



November 2011



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

Gunner Reeves awarded Greek War Medal

by Phil Buchi

THE Government of Greece has awarded their War Medal 1940-1941 to Gunner Ben Reeves of Wilstone, now age 92, for his contribution to their war effort seventy years ago in 1941. The honour was bestowed by the Minister of National Defence, Mr Evangelos Venizelos, in Athens and forwarded to the Greek Embassy in London. Commodore-Admiral A. Paidas of the Hellenic Navy, Defence Attaché in London, said: "It is a great honour for us to recognise the contribution that you made."



Ben Reeves: a veteran Wilstonian
(Pictures: Village News)

The war in Greece

Ben Reeves was part of the British and Commonwealth expeditionary force which landed in Greece in March 1941 to begin one of the lesser-known campaigns of the war. He joined the Royal Artillery in May 1940 and after training in England was posted to Libya. As a driver, his job was to move the guns up to the front line and he spent two months attached to the 13th light ack-ack unit. The Long Range Desert Group had just been formed and Ben was posted to them as a jeep driver, undertaking reconnaissance missions to find enemy positions. This involved being shot at a lot, he says.

In the meantime, an Italian invasion of Greece in 1940 had been successfully defeated by Greek forces, but this forced Germany to come to the aid of Italy. To oppose a German invasion, the British landed an army in Greece in March 1941, and Gunner Ben Reeves became a part of this. Germany invaded on 6th April. British and Greek forces fought hard but were outnumbered and outgunned. Athens fell on 27th April, by which time it had already been decided to evacuate British troops. Ben's unit was at Volos in eastern Greece, and while there he suffered a hand wound which put him in Athens General Hospital. He was still in hospital when the invaders were approaching Athens, and he found that all British units had already left the city. He was on his own with the sounds of gunfire approaching.



Badge of the Desert Rats.

Inside this issue:

What's on	4
News in Brief	8
Parish Council	12
Recipe	21
Village view	32

New and cool
'Village News Extra'

A 4 page centre spread edited by Harriet for all younger readers. pages 15-18

Special features:

- Agricultural 10
- Sudoku 11
- Panto Auditions 14
- Andy's tale 22
- Puttenham page 24
- May contain nuts 25

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

.....Continued overleaf

He, and other stragglers, made their way south on foot to the port of Piraeus - without food, arms or equipment. Fortunately they found a damaged NAAFI wagon at Piraeus with quantities of chocolate and cigarettes, which kept them going until a Royal Navy frigate arrived to pick them up. 50,000 British and Commonwealth troops were successfully evacuated from Greece, but 8,000 were taken prisoner.

Crete, Egypt, Libya, Palestine, Syria and then Italy

That's far from the end of the story though. The frigate took them to Crete - just in time for the invasion of that island by German paratroops - and Ben was evacuated for a second time, this time to Alexandria in Egypt. By now he had completely lost track of his unit, so he did driving duties for whoever would provide his rations until eventually being re-united with his comrades in time for the Battle of Alamein, and on to Tripoli. Now back with the Royal Artillery, he served in Egypt, Libya, Palestine and Syria. Then in 1943 his unit was part of another invasion force - this time to Italy, where they spent two years fighting until the end of the war.

Having left England in April 1940, he returned to the UK in April 1945 after five years of continuous overseas service, and no home leave. (Even that was not the end, as the army kept him on until October 1946.)

The Greek War Medal

No British medal was awarded for the Greek campaign; instead veterans were awarded the Italy Star. So it was fitting that the Government of Greece announced that they would award a medal to servicemen who helped their country in 1940 and 1941. But to qualify for the award, veterans had to provide documentary evidence that they had taken part in the campaign - 70 years after the event! The Royal British Legion provided advice about how to obtain this, and Ben applied to the Ministry of Defence for copies of his army service records. Apparently all military service records are kept at a warehouse in Glasgow, where there must be millions of files. A manual search has to be made and this takes time, but a year later a



The Greek War Medal is on the right of Ben's medal group. His other medals are (l to r): the 1939-45 Star, the Africa Star, the Italy Star, the Defence Medal and the War Medal.

large bundle arrived containing photocopies of every piece of paper in Ben's army file.

Among these was an astonishingly detailed record of his postings and units, all hand written at the time by Army clerks. Details of his posting to Greece were clearly set out on one of these forms, so here was the evidence for the Greek Government. Their embassy in London said it would take a while. Awards had to be approved in Athens, and the committee which considered them only met twice a year. And it did take time but one year later, this year, the medal was awarded in public recognition of something that happened 70 years before. Ben said that he was delighted to receive the award and that it was a generous gesture by the Government of Greece, particularly at a time when they also have to deal with a few other difficulties. He is very pleased that his friend Flight Lieutenant Bel Smith, a Wilstone resident, arranged for the new medal to be properly displayed with his other medals. He will be wearing them for the Remembrance Sunday service so you can see the Greek War Medal for yourself then.

Spotter's Corner

No. 486

THIS beautifully grimy Class 37 diesel-electric locomotive at Hitchin diesel depot in the 1960's (here modelled in 00 Gauge) was spotted at the October annual model railway exhibition at Ashlyns School, Berkhamsted. Also known as the English Electric Type 3, locomotive 37 254 was built in 1965 and originally numbered D6954. This model had wonderfully authentic sounds as it moved around the yard, including the two-tone hooter.

The Ashlyns exhibition is run by the Tring and District Model Railway Club, and is a big event attracting enthusiasts from all over the country. This year there were 24 layouts operating, filling four large halls.



Village News

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There is much talk of Christmas and Pantos this month but let us not forget Remembrance Sunday on the 13th November.

I had not expected to be the editor for this month's edition. However I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce you to Harriet Rogers, our 14 year old editor of *Village News Extra* or *VNX* as it has quickly become known. Harriet will be producing a 4 page centre spread aimed at younger readers as part of her DofE Award for at least 3 editions.

This month we have mention of special awards Ben's Greek War Medal, the Long Marston Cricket Club Cups and others. If *Village News* had an award the *Gold* this month would most certainly go to Harriet and her friends for their contributions to *Village News*.

A contender for the *Wooden Spoon* would have to be young Ben from Wilstone, for his covert attempt to compromise his brother's babysitting advert with the addition of 'Ben is cool'. Now we all know!

It all goes to show that if you try hard enough you can achieve your aims and objectives but sometimes not in the way you intended!

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 **Express Printing**

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 October 10.00am St Peter & St Paul, Tring

6 November

8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion

10.00am All Saints Patronal Festival

4.00pm St Cross Messy Church

6.00pm St Cross Evening Prayer

7 November (Monday)

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

13 November Remembrance Sunday

8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion

10.00am St Cross Holy Communion

11.00am War Memorial

10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer

11.00am War Memorial with uniformed organisations

6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

20 November

10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer

10.00am St Cross Holy Communion

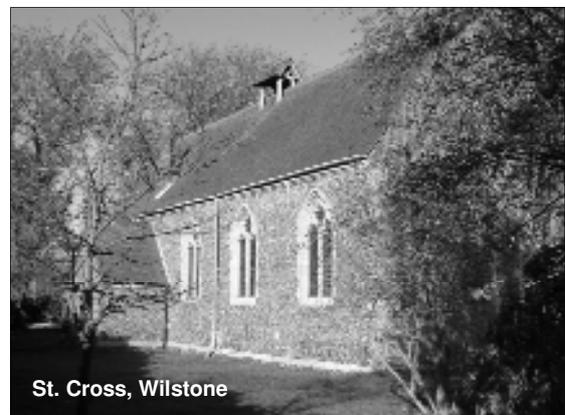
21 November (Monday)

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

27 November

10.00am All Saints Holy Communion and Sunday Club

3.30pm St Mary's Evening Prayer



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...

ROSEMARY FOR REMEMBRANCE TUESDAY 1st NOVEMBER 10A.M. ST CROSS CHURCH



**A service to remember
those we love but see no longer.**

A short service where the names of those who have died will be read and posies placed on the altar in their memory. If you are unable to attend but would like someone remembered please add their name to the list which will be in church.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN EVERY MORNING.

COCKTAILS & CABARET

The Tring Team Parish presents
a cabaret evening of music & cocktails

ALDBURY MEMORIAL HALL

19TH NOVEMBER 7.30 - 11.30

FEATURING

Steve Powkes - Swing

Marrianne Town Smith

& Nicola Henderson - Light classics

Kirsty Calc - Soul

TICKETS

from Ian Munro 851226 / Afa Willmore 851459

£ 18 single / £ 26 couple

includes cocktail on arrival and light supper

dress code smart. cash bar



Ashridge dates

TWO dates for Friends of Ashridge events coming up before New Year: first up, the annual 'Ashridge at Christmas' fair is on Sunday 4 December from 10am to 4pm. Entrance is free, with plenty of parking close to the Visitor Centre, Monument Drive, Ringshall



Wintery Ashridge

Just after Christmas, on Tuesday 27 December, the annual Christmas Walk is just the start the family needs to a fitter 2012 - well, it's more a stroll, really, and finishes with mince pies and mulled wine or a soft drink which does undo the good done a bit... It starts at 10am and finishes at 12 noon, at the NT Visitor Centre. Pre-booking is essential: 01442 851 227. 10am - noon. £4 Friends

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)
The public are welcome to attend these meetings.
Wednesday 19 October Puttenham Cecilia Hall.
Wednesday 16 November Wilstone village hall.

Saturday 29 October

Spooky Funky Disco at Victory Hall, LM. 8pm. £5.

Monday 31 October

Light up the Dark. St. John the Baptist, Aldbury, 5.30pm.

Tuesday 1 November

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

Saturday 5 November

Long Marston Fireworks Display 6.15 pm see page 6.

Friday 11 November

Christmas food fair at Meads Farm Shop. 6pm - 9pm.

Saturday 12 November

Long Marston School Christmas Fair from 2-4pm.

Friday 18 November

Wilstone film night. 'A Bunch of Amateurs' Opens 7.15.

Saturday 19 November

Cocktails & Cabaret. Aldbury Memorial Hall, 7.30pm.

Friday 25 November

Marsworth Pre-School Beer, Wine & Food see page 6.

Saturday 3 December

Maggie's Christmas Cabaret Club. Wilstone village hall.

Friday 16 December

Wilstone film night.

Sunday 4 December

Ashridge Christmas Fair 10am - 4pm Visitor Centre.

Tuesday 27 December

Ashridge Christmas walk 10 am - noon £4.

Your local event details can be included here for free. Just email details to the editor. See page 3.

Keep up with **Long Marston Cricket Club** progress and events by visiting **www.lmcc.org.uk**

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: November 3rd and 17th

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

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

MESSY CHRISTINGLE !
 St Cross, Wilstone
DECEMBER 4th 4 - 6 P.M.

Make your own Christingle
 and other advent and Christmas activities
 Followed by a Christingle celebration and Tea.

Worship for All
 St John the Baptist church, Aldbury
Light up the Dark
 5:30 p.m. Monday 31st October.

COME DRESSED IN YOUR FAVOURITE COSTUME
 to celebrate life and light.
 Followed by fireworks, games and hot dogs.

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

Town Farm
ART SHOW

Paintings, Ceramics, Woodcraft
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 Mick Randall > James Sansome > Justine Thorpe
 Nicki Tullett > Mick Waterhouse > Kate Wilkinson
www.townfarmartshow.blogspot.com

A festive show in Cheddington – mulled wine,
 Christmas cake & mince pies plus high quality,
 handcrafted gifts, Christmas decorations & cards

ONE WEEKEND ONLY
 Friday 25 – Sunday 27 November 2011, 10 – 5
 6 Town Farm, Cheddington,
 Nr Leighton Buzzard, LU7 0TT
 PLEASE PARK ON HIGH STREET – NOT IN TOWN FARM
 Free entry & refreshments
 Donations in aid of Iain Rennie Hospice at Home

FARM P.E. MEAD & SONS SHOP

**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 11th November 2011
6.00 - 9.30 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

 **Long Marston School**

Christmas Fair

Saturday 12th November
2 - 4 pm

Handmade gifts
& decorations

Santa's Grotto

Tombola

Books

Homemade cakes

Tea & coffee

Secret Room

Geo-rock shop



The Committee of The Victory Hall Present a
**FABULOUS
 FIREWORK
 DISPLAY**
 Saturday 5th November 2011

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 and
 Vicky Hayes: 01296 861586 (until 4th 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.

Marsworth | Pre-school
 presents...

"Beer, Wine & Food Matching Evening"



- Friday 25th November 2011
- 7.30 p.m.
- £12.50 per person
 to include 6 matched food & drink samples
 (everyday dishes & Christmas Dinner)
- Licensed beer & wine bar
- Order for pre-Christmas delivery from our suppliers.

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For more information please visit
www.marsworthpreschool.org.uk/booknow

at the
 Marsworth Millennium Hall, Lower Icknield Way
 Marsworth, HP23 4LR.

Long Marston School Christmas Fair

Saturday 12th November from 2-4pm

This year Long Marston School will be holding a Christmas Fair rather than the usual Autumn Fair. The festive theme has given us a chance to try some new ideas. For the first time we will have a "secret room" where children can, for a couple of pounds, buy and wrap a small Christmas present for their mum or dad. No parents will be allowed in! There will be plenty of shopping opportunities for the adults too. You will be able to buy gifts and decorations, some from local businesses and others handmade by the children. Our ever popular cake stall will be fully laden by 2pm but come early to avoid disappointment! Make sure you save a few pounds to try your luck on the bottle tombola and raffle as there are loads of great prizes to be won. If all the shopping and games have worn you out, take a break with a tea or coffee and piece of cake in our tearoom. Finally, no visit to a Christmas Fair would be complete without a trip to see Santa. The gentleman in red will open the fair at 2pm then be in his Grotto until 4pm. With stalls from the church and pre-school as well as the school the Christmas Fair promises to be a great village event.

Charity Christmas cards

Charity Christmas card sales will be held at the Court House, Berkhamsted High Street on three Saturdays this year: **29th October, 12th November and 26th November**. Open from 9.15am to 3pm on each day. Many national and local charities from Herts and Bucks will be represented. There will be a wide and tempting selection of charity Christmas cards, wrapping paper and Christmas gifts to choose from.

The charities represented (who do not have shops in the town) are: Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, Age Concern, Cat's Protection, DENS - action against homelessness in Dacorum, Hope for Children, Iain Rennie Hospice at Home, Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, Motor Neuron Disease Association, National Association for Colitis and Crohns Disease, National Eczema Society, Paul Strickland Scanner Appeal, RNLI, Save the Children. *Jane Drake.*

Baby sitting

I am a responsible 14 year old boy and I am trying to raise money for a world challenge trip to Ghana. On this trip I will be mainly doing community work for the local people e.g helping build a house or school. My Prices are £5 per hour and £6 per hour after midnight

If you are interested please call me on

01442827193



Letters...

In my Liverpool home

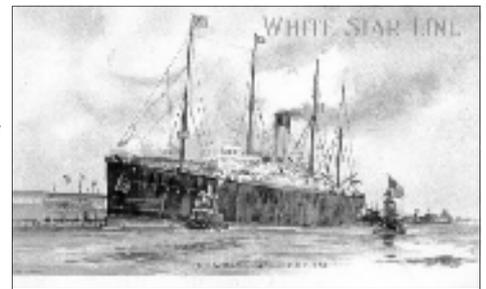
THE 'Rosemary for Remembrance' notice on page 4 of *Village News* (October) reminds me of the kindness and generosity of so many of the inhabitants of Long Marston when I was bereaved on 2005. Since then, I lived for another six years at Cymric House which was once the home of Job and Annie Gregory. Their remains lie in the churchyard of All Saints, Long Marston. Job died in 1907 and Annie in 1936. There is a story that when she was a widow Annie named this house after the steamship on which she made a couple of trips to the U.S.A.

On passenger lists I found that a woman, date of birth unknown, called A. E. Gregory travelled from Liverpool to Boston on the steamer Cymric in 1909. The same source of information revealed that an Annie Gregory, born 1873 (not 1853, perhaps a mistake) made a voyage to New York on the Cymric in 1912.

Stanley Proctor, mentioned on page 51 of Margaret Vincent's 'Church and Manor of Puttenham', told me the story shortly after Cymric House became my home in 1987. My wife, Adrienne, who loved this house, was born in Liverpool, the port where Annie Gregory almost certainly embarked on her Atlantic adventures.

John Betts, Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

(SS Cymric (13,096 tons) of the White Star Line was built at Belfast by Harland and Wolff and launched in 1898. She was used exclusively on the Liverpool to America run apart from two excursions as a troop transport to the Boer War in South Africa in 1899. In 1916 she was torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic by the submarine U-20, with the loss of 5 lives. Ed.)



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News in Brief

Peter Lloyd

PETER LLOYD a former Chairman of TRPC and, at the same time, Chairman of the Wilstone Village Hall Management Committee, sadly died at the age of 71 of a heart attack. Peter formerly lived in Chapel End Lane, Wilstone, leaving some years ago following a divorce. He then married Shirley in London and they lived in Hackney for a number of years. He later moved to his present address in Christchurch, Dorset. Peter was very well known in the area and a popular chairman of both organisations. He was also the Captain of the Dominoes Team at the Half Moon for a number of years.

Town farm art show

YOU are warmly invited to a festive art show in Cheddington – come and enjoy mulled wine, Christmas cake and mince pies, plus lots of ideas for really special Christmas gifts. Entry is free.

Nine accomplished artists showing paintings, botanical art, porcelain, ceramics, sculpture, woodcarving, woodcraft, textiles and jewellery in the relaxed setting of Christine Bass' home, studio and garden. See

www.townfarmartshow.blogspot.com for more details

Friday 25 - Sunday 27 November, 10am – 5pm
6 Town Farm, Cheddington, LU7 0TT

Donations in aid of Iain Rennie Hospice at Home.

Wilstone Burglary

A flat in Grange Road, Wilstone was broken into on Tuesday 11th October, between 10.30am and 8.0pm. The burglars kicked in a UPVC panel in the front door and made off with a quantity of property. If you saw or heard anything concerning this offence phone the Police using the 101 number or Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Bromley Distributor

IN response to my request Pam and Graham have offered to take over this round. Thank you. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the distributors across the villages who help us out each month.

Carole Harrison

THE CHAPEL ROOM WILSTONE

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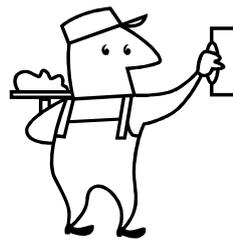
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Its Christmaaas—Well not quite, but its definitely coming!

ONCE again Liz, Ron and the volunteer team at the Wilstone Shop will be aiming to make life just that little bit easier for you with ideas for festive catering and gifts.

Our famous local Aylesbury duck breeder will be supplying a great range of festive meats – ducks, of course, plus turkeys, turkey crowns, thighs and legs, capons, geese and hams. All delivered to the Shop for easy pick up on or around Christmas Eve. If you'd like to place an order or require more information just come in and see us or call 01442 891167 during shop opening hours.

Also ready for you are our locally made luxury Christmas puddings, steeped in brandy and Guinness, and mincemeat also made with a generous soaking in brandy and port. Both are available with or without nuts, and all made with vegetable suet so they are suitable for vegetarians.

Graham Thorpe and John Painter have produced the 2012 Wilstone Calendar packed with gorgeous local scenes. Its available now and makes an ideal small gift for family and

friends, particularly those living far away. For the first time we also have available a Wilstone Christmas card produced from a painting by Deborah Chalmers one of our shop volunteers. Do pop in and see them both.

We will also have a range of wrapping paper and gift bags, Christmas cards, small gifts, boxes of chocolates and chocolate advent calendars. Why not call in and see what's on offer, we could save you a trip into town!

Having Fun for a Great Cause

The 29th September saw the Wilstone Shop playing host to Great Macmillan Coffee morning. Just one of a number of similar events held across the UK in support of Macmillan Cancer Care. It was a lovely hot and sunny day with plenty of people popping in for coffee and a piece of homemade cake. A great time was had by all, plus at the end of the day we had raised a magnificent £172 towards this very worthwhile charity. Many thanks to everyone who made it

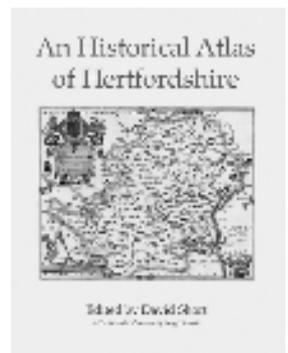


Hello, what is going on here, is this a new keep fit activity or a routine for the cabaret night? I don't think so. See page 32 for the story.

Historic Herts

If you've ever wondered about the coal-tax markers that stand at the side of some of Hertfordshire's roads, or perhaps about the roads themselves and how old they are, we have answers for you. Do you know where to find medieval graffiti, or ice houses, or the sites of ancient settlements in Hertfordshire? – we can show you.

Almost every aspect of the county's history is explored in the *Historical Atlas of Hertfordshire*, edited by David Short, now available from University of Hertfordshire Press, price £25.



Sudoku solution No 62

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

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The agricultural story line...

by David Mead

Figgy's fish fryer fire furore foils famished farm fans

FIGGY'S fish fryer fire at Startops. There I was in a long queue when Daughter asked us to evacuate. The flames under the fryer; not a good sign. Fire brigades were called and the electrical short circuit dealt with. Apparently Figgy was able to drive the lorry home. We shall wait with anticipation next Saturday. Figgy has been serving fish and chips for 40 years. I still think they are the best.

Chris has always wanted an old tractor and plough to compete in the ploughing matches. A rep was asked to keep his eyes open. Soon after, he phoned. A Massey Ferguson 168 had been found. The log book examined: first owner "P. E. Mead and Sons"- it was Tubby's old tractor! No rosette at the first competition, perhaps he had a poor plot. Simon, not to be outdone, has acquired an old little grey Ferguson. I didn't realise they were so small. In their day they revolutionised tractor work with their hydraulic 3-point linkage.

Although the weather has been dry the older cattle have been yarded. They will be given the best feed, and being in the warm will soon put on the kilos. The younger cattle are still out - the ground is dry and with some silage they should be happy. The ewes have that sheepish look. The two rams, well you could say are keen. From the first week in October it should mean little shaking tails beginning of March. There is some fresh grass up by the shop to give some encouragement.

I saw a young man escorting a long line of pheasants along the edge of the grass field near Marston Gate. I was told by Mr. Murrell they were blue backs, a smaller faster flyer, but with a tendency to find pastures new. It sounds as if they have a hint of intelligence. Anyway two days later I saw 30 - 40 in single file heading towards Long Marston.

Ken Brown is in the process of getting his perch recognised as a British record. Scales tested, witness statements read. The weight 6 lb 4 oz, even I know that is some perch, what a lovely unit to be weighed in. Pounds and ounces, those were the days.

Grandson Alex went down to Cardiff for the rugby; well actually there was another attraction.

I hope the gloom that must have descended over the city didn't spoil the trip. There was certainly a cloud across the grass field here, John will need a win against the Aussies this coming Friday. (This article has to be submitted before that match.)

Simon, with friend and metal detector, found several spent .303 army rifle cartridge cases when up on The Moors. This field was an old pasture during the last war, an ideal patch for war games. One cartridge was full of cordite threads. One thread burnt like a sparkler, and that's after 70 years in the ground. Information has been gained on internet.

I have received a letter from the Tring Team Parish in answer to my article last month concerning the hall at New Mill roundabout. The team Rector, Rev'd. Huw Bellis, included the deed packet number and the registered title number. I thank him for this information. I would like to know the future of the allotments there. George Bishop, a Wilstone man, and Pat have tended their patch for years. "I shall throw myself across it" was Pat's reaction. I'm sorry but in my view the church has a dodgy record when it comes to vicarages. Both Marsworth and Long Marston vicarages were pulled down for houses and Wilstone had a relatively new vicarage which is now privately owned.



Tractor trio. The little 1950's grey Ferguson (front) is dwarfed by the 1970's Massey Ferguson 168, and the massive modern Massey Ferguson 6490. (With thanks to Chris Mead and Simon Mead who posed the shot.)

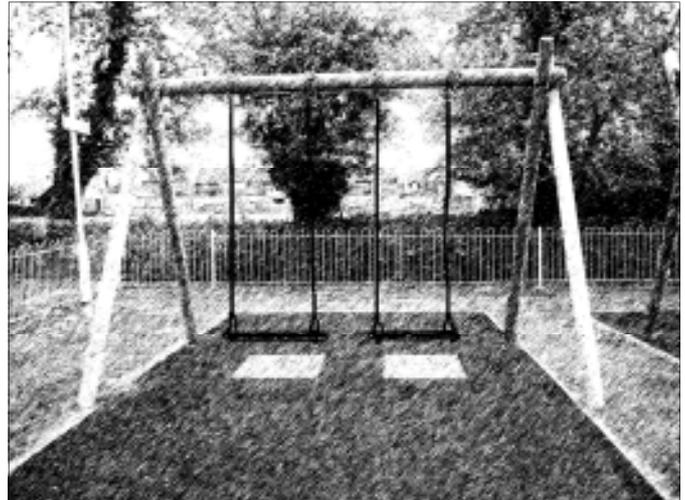
Playground Development?

By Ian Fantile

PLANS to replace the swings in the Long Marston playground with a new housing estate have met with stiff opposition from local mums. "One day the swings were there, the next they'd gone," said one young mother. "I've got a five-year-old who's been forced to play on the baby-swings. People think that he can't swing on his own and now instead of nattering with the other mums I've got to stand there and push him. It's sooo humiliating – I'm missing out on all the gossip. It'll be the slide next – it's a slippery slope, you know."

"The removal of the swings might simply be a misunderstanding," said a spokesman. "I think that someone has misinterpreted the Government's talk of swingeing cuts to mean something to do with swings." However, he also expressed concern over the potential increase in local traffic should the swings be replaced: "It is already a concern to us at the Highways Agency that on warm, sunny days, the playground is full to breaking point. If the swings are replaced, then more people will be encouraged to visit the playground and that could be disastrous."

As far as I know – basically because I haven't asked anyone 'in the know' – there are no plans to replace the swings, either with new swings, or with a housing estate, in the immediate future. We will do our best to bring you any updates as soon as we can; in the meantime, watch that space.



An artist's impression of the swings

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Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 62 Moderate

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

Start at the top left with the 4's and then get your pencil ready and try to resolve the top left box. Keep to left hand side of the puzzle and gradually move across. Solution on page 9

From our reporter at the Parish Council meeting

by Phil Buchi

Councillor vacancy

Councillor Peter Foster has resigned his seat on the Parish Council, leaving a vacancy. Cllr Foster told *Village News* that he had been pleased to serve on the Council for the last seven and a half years but now felt that it was time to hand over to someone else. Tring Rural Parish Council, unlike many others around the country, has always fielded a full complement of Councillors and will be keen to fill the vacancy. It is usual practice in such cases for a new member to be co-opted. Any villager interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact Dawn Slade, Clerk to the Council, on 01442 824138. If you want to know more about what the Council does I can recommend this column in *Village News*.

Allotments plough on

The tangle over lease arrangements for the proposed new Wilstone allotments seems to have had a few of

the knots untied. Cllr. Mike Tomlinson reported that he had discussed the matter with Tring Charities, who own the land, and that the best thing seemed to be for the Wilstone Allotment Association to directly hold the lease from Tring Charities. The involvement of the Parish Council as a legal intermediary was an unnecessary complication, he said. So the Parish Council will continue to offer full support to the allotment movement, but does not need to be a party to the agreement.

A better deal on verges?

Cllr. Chris Griffiths has spent time getting to grips with the mountain of information sent to him by Herts Highways setting out the detail of their verge cutting contract and the costs involved. This project began because the Parish Council was not satisfied with the quality of grass verge cutting work carried out by HH in the parish, and wondered if they could do a better job and save villagers some money at the same time. The answer of course is complex, and has yet to emerge. But sufficient information is now available to enable meaningful comparisons to be made, so the Council are go-

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ing to get other quotations to test the value of the present contract. In the meantime it seems that the recent verge cutting has been done to a better standard than usual, so perhaps Parish Council interest is already paying off.

Police to act on school parking

Local officers from Herts Police intend to act on illegal parking and vehicles causing an obstruction outside Long Marston School at school pick-up time, the meeting was told. This follows complaints over a long period about the problem in Station Road. Tickets will be issued, they say.

Peter Lloyd

The meeting expressed sympathy to the family of Peter Lloyd, who died recently. Mr Lloyd had been a Parish Councillor for many years, and was its Chairman during the 1980s.

Your Parish Councillors are:

- Mr Michael Tomlinson (Chairman) 01296 661 311
- Mr Chris Griffiths 01296 668 257
- Mr Alan Winfield 01296 668 977
- Mrs Abby Fermont 01442 825 352
- Mr Nick Murrell 01296 668 190
- Mr Peter Foster 01442 825 282
- Mrs Jill Finlan 01296 661 716
- Mrs Olli Wheeler-Cornell 01296 662207

The Clerk to the Council is:

- Mrs Dawn Slade 01442 824 138
- Email: clerk@tringruralpc.org.uk

The Village Warden is:

- Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822 031

Parish Council Website:

www.tringruralpc.org.uk

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www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

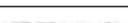
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 on **SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER at 3.30pm.**

**** PARENTS MUST ALSO ATTEND****

Priority will be given to children living within the catchment area of (or attending) Long Marston School.

**PERFORMANCES WILL BE IN LONG MARSTON VILLAGE HALL ON:
 16th, 17th & 18th February 2012.** (Dress rehearsal: 14th Feb.)

This is half term in Herts.

Children's rehearsals start on **Sunday, 8th January 2pm - 5pm** and continue every Sunday until the performances.

There will be only FIVE rehearsals before the Technical and Dress Rehearsals and LOTS of songs & dances to learn, so you must be prepared to work very hard and concentrate during rehearsals.

→→→ **ALL children must be able to attend ALL rehearsals** ←←←

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE:-

Be prepared to help with the children during at least 2 rehearsals and 1 performance.
 The Dress & Technical rehearsals may finish very late at night. The performances finish 10.30 – 11pm.

For more information, contact Vicky Hayes on 01296 661586

Long Marston & Puttenham Horticultural Society

PANTOMIME MEETING FOR ADULTS

Sunday 27th November at 5.00pm
Long Marston Village Hall

**Would YOU like to be involved in next year's Pantomime?
 ("CINDERELLA" - 16th, 17th & 18th February 2012)**

We are always in need of more volunteers, so PLEASE come along to this short meeting, during which you can put your name forward to help in any of the following teams: **front of house (selling refreshments, raffle tickets, programmes, etc.) costumes, props, scenery painting or construction, backstage crew and make-up.**

Neil will also be casting the Pantomime, so if you are interested in actually appearing on stage, please be brave and come along. After all, if there is not a part suitable for you in this Pantomime, there's always next year!

(We don't start working on the Pantomime until January – only 6 weeks from start to finale – so your Christmas and New Year celebrations will not be affected)

EVERYONE WELCOME

**Would you like to help, but can't attend this meeting?
 Contact Vicky Hayes on 01296 661586.**



Village News Extra!



HELLO! Welcome to Village News Extra. VNX is a new supplement for the Village News aimed at a younger audience. With the help of some local young contributors I have edited a **new, fresh** and **exciting** twist on the Village News.

I'm Harriet, I am editing VNX as part of my Duke of Edinburgh Award. The award is split into four parts; Volunteering, Physical, Expedition and Skill. I chose Editing as my new skill. I am really grateful for the opportunity the Village News team have given me to create a new branch of village news, especially Phil Buchi who was responsible for my editorial training and is acting as my DofE assessor and has helped me launch VNX.

I hope you enjoy the magazine!

In this Edition...

Welcome from the Editor	15
Long Marston Panto Auditions	15
World challenge adventure	16
Duke of Edinburgh success	16
Furry Tails-Pets 'n' Pics	17
New Business venture: Hand-made Jewellery	18
VNX reviews- Johnny English Reborn	18



THE MAGIC MOMENT IS HERE!



Do you know your right foot from your wrong foot?
Can you sing Happy Birthday to yourself? Do you want to be in a magical pantomime?

Then look no further! Neil Gurney is back and is auditioning for a Children's chorus of the 25th anniversary Panto Cinderella!

The auditions will take place on Sunday the 27th of November from 3:30pm in Long Marston village Hall. The auditions are open for boys and girls ages 8-14.

Don't worry about the audition, you do not need to prepare anything for the day, the audition will be fun! Just wear comfortable clothes that you can move around in as you will have to do some basic dance moves and a bit of singing. Bring your parents along to the audition so they can find out all the details!

As a past performer in the chorus I can tell you that it is a great experience! You make new friends, get to wear loads of amazing costumes, dance, sing and act to an audience and its great fun!



Previous Panto Stars!





My World Challenge Adventure



Hello, my name is Joe Smith and in July 2013 I will be embarking on the trip of a lifetime. I will be off to the Southern Hemisphere to Peru. I will be delving through forests, trekking in the Andean mountains

surrounded by snow-covered peaks, exploring the jungle by canoe and sailing down the Amazon on a cargo boat, sleeping out on deck. During the project phase, I will have the opportunity to experience Peruvian life first hand and will bond with the locals and children in remote villages. I will also be seeing the fascinating cultural sites, colourful markets and even go white-water rafting!

Peru has the largest indigenous population of all the South American countries and boasts a fascinating cultural heritage. The Quechua and Aymara are the largest tribes and in more remote areas, the team and I will have the chance to experience the commu-

nity culture. I will also have to do lots of work here in England, as the money to fund this doesn't grow on trees. In total I have to raise £4135, so would be very grateful for all your support. I will be doing odd jobs such as Patio cleaning with a modern Karcher pressure washer, which will be at a very reasonable price. I will also be doing fund raising events and just trying to raise the money any way I can from donations to sponsorships or doing jobs at a good standard. I hope for your support in this fantastic experience.

If you would like to contact me, please
call : 07522 361347
E-mail : joehsmith@btinternet.com

By Joe Smith, 15, Gubblecote



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! Wilstone Trio Complete DofE Expedition

By George Brown, 14, Wilstone
On the weekend of the 9th and 10th of October we (George Brown, Charlie Woodbridge and James Lovis) set off to do our Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition. Across the weekend we walked about 45 kilometres in total, it was extremely tiring work. Over the course of the two days we cooked our own food, walked and camped at Phasels wood near Hemel Hempstead. It was challenging at times but our team spirit kept us going.



During the weekend we had to navigate ourselves to different checkpoints along the way, over all on the first day we were walking for about 8 hours! When we eventually reached our destination, there was enough light to put our tents up and cook our food. On the Sunday we woke up bright and early at 6 in the morning and set off promptly by dawn to ensure we were back for 2 o'clock.

George, Charlie and James are completing their DofE Award through the Tring Air Cadets. The squadron meets at the New Road HQ in New Mill every Monday and Thursday. First parade starts at 19:30 sharp. They finish between 21.30 and 21.50. For more information, check out their website:
<http://www.2457tringsquadronatc.org.uk>.



Furry Tails

ESSEX BOY MILO COMES TO WILSTONE!

Hi, I'm Milo and I have recently come to live with the Brown family in Wilstone. I have made a new friend called Daisy, she is a dog. I love to tease Daisy and hang off her tail. I came from Romford, Essex, and now I am a country kitten. I am ginger with a white belly. I have some beautiful markings. There is a point in the day when I have a mad half hour. I run around, jump on the furniture, play with my toys and annoy the dog! I like to play with people's toes as they wiggle around. I get a lot of attention because I am so

cute. I always fall asleep on people's laps and they tickle my tummy. In the mornings when people have their breakfast I try to grab their food but I am never successful. My favourite toy is my multi-coloured fluff on elastic. It is very fun because when I pull it, it springs right up high into the air. My ears are too big for my head and my eyes are huge. I am sure I will enjoy life with the Browns in Wilstone!



FOR THE LOVE OF HAM!

Hi! My name's Phoebe! I'm a little Cocker Spaniel puppy living in Wilstone. I enjoy escaping into the field next to my house and exploring around. I love to be out and about in the garden and on walks, I'm especially good at helping with the gardening, as I'm the best at digging holes.

This is my big brother Max! He's the best to play with, 'cause I can grab his long ears and chew them. I love going on walks with him and racing him down the fields. I try to copy him when he drinks out of



Fun-loving Phoebe "I'll do anything for ham!"

the canal but I'm not very good, as I'm too small and a bit squeamish about water. Every Monday evening I go to dog training at the Wilstone Village Hall, it's great fun to play with the other dogs and learn new tricks. At the moment we're learning a command 'away' where I have to go and touch a mat on the other side of the room. Sometimes I'm cheeky and pretend I can't do it so my owner Daisy gives me lots of ham to encourage me. I'll do anything for ham!!



Big Brother Max fed up of having his ears chewed!

If your pet has access to a computer, then get them to send in their 'Furry Tail' to editorwlm@gmail.com marked for the attention of Harriet at VNX. Don't forget to include a photo and, as it will be our December edition, add a festive touch!



A gem of an idea!



Hi, my name is Alice, I started making my own jewellery in the summer and now have my own business selling it. I use all sorts of beads, different colours and shapes, to make earrings, necklaces and bracelets. They are suitable for all ages. I love to make jewellery as a hobby. If you would like to see some more pieces, visit my Facebook page 'AB Hand-Made Jewellery', where there are lots

more picture, descriptions and information about the jewellery I make. If anyone would like to buy any jewellery, or has any particular requests of colours or styles they would like me to design and hand make for them, please contact me via email on abeeny@hotmail.co.uk Thank you!

By Alice Beeny, 14, Wilstone



VNX Reviews...

Johnny English Reborn



Rowan Atkinson has returned, and has been put back in MI7!! On a secret mission Johnny English must stop Vortex (a group of spies) from killing the Chinese prime minister. Along with his sidekick Tucker, Johnny must face some life threatening challenges including a killer cleaner (played by Pik-Sen Lim) and a mole (or as Johnny says a vole) within' MI7.



But not everything goes right for Johnny, as he doesn't know how to work all his gadgets properly, and mistakes a lot of innocent grannies for the 'killer cleaner'. The highlight for me was when Johnny was in a meeting with the British prime minister and he broke his chair and it kept going up and down during all the important talks.

In my opinion I thought the film could have been funnier but there were a few 'laugh out loud' moments. Some younger children might not understand the plot of the film but the slapstick comedy did make quite a lot of them laugh.

I would rate the film 4/5 stars!



By Daisy Fermont, 12, Wilstone

If you've got a film, book, CD or App that you'd like to share with our readers please send your review to editorwlp@yahoo.com marked for the attention of Harriet at VNX Reviews. Thank you!



Adults, if you have enjoyed reading this first edition of VNX then pull out these centre pages and pass them on to any younger members of your family who you think may enjoy them too!

A big thank you to all this month's contributors, it would also be great to have some input from Long Marston next month!

Your comments, feedback and contributions will be much appreciated.

Harriet :)

Long Marston School

by Clare South

Christmas is Coming!

This half term has whizzed by and been as full as ever. The children have all settled into their new classes well.

We had a visit to the Junior Proms at the Royal Albert Hall this term. All the juniors took part in an event for children. It was a wonderful experience to see a live performance in this venue of classical, rock and drumming. The children were encouraged to join in and sing and dance. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We also managed a visit to the Science and Natural History museums on the same day! Some children explored dinosaurs and rocks and soils whilst others did a workshop on energy.

Harvest Festival was a great success again this year. We were able to support both the local community and , DENS - action against homelessness in Dacorum, as well as be involved in the church service organised by the children with Rev'd Jane Banister, our vicar.

We have our Christmas Fair taking place on **Saturday 12th November 2-4pm**. Please feel free to come along and visit Santa's grotto or purchase our handmade crafts and cakes. There will of course be our regular stalls and tombolas, children's games and refreshments.

And finally the Friends of Long Marston run a 100 club for the school with a monthly draw. There are prizes each month of £15, £10 and the exclusive Long Marston key ring, with additional Jackpot prizes of £50 twice a year. If you are interested in joining please contact the school on 01296 668386.



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Recipe of the month

by Anna Ashwell

Anna's Celeriac soup



Celeriac is derived from wild celery, which has a small, edible root and has been used in Europe since ancient times.

Now that the nights are drawing in it is the time when the root vegetables come into season. This recipe uses celeriac to make a warming winter soup.

Ingredients

25g butter
400g celeriac, peeled and roughly chopped

125g potatoes, peeled and roughly chopped

1 clove garlic

500ml vegetable stock

1 tablespoon lemon juice

275ml milk

Salt and pepper

Melt the butter and cook the celeriac, garlic and potatoes gently for 5 minutes. Add the stock and lemon juice. Bring to the boil and simmer gently until the vegetables are tender. Cool a little then puree in a liquidiser with the milk. Add salt and pepper to taste.



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All Is Safely Gathered Tin

by Andy Ashwell

WITH the weather changing more often than Lady Gaga's clothes, it's been a bit difficult to predict when autumn will finally arrive properly – unless it already has. I have just finished giving the lawn its last mow of the year – for the third time – but daren't pack the lawnmower away yet, just in case we get another summer spell.

On one of those sunny, autumn afternoons, instead of being out in the garden I found myself squashed in a pew in All Saints church. I had agreed to accompany Florence's class on their way from the school to the church. As it turned out, I had a delightful time dawdling along the footpath in the sunshine, chatting to the children and answering their endless torrent of questions.

Once inside the church, the children were squeezed tightly into the pews – to stop them from fidgeting, I suppose – and I was jammed into a 'space' at the end. The questions continued and three of the children insisted on trying on my glasses; I'm not sure if their teacher, Mrs Hutton, gave me a smile or a look of disdain because without my glasses on she was just a vague blur moving around in another vague blur.

When I eventually got my sight back, I could see all the harvest gifts near the altar – loads of fruit and veg and, of course, stacks of tins. I had thought about donating some of our apples but seeing as most of them had fallen off the tree, I didn't think that a bucketful of bruised windfalls would go down too well. I can remember my mother emptying out her cupboards of old tins whenever Harvest Festival time drew near. She always seemed to have masses of tins of stuff that none of us liked (not even her), such as marrowfat peas and spam. In those days there were no sell-by-dates, and I wouldn't be surprised to learn that some of her rustier offerings had been decades old.

In fact, I was round at her house recently looking through her cupboards, as one does, and found a tin of SPAM® with a best-before-date of July 2006; which is a bit odd really because, according to their website (www.spam.com), SPAM® has an indefinite shelf-life. When I quizzed her as to why she still had the tin – or more to the point, why she had bought it in the first place – she waved her hand at me and said, "It's horrible stuff – can't stand it. Why don't you give it to the Harvest Festival, they're always wanting tins." Needless to say I didn't take it, but quietly dropped it into the bin instead. It's always a bit difficult to know what to give other than tins, but this year we were given a list of preferred items and, oddly enough, tins of spam and marrowfat peas were not on it. Although some people might think it a bit cheeky, I felt that the list was a great idea. Mummy, being in the dental profession, was especially pleased because it included toothbrushes, things that we would otherwise never have thought of donating.



Back in the church, each of the classes took it in turns to sing or talk about the harvest. It was all very entertaining and enjoyable. The best bit, as far as I was concerned, was when Class 2 got up and did their song – not because Florence was involved, but because it was the only time when I wasn't being squashed hard up against the end of the pew by seven wriggling 5-year-olds.

The following week I was 'volunteered' by Mummy to escort Classes 1 and 2 to the church for their assembly. This time, however, because there were far fewer children, I was allowed to have a whole pew to myself – ah! luxury.

Canal closed for a trim and dredge

THE Alesbury arm of the Grand Union Canal is currently closed for navigation from Marsworth to Aylesbury basin, British Waterways contractors are giving the overgrown hedges a trim back while maintaining some height. This will considerably widen the canal in places allowing for easier passage of narrow boats. In addition when the hedging is done parts or maybe all of the canal will be dredged to remove the accumulation of silt and mud that has built over the years reducing the water depth to inches at edges of canal in some places. It is expected the canal will remain closed for some time.

Pre-school News

by Lindsay Armitage.



OCTOBER has been a very exciting month at First Steps. Staff and children alike are enjoying a change of venue for pre-school sessions whilst work on the roof of Victory Hall is being completed. Thanks to Cecilia Hall, Puttenham pre-school has been able to continue and the children have particularly enjoyed being able to have free flow play indoors and out.

This month First Steps have registered with Haven Fun & Fitness Scheme. With parental support pre-school can benefit from free sports equipment which will make a real difference to the physical activities we can offer. The equipment is designed for indoor and outdoor play, team and individual games and will help meet early years curriculum requirements, as well as being fun for the children and keeping them fit and active. All parents have to do is log onto www.havenfunfitness.com and register their support. If enough parents support us we will receive free sports equipment!

Pre-school will also be taking part in the Bags-2-School recycling scheme again this term so if you have any unwanted

clothes, bags, shoes, belts, hats, bedding or soft toys please leave your donation at pre-school ready for our collection on Tuesday 8th November.

First Steps Pre-School is held at Victory Hall, Long Marston every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.00am – 12.00pm during term time, with lunch clubs on Tuesday and Friday until 1.30pm. We welcome all children aged between 2½ and 5. If you would like to know more about Pre-School or wish 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 chairperson, Lindsay Armitage, on 01296 661017.

Long Marston Baby & Toddler Group: 10-11.30am on Wednesday mornings (term time) at Victory Hall, Long Marston. £2.00 per child (50p per additional child over 1 year). Everyone welcome. For more information, ring Ali Driver on 01296 662482



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The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter



ST. MARY'S CHURCH



REMEMBRANCE COMPLINE SERVICE

FRIDAY, 11th NOVEMBER – 8 p.m.

Our annual service to remember those lost in conflict, and your opportunity to place a lit candle on our large wooden cross in memory of the fallen.

THE PUTTENHAM TRUST

REPORT on the October Supper and Auction Our sincere thanks to John Bly for conducting our auction of home produce and numerous other assorted items that we were jovially persuaded to buy.

The event raised approximately 550 pounds which will be divided between the three charities chosen by those attending the evening: namely the Royal Marsden Hospital (Children's Unit) nominated by Peggy Bainbridge, the Anthony Nolan Trust nominated by Margaret Kaye, and "World Challenge" (via Tring School) to be completed by Luke Brown, nominated by Peter Wadlow.

The "Guess the weight of the Marrows" competition resulted in Marrow "A" (7lb.1oz.) joint winners Shirley Pinnock and Elaine Brown, Marrow "B" (3lb.2oz.) Peggy Bainbridge.

Thank You to everyone who attended and also supplied the many items for our auction and the raffle.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH PUTTENHAM

CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY, 18th DECEMBER

at

3.30 p.m.

A traditional service of Nine Lessons & Carols

With the Ridgeway Chorale

The service will be followed by hot Puttenham Punch, Mince Pies and Sausage Rolls.

Decorating the church in readiness for this service and Christmas, will take place on Saturday, 17th December from 10 a.m. If you have any items of greenery, do please bring them along and join us. We always manage to stop for a very seasonal "elevenses" and you will be most welcome.

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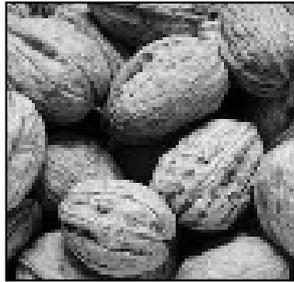
COMPOST TIME

DON'T FORGET TO COLLECT YOUR COMPOST from the grass verge just along the track by Cecilia Hall. Please remember to bring your own spade and compost bag.

May contain nuts

from our nut correspondent, in France, Pierre Walker

WHAT do you know about walnuts, apart from looking great sitting in a bowl from one Christmas to the next? Let me tell you a little of the walnut growing part of France in Perigord Noir, which is about as far east as you can go in the Dordogne. You won't see many vines around there; walnuts are the currency, indeed at one time they literally were currency. So the walnut has played a prominent role in the local culture and commerce. 10th century peasants paid their debts off with the nuts; 11th century peasants were expected to tithe walnuts to the church; 13th century merchants considered walnut oil as precious as gold; and in the 18th century, walnut oil as well as wine constituted a thriving trade on the waters of the Dordogne towards Bordeaux and to Great Britain.



So why has the walnut had such a valuable past, and why is it still such a prosperous crop? There is an old Perigordian axiom that nothing is lost of the walnut but the sound of its shell being cracked. So the answer is in its versatility. Nothing is wasted. Regional furniture has long been made from the hard, beautiful wood. Whole walnuts go to fine restaurants, where they decorate salads of greens and fresh *cabecou* cheese discs or are pressed into the chocolate icing of a *gateau aux noix*, itself made from a flour enhanced with ground walnuts. Chefs combine them with butter and Roquefort and serve them as appetizers on thin slices of artisanal breads, tuck them into stuffing for ducks, and whip them into frozen mousses. Whole nuts are also used to make the delicious chocolate-dusted walnuts displayed in confectionary stores region-wide. Broken nuts head to the walnut mills where they are pressed into the sweet, unctuous oil used in Perigord cooking and salad dressings; or to distilleries in Souillac, where they metamorphose into aperitifs, digestifs, and liqueurs; and to small producers who turn them into delectable jams and spreads, often combined with local honeys. Other entrepreneurs make mustards with them. The leaves are used to wrap cheeses appealingly for display at market, and macerated in alcohol to make *vin de noix*. Nuts not good enough for these applications are ground and used in making walnut bread (a favourite accompaniment of *pate de foie gras*) and other confections.



Mme Walker with a bemused Dame Denoisillense whilst enjoying an early morning verre de vin de noix

The process for nut harvesting is fascinating in itself. In massive orchards, the small walnut trees are ready to have their crop harvested in October each year. The ground is first prepared with a machine which acts like a giant Hoover, encircling the tress trimming the surrounding grass, sucking up dead leaves and other detritus, and collecting the early falling sweeter nuts, and separating them out.

Everyone in these rural area gets involved in harvesting. A very clever tool for collecting nuts by hand is a golf ball collector, a ball of sprung metal wires on an axle, which is pushed around like a Hoover. The springs separate to allow the nuts to go inside the ball, but it won't pick up leaves or trigs.



Sweeping up the nuts which are then tipped into trailers, below.



Tractors equipped with giant claws grip each tree and literally shakes the nuts off the branches, the nuts falling in a massive shower onto the newly cleared ground. These are in turn swept up into huge

containers, which are then loaded into a washer, to rid the nuts of any remaining husks, in particularly the black coating which you can see on many nuts. In these rural areas, you will find many of the farmers and their wives, have heavily stained hands from cracking open the walnuts.

Much of this work is still done by hand to produce their local products. During the October to November harvest season, the workers gather by the fire in the evenings and crack the shells, using boxwood mallets that helped ensure the nuts stay whole, as cracked nuts brought in less money. The *denoisillage*, as it was called, is still practiced today by elderly women known as *les dames denoisillenses*, their hands stained a permanent auburn. And although since the 1950s modern machinery has facilitated the harvesting and preparation of walnuts for market, many small producers perpetuate the old methods.



The nuts are tipped into the washer, which separates the shells from the husks



The washed nuts are tipped out of tractor trailers from the floor above, into huge drying hoppers.

After washing, the nuts are put into massive hoppers to be dried, before being collected by trucks which take them off to a cooperative for further processing.

After washing, the nuts are put into massive hoppers to be dried, before being collected by trucks which take them off to a cooperative for further processing.

For Pierre's walnut salad recipe bottom of page 28

News from Long Marston Cricket Club

by Paul Dumpleton



WHERE has the year gone? Much work at Marlins this last few weeks preparing the ground for the winter with all matches completed but the grass just keeps on growing. Recent frosts should have put a halt to that.

On Friday 16th September the second half of the clubs' 50 years at Marlins' celebrations were held with a cheese and wine bingo evening to commemorate the occasion and also the manner in which funds used to be raised in the past. A very enjoyable evening was had by club members and friends.

All three sides finished in mid table in their respective divisions of the Cherwell League. The first eleven finished fifth and both second and third teams finished sixth. This was a very acceptable achievement and one the club would have taken at the start of the season, especially as this year saw the club integrate several of our up and coming younger players into 1st XI cricket.

Bumper night for the Beesley's

The club held its annual awards and presentation evening at Marlins on 8th October on what turned out to be a bumper night for father and son Lee & James Beesley.

16 year old James won the much coveted Players player award for the first XI and also the John Calder Cup for some outstanding contributions throughout the season as a junior player. This included bowling over 330 overs and taking 53 wickets in all competitions.

Father Lee was voted Players Player for the second XI and

also won the Mary Simms Cup for the best match winning performance during the year taking 6 wickets for 16 runs off 17 overs to win the home game against Oxford & Bletchington at Marlins in Mid August.

Full award winners list is:-

Coaches Awards to younger players.

U9 - Lui Livingstone
 U11 - Harrison Woods
 U13 - Joe Fitzgerald
 U15 - George Fryer
 U17 - Matthew Storey

Chairmans Awards for individual performance

Matt Wareham 159 v Tring Park 24.4.11
 Matt Wareham 134 v Rivets 8.5.11
 Jack Doodson 106 not out v Dinton 12.5.11
 Rachid Ali 100 not out v Totternhoe 13.5.11
 Mark Green 100 not out v Totternhoe 13.5.11

John Calder Cup 2011

(best junior performances of the season)

James Beesley

Harold Cutler Memorial Cup 2011

(most promising young cricketer of the season)

Billy Jeffery

Mary Sims Memorial Cup 2011

(best match winning performance)

Lee Beesley

Dumpy Salver 2011

(best all round performance in a league game during season)

Peter Toovey

Len Dean CUP 1st XI 2011

(Players player)

James Beesley

Len Dean Cup 2nd XI 2011

(Players player)

Lee Beesley

Don Dean Cup 3rd XI 2010

(Players player)

Peter Woodruff

Thomas Chapman Memorial Award 2010



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From the Vicarage

by Rev'd Jo Wetherall

Travel broadens the mind

Our eldest daughter Rachel is a Nomad – aged 24 she has been to a different country for each year of her life – admittedly many of them were chalked up on a summer of inter-railing through Europe, but she has also spent 6 months in Mozambique worked with the YMCA in India for 6 weeks and is now on her second trip to Uganda.

Her experiences of new people, places and cultures leaves me breathless. Here is an excerpt from her most recent blog and the realisation of how different her life is in Uganda or to use her expression “weird”.

“Watching as the taxi I am about to ride in has goats removed from under the seats to squeeze in more bananas, and then the goats being fitted in again - weird. Eating goat - weird. Having every other person on the street ask how you are - weird. Having bananas stolen from your bag by a five year old girl - weird. Getting electric shocks from the kitchen sink when you try and wash up - weird.

I thought that I was used to things being different. None of these things remotely faze me, they just are. Then there was today. Today was possibly the most bizarre filled day of my life. It started out so normally with church and lunch at my friend Harriet's house. Then it got odd. Later this afternoon I found myself standing under a tree in a prison yard introducing myself to 40 inmates. I have never been remotely near a

prison before, and here we were leading a service for all of these Ugandan guys. It was great though. We had a really nice service and quite a few decided to give their lives to Christ. Yay!

It was interesting to see where they were. It is a very low security place, and nice grounds. The guys were all really friendly, and were building a church so they could have meetings inside. We also got shown where they sleep though. The rooms were tiny, maybe 18' by 14', and slept 20. 20! We were also asked to pray about the needs of the prison. Only a couple of the inmates had shoes, because the prison couldn't afford to replace the worn out ones, and they couldn't afford soap either. That is 20 grown men sleeping in a tiny wee space, with no soap! I will let you imagine that for a while.”

Rachel's experiences are inspirational, but actually you don't have to travel far to gain insight into the reality of other people's lives. I have been into prisons in this country - that was a sobering and awakening experience, helped in night shelter and refuge, also really enlightening. Then again I have found that all you have to do is knock on someone's door, friend, neighbour or complete stranger, to have a whole new world of experience opened up to you and an opportunity to see things through different eyes – it's not always distance that helps us to travel to somewhere new and broaden your mind.

News from All Saints

This article is being written before we have held our Quiz Night. We do hope everyone who supported the evening had a good time and enjoyed Huw's curry – it certainly appeared to be popular before the event.

We would like to thank Long Marston school for allowing us a table at their Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 12th November. Do come and find us – we shall be selling an ideal Christmas present for friends and the family.

The next social afternoon is on 22nd November and next month we shall have carols and mincepies on Tuesday 20th December to which everyone is invited.

Don't forget Remembrance Sunday, 13th November. Service at All Saints at 10am with the uniformed organisations.

Christmas Crafts. 10th December – watch out for notices and book your place early.

Carole Harrison 01296 668526

Walnut & goats' cheese salad

by Pierre our own chef de noix

Tear up some mixed green salad leaves, and sprinkle over the walnuts and rough chunks of goats' cheese. To make the dressing, put white wine vinegar, olive oil and sugar in a small screw top jar, season with salt and freshly ground black pepper, then shake well to combine, and pour over the salad. Mix well.



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Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

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Your editor for December will be:

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**Deadline for items to go in the next issue is:
 Thursday 17 November.**

You can read *Village News* on line at:

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

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Wilstone Film Nights

Friday November 18h



A Bunch of Amateurs

Starring Burt Reynolds, Derek Jacobi & Imelda Staunton

A Hollywood has-been slums it in an amateur British production of Shakespeare. Burt Reynolds plays a pampered action star desperate to make a comeback. He accepts an offer to do Shakespeare in Stratford, little knowing that it's not upon Avon, but the village of Stratford St John in Suffolk. A very funny feel-good film.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18th

Tickets £6

Available now from Wilstone Village Stores & Meads Farm Shop

Film will start at 8pm

Licensed bar will open at 7.15pm

Please note the next film night is : Friday December 16th



Last of Autumn Wine Wilstone style

Or every picture tells a story

TRUE to form one of the group Davy Crocket obtains a kite, not just an ordinary one but a mini parachute with a health and safety warning. You need to be at least 14 stone to handle this beast. Led by Capt'n Buchi, who has experience of ropes or should I say sheets takes charge of the launch. Roping in an onlooker, Jude, things are able to get under way. Richard not to be mistaken for Foggy arrives with a large pair of secateurs just in case they need to cut the sheets. Not surprisingly, all the children who been playing on the recce had by now vanished! The Capt'n orders *go* and we have lift off. In truth it didn't go quite like that and all was abandoned for more clement weather.



What's going on here? It looks like a bit of a knotty problem. Is Davy consulting the web on his blackberry or just filling his pipe?

Assistant big Dave and Davy(centre) with onlooker Jude make ready the launch.

Up and away photos Village News

VILLAGE VIEW

BY JOHN PAINTER



John has managed captured a very dramatic and beautiful impression of Wilstone reservoir taken from the jetty showing the clear division between the original reservoirs, Wilstone was expanded three times to its present size.