November 2018

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

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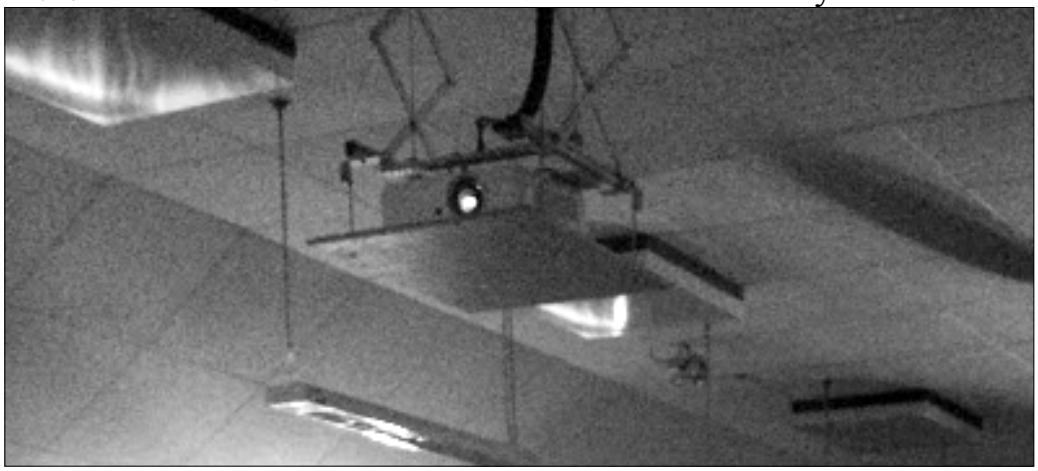
We depend on readers' articles and pictures. So let's have them!

We have lift off!

By the Editor



Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's the new all singing, all dancing projector that drops out of the ceiling on Film Nights!

THE new season of Wilstone Film Nights took off this month, launching the village hall's new audio visual system. Following the untimely death of Richard Field, the projectionist and technician from Shropshire-based Arts Alive, who previously supplied all the projection equipment, Wilstone's Village Hall committee were faced with a stark choice; either the film nights would run at a loss or they needed to buy their own equipment. They tried hiring in AV companies, but the results were disappointing and the cost exorbitant. Despite the fact that the film nights have been such a successful community event (this is their 13th year) it looked like they would not get off the ground again.

But thanks to The National Lottery, to whom a funding application was made and granted, the Hall was awarded nearly £10,000 to acquire their own AV system to continue to run these much loved film nights.

On the opening night, the audience of over 100 was treated to the new projector emerging to the rousing accompaniment of 2001 A Space Odyssey, which really tested the new sound system. Some dry ice coming out of the ceiling would have been nice, but would probably have ruined the projector at the same time.

The season's first film was Finding your Feet, a dark romcom, which produced many tears but much laughter. A copy of the film is in the village shop and is available for hire, and this will be followed by Three Billboards in November and Mama Mia in December.

So well done to everyone involved, in particular Peter Walker, who has worked so hard to keep this popular community event going.

Wilstone Film Nights

THREE BILLBOARDS
OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI

With Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson & Sam Rockwell

After months have passed without a culprit in her daughter's murder case, Mildred Hayes (Academy Award winner Frances McDormand) makes a bold move, painting three signs leading into her town with a controversial message directed at William Willoughby (Academy Award nominee Woody Harrelson), the town's revered chief of police. When his second-in-command Officer Dixon (Sam Rockwell), an immature mother's boy with a penchant for violence, gets involved, the battle between Mildred and Ebbing's law enforcement is only exacerbated.

FRIDAY 16 November

Tickets £7 suggested donation
available from Wilstone Community Shop.
Doors open 7.15pm
Film starts at 8pm. Interval snacks. Licenced bar.

Village News

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This has been a baptism of fire!
My first edition for 15 years, and there's so much to do. Thanks for all the contributors who have filled the VN with interesting and informative articles and adverts. But a big thank you to the season editors Colin and Colin who have held my hand and guided me through. Also to Joan, one of the unsung proof readers who found lots of glitches and a few monster errors!
I hope this edition reaches you in good condition and can I apologise in advance for anything Joan and I missed. It's complicated.
John Noakes' article on Page 18 raises lots of issues and challenges residents of Long Marston to get together and make a Long Marston shop a reality. The Wilstone shop moved to community ownership with a good deal of blood, sweat and tears but it was worth it!
Join the debate. Be part of the analysis.

The next edition will be for December and the deadline for items for inclusion is: Wednesday 21 November

Village News is written, edited, produced and distributed entirely by local volunteers. Only the final printing is done by a commercial company. We aim to be local, interesting, informative, fun and a good read.
Let us know if we are not!

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Denington Estate, Wellingborough, NN8 2RA 01933 228855.

Church services

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

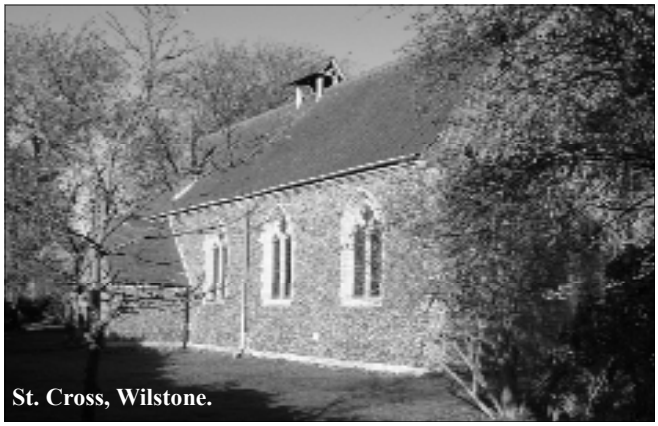
You are most welcome to join us at any of the services

4thNovember 2018
10.00am –Sunday Worshipat All Saints, Long Marston
10.00am – Holy Communionat St Cross, Wilstone
3.30pm –Holy Communion BCP at St Mary's, Puttenham

11thNovember2018
10.00am – Holy Communion at All Saints, Long Marston
10.00am – Sunday Worship at St Cross, Wilstone
3.30pm – Evening Prayer at St Mary's, Puttenham
6.00pm – Evening Prayer at All Saints, Long Marston

18thNovember2018
10.00am – Worship for All at All Saints, Long Marston
10.00am – Holy Communion at St Cross, Wilstone
3.30pm – Taize at St Mary's, Puttenham

25thNovember2018
10.00am – Sunday Worshipat All Saints, Long Marston
10.00am – Worship for All at St Cross,Wilstone
3.30pm – Even Song at St Mary's, Puttenham


St. Cross, Wilstone.

What's on...

Diary Dates..

Friday 9 November
Christmas food fair, Mead's farm shop 5.30pm
Friday 16 November
Wilstone Film Night
Saturday 17 November
Aylesbury Dolls House exhibition and workshops 11:00 am Wilstone VH
Thursday 22 November
Long Marston Victory Hall's AGM 7:30 at LMVH
Friday 7th December
Winter Wines 7:30 LM Victory Hall
Saturday 8th December
WI Christmas Workshop 2:30 Wilstone VH
Saturday 8th December
The Antipoet 8:30 Queens Head LM
Friday 14 December
Wilstone Film Night—Mama Mia 2
Sunday 23 June
Wilstone Open Village event

Tring Rural Parish Council Meetings

Are held at 8pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month. The public are welcome to attend these meetings.
Wed 7 November Puttenham village hall.
Wed 5 December Long Marston village hall.

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.

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Long Marston & Puttenham WI

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2.30pm-4.30pm

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Door Wreath & Table Decoration.
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£17.00 includes all materials & Refreshments
Booking Essential Tel: 01296-660370

From our reporter at the Parish Council meeting

Karen Bunce reporting

New Faces

Peter Myrants was welcomed to the council after being co-opted.

Breaking Bad

It appears that drugs are being dealt from behind Victory Hall, Long Marston. The police have been contacted. The advice is: if you see it going on, don't risk a confrontation, but call the police. So, folks, keep 'em peeled!

Parks & Recreation

Cllr Thirkettle was thanked for seeing the Long Marston pump track project to fruition. Some appropriate signage regarding its usage will be provided; apparently a motorbike has been seen using it!

Cllr Chalmers presented the options for improving security and access to Long Marston's recreation ground. As well as drug dealers and motorbikes, it seems that quad bikes have also been using it. The types of barrier available were discussed, along with their location. The council agreed that sufficiently wide access points for mobility scooters, push-chairs etc. must be provided, whilst keeping larger motorised vehicles out. He also asked for consideration to be given about whether further car parking at Victory Hall would be required in the future, as this would affect where the barrier should be sited. Cllr Lovis suggested that any extension to the car park should be discussed with the Victory Hall committee and the football club. It appears that sometimes parking issues arise between those paying to use the hall at the same time as the football club is in use. It was agreed that further mulling over was required. Cllr Chalmers intends to get some accurate costings and investigate whether more parking can actually be achieved.

Rather than replacing the 5-aside goal, the council is now looking at getting some new fixings for it instead.

A meeting is being arranged with a play scheme provider in Bierton, because the TRPC won't break even if they continue to use Apex.

True Grit

Cllr Chalmers reported that there are a "lot of questions to ask Herts" before residents can assist with gritting the Parish roads that are not gritted by the County. This provoked a lengthy discussion, ranging from whether the TRPC should take on the responsibility, to who is liable for providing the grit bins, and what residents' responsibilities are. It concluded with Borough Cllr Olive Conway agreeing to follow it up with the Borough Council, as they are responsible for providing the bins and the grit.

Analyse This!

Cllr Ward reported that the housing survey results are in, but they will remain confidential until the TRPC has had time to digest them and to liaise with the Borough Council and CDA; a meeting is due to be held on October 24th.

Cllr Fox said that the traffic survey had provided an unexpected result, by demonstrating how heavily Puttenham is used as a cut through. *(Although I suspect this won't be a surprise to the residents of Astrope and Puttenham!)* Once all the information has been collated, it will be written up and sent to the District and County Councils.

Cllr Myrants, who is also chair of the Flood Working Party, stated that Herts CC have been "working up" 11 options, which are to be presented at a meeting of landowners and farmers on October 18th, prior to public consultation. A feasibility study will also be taking place in Chapel Lane.

Cllr Ward reported on behalf of the Safe Walking Routes working party. The feasibility of a path between Gubblecote and Long Marston is being investigated, although it was dependant on the results of both the traffic survey and flood working parties.

'Cache' in the Attic

Tip: if using the website to look at the minutes/agenda and they don't seem to be visible, you may need to clear your browser's cache.

The November meeting (on the 7th, in Puttenham) is a key date for agreeing spend and finances.

Tring Rural Parish Council contacts

Your Parish Councillors are:

Malcolm Morgan (Chairman)	01296 661747
Liz Ayling	01296 661384
Doug Chalmers	07885 962818
Gill Craze	tbc
Nigel Fox	01296 662922
Paul Lovis	01442 827193
John Thirkettle	01296 661825
Nici Ward	01296 668818

The Clerk to the Council is :

Mrs Lucy Bancroft email:tringruralclerk@gmail.com

***The Villages Warden is*:**

Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822031

Parish Council Website:

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

Finding your Feet touched lots of folks at the October Film night in Wilstone.

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Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 124 moderate

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

Solution on page 24

From the Vicarage

by Rev'd Jane Banister

FOR me, November is a month of change. It is a month that can start with warm autumnal weather, but ends it in winter. It starts with some trees still holding on to green leaves, and ends it with bare branches. It begins with shops full of orange and black, and ends with red, green and gold. It is also a month that holds a lot of meaning for churches. We begin with All Saints – particularly important for Long Marston – when we remember all those who have gone before us, who have taught us and encouraged us – and then move on to All Souls, when we acknowledge our grief for those who have died. And the month ends with the approach to Advent, our preparation time for Christmas, and our celebration of what it means that God came to earth as one of us.

There is also of course Remembrance Sunday, this year on 11th November itself, which this year sees the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. There will be acts of Remembrance in all our local churches and at the war memorials, and Tring Church will also have the display of thousands of poppies knitted and crocheted to make the most amazing display.

It is important to remember, to know the impact of the conflict both on the military and on those at home, to understand what caused it and what were the repercussions in Europe and the world, and it is truly important that we do not glorify it. No soldier needs to be told that there is no glory in war.

As always, this makes me think about peace and what is actually means. Jesus told us blessed are the peacemakers, and I know I have written a little about this earlier in the year, as that verse was part of the reading at Toby's funeral. Peace is one of the most difficult things for us to achieve, whether we are talking about peace between nations, or within our families, or indeed in our own hearts and lives. Yet surely it is something that we all want.

There are two major negative emotions that can alter our lives dramatically, and they are fear and anger. We can be afraid of losing people or position, wealth or ability, and our fear can prevent us from calmly looking at what we do if those things happen, or how to prevent them happening. We become angry at those issues that threaten loss and the anger makes us lash out, makes us unable to see the situation from any other viewpoint, to admit that there might be more than one right way to act. It seems to me that many people are afraid to admit that they feel fear or anger in case that shows weakness, and loss of power. Yet it takes a great deal of strength to acknowledge one's feelings and how they might have coloured actions and words.

There are so many occasions when we can be much more of peace makers than we are. I get cross at much of what I read online, about the madness of social media. But instead of getting cross, I need to not read them, to talk to people face to face or on the phone instead of letting the keyboard warriors get to me. I get angry when there are cyclists on the road and it takes longer to drive to church. But I know this and need to leave more time. And I get very fearful when I listen to the news and see what conflict is happening in the world. That is a harder one to which to respond – for me, it is about prayer but it is also about action. Writing to our MP, supporting Amnesty International, all the actions that may seem small but are so much better than getting angry and lashing out.

As we see the changes this November, may it be a time of growing peace for all of us.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid."

Jane

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Wilstone Village Hall Committee

have a vacancy for the post of

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For more information about the vacancy, please contact: Chairman Richard Smissen on (01442) 823253 or at richard.smissen@btinternet.com

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FIRST STEPS PRESCHOOL OPEN DAY

Thursday 8thNovember @10am.
Victory hall, Station road, Long Marston.
Come and meet us and find out what were all about!

Community information announcement.

As of Thursday 25thOctober, First steps pre-school, will be using an area of space at the front of Victory hall, during session hours. We wanted to make our community aware, that a small area will be sectioned off between 9:30 and 2:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, during term time. This will have no impact on the rear car park or affect the access road to the side of the hall, towards the Rec.

We are taking all steps to ensure the safety of all, and would appreciate the support of our community.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the pre-school committee at: firststepslongmarston@gmail.com

Christmas Wreath making

by Maggie Winship

OUR October meeting took the form of an Autumn Flower Arranging Workshop. This was held by Jill Baxter who was once a resident of Long Marston and WI president, and was greeted as an old friend by many members. We all brought along armfuls of flowers, berries and foliage and with Jill's help had soon created some very colourful arrangements.

Our Committee, members, and some other ladies from the villages have been busy for the past weeks making poppies for a display on the green near the Long Marston war memorial to commemorate the end of WW1. The poppies will be there for a week before and after remembrance day.

This year we will once again be holding our very popular Christmas Wreath Making Workshop. The venue is to be Wilstone Village Hall, on Saturday 8th December from 2.30 until 4.30 and the cost will be £12.00 for members and £17.00 for non-members. As usual everything we need will be supplied. Advance booking is essential so if you would like to book a place please call Heather on 01296 660370.

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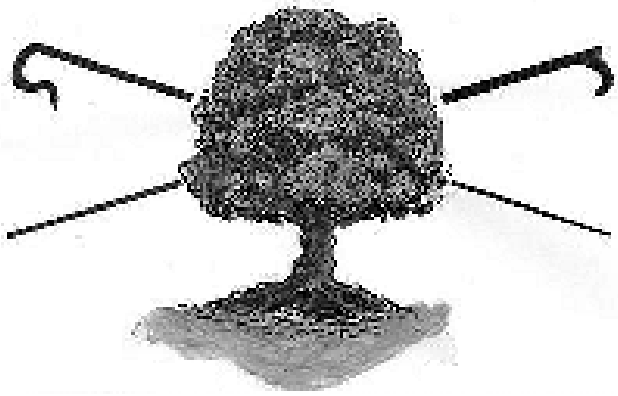

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100 Club—November Draw

Winning numbers were pulled by Jenny Mead at PE Mead & Sons, Wilstone
Winning number details

1st Prize - £53
Number 24 - Alan Warner

2nd Prize - £26.50
Number 32 -
Colin Moore

3rd Prize - £13.25
Number 5 - Ursula Collyer

Volunteer distributor needed for Little Tring and outlying homes

Can you help by delivering Village News to 30 homes in and around Little Tring?

We need a volunteer with a car to do this delightful drive around the fringe of the parish each month delivering the magazine to our more distant households. It takes about 40 minutes and is a very pleasant round. Familiarisation tour provided.

Please contact Phil Buchi on 01296 661339 or text 07867 793006. *Thank you!*

Long Marston & Puttenham Horticultural Society

Monday 17th December at 7pm

Carols Round The Tree

There will be free mulled wine & mince pies & we already know that we have a special visit from Father Christmas.

Come along & join us at the Long Marston Memorial singing carols round the tree.

Help for Heroes
Support For Our Wounded

There will be an opportunity to make a voluntary donation to Help for Heroes.

Adventures in the Allotment

by Sara Wickenden

WITH snow still on the ground we enthusiastically took over a half plot at the site. Okay things were a bit solid but spring was coming and new adventures are always exciting. Snow turned into rain, but didn't dampen our enthusiasm and made the digging easier, if a bit muddy.

We soon had planted several varieties of seed potato alongside garlic. Meanwhile our windowsills were crammed with courgette, sweetcorn, tomato and pepper seedlings which we carefully transported and planted in the beds. The strawberries in the inherited fruit cage began to ripen followed by the raspberries and currants. Soon we were bringing home luscious juicy berries.

Then the courgettes started to develop. At this point we discovered that courgettes are closely related to rabbits. Harvesting a crop was easy enough but turn your back for a minute and another courgette sneaks out like a stealth assassin. Despite this we've found many uses for them. They are particularly wonderful in savoury muffins and I've included my favourite recipe below for anyone with a glut of courgettes next year.
Despite this summer's heatwave and drought we have found this a wonderful way to spend time (and money). And we have enjoyed a range of fresh produce bursting with flavour. We've had a huge amount of fun experimenting with unusual crops such as Green Zebra tomatoes which proved to be delicious and very tangy.

We feel very lucky. The previous allotment holder, Richard, has left us with raised beds, a fruit cage and many useful pieces of equipment. He has also been so informative and helpful. We are very grateful for his wise advice to such clueless rookies. Given the hard work he put into this plot I hope we can do it full justice. We have thoroughly loved spending time on our plot. The other allotment holders have been incredibly helpful and chatting to them has been wonderful. There is something so peaceful about working on an allotment, with the added benefit of exercise (far better and more enjoyable than joining a gym).

Just nurturing and watching tiny seedlings take root and develop into triffid size giants is incredibly rewarding. So it's not entirely surprising that we sometimes just go down to our plot for sheer enjoyment. It's a wonderful place to sit and think. The great philosopher Eeyore summed it best "I was just sittin' here enjoyin' the company. Plants got a lot to say, if you take the time to listen."

Courgette cheesy muffins

Grate 2 med-large courgettes squeeze excess liquid out and add to 225g self raising flour. Grate 125g of strong, tasty cheddar and add to flour/courgette mix. Add one egg and 175ml of milk along with 55ml oil (the Mead's garlic or herby rapeseed oils are ideal) and beat together until smooth. Add salt and pepper to taste then put into muffin cases and bake at 200C or gas mark 6 for about half an hour. They can be frozen and are lovely when reheated in a microwave.

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- Keeping prices fair
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- Stocking home-made and local produce
- Being a place where people like to shop and volunteers like to work

Have your say in the Shop's future

Our landlord, Mike Armson, has announced that he will be retiring in three years' time. Mike has been a very generous landlord over the last six years and we are grateful for this long notice period.

The Community Shop needs to use this remaining lease time to determine its future location within the village. We shall be holding a Shareholders Meeting on 7 December 7.00 pm at the hall to discuss this issue, non-shareholders are welcome to attend, although they will not have voting rights. We are also planning to hold a public meeting in January, but as there is no January issue of Village News, details of this will be posted in the shop, and on our Facebook page.

Taste Test our Xmas Goodies

As is rapidly becoming an annual tradition, we shall be providing the interval refreshments at the Film Night on 16 November. Showcasing some of our Christmas food, filmgoers will also have the opportunity to order their Xmas meat in good time.

Come and browse the shop's Christmas stock too, after all where else can you get unicorn and dinosaur tree decorations!

Ramblers sheltering from the rain!

Resilience in the Rain!

Our CountryFile Ramble for Children in Need was scheduled for Sunday 14 October— and of course that was the day when the heavens opened and a month's worth of rain fell over the course of the daylight hours. Not to be deterred, a plucky group of walkers went ahead with a shortened ramble and enjoyed the all-important refreshments afterwards. Of course, the coffee and cake was also open to the non-ramblers who also generously supported this event. Thanks to everyone who turned up, made cakes, served drinks, washed up and gave donations. Our fundraising total currently stands at **£401.35,** an incredible amount considering the weather.

Promotional feature sponsored by Wilstone Community Shop

Does Long Marston need a village shop?

By John Noakes

WHEN we were approaching retirement we wanted to move to a location that had an established thriving village community. We had lived most our life in suburbia which tends be rather bland place where one can be anonymous. Due to my professional work this suited me at the time. For my wife through our children and their schooling she made many contacts and friends. Not so for me.

When we eventually decide to move we made, like so many people, a list of essential things we wanted of a location together with the desirable ones. Of the essential things, not necessarily in order of priority, were-

1 A local shop.

2 A School (We didn't want to join other potential geriatrics like ourselves in a retirement village) we wanted to be part of a mixed age community.

3 The ability to walk out of our front door to access footpaths and go for a walk without using our car.

4 A local pub. Not that we are great drinkers but it is a community asset and a meeting place for some.

5 A largish garden as I am a keen gardener.

6 Reasonable access to London and large towns.

Long Marston hit all of these points and we have been very happy here for over twenty years.

The local Village Shop was run at that time by Tina and Pradeep a delightful couple and it was such a pleasure to go there. It was used by scores of people. The shop was at the heart of the village, it was within walking distance for most villagers both young and old. For me a 300 yard walk to the shop might take nearly an hour as I met and talked to people there and on the way. It was for many people, particularly the elderly, not just a place to meet and talk but a convenience store for non-drivers with a poor bus service to Tring..

Sadly Pradeep died and the shop closed. There was a temporary transfer to a nearby pub but this too closed down. We nearly lost our last remaining pub but this was saved by the generous intervention of Glen and Jules. Important as the pub is, it does not cater for all members of the community.

So now we all get in our cars, if we have one. In the main we don't walk, there's no shop to go to so we don't meet people that is unless we have a dog. Perhaps it now should be obligatory for everyone to have a dog in Long Marston. Walks twice a day, very healthy; meeting and having conversation with other dog owners. I feel out of the social loop.

More seriously, should or could we attempt to resurrect a Long Marston Village Shop? Some would say Wilstone has a Shop and it might impact on their trade but two shops coexisted in the past and there were no problems. Indeed the Wilstone thrives in spite of its proximity to Meads Farm Shop.

As a village we have a number of superbly organised events; The Pantomime, The Village Show and the Firework Display. Sadly this latter event has been torpedoed due to objection by one village resident.

Well attended as these events are they do not generate on going happenstance. By that I mean the unplanned yet freqent meetings at one location. In the past this was provided by the Village Shop; it was a social hub. Nothing else provided or provides this facility.

There are many problems to overcomeif we take on the task of trying to bring back the Village Shop from the dead.

Firstly- Finance. I believe with a will this could be overcome. I have been involved in the past with two major local projects that required considerable fund raising.

Secondly- Staffing. Wilstone have shown the way with a team of volunteers. Perhaps there could be some symbiosis here?

Finally- Location. The most obvious site would be at the Village Hall. Building out onto the carpark apron would give immediate access to residents and passing traffic. In the past many cyclists would stop off for refreshments and this is even more likely now. So a small café could be an option as well. Of course people may object to loss of the front car park but the car park is for the use of the Village Hall not for other use. There is plenty of scope for extending the car park at the rear of the hall and provide a larger parking area onto a rather dead space

To my mind resurrecting the Village shop would put the heart back into our Village. It would cater for all ages and many of their different problems. Loneliness and inability to access facilities is important. Having a place to meet spontaneously or by arrangement would go a long way to ameliorate some of these issues.

I have talked to a number of my friends, mostly elderly or middle aged. Many younger people have never experienced the benefits of a Village Shop. I write these piece in order to spark a village debate.

Does Long Marston need a Village Shop? Yes!

The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

St. Mary's Church

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Sunday, 11th November - 3.30 p.m.

Our regular second Sunday service is being replaced with a Remembrance Service. Our large wooden cross will be loaded with candles for you to light a candle in remembrance of those fallen during the wars.

RECENT EVENT REPORTS:

JUMBLE SALE– A massive "Thank You" to everyone who helped at the Jumble Sale on September 29th especially to those who had helped for the first time. I hope you will continue to be part of our jumble sale "family". Yet again, due to everyone's generosity with their time, jumble, purchases, baking, etc., we have reached the splendid result of £1030.38 for The Friends of Puttenham Church. This means that we have been able to pay for the removal of the dark and depressive conifer trees in the west corner of the churchyard. I do hope you have noted the wonderful light that has now flooded into the church surrounds.

"Thank You, All

OCTOBER SUPPER – The Puttenham Trust's October Supper proved to be a very good evening, which concluded with a programme of excellent music provided by our resident quintet, the Emeritus Brass.Apologies to anyone who was hoping to win the "Guess the weight of the Marrow" competition - Guess Who (me!!!) forgot to pass it round the tables and the poor old marrow sat on its chair all evening, not noticed until we cleared away!.

The Charity Draws to receive the proceeds of the evening were won by John Hinton who put forward Bowel Cancer, and Mike Atkin that of Kidney Transplant. The two excellent charities will receive a donation of £103 each.

CECILIA TEA ROOMS–What a wonderful end to the 2018 season of TeaRooms - we were a full house. Because of our latest project with the churchyard west corner, our charity for this Tea Rooms was The Friends of Puttenham Church. Your attendance and generosity raised £240 for the revitalizing of the Quiet Corner (ashes area), and will be spent specifically on some new hedging, shrubs and various plantings to make a once depressive area into a joyful and beautiful space. **Lost & Found …** A black fleece was left behind, size XL. **Is it yours?** If so, please contact Christine on 07514 548289 or 01296 668337. With the colder weather on the way, I am sure someone will be missing it.

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A Proper Job

A Story of Longub Puttastone

By Martin Winship

RODNEY Shoemaker was under absolutely no illusion about his driving skills. For unlike many other road users who regarded themselves as way above the average in the department of handling a car – or any other vehicle come to that – and who would, with all due humility and modesty, describe themselves at every opportunity as *superb drivers*, Rodney harboured no such ideas. He was honest enough with himself to acknowledge that he was, without any question, simply the best. He would ridicule the inept behind-the-wheel antics of the latest clumsy idiot to play the part of James Bond, and he dismissed every one of the current batch of Formula One racing drivers as more suited to a dodgems ride than a Grand Prix circuit. And because of his self-confessed genius he was naturally very disappointed and disgruntled at the miserly rate of pay he received from his employers at Plumber's Coaches. It was clearly an outrage that while all the unskilled fools and utter nitwits who worked in the office were not only paid considerably more than he was, they were also rewarded with a generous annual bonus – a perk which Rodney did not benefit from. Quite reasonably then, he cast around for other "perks", which those with sufficient nous are aware exist with all jobs, at all levels. It did not take him any time at all to discover various nice little dodges and useful loopholes in Plumber's ticketing system which meant that before long, unknown and unsuspected by the company, Rodney was the highest paid member of staff – and that included the owner of the enterprise, "Tubs" Plumber himself.

Contrary to Rodney's complacent belief that this happy situation would surely continue for as long as it suited him, his cunning schemes were fairly rapidly uncovered. Comeuppance followed swiftly. He was at first astonished, and then deeply indignant, to find himself summarily dismissed. To his querulous complaints about unfair treatment, he was curtly informed that he was jolly fortunate to receive only the sack, and not a summons. As it was, Plumbers preferred to drop the matter (along with Rodney) rather than risk exposing themselves as the administrative incompetents they undoubtedly were.

Uncertain what to do next, but still of course in need of a supply of cash, Rodney readily accepted any odd jobs that came his way in and around Longub Puttastone, and he was particularly keen on "keeping his hand in" with anything involving driving work. He was delighted to discover that there was considerable demand for his (paid) help in all manner of jobs and duties, and he often found himself gainfully "employed" helping Jake Sparhawk with this and that. He was astonished when he realised that despite losing the perks at Plumbers, he was actually making more money being self-unemployed.

Nevertheless, he was adamant that the Job Seeker's Allowance (and anything else on offer) was his by right, and consequently he got himself signed on, sharpish, at the Job Centre in the nearby town of Beersbury. Unfortunately this required him to attend regular review meetings, at which he would be required to convince the powers that be that he was actively seeking work, and provide evidence to prove it. He was on his way to just such a meeting, and walked confidently into the Job Centre where he was greeted unenthusiastically by Mr. Arbuthnot, his Job Coach. (This title amused Rodney, given his recent experience at Plumbers). They sat on either side of a cluttered desk, and Rodney fidgeted while Mr. Arbuthnot opened a dog-eared manila file in front of him, and after studying the contents for a few minutes, sat back, pushed his glasses up on his forehead, and sighed.

"So, Mr. Shoemaker. You are still looking for work?"

"Oh yes," Rodney replied, nodding his head vigorously. "Always on the lookout for a suitable position".

Mr. Arbuthnot raised his eyebrows, and gave his ear a thoughtful scratch. "Interesting". He glanced down at the file. "I marvel at your understanding of the word suitable".

Rodney frowned. "What do you mean by that?" he challenged.

"Well, it says here that the first opening you tried for – after you lost your previous job – was as a Specialist Bra Fitter in a Lady's Lingerie Shop".

"Yeh. I think that would have suited me alright". Rodney grinned, and rubbed his hands together. The effect was not altogether pleasing.

"And then you applied to be a life guard at the Bling pool".

"Well? Why not?"

"You can't swim, Mr. Shoemaker. Then it seems from your file that you tried for a part in a film which was being shot near your village".

"Oh yes. That's right. I can act a bit you know".

"The film in question was Band of Mothers. With an all-female cast".

"What happened to equality then? And that gender-neutral stuff?"

Mr. Arbuthnot sniffed, gave Rodney a look, and continued. "Next, it was a Fire Fighter. It emerged that you have a morbid fear of heights. Then a Bank Clerk". Mr. Arbuthnot removed his glasses and squeezed the bridge of his nose. He appeared to be in pain. "We will not discuss the details of the report which the Bank Manager received following his enquiries with the police. Suffice to say that the term "Person of Interest" was included".

Rodney shook his head. "They've got nothing on me!" he insisted.

Mr. Arbuthnot would not be put off. "Let's see now. Oh yes. Next it was a Mathematics Teacher. Then a Model. And, most recently, a Jockey".

"Ah. Well now. As it happens I've always had empathy with horses, I have".

"Even so, Mr. Shoemaker, even so. You are well over six feet tall. Your feet would probably reach the ground".

"Well at least I am trying – you must admit". Rodney looked at his watch. "Anyway, are we nearly done? I've got to be somewhere soon".

"Oh? Really? Some undisclosed employment Mr. Shoemaker?"

Rodney looked shocked and hurt. "'Course not. Just helping a friend of mine is all".

Mr. Arbuthnot sighed again, closed the file, and reluctantly signed Rodney off for another fortnight. He watched him leave through world-weary eyes, and thought wistfully of retirement. Rodney, meanwhile, breezed out of the Job Centre, whistling a merry tune, and climbed into his pickup truck. As he drove away, *he* thought wistfully of just how much he would charge for helping his friend

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	7.30pm	Goldfield Infants School, Tring
Wednesday	9.30am	Wilstone Village Hall (Strength)
	11.30am	Nora Grace Hall, Tring (Low Impact)
	7.30pm	Pitstone Memorial Hall
Thursday	9.45am	Wilstone Village Hall (Low Impact)
	7.30pm	Goldfield Infants School, Tring
Friday	9.45am	Wilstone Village Hall
Saturday	9.30am	Wilstone Village Hall

JAZZERCISE

Planning or Chaos?

By Sally Smith

EVERY year in November, I find myself shaking my head in disbelief that 11 months of another year have passed in the blink of an eye. January sees ambitious plans for the coming year many of which fall by the wayside as the months go by; some make it to fruition and some are fine-tuned meaning they take longer to complete.

One thing that I do always plan is food. As I've said before, I love nothing more than flicking through a recipe book and making notes of recipes I'd like to try. Sometimes I try things immediately, whilst others are stored away until the time is right – or the ingredients are in season. As everybody knows, strawberries taste much better in June than in December, and winter stews don't work during hot summer months!

When I was a lot younger, I took part in a school exchange to Germany where I was introduced to the joys of dunking pastries into hot chocolate, decadent desserts – and sauerkraut (not a personal thing of joy!) One thing I tasted out of season that worked well was Lebkuchen, a sort of German gingerbread which I always promised myself I would make. It really is remarkably simple and there are many slightly different recipes for it, each region has its own version. For me it brings back memories of my first trip to Germany, all those years ago and whenever I visit a Christmas market I like nothing more than Lebkuchen and hot chocolate – perfect for autumnal evenings!

As the nights get longer, the festive season steamrollers its way towards us, why not take a break to enjoy these lovely, simple to make biscuits yourself.

Lebkuchen

Ingredients: 250g plain flour 1 tsp ground cinnamon 200ml clear honey 85g ground almond ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda 85g butter 2 tsp ground ginger pinch of ground cloves, 1 lemon, finely grated zest 1 tsp baking powder grated nutmeg and black pepper

100g Icing sugar 1 egg white, beaten

Method 1. Tip the dry ingredients into a large bowl. Heat the honey and butter in a pan over a low heat until the butter melts, then pour into the flour mixture along with the lemon zest. Mix well until the dough is combined and fairly solid. Cover and leave to cool. 2. Heat the oven to 180C/fan160C/gas 4. Use your hands to roll the dough into about 30 balls, each 3cm wide, then flatten each one slightly into a disk. Divide the biscuits between two baking trays lined with baking parchment, leaving room for them to expand. Bake for about 15 minutes, then cool on a wire rack. 3. To ice the biscuits, mix together the icing sugar, egg white and 1-2 tbsp water to form a smooth, runny icing. Dip the top of each biscuit in the icing and spread with the back of a knife. Leave to harden and then watch as they disappear!

No 124 solution (from Page 7)

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

Thank you message from Bardaid.
To all those who have supported our telephone box library throughout its first year. To acknowledge this, and to celebrate a year of recycled local books, 'The Anti-poet' will be performing at The Queen's Head on Saturday the 8th of December from 8.30pm. Expect an evening of bawdy bacchanalian beat poetry for those of a broadminded nature...

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Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

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Deadline for items to go in the November edition is: Wednesday 21 October
The editor will be John McCall

Village news can be viewed online at:
www.wilstone.me.uk (Click on Village News)

The Hospice of St Francis Hospice News

With Christmas just around the corner our thoughts are turning to all things festive. While Christmas is a time of celebration, it's also a chance for reflection and to remember loved ones who are no longer with us.

We're inviting members of our community to remember and celebrate someone special this Christmas by pledging their support for our Light Up a Life Appeal.

Light Up a Life offers everyone who has lost a loved one the chance to dedicate a light on our special Tree of Remembrance standing in our beautiful Hospice grounds to remember the life they shared together.

The lights will burn brightly throughout the festive period shining for people like Matt Parkin who was diagnosed with cancer in 2017, shortly after he turned 40. Matt's wife Rebecca said the cancer made Matt very sensitive to sounds and smells, which made spending time with their three children aged, 4, 5 and 16, more difficult.

"The cancer was very aggressive and over the next few weeks I watched the rapid deterioration of the man I loved dying in front of me, helpless to do anything to ease his pain," she said. "That's when The Hospice of St Francis stepped in.

"When we got to the Hospice, we were made to feel so welcome. They reassured us that his quality of life could be better and that we would be able to spend good time together as a family.

"We felt very lucky to get a bed at the Hospice. I felt confident that Matt was now receiving the best care possible. They gave Matt hope – not that he could be cured, but that they could enable him to make special memories by spending more quality time with our children."

To read more about Matt and Rebecca's story and to help us to help more people to live their precious lives well, please visit stfrancis.org.uk/lual2018.

Santa Dash

Kick-start your Christmas by joining us for our annual festive fundraiser – Santa Dash on Sunday 9th December! Santas young and old, on two legs and four are invited to sign up for the fix of festive fun that sees hundreds of Santas and their dashing dogs paint the town red as they descend on Hemel Hempstead Riverside to walk, scoot or run the 2.5 mile route.

At the finish line everyone receives a medal, a mince pie and a well-deserved hot drink, with treats for children and puffed out pooches!
Everyone who dashes is asked to raise what they can in sponsorship to support families who need hospice care at Christmas time and throughout the year.
To sign up and help a good 'claus' – visit stfrancis.org.uk/santadash

Christmas shopping

Get your Christmas shopping off to a flying start by coming along to our Christmas shopping events at our pre-loved furniture store Returned to Glory on Thursday 1st November, 5pm-7pm and our award-winning gift shop number twenty on Thursday 8th November, 5pm-7pm. Shoppers can enjoy a glass of festive fizz and nibbles, while number twenty will be offering 15% off all purchases.
A selection of 22 festive Christmas cards are also no available from all Hospice shops and online at stfrancis.org.uk/christmascards featuring polar bears, jolly Santas and traditional snowy scenes with 100% of the profits directly supporting our care.
From 1st December we will once again be selling Christmas trees at the Hospice and, new for this year, door wreaths will also be on sale. £5 from every tree sold will be donated to the Hospice.

Art Bags

Whether you're a dab hand with a needle and thread or new to arts and crafts, you can try your hand at cross-stitching by taking part in this year's Art Bag project. Run in collaboration with Peace Hospice Care in Watford, the project aims to raise awareness of hospice care and boost the wellbeing of people living with a life-limiting illness through the therapeutic benefits of creativity.
The free bags contain all the materials needed to complete a contemporary cross-stitch using easy-to-use large-hole canvas. Anyone can take part and no experience is necessary.
Bags can be collected from The Hospice of St Francis or Peace Hospice receptions and once completed can be returned to either hospice where they will be displayed at the end of the project in summer 2019.For further information, visit stfrancis.org.uk/artbagproject.

www.stfrancis.org.uk
Facebook at: **TheHospiceofStFrancis**
Twitter: @hospicstfrancis **Tel:** 01442 869555

WILSTONE OPEN VILLAGE Sunday 23rd JUNE 2019

By Dianna Crapnell

WE had a great turn out for our inaugural meeting on the 11th October and very many thanks to everyone who either came or who couldn't make that date but said they were keen to help.

We made a lot of key decisions the first being the date, the 23rd June 2019 so please do note it down so you can come along and join in all the fun. We will definitely be looking for more people to lend a hand for an hour or two on the day, and all offers of help will be most welcome, but much more on that nearer the time.

One of the key features of the day will be the Open Gardens, Jo Woodbridge will be organising that so if you have a fancy to show off your garden for the day then she will be most pleased to hear from you.

As before, the road through the village will close to allow a variety of stalls to be set up demonstrating and selling all manner of arts and crafts. A music stage will appear in front of the Half Moon featuring many talented artists ensuring we are all kept entertained throughout the afternoon. Then back up at the church you'll find tombola and bric-a-brac stalls plus some fun games for everyone to enjoy.

Of course we will need to cater for the inner man/ woman so there will be a variety of catering outlets from a pop up cafe run by the Community Shop, to a delicious hot food offer at the Half Moon; tea, coffee & cakes at the Church and a lovely veggie stall in a pop up garden plus other offers yet to be confirmed.

So lots already agreed but a lot more ideas still to be investigated and confirmed. We want this to be a truly fun day for us all, so if there's any activity or offer you think would add to the day do please let us know so we can look into it and hopefully include it in the programme.

Next June is, thankfully, still a long way off but we will ensure you are all kept informed of what is going on and how it may affect you both through this Newsletter and also through leaflet drops to relevant houses. But if you have anything you want to ask or add you can always contact me on 01442 826043.

WILSTONE OPEN GARDENS 2019

Are you interested in opening your garden on Sunday 23rd June?
Due to the fabulous event in 2017 we would love to open our gardens again in 2019.
Contact Jo Woodbridge if you would like to take part

01442 891444 or 07719 434620

jomark@waitrose.com

Sports Page

Cricket News

The 2018 season has come to a close, after a gloriously hot summer, with some mixed results on the field. Our young 1st X1 have maintained their position in Division 1 finishing third as they did last year which is a very creditable achievement. The 2nd X1 found Div.4 hard going especially as they lost two players to the 1st X1 which is good for the club but proved to be hard on the team, they will play in Div.5 next year. Meanwhile our 3rdX1, despite relegation to Div.9, saw a number of our youngest player putting in good individual performances taking wickets & scoring runs for the first time in adult cricket. This is a great sign for the future of LMCC and with the acquisition of a new roller the pitches have improved which will help to further improve the cricket at Mentmore.

At our annual awards night in September the following awards were made.
The Len Dean Cup for the 1st X1 player of the year, Alistair Bee.
The Len Dean Cup for the 2 xX1 player of the year , Matthew Wareham
The Don Dean Cup for the 3rd X1 player of the year Alex Marsh.
The Thomas Chapman Award for services to the Club, Andy Marsden.
The Mary Simmons Cup for the winning performance of the season, Simon Robinson 107 not out v Cublington.
The J. Calder Cup for the best performance by a young player, Hamish Sim, 152 v Thame
The Cutler Cup for the most promising young player, Jake Shearer.
The Dumpy Salver for the best all round performance in a match, Matthew Wareham

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Why?

Are you sporty?

Are you the captain of a local team?

This space is reserved for you…

Can we fill a page with sports news every month?

Football?
Tennis?
Running?
Jazzercise?