Brownie-points for doing the right thing. A bit of a shame, really – I was rather looking forward to a nice roast dinner.

(Illustration: Andy Ashwell.)

Save Wilstone Shop 100 Club: September draw

AGAIN a *huge* and heartfelt thanks to all participants. In the September draw the lucky winners are:

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New term for First Steps

FIRST STEPS PRE-SCHOOL had a very busy end to the summer term. An 'Olympic' themed sports day was held in June. The children paraded for the opening ceremony to the music of Vangelis' Chariots of Fire, proudly holding their Olympic torches. Chocolate medals and certificates were gladly received and well earned by our young athletes. The leaver's assembly was a medley of songs from around the world performed on stage by all the children. It was a very happy occasion, though the odd tear was shed by parents and staff, seeing the older ones so grown up and ready to move onto 'big school'.

In August the Pre-school rounded up events with a raffle sweet stall at the Village Show. It was a great success and raised a small pot of money for the school to spend on updating resources. Thank you to all those who came that afternoon and supported the stall.

Lastly, First Steps would like to welcome a number of new children. Millie Barcroft, Edward Taylor, George Killan and Eva Murphy started this September, also Heidi and Tilly Wall and Tabitha Rose Tyler who started in May. We hope they settle into their first term, make new friends and enjoy some of the exciting activities coming up!

A doggie tale: careful with the bait

THE great thing about living where we are in the villages between Tring and Aylesbury is we have all the open spaces. The wildlife and surroundings. Just minutes from the reservoirs and canal. Pop into your car and you're in Aylesbury or Tring in a few minutes. Better still, go out walking as we do daily along the canal. Word has it when you reach a certain age a brisk walk works wonders health wise. Daily walks are also essential for all dogs. They love it. Once they are off the lead in green pastures or hilly areas, or whatever, they thoroughly enjoy themselves. Mind you, we as their guardians or minders must always be aware as to what they are up to. Not just picking up their mess which is so important - especially where anglers fish and the public walk - but making certain they are under control, not being a nuisance etc., as not everyone enjoys being greeted by a four-legged mutt at 30 mph.

So many of us - especially in Wilstone, Long Marston, Marsworth, Astrope, Puttenham and Gubblecote - have pets, and one can sometimes take them for granted. I hold my hand up to that and especially with my lovely Border Terrier. He's only got to see someone and he feels he must greet them. That is unless it's another canine that is large and black. Why that happens to be the case I'm not certain, but I'm working on it. Anyway, with his lead on he goes on his evening walkies. It's going to be a brisk one tonight I thought as it has been a hard day and I just want to get it out of the way and then relax. Let's start tonight, I thought, along the canal route. So off we went.

We will be collecting for Bags for School again soon, a fund raising scheme that pays money for collected clothes and textiles. Blue bags can be picked up and brought back to staff at the Pre-school where all textile contributions will be gratefully received.

First Steps Pre-School is held at Victory Hall, Long Marston every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.00am – 12.00am during term time. Lunch club is held on Tuesday and Friday until 1.30pm. We welcome all children aged between 2½ -5. Interested parents can drop in for a chat with staff and a look around at the activities available.

To put your child's name on our waiting list please contact either Teresa Giddings, pre-school leader, on 07925 185311 (during pre-school hours) or our Chair, Abbi Livermore, on 07966 154570 or email

firststepslongmarston@gmail.com

If your children are much younger then why not pop into Long Marston Baby & Toddler group which runs on Wednesday mornings 10.00am until 11.30am term time only, for more information call Ali Driver on 01296 662482.

As usual, anglers are fishing and our doggie runs off to greet them. Sometimes he sniffs the bait boxes and many a time he's given a treat. His preference being luncheon meat cut in cubes. Many anglers know him and give him treats whilst he greets them.

This particular evening a rod lay on the ground by the hedge side. This rod had a length of line complete with doggie biscuit on its hook. The angler had obviously baited up hoping to catch a carp. My doggie didn't hesitate, he grabbed the bait, swallowed the lot. You know what dogs are like when it comes to treats and that's what he thought it was. A little treat for him. Poor old devil.

Now the moral of this story is two-fold. I should have kept him on his lead as we meet anglers all day long along the canal and, as I am a novice fisherman, I should never leave a rod unprotected for fear of what could happen. Well this catastrophe happened in a second and as any dog owner will tell you we were in bits. The time was 6.20pm so we phoned our vet and said we were on our way. We arrived at the vet practice after closing time at approximately 6.40pm. Nothing was resolved so we took him to the vet hospital where he underwent surgery. We left just after midnight.

It's now almost six weeks since it happened. He's still on medication and will hopefully recover to full health soon. I felt I should let all fishermen, dog owners and parents know about this accident and say: be careful when you go out walking with your children or your pets as accidents do happen. There's nothing wrong with enjoying yourself fishing or exercising along the canal. Just take care. I will. *KL*.

Mrs. Doolittles

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Friday October 19th



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The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

FINAL REMINDER ...

JUMBLE SALE **SATURDAY, 29th SEPTEMBER - 2 p.m.** **Cecilia Hall, Puttenham.**

If you are looking for something – we are bound to have it!!

Ladies, Gents & Children's clothing, Toys, Household linens, China, Glass, Hardware, Books etc... and there is always tea and cake on sale.

If you are able to help with sorting, or selling on the day, or simply helping to clear stuff afterwards, please call Christine: 01296 668337. Your help is always appreciated.

THE PUTTENHAM TRUST

OCTOBER SUPPER with JOHN BLY **Saturday, 13th October** *Cecilia Hall, Puttenham - 7.30pm* *B.Y.O. drink & a glass!*

A surprise evening with John Bly. Although we will not be having an auction this year, we shall have a Sales Table with your favourite items ready for purchase.

THE **Cecilia tea rooms** proved a great success, despite very short notice. It was a wonderful afternoon with much meeting of old friends and renewing of previous friendships..... and a great deal of chatter. The Hall was set out as a "Tea Rooms" with a full buffet-style display of sandwiches and cakes and, of course, as much tea/coffee as you wished to drink! The afternoon raised approximately £140 for church funds (final figure yet to be confirmed). Thank you to everyone who came. We may well be opening the Tea Rooms again in the Spring, so please look out for the Notices.

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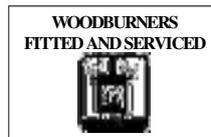
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From the Rectory

by Rev'd Jane Bannister

Harvest is about rejoicing in what we have. But some years the crops are not plenteous, and all is not safely gathered in, and those are the years when we need more than ever to gather together and to support each other.

AS I write this, the sun is shining, but it is already too cold to go out without a coat or a jumper first thing in the morning. Everywhere you look (both inside and out in our house) there are cobwebs glistening, and Downton Abbey is back on the television. The summer is over.

And what a summer it has been – the Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics and the Paralympics, and we have celebrated them all because we wanted to, and because we have felt proud of who we are and what we can do. There has been a true community spirit, and it has been wonderful to experience that. But now that summer of celebration is over and we are reminded that there are still weighty issues around. The economy is still in a poor state; our children's education system is once again being altered but for whose gain, and there is much discussion over whether we should send foreign aid if we are not sure where it ends up. So you could say that our summer has produced both a wonderful harvest, and one that is not so good.

The church festival of harvest has some roots in the pagan belief of needing to give to the gods in order to pacify them and so that there would be a good harvest next time. The Christian church started in an era when most people worked on the land and relied on the land for their livelihood. Harvest was about celebrating the hard work that had been done in order to get the crops in so that the people would be fed over the winter. It was also about acknowledging the role that God had played in this and giving thanks to Him both by bringing offerings to the church and to those people who were not so well off, whose harvest had not been so good.

While we no longer rely on the land in the same way, the

economic situation and poor weather has meant that this year's harvest has not been as good as previous years. Today in Tesco, I saw notices saying that the poor weather meant that the quality of the onions was not as good as before, and that they were having difficulties getting in all the bread normally stocked in the shop. But the shop is still full of food, and all we have lost is some of the multitude of choices available. It is a reminder to us of how fortunate we are and how spoiled we have become about food.

So what should harvest mean to us now? Surely it has to mean the same as ever, but we are now truly aware that is not just about making us feel comfortable and nostalgic when we see the vegetable displays in church and sing "We plough the fields and scatter". It is about giving thanks for what we have, and realising that in this country we are still very well off. We do not go hungry; we do not have to give food to our children and go without ourselves. And there are always safety nets around such as the Food Bank.

It is when times are difficult that we have to remember more than ever that it is our responsibility to share with others, both at home and abroad. If we just batten down the hatches and decide to only look after "me and mine" then we have no hope of changing anything.

"The one who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (Corinthians II v 6.)

Best wishes, Jane Bannister.

All Saints' Church has had a busy few months, and we are delighted to say that the next few months look equally as busy. Toddler Worship has continued twice a month on Mondays (the first and third which I know is impossible to remember, but they are printed in the list of services!). We carry on all through the year, not just in term time and are delighted to welcome any under fives with their carers, and children of all ages in the holidays. It is a great way to get your children used to church, and if Sundays are not a convenient time for you, then Monday afternoons at 2pm might just be the answer. We wish Talia and Jasmine well as they start school, and look forward to seeing new faces!

A new event that we tried out in July was "tea in church" where we invited children to come along for games and activities followed by tea (pizza, hot dogs and cake!). Those who came thoroughly enjoyed it and we would love to try it again but maybe with some better publicity (my fault) so keep your eyes open for that. For those who prefer refreshments without games, we are continuing our once a month tea afternoon on Tuesdays at 2.00pm – October 23rd and November 27th. Our

Sunday services continue as usual at 10am, and we welcome everybody. On the fourth Sunday of every month we have Sunday Club for children, but all ages are welcome at every service. On the second Sunday of every month (I know – it's only the church that operates like this) we also have a quiet contemplative evening service at 6pm. It is a wonderful chance to catch your breath, to take some time and step back a little. Also if there are particular people or issues you would like us to pray for, then please let me know.

Events coming up:

Curry and Quiz night 19th October at the Village Hall.

Quiz by Toby, curry by Huw - what more could you ask?

4th November - 10am Service to celebrate the feast of All Saints. Cake and sherry afterwards.

11th November - Remembrance Sunday. 10am service in church, followed by 10.50am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

We are also very much looking forward to Harry and Amy's baptism, and to Lorna and Tom's wedding next year.

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Village News

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Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

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*Your editor for November is: John McCall,
01442 825529*

**Deadline for items to go in the next issue is:
Thursday 18 October 2012.**

You can read *Village News* on line at:

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

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Results of the great sunflower competition announced

by Victor Spratt

THE results of the exclusive Sunflower competition have been announced. As some of you will know the competition was restricted to a small number of Wilstone villagers. Not because of any good reason other than this was the first year that it was introduced to the village and no one else knew about it. The rule of the competition is that the tallest flower wins. There were some disappointments early in the contest when some of the young plants, being very tasty, were gobbled up by slugs and snails.

The results are as follows. A much deserved third place went to **Alice Timms** who put much effort and hard work into growing her plant but unfortunately it got

eaten at a very young age. Second place went to **Christina Spratt** ('the organiser'?) her plant was well in the lead at a late stage in the competition, but on returning from holiday she found her sunflower snapped off. She insists that this was due to sabotage, but no proof of this has come to light. Her plant can be seen in the photograph (right) which was taken before she went on her holidays and she claims would have been the winner. However, the outright winner is **Colin Moore**. He will be awarded the first prize of a packet of Maltesers. The contestants who came second and third will also receive a packet of Maltesers. The organiser, Christina Spratt has said that due to the great success of this event, with any luck a much larger number of contestants may be encouraged to take part in next year's competition.



Sudoku No 70 solution

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



Other achievements in the Village gardening year include first time allotment holders **Harry Spratt-Smith and Alex Brown** who grew enormous carrots and this wierd Italian Climbing Courgette which finished up 3 feet 10 ½ inches long. The photo (left) shows Bridy looking after it. Congratulations Harry and Alex. You may also be awarded a packet of Maltesers.

VILLAGE VIEW

BY JOHN PAINTER

I thought something very seasonal for this month, so I went out this week to take this Village View.

We have actually had some quite good weather for landscapes in the last week or so - sunshine and interesting clouds.

The photo is taken from the far corner of the reservoir looking across the reeds. JP.



Sunny afternoon for Mentmore too *by our outside broadcast team*



MENTMORE joined Long Marston and Wilstone in having the good fortune to choose a sunny afternoon for their annual fete during this otherwise disappointing summer. The rewards were a good turnout and busy stallholders - not to mention the sighs of relief among the committee. Organiser Sue Stovell said she was amazed and impressed with the result, which

made a profit of around £5,180 for local charities and village projects. Our pictures show (left) Radio 1 disc-jockey Dave Lee Travis interviewing a dog show hopeful, and (right) one time Wilstone Sub-postmistress Diane Halfpenny again behind the counter, but this time in charge of the local produce stall. (Pictures: P. Buchi.)

Designs for a Wilstone village sign: committee seeks views

Consultation by Wilstone Village Hall Committee

YOU will have all seen, as you walk or drive through many villages, that there is often a village sign mounted on a tall post in the centre of the village - Pitstone has one beside the main road, featuring its windmill.

For a little while the Wilstone Village Hall Committee have been considering whether Wilstone should also have a village sign, mounted on a post somewhere in the centre of the village. There are obviously a number of factors to be considered before one could be erected - where to put it, what permissions are needed. We would also need to approach a specialist company to find out what is practical, what is needed to meet safety requirements, and so on, and most important - what it will cost.

However one of the first things to decide is what the sign should depict and what it should look like. There are a number of features in the village that could be portrayed, and would be recognised by people within the village,

but most widely known across the area is the reservoir and it is thought that this should perhaps be the main theme of the sign.

A couple of ideas have been drafted, as shown (right), based on the type of signs that are often seen. One has an open 'wrought iron' effect, the other is more of a picture. They are both just initial sketches that would need working on before being finalised.

However the committee would like to invite comments from villagers before proceeding further. If anyone has any thoughts, then the committee would appreciate their input.

If you wish to comment then please contact a member of the committee, call John Painter (01442 891876) who has been gathering together ideas, or email:

wilstonevillagehall@hotmail.co.uk



Design idea A



Design idea B