



October 2014

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

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A £60,000 offer to spend on our villages

SOLAR power company Hive Energy has applied for planning permission to build a solar park at Folly Farm to the north of Puttenham. This would use solar panels, similar to those seen on buildings, to generate an estimated 15 million watts (15MW). The 74 acre site could produce enough electricity for 4500 homes. Around 30% of the land area would be used for the panels and the remainder would still be available for grazing. Hive Energy have 13 sites up and running across the south of the UK, with a further 16 in the planning stages. Currently around 2500 MW is being generated from solar farms, about 12% of the 2020 target. For comparison, Sizewell B, Britain's newest nuclear power station on the Suffolk coast adds, about 1200MW to the grid. To meet the 2020 target, solar parks would need to occupy about 10% of the land currently

used by golf courses! Solar parks are normally granted permission for 25 years after which they can be easily and quickly dismantled and the land returned to agriculture.

At the last Parish council meeting (see page 10) Mr Tim Purbrick Commercial Director of Hive Energy gave a presentation on the Folly Farm project and stated that his company was willing to make a one-off contribution of £60,000 to local community projects. He suggested that part of the money could be used to improve the access to Folly Farm off the Wingrave Road. Surprisingly, this was not particularly well received by those present.

Subsequent to that meeting Mr Tim Purbrick has informed *Village News* that "the full amount of £60,000 will be going to the parish council for whatever community uses they choose". Of course that is dependent on gaining planning permission and proceeding with the project.

Neighbours surprise special birthday girl with pop-up garden

WHEN Wilstone resident and birthday girl, Jean Fox, went shopping with her husband Keith one Saturday morning in September, little did she know that as they turned the corner to leave the village, neighbours immediately emerged from their houses and joined together as a sort of DIY SOS team, to create an instant garden. As this was friend and neighbour Jane Waterhouse's idea, and as the rear gardens there are limited in space, an area in front of her house usually used for parking was coned off. A roll of green artificial grass was rolled out, garden umbrellas and fencing erected, barrels, tables, bunting and balloons put out and lots of potted plants, all in the space of half an hour. All sorts of food had been prepared and delivered; all in time for Jean's return an hour or so later.



She was somewhat shocked to see the instant garden. It was such a surprise for her that it was as well that there was a reviving tonic awaiting her. A few hours later and the pop-up garden was, well, popped-down, and you would never have known there was any party there at all.

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Special features

- Tennis 2
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- Martin's tale 24
- 100 years on 27-28

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

A sizzling day at the 2014 finals

by Peter Dean

IN the Ladies Singles at Long Marston Tennis Club , entries were below the usual number but Lisa and Margaret, our Club Secretary, fought their way to the Final. With the sun shining brightly and the temperatures soaring, Margaret kept her cool to win the tournament. Lisa was quoted as saying "Margaret is like playing against a wall, it just keeps coming back!" This is a compliment which other Club members are able to confirm!

In the Men's Doubles it was a job to find one fit man, although George, being the youngest (the average age was 65), seemed to stand the pace better. Hey, what a pace it was though, despite strapped knees, pulled groins and actually no hangovers the spectators were treated to some remarkably good tennis. The Zimbabweans can play a bit and the English/Australian - or whatever Geoff is currently - has a lot of life left in him (well he had to do the Cricket Club Bar after). If you've lost the plot, Terry partnered Geoff (2 years ago they won the Herts Veterans Cup) and youngster George partnered Dave.

The Veterans took the first set on a tie break 7-6; the Youngsters took the next set 7-5 despite Dave needing the trainer. The final set went to George & Dave, I think 6-3 or something like that. Whereupon Dave was just able to get off court and open four tinnies of Becks Vier to comply with his sponsorship contract.

For those that enjoyed the sun in their garden, they missed a special game.

The other results in the club tournaments were the Ladies Doubles where the finalists were Lisa and Anne who played Angie and Margaret.

This was a very close fought match where eventually the experience of Angie and Margaret came to the fore. It was the first time that Lisa and Anne had played together so they did extremely well to reach the final. Whereas the old guard in the mixed doubles Lisa and Dave, who were the Champions in 2012, were beaten by the new kids on the block Terry and Anne. A very well deserved victory.

All in all a very successful Tennis season and lots to play for in the year ahead with the club finally receiving planning permission for floodlighting – but more about that in the months ahead.



Ladies singles winner Margaret with the men's doubles winners George and Dave



Ladies doubles winners Angie and Margaret



Terry and Anne mixed doubles winners

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With summer over, the start of autumn has been so far superb. The hedgerows are an abundance of fruit and berries. This year there are huge blackberries, elderberries, damsons, plums and sloes. If you are into winemaking or just like the idea of some homemade sloe gin or blackberry and apple pie now is time to collect the fruit. You easily freeze them for use later and they are all free!

There is quite a lot going on in our villages. Hive Energy has a proposal for a solar park at Folly Farm, concern about unacceptable delay in repairing Dixon's Gap bridge and the equally unacceptable delay in repairing the collapsed canal bank at Wilstone. Should these single track bridges have traffic lights?

You won't find all the answers in *Village News* but you can read about them and other people's opinions. In addition there are all the well liked events and a few new ones. A new series of Wilstone film night starts soon, there's a Guy Fawkes firework display at Long Marston and watch out for Long Marston's Club Paradiso.

If you want to make your views known, the deadline for our next issue is below.

**Deadline for items for our next issue is
Thursday 23 October 2014.**

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

Let us know if we are not!

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Church services

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

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

5 October

10.00am All Saints Harvest Festival
followed by lunch
6.00pm St Cross Evening Prayer

12 October

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

19 October

10.00am St Cross Holy Communion
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer

26 October

10.00am All Saints Holy Communion
3.30pm St Mary's Evensong



St Mary's, Puttenham

Read *Village News* online at:

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

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

Times for mobile library Route 72

Thursday fortnightly: 2, 16 & 30 Oct, 13 Nov

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

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

What's on...

All Saints Church

QUIZ and CURRY

TOBY DAVIDSON
QUIZMASTER

Friday 24th October 2014
7.30 for 8pm

Victory Hall, Long Marston
Tickets £12

Teams of eight - BYO glasses
London Pride beer available
Contact Carole Harrison
01296 668526

LONG MARSTON VICTORY HALL AGM

**Notice is hereby given for the Annual
General Meeting of the
Long Marston Victory Hall on Thursday
27 November 2014 at 7:30 pm**

The Hall Committee are looking for a new Chairman following the resignation of Mike Tomlinson after years of service. We are also looking for a new Treasurer to take over from Margaret Kaye.

For more details, please contact Margaret on 01296 662975 or Mike on 01296 661311

Community Shop Wilstone opening hours:

Monday to Friday: 7.30am to 2.00pm
Saturday 7.30am to 1.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am to 12.00 noon.

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

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)

The public are welcome to attend these meetings.

Wednesday 1 October, Puttenham Cecilia Hall.

Wednesday 5 November Wilstone village hall.

Saturday 18 October

Village Bulb Planting Long Marston Victory Hall 10am

Saturday 11 October

October Supper with Neil Gurney, Puttenham. 7 for 7.30pm.

Friday 24 October

Quiz and Curry, All Saints, Long Marston. 7.30 for 8pm.

Tuesday 28 October

All Saints Social afternoon 2-3pm.

Saturday 1 November

Fireworks Display Old Tom's Field Long Marston 6pm

Sunday 2 November

All Saints Patronal Festival 10am.

Tuesday 4 November

Rosemary for Remembrance at St. Cross, Wilstone. 10am.

Saturday 8 November

LM Cricket Club race night at Marlins.

Remembrance Sunday 9 November

Remembrance Day services, St. Cross and All Saints. 10am.

Tuesday 25 November

All Saints Social afternoon 2-3pm.

Friday 28 November

Club Paradiso Long Marston Victory Hall 7.30pm

Tuesday 16 December

Carols Round the Tree Long Marston Village Green 7pm

Wednesday 26 November

LMCC AGM in the clubhouse.

Saturday November TBA

Cecilia Concert (date to be arranged).

Tuesday 23 December

All Saints Social afternoon 2-3pm.

News from All Saints

by Carole Harrison

Sunday 5 October, 10am. We shall be having our Harvest Festival Service; this will be followed by a Soup and Crumble lunch – everyone welcome. Please bring a harvest gift for DENS.

Friday 24 October. Quiz and Curry Night. The Rector's delicious curry and Toby's Quiz. 7.30 for 8pm in the Long Marston Village Hall, teams of 8 (or less!). London Pride beer will be available on the night – please bring your own glasses and your own drinks if preferred. To book please contact Carole Harrison (01296 668526) or Rev J Bannister (01441 822170).

Tuesday, 28 October. Social Afternoon takes place 28 2 -3pm - everyone welcome.

Sunday 2 November at 10am. All Saints Patronal Festival. 4 - 6pm Nighttime Lighttime Service for children. Contact the Rev J Bannister (01442 822170) for details.

Wilstone Film Nights

FRIDAY OCTOBER 17th



STARTING OUR NEW
2014/15 FILM SEASON

Captain Phillips

Starring Tom Hanks

The true story of Captain Richard Phillips and the 2009 hijacking by Somali pirates of the US-flagged MV Maersk Alabama, the first American cargo ship to be hijacked in two hundred years.

Captain Phillips is a multi-layered examination of the 2009 hijacking of the U.S. container ship Maersk Alabama by a crew of Somali pirates - simultaneously a pulse-pounding thriller, and a complex portrait of the myriad effects of globalization. The film focuses on the relationship between the Alabama's commanding officer, Captain Richard Phillips (two time Academy Award®-winner Tom Hanks), and the Somali pirate captain, Muse (Barkhad Abdi), who takes him hostage. Phillips and Muse are set on an unstoppable collision course when Muse and his crew target Phillips' unarmed ship; in the ensuing standoff, 145 miles off the Somali coast, both men will find themselves at the mercy of forces beyond their control.

8pm Friday October 17th. Doors open 7.15pm

Wilstone Village Hall. Licenced bar.

Tickets £7 available now from Wilstone Community Shop



THE COMMITTEE OF THE VICTORY HALL PRESENT A

FABULOUS

FIREWORK

DISPLAY

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2014

GATES OPENING: 6.15PM;

BONFIRE: 6.30PM; FIREWORKS: 7.00PM

*AT OLD TOM'S MEADOW, STATION ROAD, LONG MARSTON
(NEAR TO THE JUNCTION WITH POTASH LANE)*

BARBECUE, MULLED WINE & SWEETS

Admission: Adults £6 or £5 in advance

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

Tickets available from: Queen's Head or David Severs: 01296 661021 or
Vicky Hayes: 07855 369515 (Until 31st October).

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

NO CAR PARKING (disabled spaces only); 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.

BE A HERO!

When:
Saturday
15 November
09:00am to
12:00pm

What:
Jazzercise Mega Workout
Raffle and Tombola
Cakes & Tops Sale
Dress Up for Extra Fun!

Where:
Sports Hall
Green Park Centre
Aston Clinton, HP22 5NE

Check out our fundraising hero role at the co-ops/pub/parish

Children in Need

MILLENNIUM EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Registered Charity No. 1077157

Are you hoping to go to University or College in 2015, 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

Contact : Elaine Winter, Secretary to the Trustees:-
Telephone: 01442 827913
Email: info@tringcharities.co.uk



Bulb planting

IN conjunction with the Women's Institute, The Long Marston & Puttenham Horticultural Society has decided to lead a project to enhance the verges round the village by planting some bulbs. Having consulted with the Tring Rural Parish Council to identify areas where planting can be done, maps and bulbs will be provided for any volunteers willing to help out. The plan is to meet up outside the Victory Hall in Long Marston on Saturday 18 October at 10 am where people will be issued with bulbs and a map of where to plant them – PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN SPADE/FORK! The more, the merrier – come along and enhance your village – all welcome.

Club Paradiso

Entertain, or be entertained - coming to Long Marston in November. Club Paradiso is an eclectic mix of music, comedy, drama, and the bizarre . . . set within the atmosphere of a 1930s nightclub (which will be quite an achievement in Victory Hall). The performers will all be local talent, and will join the audience when not on stage.

We need performers and we need an audience. Anyone living in Long Marston and the surrounding villages can take part and perform. If you have any interest in being involved, or just an idea of something you may like to do, please give us a call on the numbers below. Even if you are not sure yet, call us for a chat.

Of course, anyone can join the audience. Our aim is to provide a wonderful and memorable evening for all. The evening will be on Friday 28th November. **Note: this is a date change since our original flyer.** More details and ticket information will follow soon.

This event is funded and organised by the Long Marston and Puttenham Horticultural Society. For further details, to take part, or to just discuss your ideas, please call Chris Hodges on 01296 668475 or Gill MacDonald on 01296 661974.

FIRST STEPS PRE-SCHOOL, LONG MARSTON

Places are available for children between 2½ and 5 years old.

We are open Monday 9 - 12, Tuesday 9 - 3,
Thursday 9 - 1.30, Friday 9 - 1.30.

We have a great team of enthusiastic staff.

For more information or to arrange a visit, contact our playleader Teresa Giddings on 07925 185311 or
firststepslongmarston@gmail.com

LONG MARSTON BABY & TODDLER GROUP
every Wednesday during term time 10-11.30am
Victory Hall, Long Marston. Everyone welcome.
Contact Tara Thirkettle 07796 965171.

News in brief...

Community shop talk

by **Diana Crapnell**

WE ARE now firmly into the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness with our thoughts turning to things like Halloween, Bonfire Night and, dare I say it, Christmas. Somehow whilst it's a very distant glow on the horizon at the moment we know it will be firmly in our headlights in no time at all and, as you can imagine, plans have to be made!

But it is still a wee bitty way off, so what's going on at the Community Shop in the meantime?

Nici, our new Shop Manager, is taking firm control of the reins and small but significant changes are now taking place. Firstly, our **Cheese of the Week** has made a very popular return to the Deli. Each week we're offering a very tasty cheese for you to try, and once we get a feel for what's most popular we'll be able to keep those as a core and then put a new one alongside for you to taste. Feedback on the cheese is, as you can imagine, very welcome in order to enable us to give you what you enjoy. So if there's a cheese you like, or fancy trying, please let us know so we can try to get it for you. The current leaders in the Wilstone Cheese League are Cheddar and Stilton.

Next a new venture, **Dry Cleaning**, delivered by BSmart Dry Cleaners of Berkhamsted who are an old family-run business. Any dry cleaning left at the shop by 10 am will be delivered back the next day also by 10 am. BSmart also offer an alterations and mending service, plus they will come out, take down your curtains, clean them and then put them back up again – that sounds pretty marvellous to me! For details and prices or with any queries, or dry cleaning for that matter, please call into the shop, we're open from 7.30am until 2pm Monday-Friday, 7.30am-1pm Saturday and 9am-midday Sunday. Or you can call us on 01442 891167. If our opening hours don't work for your dry cleaning, let us know and we can arrange delivery to suit you.

Other key points - well you may not realise that we can supply meat to order via Richard our acclaimed Chesham based Aylesbury duck breeder. Richard supplies our delicious ham and some of our bacon. He also provides fresh free-range chicken, ducks and turkeys, which he raises on his farm, either as whole birds or breast fillets, legs and thighs. He can also get beef joints and other meats. So if you'd like to try anything do please come and ask for more details. Orders placed by 10am on a Tuesday will be available on Friday.

Each day the shop carries daily newspapers, but you may not know that we can also deliver to order or hold an order at the shop for you so you will never miss out on your preferred title. Plus if you place a regular order with us, you can take advantage of our offer of 25% off any magazine title you would like.

Keep an eye out too for some interesting new products coming onto the shelves to sit alongside our trusty staples.

You may be surprised at what will be there to tempt your taste buds!

So lots happening, and lots more new ideas in the pipeline for you to enjoy. Not only that but we will have several new volunteers joining our energetic team. But there's always room for more so if you fancy helping out, getting to meet your neighbours and having a lot of fun do come and have a chat with Nici. We'd love to have you join us.

Village News needs editor

YOUR Village News team would like to recruit an additional volunteer editor to join us in time for the 2015 editions. A team of five editors produce the ten editions of Village News each year, with each editor taking charge of two editions. The annual schedule is arranged to fit in with everyone's other commitments, so editors know in advance when their editions are.

This is an opportunity to make a useful contribution to the community, and the work is interesting and rewarding too. Full training is given, and we provide the necessary software. No great computing skills are needed - if you can produce a Word document you can do this. More important is an enthusiasm to produce a great magazine by highlighting good stories and creating eye-catching layouts. Editors do need to have a reasonable computer (operating Windows XP or later versions) and a broadband internet connection.

If you are interested in finding out more, please phone Phil Buchi (01296 661339) for a chat. He can explain how the editors carry out their work, and also answer your questions. No decision needed until you have the full picture!

'Fabulous Fireworks' display

ONCE again the Long Marston Victory Hall Committee will be hosting their annual 'Fabulous Fireworks' on Old Tom's Field at the north end of the Village (just below Potash Lane) on Saturday 1 November. Gates open at 6:15pm with a stall selling burgers, sweets and plenty of mulled wine to keep the cold out! The bonfire will hopefully be lit around 6:40pm (wind permitting!) with the display starting around 7pm, courtesy of our resident expert, David Severs. Entry on the gate is £6 for adults and £2 for under 16s but advanced tickets can be bought from the Queen's Head at a discounted price of £5 (£1.50) or call Vicky Hayes on 07855 369515. Volunteers are also required to help build the bonfire the week before and help with set up on the day. This promises to be a great show for all the family. See you there.

Open gardens

FOR all those enthusiastic gardeners and allotments holders in Wilstone, who are at this moment thinking about putting their gardens to bed for the winter.

This is to let you know that, on a Sunday afternoon at the end of June in 2015, Wilstone will be opening its gardens and

allotments to the public and offering tea and cake and enthusiasm to one and all.
 Anyone interested in opening their garden next year, please contact Gill Glasser on 01442 890300 or 07803740773.

Queen's Head caption competition

THANKS for all the entries to the caption competition in last month's magazine. The winning entry was 'This is much better than the Nags Head' as submitted by Peter Walker who wins a lunchtime meal for 2 at the Queen's Head.




Congratulations and grateful thanks to landlord, Andy Buttars for sponsoring the competition, especially with his relaunch of Sunday Lunches at the pub as well as the return of the ever popular Blinky's Tuesday Night Quiz

New member joins committee - more welcome by Maggie Buchi

THE Wilstone Village Hall Committee was pleased to welcome a new member last month. This surely proves that advertising does work. Last month's invitation to join the committee has had some success. We meet on Mondays once a month in the Half Moon (nice!) and, only when you get there, will you realise what a friendly bunch we are - and fun. It's not strenuous; nobody talks 'for ever'. We get on with it and it is most unlike any committee that I have ever known. We're lucky to have a terrific chairman and what better place to have a meeting than the pub. The Committee would love to have more members to help with some very pleasant tasks like helping at our fabulous film night, the village fete, quizzes, wine tastings and concerts.

For more information ring Richard Smissen on 01442 823253; mobile 07768 802093.



**SING - WILSTONE
COMMUNITY CHOIR**

WE MEET ON A TUESDAY EVENING IN ST
CROSS CHURCH, WILSTONE

WE ARE A FRIENDLY BUNCH SINGING A
VARIETY OF MUSIC

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME,
PARTICULARLY MEN!

CONTACT JO WOODBRIDGE 01442 891444

Wilstone Film Nights

OUR NEW SEASON STARTS ON FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER

Tickets on sale at Wilstone Community Shop

Eight years ago we started our film night evenings with the aim of providing a social event for residents of local villages. A licensed bar is open from 7.15, and around half way through the film, we have an interval where we serve some refreshments, and you can mingle with friends and neighbours.

This year, however, we are faced with two cost increases, that of the cost of the engineer, travel costs and video equipment, and that of the copyright fees. In fact, these cost increases came through last year, but we can longer avoid increasing our prices to cover them. Whilst it is not our aim to make money out of the film nights, nor is it to make a loss, which I fear we will experience without a price increase to £7.

I have been asked why we don't invest in buying our own equipment. We have investigated this quite thoroughly and I have got two quotes to match the quality of that which we hire, and they have come in at around £10,000. Apart from the capital costs, we have to recruit and train at least three operators, and given that the kit might be obsolete in a very few years, the Village Hall Committee has decided that such an investment is not justified.

Despite all that, I do hope that we will see you for our next film which is the brilliant and exciting 'Captain Phillips', on Friday 17 October.

207 Bus service

SHOULD you want to go Hemel Hempstead on a **Friday** the 207 runs from Marsworth stopping in Long Marston, Wilstone, Tring, and Hemel Hempstead. Be careful on the return as there is an earlier 207 service to Wiggington only.

This is a **Fridays only** and limited stop service, for full details check time table.

Marsworth Vicarage Rd*	1020	Hemel Hemsptead Bus Station*	1300
Long Marston Bromley*	1028	Tring High St	1320
Wilstone stops only at The Mill	1034	Wilstone The Mill	1326
Tring High St	1040	Long Marston Bromley	1332
Hemel Hemsptead Bus Station**	1102	Marsworth Vicarage Rd	1341

*add 2 each minutes for Anglers Retreat , Ravens Court and Riverside Street Hemel Hempstead

From our reporter at the Parish Council meeting

Solar park power proposal for Folly Farm

SOLAR power company Hive Energy has applied for planning permission to build a solar park at Folly Farm in the north of the parish to generate electricity from sunlight. The company held an exhibition at Puttenham in June to explain the proposal, when Cllr Mike Tomlinson and Cllr Alan Winfield attended for Tring Rural Parish Council. Mr Tim Purbrick from Hive Energy attended the September Parish Council meeting to explain the planning application that has now been submitted, and to answer questions.

Occupying 74 acres of 'grade 4' farmland, the solar park would produce up to 15MW of renewable energy for the national grid. This is sufficient to provide electricity for 4,500 homes. It would cost £20M to build. The solar panels would be set in grassland with provision for wild flowers, grazing by sheep and bee keeping, thus preserving meadowland usage. The company are keen to stress their green credentials and their track record in fitting into the natural landscape. Mr Purbrick went over the benefits of renewable energy and mentioned that in southern England we get 60% of the solar energy present at the equator, and this can be harnessed by today's technology. If the application is granted, construction of the solar park could begin later this year and will take 20

weeks. Traffic for the installation work will be brought in from the A418 to the north. Ongoing maintenance work is minimal, he said, requiring visits by one man in a van. Mr Purbrick told the Council that his company was willing to make a one-off contribution of £60,000 to local community projects. This certainly generated interest in the room and Councillors wanted to know how the money could be used. Mr Purbrick's suggestion that some of this money would be needed to improve the access lane to Folly Farm was not received with enthusiasm. Councillors perhaps felt that money for the community should be spent on projects with a wider benefit to villagers than that. They agreed to study the mountain of documents attached to the application and come to an agreed view at the 1st October meeting. The application is due to be determined by Dacorum BC in October. All the documents relating to the planning application can be viewed on Dacorum Borough Council's website, www.dacorum.gov.uk/planning, where residents' comments can also be recorded. The application number is: 4/02099/14/MFA. A useful summary of the proposal is provided in the "Planning Statement". The company's website is www.hiveenergy.co.uk.

Flooding action meeting

Hertfordshire County Council is now expected to publish their long awaited (and much delayed) definitive report into

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& Lasting Powers of Attorney

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Or ring

01296 630650 to arrange an appointment today!

Try our window cleaning service.
Call 07875 534780 for more details.

the causes of the February flooding in the Long Marston area by the end of September. Local groups of residents have had difficulty in getting action from other agencies such as the Canals and Rivers Trust (CRT) while the draft report was being debated behind closed doors at County Hall. The long delay has caused anger among concerned local residents who were flooded in February, as it has prevented any action to prepare for this winter's rains. As soon as that report is available the Parish Council agreed to convene a meeting with the agencies involved, and local residents, to get a practical plan of action agreed, with Herts County Council in the driving seat.

Villagers consulted on loan

The Parish Council is to hold public consultations on a proposal to borrow money to pay for improvements to the changing rooms at Long Marston. All other avenues for obtaining grants for the work have drawn a blank and Councillors think the only way to fund the improvements is to get a loan themselves. The costs of a loan would be a charge on Council Tax (the 'village precept' component), so villagers have to be consulted and the government has to agree. Meetings were to be held at Long Marston and Wilstone village halls on 18th and 19th September where people could come along and talk to Councillors about the proposals. *(Details were published in September's Village News, p14.)* As this was after the October edition went to press, we will report the outcome next month.

Your Parish Councillors are:

- Mr Michael Tomlinson (Chairman) 01296 661 311
- Mr Chris Griffiths 01296 668 257
- Mr Alan Winfield 01296 668 977
- Mr Christopher Mann 01296 668 548
- Mr Nick Murrell 01296 668 190
- Mrs Olli Wheeler-Cornell 01296 662 207
- Mr Richard Briant 01442 825 674
- Mr Robert Briant 01442 825 674

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Mrs Lucy Bancroft 07590 989202
 Email: clerk@tringruralpc.org.uk

The Village Warden is:

Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822 031

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Letters

Dear Editor

I saw recently that Cllr Hollingworth has been again applying pressure to the Canal and River Trust about the Dixon Wharf bridge.

I wonder if you can include a short article in the next edition and invite readers to write to Canals and Rivers Trust if they are unhappy about the exceedingly long delay in repairing the bridge at Dixons Wharf. I think this is two and a half years since the accident. The details are on Cllr Hollingworth site - <http://nickhollinghurst.mycouncillor.org.uk/2014/08/11/canal-and-rivers-trust-unacceptable-delay-to-repair-dixons-gap-bridge/>

Jonathan Passmore

I think the details of this issue have been well aired but why not write to the Canals and Rivers Trust, your councillors or MP if you feel it will help to get this site repaired before there is a more serious accident. Ed,

Dear Editor

I would like to comment on what an absolute waste of money it is to allocate six and a half thousand pounds to determine how safe the canal bridges at Dixons Gap and Wilstone are.

The bridges themselves are perfectly safe, it's the people that use them that are not safe, but rather than educate or allow the

drivers the privilege of assessing a hazard for themselves, the power that pervades over poor ol' Britain and its subjects is to nanny everyone and take away any notion of responsibility or thought process and force users of the bridges to needlessly wait, engines chugging carbon dioxide, polluting otherwise clean air.

The current damage has been this way for many years, so where is the problem? Why not save the money and put it towards the villages flood problem which is far more important and affects far more people. Put flood and drainage first before wasting money on fantasy pointless projects.

Dave Jenkinson

Editor needed for Village News

YOUR Village News team would like to recruit an additional volunteer editor to join us in time for the 2015 editions. A team of five editors produce the ten editions of Village News each year, with each editor taking charge of two editions.

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Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 88 Easy

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

You should get a good start with the right hand boxes.
Solution on page 21

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Wilstone allotments

by John Evans

OCTOBER again! Wilstone Allotment Association is nearly 4 years old. It doesn't seem possible.

This last year has been quite challenging, with all the usual enemies that we have encountered before, along with a few new ones that previously had failed to discover us. Notwithstanding that, a new growing year beckons, the new seed catalogues are distributed and everyone is making plans and looking forward to potentially bumper crops next year. We are all learning from our mistakes, trying different methods and varieties. Our plots have become established now and Stan, Richard and Paul have introduced some chickens which give the whole place an added dimension. The drainage ditch alongside the plots has been reinstated and hopefully will alleviate the risk of flooding this



Wilbert smoking weed?

winter.

One or two of our original members have fallen by the wayside or moved away, but we soon welcomed new members to take over the vacant plots with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. The joy of allotments is that everyone is willing to exchange tips and advice and by discussing failures and problems with each other become increasingly successful and ultimately are able to exchange produce as well as tips.

All the plots have tenants at the moment but there is no one on the waiting list at this time so if any readers of the magazine are interested please contact Anna on 01442 822115 to be first in the queue. The location is idyllic and the tenants being *Allotmentees* are the 'Cream of the Crop'

Is the Church irrelevant?

by Leslie Barker

ON September 3rd the Men's Society had the second of their meetings in the new format. John Hawkes hosted the meeting at his home, and led the discussion. The topic was whether people saw the Church as irrelevant because it was out of step with society, based on Huw's article in the pew sheet for the week commencing 20th July this year.

The issue of women bishops was a clear example, but 300 years ago the Church was not out of step in this respect, nor in the clothing which priests wore. Two hundred years ago the Church was ahead of society in campaigning for the abolition of slavery.

The Church has also been accused of dumbing down the baptism liturgy, but there is no point in using religious language that no-one else understands. However the Church should not be ruled by society, no more than Christ was; He had his own agenda, and we should confidently follow Him, and make God's love known to the world.

The evening continued with the discussion ranging from why people did not continue coming to church after having contact

through for example, baptisms; and what distractions provided alternative activities. Cathedral congregations are growing, and St Peter & St Paul is full for special services and civic events. However, not every service can be special, and a number of suggestions were made for making 'ordinary time' more relevant and visitor friendly. These included traditional sermons, integrating the choir with the congregation, not mentioning money so frequently (though it was accepted that costs rise annually), chairs not pews, being flexible, and willing to experiment. More effort should be given to reaching groups outside the church building such as parents of pupils attending church schools, and working with Churches Together at events like the Carnival.

The meeting was encouraging for the Men's Society itself, and in realising the success of new things we are doing, such as keeping St Peter & St Paul open and running the food bank.



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The allotment story

by Joan Dean

All is gradually winding down on the Potash Lane allotments in Long Marston. The gardens have been judged and what a difficult task that was, so much wonderful produce. No wonder the fruit and vegetable produced on these allotments often win prizes at the local shows.

The gardens have been tilled and fertilized for decades, difficult to put a date on it, but certainly since World War 2. Does anyone have any memory of when the allotments came into being? Would be interesting to know, but I digress.

The fact is that there are one or two allotments which will be coming vacant and need new owners. Now is an excellent time to take one over and start to get it into shape for next year. Also now is a good time to start to plan what you will put where. Don't worry if you don't know your parsnips from your onions, you will get plenty of help from the other allotment holders, a very friendly lot.

There is of course still time to put some winter greens in, but I think that is too much like hard work. Who wants to go out in the dead of winter and pick frozen sprouts off the stems, much better to go to Tesco's or Meads Farm shop and take them off the shelf beautifully clean and ready to cook! Oh dear does that sound like blasphemy to you hardened gardeners and yes of course I know they won't taste quite as good.

I think the photograph sums up what having an allotment is really all about, so hurry up and telephone Elaine Winter on 01442 82 913 and book your spot in this exclusive club in Potash Lane. I can tell you, you won't regret it.



Ian Knight and Les Stephenson enjoy a well earned break



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Triathlons and tribulations

by Andy Ashwell

DURING the summer I have been trying to get fit again after my knee op (see the June edition for full details). In order to limit the impact to my knee I bought a new road bike and have been out on it fairly regularly for the last few months.

After comfortably beating Anna, who was training for a triathlon, on a 10-mile jaunt I began to think that I was getting quite good. My arrogant pomposity prompted her to suggest that I should put my money where my mouth is and do a triathlon too. So, to keep her happy I entered a duathlon (a triathlon without the swimming as I don't like swimming) which conveniently also had a scootathlon (a scoot-bike-run event) for Florence to do.

Anna completed her triathlon the week before us and despite finishing halfway down the field managed a very creditable 2nd in her age-group. However, on further scrutiny of the results I discovered that there were only actually six competitors in her age-group and two of those didn't finish. She soon wiped the gloating grin from my face when she challenged me to do better than her in my upcoming event: either 1st or 2nd in my age-group or I was sleeping in the shed.

We shook hands on it: if she could do it, so could I. After all, I was fitter than her and had a better bike. And being older than her meant that I would, more than likely, be up against a bunch of overweight, decrepit, wheezing old duffers. A piece of cake!

The day after Anna's triathlon was the school running-club's first session of the term. An early morning run was just what I needed to prepare me for my duathlon's early start the following weekend. With my new-found fitness I was sure that I could beat all the kids fairly easily and boost my confidence for the upcoming challenge.

Unfortunately, all did not go according to plan when Jack, the youngest boy in Florence's class (aged 8), managed to beat me over the 2km time-trial that they did. Despite pretending that I wasn't puffing I don't think Jack, or anyone else for that matter, was convinced that I could have beaten him. More worryingly was the severe dent that this reality check had made to my confidence.



When race-day arrived we packed the bikes and Florence's scooter into the car and headed off to Dorney Lake, the Olympic rowing venue, where the events were being held. After registering and getting our numbers and some free foul-tasting energy bars we hung around for a while until Florence's race, the first event, began.

Florence scooted, cycled and ran round a small loop, smiling all the way and eventually finished about half-way down the field. After collecting her medal, a bright pink T-shirt and another of the foul-tasting energy bars she headed off to have her face painted.

Soon after that it was time for my event to start. I lined up with around 200 people of various shapes and sizes: some appeared to be around my age but worryingly none of them looked like the overweight, decrepit, wheezing old duffers that I had anticipated. My recent defeat by 8-year-old Jack started to play on my mind and visions of our cold, damp shed started to fill my head. My daydream was suddenly interrupted by the loud honk of the starting klaxon and before I knew it I was off.

All I can say about the race itself was that it was a long way and very hard work. However, by the end of it I felt that I had done enough to earn the respect of my family. After collecting *my* medal, T-shirt and obligatory foul-tasting energy bar I went over to see them: Anna congratulated me on a sterling effort and Florence asked why I hadn't won the race and whether that meant that I had to sleep in the shed. I told her not to worry because all the people in front of me were much younger than me. "But some of them looked even older than you," she said, seriously. And when Anna nodded in agreement, I began to worry.

My concerns were well-founded because, unfortunately, this tale of bravery and daring doesn't have a happy ending: I didn't come first or second in my age-group. In fact, I came fourth. Well, fifth if you include the woman who came third – and, as Anna took great pleasure in pointing out, because there were only five people in my age-group I was, technically, last!

Oh, the humiliation and oh how Anna laughed as she handed me the key to the shed and bade me goodnight.

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Sudoku Solution

No 88 solution

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

Long Marston Cricket Club

by Paul Dumbleton

The curtain comes down on another tremendously successful season at Marlins. For the second year in succession, all three of the club's teams achieved promotion from their respective divisions in the Oxford Cherwell League.

Final season day on September 6th saw the First XI needing a win at Aston Rowant to secure second spot in Division 2. A solid all round performance resulted in a seven wicket win.

The club's 2nd XI were already assured of promotion as champions in Division 6 having amassed a substantial points advantage over all their rivals. Last day fixture at Marlins had something of a carnival atmosphere about it with the pressure off.

3rd XI needed four points from their last home game against

Great & Little Tew which they achieved easily to confirm second place in Division 9.

2015 will bring the highest level of cricket to Marlins in the history of our club. The First XI will be competing in Division 1, Second XI in Division 5 and Third XI in Division 8 as the club's progress continues.

The club presentation evening at Marlins on Saturday 4th October will acknowledge the achievements of our players, helpers and supporters in what has been another exceptional season.

By the time this is published, the ground will have been 'put to bed' for the winter. It has looked an absolute picture in what has been a superb summer of cricketing weather.

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The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

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We are very pleased to announce that *The Cecilia Tea Rooms* raised £161 for "CHAT", the Aylesbury based charity for families who have children with complex health problems. We give a sincere "Thank You" to everyone who attended. We look forward to seeing you all again in the Spring of 2015 when the Tea Rooms will be open again.

Jumble sale

Another "Thank You" is to everyone who contributed to The Friends of Puttenham Church Jumble sale, where the figure currently stands at £1025.70 - another fantastic result. This is, of course, only achieved through the efforts of those who contribute the jumble, sort, set up and clear down, provide refreshments, and most of all, those who generously purchase all the items contributed. This makes a wonderful start to our savings towards the new floor in St. Marys.

What a racket - a story of Longub Puttastone

by Martin Winship

FLORENCE HUCKLEBERRY sat by her open window, with her pen in her hand, and reflected on the past year. She intended that it would be her last as Ladies Captain of the Longub Puttastone Croquet and Tennis Club, and she was determined that her obligatory annual review of the club's activities and achievements would be her best ever. The club's grand name had been chosen many years ago, in the vain hope of emulating Wimbledon, but, thought Florence, apart from some of the older members starting to resemble Wombles, there was very little similarity between the two clubs, and croquet played absolutely no part in Longub Puttastone's varied calendar.

The year had started, as it always did, with the repainting of all the white court lines. It was a job which had been carried out every year by Thomas Crab, for decades, and for decades it had coincided with the uncorking of the previous autumn's infamous Crab Apple cider. The new court lines invariably wobbled and wove about in a very disconcerting manner, and Florence's husband invariably had to discreetly paint them all again.

The annual club quiz had been a tremendous success once again, and had raised some much needed cash for the purchase of new equipment. It was regrettable that the quiz master had become slightly inebriated, and had made those very off-colour remarks to the Treasurer, and in *such* a loud and audible voice.

It had certainly been a year of ups and downs, Florence mused. And one of the most spectacular "Ups" was the

memorable occasion when Ben Winchester, a 70 year old veteran of the club, finally managed to beat his much younger wife, for the first time ever, and in straight sets. It was unfortunate that in the rapture of the moment he had decided to jump the net. Florence made a mental note that she would have to send Ben a get-well-soon card, and she hoped that the surgical strapping would come off before too long.

She was struggling to compose her thoughts sufficiently to write her annual report, and frowned in concentration. The open day had, as usual, attracted a rather motley crew of vaguely interested, might-have-a-game-of-tennis-one-day types, and the now's-my-chance-to-have-a-nose-about-in-the-club-hut sorts, and had resulted in the predictable loss of club property balls. Of course, the fencing round the courts was too low, everyone agreed, and it was disappointing to give a really satisfying smash return, only to see the ball fly out of court and into the surrounding fields. It was positively alarming to then watch, helpless, as your Slazenger was chewed aggressively by a passing Doberman or Poodle. But such was life, such was life.

Ah, life. Florence gazed out of her window, and reflected on the latest drama affecting the club; the untimely loss of Alfred Parker, the Men's captain. Not an old man, he had been involved in a freak accident when an extremely well struck tennis ball had collided with his head. After the funeral, his wife had said it was a lovely service.

Florence had assumed that she was referring to the funeral..... She sighed, smiled, and at last put pen to paper.

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Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

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**Deadline for items to go in the next issue is:
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Mark Woodbridge will be your editor.**

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100 years on

IT IS 100 years since the 12th battalion of the the Northumberland Fusiliers were formed in Newcastle. The officers and NCOs of 'A' Company are seen here in Wilstone where they were billeted while training at Halton. They fought in many of the main battles of the war .



The house behind stood between the Village shop and the Buckingham Arms. Only Capt Stewart Mailer AFC (with the dog), the commanding officer, can be identified. In 1917 he joined the RFC and later the Royal Airforce where he was awarded the Air Force Cross. Around 1922 he returned to his native Australia where unfortunately he died in an air accident.

Mystery box found in the Long Marston brook by Phil Buchi

IN October 1914, as it became clear that it would not "all be over before Christmas". Tens of thousands of soldiers faced the prospect of an uncomfortable winter in the trenches of France and Belgium. Princess Mary (1897-1965), the 17-year-old daughter of King George V and Queen Mary, launched a public appeal to provide every serviceman at the front with a Christmas gift. Donations from the public to her Sailors and Soldiers Christmas Fund paid for each serviceman at the front to receive a specially designed embossed brass box containing tobacco, cigarettes, chocolate, sweets, spices and a Christmas card. (There were smokers and non-smokers versions!) 350,000 were delivered to the troops in time for Christmas 1914.

The response from the public was impressive, and £162,591 was raised for the fund - a huge sum. This public generosity allowed the scheme to be extended to all British and Imperial forces, and by the end of the war over two and a half million Princess Mary Christmas boxes had been sent out to the troops abroad. They were very well made in brass sheet, and measured 5 inches by 3½ inches - just the right size to fit into the breast pocket of a uniform tunic. (It is said that some soldiers kept their brass boxes in their tunics in the hope of stopping a stray bullet.) The lids were pressed from a double skin of brass sheet, and the outer surface was delicately embossed with a portrait of Princess Mary with her initial on either side, the names of the allied nations, and images of flags, arms and ships. Sourcing so much brass strip proved a problem for the organisers, made worse when RMS Lusitania was torpedoed in 1915 with brass among her cargo. Even when empty of the Christmas gifts, the tins must have proved very useful to soldiers for keeping all sorts of things in, and many servicemen coming back from the war would have brought them back home with them. You may have seen a picture of a replica tins that were given away to readers recently by a national newspaper. I have also seen examples in museum displays commemorating the outbreak of the First World War.

So what's the mystery? It is that I found one here in Long Marston. Not a replica - there is no doubt it is the real thing. Only the lid mind, but that is the interesting part anyway. While pulling a brick-end out of the Long Marston brook near my home (basic flood precaution measure) I also saw in the mud what I thought was a discarded roof tile. But on



Found in the Long Marston brook. Princess Mary's portrait and initial form the centre piece of this 1914 Christmas gift. The names of the allied nations are arranged around the sides, together with images of flags, arms and ships. (£1 coin for scale.)

throwing it up onto the bank it clanged rather than thumped. Under the kitchen tap, layers of mud washed away to reveal the portrait of Princess Mary. The high quality of the brass used in manufacture has preserved the detail of the design pretty much intact. Above Princess Mary is the inscription "Imperium Britannicum", and below her: "Christmas 1914". Arranged around the edge of the lid, and probably too difficult to see in our picture, are the names of the allied nations of the First World War. Some names surprised me. France and Belgium and Russia I know, and I might have guessed at Serbia. But Montenegro and Japan are also featured on the tin. I didn't know about them.

Even though these are not rare objects, and thousands must have been brought back from the war, I would have thought that they would be important things to survivors of the trenches. Can any readers help explain how this one ended up in the Long Marston brook as it runs along Tring Road? Does anyone whose family was in the area in 1918 - 1920, have a relative who came back from the war and may have brought this tin with him? It is of course something of a long shot, but it would be nice to be able to associate this historic object - now 100 years old - with an individual who served his country. If you have any clues or suggestions I would be pleased to hear from you. Please phone me on 01296 661339, or email the editor: editorwlpmp@yahoo.com.

Puttenham honours WW1 heroes

by Paul Rutter

AS, no doubt, you are aware, Puttenham is one of just over fifty Thankful Villages, where all who left to serve in the first world war returned without loss. Just over a year ago, two motor cyclists from North Wales, Medwyn Parry and Dougie Bancroft, undertook to visit all Thankful Villages to raise funds for the Royal British Legion. At each of their destinations they presented a commemorative engraved slate to be unveiled this year on the 100th anniversary of the commencement of WW1.

As there is already a commemorative plaque in the church, naming all who served, it was decided that the new plaque be set in the centre of the village. The Trustees of the Puttenham Trust agreed to fund the cost of this venture. Working from a block of granite seen elsewhere, a photograph of it was sent to the Trust's architects, BSA Chesters, who agreed to design the memorial. Their employee, Richard Sellers, was given the task and he completed the design, obtained planning permission, sourced the stone, and found Pippa, a lady stone-mason in Cornwall, who carved and prepared the stone. Philip Barber completed the ground-work at Puttenham and Edward Rutter lifted the stone into position with his crane.

As a continuation to an adaption of the usual 8.15 a.m. communion service at St.Mary's on the 10th August, everyone proceeded down the Church Road where, in torrential rain, the team Rector, Revd. Huw Bellis, unveiled the stone with about 50 people attending, including representatives from the Royal British Legion and the Parish Council (who we thank for their support with the Dacorum planning office). The



Rev'd Huw Bellis conducts the unveiling ceremony with villagers and the Salvation Army band.

Salvation Army Band were invited who, despite the terrible weather, played "Now thank we all our God" and the National Anthem. It was a striking moment for a unique village. Everyone then went back down Church Road to Cecilia Hall where a continental breakfast awaited them, and they slowly dried out while consuming hot coffee, rolls and fruit.

It was said during the event, that the torrential rain they stood in was nothing compared to what the soldiers would have had to endure while serving in WW1.



The obelisk of Cornish granite carrying the plaque was organised by the Puttenham Trust.



"A Thankful Village" denotes where all who enlisted to serve in WW1 returned without loss. (Pictures: Village News)