Village News: Puttenham, Wilstone, Long Marston, Startops End

November 2008

Your vibrant village magazine - delivered free to every home in Tring Rural Parish.

Tea for two, and village hall memories

by Maggie Buchi

I HAD tea with my lovely friend and neighbour, Vera Rance, last week. Vera lives in the Long Row in Wilstone and is now 88. In fact she was born in my house, also in the Long Row. Her mother was born in the village as Constant Mapley, one of 10 children. She was an infant teacher until she got married to a tailor from Norfolk who was in the Tank Corps stationed at RAF Halton.

I'd recently been to the Village Hall and Fete Committees and so we chatted about the events coming up. I love getting Vera's opinion on forthcoming events. She began to tell me about earlier days when she was on these very same committees for about seven years in the 1960s. Those were the days when the hall was an old army hut. Her husband Fred was the Secretary. Other members were Ethel and Dick Gomm, Florrie and Arthur Edwards, Hilda and Bill Jeffries (Jeffries' coal merchants). What fun they all had. Party after party. Vera's eyes shone as she told me her stories.

They had a Hallowe'en party each year. They all came in fancy dress, homemade of course - much more fun. Every New Year's Eve they hired a band and had another wonderful party. Bands like the fantastic Baron Knights and The Cockatoos (Tie a Yellow Ribbon). One year Vera made 150 mince pies - whooh! She said she was exhausted after 125 but Fried persuaded her to go on.

I asked Vera about other do's they held. The list was endless. They were very busy indeed. Pancake Night sounds a hoot. They all brought their own oil stoves and frying pans and made the pancakes in the Hall and (of course) had another party. No fancy cooking facilities then! Easter Bonnet Parade was another. They made their own hats - Vera won that competition a few times. I'm not surprised another party followed.

The annual village fete was mainly vegetables and flowers displayed in the Hall but there were activities on the field as well. Of course they always had a brilliant dance afterwards and somehow managed to get some fab celebrities to open the fete - Wilfred Bramble and Donald Sinden, to name but two. Their payment was dinner at the Half Moon. No doubt this turned into another party too.

Village hall veteran Vera Rance still has this Easter bonnet which won first prize in the '60s. (Picture: Village News)

Apart from all those activities, dances and parties there were dinners and suppers held in Jeffries' coal yard shed (by Victory House - just over Wilstone canal bridge). I suppose that was because they couldn't fit everyone in the Hall, which was smaller than the present building.

Vera still loves the various parties and events that are held in the Hall now and hardly ever misses one. I wonder how they compare to the events that she and Fred helped organise!!

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Lest we forget ...

by Wendy Austin

IN Britain the searing grief experienced by millions following the horrors of World War One left many people numb and in a state of shock. Gradually, all seemed to agree that the sacrifice of the serving men should be commemorated in some way, but the length of time it took to decide on the style, siting, and fund raising method for a war memorial varied greatly from community to community. (The war memorial in Tring was most unusual in that it was erected and dedicated shortly BEFORE the end of the war in November 1918, and in fact Tring was written up as setting a splendid example to the nation as a whole.) In the villages north of Tring it took three years from the time that the subject was first broached until the erection of the completed memorials. The historic day for Long Marston and Marsworth fell on Sunday afternoon 7th August 1921 when the second Lord Rothschild performed both unveiling ceremonies, dressed in the uniform of his regiment - the Bucks Yeomanry.

Long Marston War Memorial

Long Marston selected as its design a Celtic cross carved from a single slab of silver-grey granite set upon three high steps, and sited in the centre of the village near the school (which no-one then dreamed would be totally demolished in twenty years' time as the result of another world conflict). It was estimated that the cost would be £400 after allowing for carving the names and inscription, supplying a rail fence, laying turf, and planting ornamental trees. It is recorded that the foundations were set by James Chandler & Son of Long Marston, and the erection carried out by Newman & Harper of Aylesbury. Before the ceremony the villagers assembled to the music of the Long Marston Band, and ex-servicemen under the charge of Sergeant Proctor formed a guard of honour for Lord Rothschild. As it happened, a London troop of Boy Scouts were camped in nearby fields, and two of their officers acted as standard bearers. The short service was conducted by Rev.R.H. Rowden, assisted by Mr. Bates of Aylesbury, representing the village's Wesleyan Methodist Church, before a speech given by Lord Rothschild in which he laid great stress on "the call of duty". Whether or not the fine words held any shreds of comfort for the bereaved wives, mothers, fathers, fiancées, and others, we cannot know.

The party then progressed to Marsworth to perform a similar ceremony. Marsworth architect, A.J. Gurney, charged no fee for his design of a Gothic cross, which was sited in a prominent position in the churchyard on rising ground fronting the road. Constructed of Portland stone gifted by William Mead, owner of Tring Flour Mill, the cost of carving and erection amounted to £140, all the money raised by public subscription. Of the 55 men of Marsworth who served in the Great War, 11 did not return and their names are inscribed on the base of the cross. A similar speech by Lord Rothschild was followed by the sounding of the Last Post by trumpeters from Wendover Boys' Brigade, and their band led the singing of the National Anthem.

Three months later on 3rd October 1921, the folk of Wilstone experienced the same sad occasion as their neighbours. Again, the design chosen was a Celtic cross made of Cornish granite, but it did have one notable difference, as the base was formed from stone originally part of the swing bridge over the Wendover Arm of the Grand Junction Canal. This, and the generous donation of railings by local farmer Percy Mead, helped to keep costs down to £140. On the village green, after a service led by Rev. Rowden, Percy Mead read out the nine names of the fallen and Capt.G.M. Brown MC of Tring unveiled the memorial and spoke to the crowd. After a minute's silence, a prayer was said by Arthur Bagnall representing Wilstone Baptist Church, and Long Marston Band under the baton of Mr Prothero played the Last Post, followed by the Reveille by RAF trumpeters.

Wilstone War Memorial

The scenes enacted in the three villages no doubt followed a similar pattern, and were accompanied by similar emotions to those experienced by every community across the land. But it is good to remember that in Puttenham things turned out differently. This tiny hamlet can be called a 'Thankful Village', that is, one which lost no men in the carnage of the Great War. The term was first used by historian Arthur Mee, who estimated that at most there were 32 such villages and hamlets in the whole of Britain, although he could only positively identify 24. Puttenham was certainly the only one in Hertfordshire, and the relief and joy that greeted the 15 returning servicemen can only be imagined, although how much physical and mental scarring they carried home with them is difficult to say. In the south aisle of St. Mary's Church, a brass tablet was erected at the Harvest Thanksgiving service of 1925. The simple inscription speaks for itself:

In the Great War of the years 1914 - 1918
This Parish then numbering 71 souls
sent forth and welcomed home the
men whose names are inscribed here: (list of 15 names)
For their gallant service and safe return
THANKS BE TO GOD

Village News

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Over a year ago I edited my first edition of the Village News and I am very pleased to be editor this month in particular as it is the month where we remember all those who have been involved in the past and current wars and other conflicts.

I am very lucky to have a father who was heavily involved in the Second World War flying Lancaster B2 bombers, and who survived. Growing up with him has given me a completely different outlook on the history regarding the war that we were taught at school. He has taught me many things which I hope I continue to show in my everyday life - courtesy, politeness and above all respect.

I know that his time is limited but the legacy from him is thousands of photographs and slides that over the last few years he has transferred to DVDs to ensure that we can look back and see just how dramatically the world has changed since the war. My father continued to fly commercially after the war and so it is nice to see the picture of the Dakota from RAF Halton as this was one of the first types of aircraft he flew commercially.

"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal." Taken from a headstone in Ireland

Caroline Beevers

Deadline for items for our next edition (December) is Thursday 20 November 2008.

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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3 Milnyard Square, Peterborough, PE2 6GX. 01733 230800.

Church services

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

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

2 November
10.00am All Saints Patronal Festival
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer
6.30pm St Cross Evensong for All Souls

3 November (Monday)
2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

9 November Remembrance Sunday
8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion
10.00am St Cross followed by 10.50am at War Memorial
10.50am Long Marston War Memorial
6.00pm All Saints Evening Meditation
8.00pm St Mary's Compline

16 November
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer
10.00am St Cross Holy Communion
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

17 November (Monday)
2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

23 November
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion and Sunday Club
3.30pm St Mary's Evening Prayer
6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer
6.30pm St Cross Evening Prayer

30 November
10.00am All Saints Joint Village Christingle Service

Your friends and relations all over the world can read Village News on-line. Find us at

www.tringruralpc.org.uk *and click 'Village News'*
www.wilstone.me.uk *and click 'Village News'*

What's on...

LONG MARSTON VILLAGE HALL A.G.M.

You are invited to join us at the Hall for cheese and wine on:

Tuesday, 25th November at 8pm

Everyone is welcome, especially those who are willing to join the committee and/or help to raise funds to improve the Hall.

WE NEED YOU!

Please Support Your Village Hall

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)
The public are welcome to attend these meetings.
Wednesday 19 November, Wilstone village hall.
Wednesday 17 December, Wilstone village hall.

Friday 31 October
Children's Halloween party, Wilstone village hall.

Saturday 1st November
Dacorum BC "Free family fun day" at Long Marston village hall and recreation ground, 11am - 4pm.

Saturday 1st November
"Not only Ballroom for Fun" 8pm Wilstone village hall.

Sunday 2nd November
Fireworks at Long Marston, Old Tom's Meadow, 6.15pm

Tuesday 11 November
Remembrance Day Compline at St. Mary's.

Friday 14 November
Wilstone film night: 'Sixty Six'. Village hall.

Tuesday 25 November
Long Marston village hall AGM, 8pm.

Saturday 29 November
Christmas Bazaar at LM village hall, 2pm.

Friday 12 December
Wilstone film night: 'Mamma Mia'. Village hall.

Tuesday 16 December
Carols around the tree at Long Marston.

Thursday 18 December
Father Christmas visits Wilstone (early evening).

Times for mobile library

Thursdays, fortnightly: November 6th and 20th.

Tringford (Piggeries Pine)	**11.10 to 11.30**
Wilstone (The Half Moon)	**11.35 to 12.35**
Astrope (Astrope Lane)	**13.15 to 13.35**
Puttenham (Church Lane)	**13.40 to 14.40**
Long Marston (Queen's Head)	**14.50 to 16.20**

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

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY

31ST OCTOBER

5.30 – 7PM

WILSTONE VILLAGE HALL

FANCY DRESS

BEST CARVED PUMPKIN COMPETITION

DISCO GAMES PRIZES

£3 ON DOOR OR

PHONE JO FOR TICKETS

01442 891444

Wilstone Village Hall Committee presents...

Not only

Ballroom for Fun! Another evening for everyone who loves dancing.

By popular demand WVHC present an evening of dancing and tuition) for everyone. Dance professionals Joanne and Gordon will be on hand (or foot) to help you really enjoy the evening. Ballroom, Latin, Salsa, Ceroc and Jive. Terrific non-stop music to dance to. Limited number of tickets so book now.

Saturday 1st November, 8pm

Wilstone Village Hall.

Tickets £8 from Maggie Buchi 01442 890599

Licenced bar - Charity raffle

Wilstone Film Nights

Friday, November 14th

This British film is in the true tradition of films from the successful stable of Four Weddings and a Funeral and Bridget Jones, with its mix of comedy and pathos. It takes you back to 1966 to the time when England won the World Cup, which coincides and overshadows the most important day in a twelve year old boy's life - his bar mitzvah!

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Tickets available now from
The Halfmoon pub,
Mead's Farm Shop
or from Colin Reedman at
25 Tring Road, Wilstone

Tickets £6.
Films commence at 8pm. Bar open from 7.15pm.

In Brief...

Farewell to Sub-postmistress

by Phil Buchi

23rd September was a sad day for these villages as the Post Offices at Long Marston and Wilstone were both closed for good. Wilstone also said goodbye to Jenni Corsby, Sub-postmistress for the last five years, as the village shop closed its doors too. Just before the counter shut for the last time, a group of customers gathered for the presentation of a bouquet of flowers to Jenni by Colin Davenport, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, in recognition of her service to the community.

Making the presentation on behalf of the Committee, Colin said how much the shop had contributed to community life and commended all the staff for making it a pleasure to visit. The Committee was particularly grateful for the support Jenni had given to village events by acting as an unpaid ticket agent. This had made it much easier for people to get tickets and take part in the many activities at the village hall. Jenni said that she had really enjoyed the last five years and was sad it had to end. The empty shelves were lined with the dozens of 'thank you' cards customers had sent during the last week of opening. (An everything-half-price sale seemed to have been quite effective at clearing the remaining stock.)

Last post: Colin Davenport makes the presentation on behalf of the committee. (Picture: John Painter)

A group of villagers have formed a steering group to see if some form of community shop is possible and this is reported on elsewhere in *Village News.*

Light up a Life for someone special this Christmas

Our Light up a Life trees and ceremonies provide you and your family with the opportunity to remember and reflect on someone special who may no longer be with us.

If you would like to remember someone special with a tree light and support The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home this Christmas please contact: **Fundraising on 01442 890 222, www.irhh.org**

You are very welcome at our special ceremonies whether the person you are remembering was cared for by Iain Rennie Hospice at Home or not. Maybe you would like to join us at your local ceremony in Church Square, Tring, on Sunday 23rd November. The annual service begins at 3.00pm followed by the candle ceremony and lights at 4.00pm.
IRHH has been caring for patients and their families across the Chilterns area of Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire for 22 years.

Given a choice, most people will decide to remain in the comfort and security of their own homes during the final stages of a terminal or life threatening illness. By providing a 24hour on call service, our teams of nurses make this possible. They offer specialist nursing care for patients and support for their families.

There is no charge to our patients for the very special care we offer which is supported by fundraising, donations and legacies and events such as Light up a Life. To keep going we have to raise £3.2 million this year to look after more than 850 patients we expect to need us.

FIRST STEPS PRE-SCHOOL, LONG MARSTON

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

We are open 4 mornings a week from 9.15am to 11.45am
We have a great team of Fully-Qualified Staff
Lunch Club on Tues & Fri: 11.45am – 1.15pm
For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact our Playleader: Teresa Giddings on 07925 185311

LONG MARSTON BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Everyone Welcome. Come And Meet Some New Faces:
Wednesday mornings (term time) 10-11.30am
Victory Hall, Long Marston
£1.50 per child (50p additional children over 1 year)
Sally Smith: 01296 661689

Sudoku solution No 35

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

An Unusual Trade!

by Fran Flowerdew

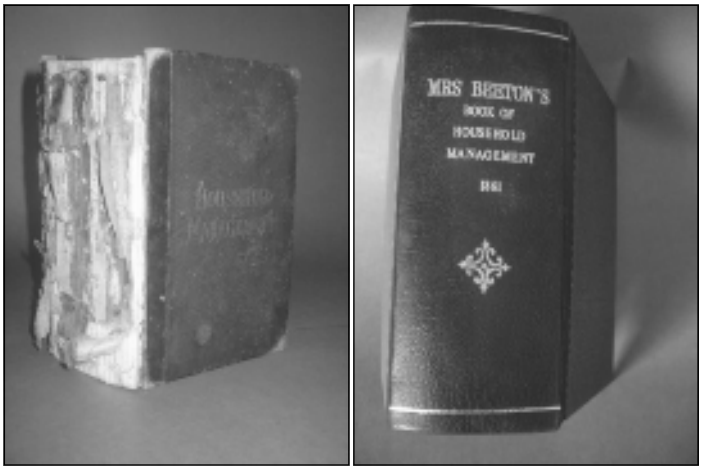
Liz Young in her Studio

Liz Young is a traditional craft bookbinder specialising in the restoration of old books. Liz lives with her husband Kenneth, and two dogs, in a lovely barn conversion in Long Marston. She moved here one year ago after spending 43 years in Buckland where her husband is still Church Warden.

Liz spent her career as a journalist mainly working for the Daily Telegraph and when she retired she was eager to find something new to interest her. That's when she decided to take a full time course in bookbinding at the London College of Printing (now University of the Arts London) There are very few courses of this kind available because the need to bind books by hand has been in steep decline since the nineteen fifties. Mechanisation of bookbinding processes had been introduced in the early 1900s and now virtually all books are made by machine. However, Liz embarked on this two year course which was popular with students looking for a change of career.

Now Liz undertakes all types of hand bookbinding from her lovely workshop in Long Marston. She carries out repairs and restoration on books brought to her by people anxious to return family treasures, or books found on dusty shelves in shops to their original condition.

Her methods include rebacking leather books and rebinding cloth bound books. Restoring a book is a painstaking specialised process sometimes involving sewing the pages together, and restoring covers if possible, or making a new one and attaching the book to the cover. She also makes a small range of photo albums, address books and visitor albums in top quality goat skin leather and hand marbled or hand printed papers. She has displayed her work seven times in the Bucks Open Studios and once in Hertfordshire since she moved here.



Mrs Beeton - Before and after!

If anyone would like to have a book restored, Liz would be delighted to hear from you. The price of this work starts at £25. You are also welcome to visit her studio if you think you might like to purchase one of her albums. She will also be giving a talk on this subject at the Women's Institute Meeting on the 10th March next year, so why not go along and see for yourself! Her email address is young.buckland@virgin.net.

Local History from Book Castle Publishing

If you are looking for the ideal gift...

Why not consider a book brought to you by Book Castle Publishing in Bedfordshire?

We have three new titles for those interested in local history, the first entitled "Signals - A Railway Miscellany: Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire" by Murray Eckett, an enthusiast who has researched the railway system, railway walks and their preservation. In Bedfordshire, he covers the Marston Vale Line and describes walks along the Leighton Buzzard to Dunstable line, Luton Parkway to Harpenden East, Bedford to Hitchin, Bedford to Cambridge and Bedford to Northampton.

The second book is called "We wouldn't have missed it for the world "The Women's Land Army in Bedfordshire 1939-1950" by Stuart Antrobus. Based on extensive research and numerous interviews with former land girls, this book takes us back to the days of wartime activity, of military airfields and the presence of American GIs. A definitive alphabetical list of almost 3500 maiden names will enable family historians to find if their forebears served as land girls in Bedfordshire.

The final book is more light hearted. It is the story of Russ Sainty, a performer at the legendary California Ballroom in Dunstable. Russ and his group, The Nu-Notes performed no less than 338 sessions up to the mid-sixties, including the opening night of March 12th 1960. During over 50 years in show business he has met and performed with many famous stars. Russ's story, entitled "King of the Cali' A Lifetime in Rock n' Roll" is a roller coaster ride of triumph and disappointment, but is told with truth and integrity.

So if nostalgia is your forte... all these books are available through your local bookshops.

Friends of Ashridge

Just because the autumn's here doesn't mean we need to hibernate just yet – there's a lot going on at Ashridge this month and next, including things you won't need your wellies to enjoy! See the National Trust website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk or explore the Friends of Ashridge's brand-new website at www.friendsofashridge.org.uk which has lots of interesting information about Ashridge and what's happening. Three Friends' events to put in your diaries now:

- Ashridge at Christmas Fair – Sunday 7 December 2008. 10am-4pm. Crafts, gifts, local produce, handmade cards, music, NT shop, refreshments, centred around and in Ashridge Monument Visitor Centre, Ringshall HP4 1LX. Free entry.
- Ashridge Christmas Walk - Sunday 28 December 2008. 10am-12 noon. Join the Friends of Ashridge and gently walk off a bit of the Christmas excess – mince pies and wine at the end to redress the balance! Start and end at Ashridge Monument Visitor Centre. Booking essential by 21 December, please: 01442 851 227. FoA members £3, other adults £4, children under 16 £2.
- Spring Plant Fair –This hugely popular event on 10 May next year needs no introduction to gardeners – but we need your help! Now is the time to pot up your surplus plants to donate to our bumper annual plant fair. The proceeds all help keep the Ashridge Estate a beautiful place for everyone to enjoy. Whether you have trees, shrubs, perennials, vegetables, herbs or annuals, we'll welcome your donations of well-rooted, healthy plants. Contact Stuart Downhill any time between now and 10 May 2009 on 01442 865 821

Scores of people already volunteer their time to keep the Ashridge Estate in good shape. But did you know that the following two places are part of the Estate now?

- Pitstone Windmill is looking for volunteers. The windmill is part of The National Trust and is open Sundays and Bank Holidays from the beginning of June to the end of August, 2.30 to 6pm. They have two wardens for each session so you'll never be on your own! They are also looking for volunteers to help with some advertising…
- Pitstone Green Farm has recently been acquired by The National Trust at Ashridge and the Museum based there is looking for some enthusiastic people to help with all sorts of things including with exhibits and on open days. They are also looking for volunteers to help in the café.

So please get involved and help The National Trust or one of their tenants by volunteering.
Contact Bryony at the Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre for more information: ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk or 01442 851 227.

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Long Time Reunion

by Vic Spratt

Vic and Chris Spratt had relations visiting from Saskatchewan, Canada. After twenty years Vic's brother Peter decided to look up his brothers and to take a holiday in England to do so. Two of Peter's sons and one daughter in law agreed it would be nice to meet relations, some of whom they had never met. So braving the English weather they arrived on the 10th of September for two weeks. Peter and son Tim stayed in Wilstone whilst son Reg and his wife Trish stayed at the Brownlow B & B in Ivinghoe.
After touring popular tourist attractions such as Windsor Castle and the Cotswolds etc and enjoying the Half Moon Village pub, a family reunion was arranged to take place on the Sunday before they were due to return home to Canada. This took place on the ground behind Tring Road that Vic and Chris have rented for 25 years and which the Council are soon to build 13 houses on in the near future.
Thirty six relations were present at the party seen in the attached photograph; hopefully some will be recognised by local people. Should anyone wish to know more about anyone in the photo just ask Vic or Chris.

The Spratt Gathering

Spotters' Corner

by Phil Buchi

No. 427: The Douglas Dakota (C-47/C-53)

Visiting Dakota at RAF Halton (Picture: Village News)

THIS magnificent example of the Douglas Dakota wartime workhorse was spotted by the runway at nearby RAF Halton during their annual "at home" open day this year. In the colours of the USAAF, complete with D-Day invasion markings (the black and white bands), this surviving example was open to visitors and many queued to have a look inside. Over 10,000 of these sturdy aircraft were built and they were the mainstay of both USAAF and RAF transport squadrons throughout the war, serving in every battle zone. Developed initially as the DC-3 commercial airliner, it first flew in 1935 when it represented a huge step forward in the design of passenger aircraft. After the war thousands of surviving Dakotas re-started the fledgling civil aviation business all over the world, and a substantial number survive to this day.

The RAF Halton open days are well worth attending - and they are free! This year held over the weekend of 14/15 June, there were many displays of flying and aerobatics, exhibitions on the ground, vintage aircraft and opportunities to take a short flight around the airfield and over our villages.

FARM P.E. MEAD & Sons SHOP

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Parish Council News

by John Painter

Report: Tring Rural Parish Council meeting October 15th Cecelia Hall, Puttenham

There was a good turn out from members of the public for the meeting of Tring Rural Parish Council on October 15th when representatives of Dacorum Borough Council Planning Department and Aldwyck Housing Association attended the meeting to talk about the affordable housing scheme in Wilstone and their recent discussions in which 13 units had been considered rather than the 6-8 units originally suggested.

The Affordable Housing Development in Wilstone

The representative from DBC Planning explained that they had a duty to make the best possible use of the land and that therefore a larger development than originally proposed should be considered, but that it was still thought to be a small scale development. He said that the new proposal was a more logical development of the area; that it would create a more satisfactory relationship with, and sit more naturally within, the present building line from Grange Road along behind Tring Road. Members of the Parish Council expressed some concern that the proposals had been discussed at a meeting between the Housing Association and DBC, and that they themselves had only found out about the new proposals, which would also make use of an additional piece of land at present privately owned, when the minutes were later circulated.

The Parish Council pointed out that the original plans had been based on a housing needs survey that had identified that 6-8 units would be required to satisfy the need for affordable housing within the village; that the original plans had been quite acceptable and that a new requirement for 13 units seemed only to have arisen because of the availability of a new piece of land, and had not been based on identified needs. Local residents attending the meeting were also given an opportunity to address the meeting, one of whom raised a point that the Parish Plan allowed only for building that provided for a genuine need within the Village. Other residents expressed concern that the additional development would further exacerbate the current problems with traffic in the village. The Parish Council also asked whether they could consider building 6-8 units now and the remainder if the need arose.

The representative from DBC and the Housing Association said that they thought that the additional units were necessary to make the plans financially viable. They were then asked by the Parish Council in that case why had the Housing Association agreed to submit a proposal for 6-8 units; and why since the land was being gifted, more units were required for viability, when other developments with fewer units, and for which land had been purchased, were still viable.

The Planning Officers also said that the properties would only be available to people nominated by DBC, with no right to buy, and that this would be 'in perpetuity', and that this would be written into the contract as a part of the conditions for gifting the land to the Housing Association. The Parish Council queried whether 'in perpetuity' really would mean that, and whether such a statement could really be relied upon.

Mike & Diane Armson have now had the antiques shop in Wilstone for 15 years, and are always happy to advise or help anyone interested in buying or selling antiques. To get in touch phone 01442 890990 or 07860 910034.
armsonantiques@tiscali.co.uk
Our website is up and running and updated regularly.

www.armsonantiques.com

We are frequently on the premises, but to view the stock a prior phone call is definitely recommended.

The Old Post Office
34 Tring Road
Wilstone, Nr Tring, Herts, HP23 4PB

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The Planning Officer said that Aldwyck Housing Association would not be prepared to proceed without the support of the Parish Council. Aldwyck Housing Association with DBC will now prepare and put forward detailed proposals for the development, for the Parish Council to consider and clarify their proposal for the number of units to be built.

The Village Shop and Post Office Closures
The Parish Council noted that the Post Office closures had taken place, and no time had been lost in removing the signs! The relocation of the pillar box in Long Marston is also planned. They also stated that there had been a good response to the Village Shop Survey, which the Parish Council have supported, contributing to the printing costs. They will also arrange to have the results published on the Parish Council web site.

Other Matters
Plans are in hand to ensure that the bus stop in Long Marston is clearly marked, with a time table, and plans for a Bus shelter will then be considered. The Chairman reported that the Big Tidy Up by the WI was very successful.
Quotes for work to clear the verge in Wilstone Village Hall car park and seeding it, and clearing the rough area in Long Marston recreation ground have been received. After discussion, a quote was accepted and the contractors will be authorised to proceed.
The provision of a skateboarding ramp was discussed. A ramp that may be suitable has been identified and the Parish Council are discussing the possibility of arranging a trip so that some of the youngsters can have a look at the ramp in question at another site.

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 Kim Deathe 01296 662 623

The Clerk to the Council is:
Mrs Dawn Slade 01442 824 138

***The Village Warden is*:**
Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822 031

Parish Council website: **www.tringruralpc.org.uk**

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"Parish Go Extreme" - phase 1 complete

by Phil Buchi

A CHEQUE for £4,000 was handed over last month to the Parish Council's "Parish Go Extreme" project by Dacorum Councillor Derek Townsend. Young people who had worked with the Parish Council on the project were at the meeting at Wilstone village hall to receive the cheque from Cllr. Townsend.

Cllr. Derek Townsend presents the cheque for Phase 1 to the "Parish Go Extreme" group and Parish Council Chairman Mike Tomlinson in front of the new five-a-side goal.
(Picture: Village News)

"Parish Go Extreme" is a project to improve the recreation ground facilities for young people at Long Marston and Wilstone. A number of local children have attended special Council meetings over the last year to decide what was required and which items represented best value for money. Cllr. Townsend was present at one of the first meetings and decided to use his discretionary grant of £2,000 per year from the Dacorum Community Fund to help. The cheque for £4,000 represents the grant for two financial years. Presenting the money, he said how impressed he had been with the work of the young people, the plans and models that had been produced, and the fact that they had raised some of the money themselves. "It's a wonderful project", he added.

With this money, and funds from the Parish Council, Phase 1 of the project has now been completed. At Long Marston recreation ground a five-a-side goal and a Zig Zag Twister have been installed, while Wilstone recreation ground had been provided with a basketball goal and a five-a-side goal. The main purpose of the meeting was to begin Phase 2, and a fascinating discussion on the technicalities of a skateboard park ensued. Those present agreed to seek views from school friends and meet again at Long Marston. A skateboard park is an expensive item though. Around £35,000 might be needed, so it is likely to be beyond the resources of the Parish Council alone. Funding partners and sponsors would need to be sought, and the Council would like to hear from anyone who has any ideas in this direction.

HO HO HO for the Hospice of St Francis!

CHRISTMAS has come three months early at the Hospice of St Francis in Berkhamsted where staff and volunteers are busy kicking off their new fun festive fundraiser - Hemel Hempstead's first ever Santa Dash.

People of all ages, shapes and sizes, even the family dog, can register to take part in the Santa dash - a two and a half mile run, walk, jog, skip or sleigh through the streets of the town centre dressed up in a free supplied Santa outfit.

The festive fun takes place on Sunday December 7th and everyone who takes part can collect sponsors to raise cash for the charity. Everyone at work, at home and at school can get involved and in the festive spirit.

Registration costs just £15 for adults and £5 for kids or £35 for a family (2 adults and up to 3 children including the dog).

Organiser Fran Martin said: "This is all about fun – it's a great way to do something entertaining as a family and raise money for the Hospice at the same time. It's the first time we have organised an event like this and the first time that Hemel will have seen hundreds of Santas running through the town! We want everyone to get involved and make this a Christmas moment to remember.

"We are delighted to have the Snow Centre on board as our main sponsors, along with Premier Inn Central who are giving away a free bacon buttie and a cuppa to all Santa dashers."

Stephen Jordan, Technical Operations Director, said: "Supporting the Hospice of St Francis' Santa Dash is a perfect fit for the Snow Centre and as Britain's premier indoor snow sports destination we are delighted to be involved from the start. It would be great to see this event snowball and raise much needed funds for the Hospice."

Call Fran Martin on 01442 869555 or email fran.martin@stfrancis.org.uk now for your Santa pack and dash for cash for the Hospice of St Francis.

Ok - so who forgot the reindeer?

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Jumble Tale!

by Andy Ashwell

One of the areas that we seem to have missed out on our local travels is Puttenham. In fact the only time that we visited there for an event was last Christmas when we went to the carol service and Florence threw crisps and raisins at the congregation.

Last month I remembered reading about a jumble sale in Puttenham and decided that it would be nice to go back there, but this time we'd go crisp-less and raisin-less. When we arrived at the hall, just after the 10 o'clock opening-time, it was deserted and far from open. We looked through the window and it was obvious that there was no jumble sale happening and no likelihood of one happening either.

A quick phone-call home confirmed that it should have started at 10 o'clock, but it wasn't starting in Puttenham. I'd confused the report about last month's Puttenham sale with the advert for this month's Wilstone one. So we climbed back into the car and headed off to the correct venue with our pennies at the ready.

We found Wilstone village hall crowded and the sale in full swing. We had a quick look round and I bought a couple of books for Florence, a cup of coffee for me and an old pair of shoes for Mummy, which Florence took an immediate fancy to.

When we got home we found Mummy preparing our lunch. Unfortunately she wasn't very impressed with her 'present' and was even less impressed when Florence donned the shoes and clomped about the house chanting "Mummy got lots of shoes." As we ate lunch, Mummy suggested that we should visit the Long Marston school fair later in the afternoon as it would give us an opportunity to look round to see what was on offer for Florence in a couple of year's time.

The three of us walked to the school accompanied by Dolly in the pink pushchair, which made navigating through the crowds a trifle difficult. However, we found somewhere discrete to park it and there were lots of things to do and masses of children's books to choose from. "We like to encourage the youngsters to read," said the lady manning the stall. At 10p each, we were more than 'encouraged' and bought ten. I must say that my pound spent on the books was much better value than the 3-quid Florence spent on the tombola to win a solitary packet of measly Jammy Dodgers. When we later went to the 'tea-room' for a drink, I spotted a great opportunity to recoup the loss by eating our own biscuits instead of buying more. Unfortunately my cunning plan was foiled because every drink came with a complimentary biscuit.

When we crossed the playground to go home, Florence spotted the school's nice big climbing frame, so we stopped for her to have a quick play. After 20 minutes Mummy went home to prepare our tea (she likes cooking for us…I think). After a further 30 minutes, I also decided to leave. Consequently, it wasn't the easiest of journeys home having to carry a pushchair and our spoils in one hand and a kicking and whinging child in the other.

Still, Florence soon cheered up at the sight of Mummy's 'new' shoes, which she then wore throughout the meal and clomped about in for the rest of the evening. So, if we do manage to get to next year's Puttenham jumble sale, we will certainly check the date more carefully, but I doubt that we will buy Mummy another pair of nice 'new' shoes.

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Youth In Need Tanzania - Jumble Update

Can I thank everyone who gave up their time and money to help us raise a splendid £380 at our jumble sale for our Youth in Need project. Even the weather stayed dry as people waited patiently for the doors to open - not easy with the lovely smell of bacon cooking. After 2 manic hours it was great to have so many positive comments as people left with full bags and stomachs from what was a great success.

What would you give for theses two!!

Special thanks to the helpers, and John and Evelyn for supplying the food for breakfast and Caroline for the scrummy Bakewell Tart (absolutely delicious!)
Can I also take this opportunity to thank the people who have donated cash on line and prefer to remain anonymous - we are truly grateful.

Janet is now busy with her Christmas Crackers. It may sound a bit early, but last year she made over 150 and this year she wants to avoid the last minute rush on Christmas Eve!!!

We appreciate your constant support - Vanessa Illey.

Trim your heating bills

In July 2008, the UK 's largest domestic energy supplier warned that gas bills could rise by up to 35% in 2008. This continues the upward trend in household gas and electricity costs since 2005.

Can we do anything to slow down these rising energy costs? As space and water heating account for around 60% of the energy used in the average home, this is a good place to start. Follow these 5 tips to trim your heating bills:

- Use your programmer to switch the heating and hot water on and off and set your thermostat at between 18 and 21° C. Every 1° C above this increases your heating bill by 10%.
- Avoid using the immersion heater to heat water. The relatively high unit cost of electricity makes it more cost effective to use your gas boiler for this.
- Switch supplier or switch tariff. If you have Economy 7, time your washing machine and dish washer to exploit the cheaper night-time electricity tariff.
- Make the most of each use of a given appliance. Wash clothes and dishes when you have a full load ready to go. Switch things off when not in use.
- Insulate your home. The Energy Saving Trust now estimates annual savings of £160 from installing cavity wall insulation. This is currently free to over 70s.

For advice on insulating your home, call Cocoon on 0800 8048 777. This is a free, council-supported service.

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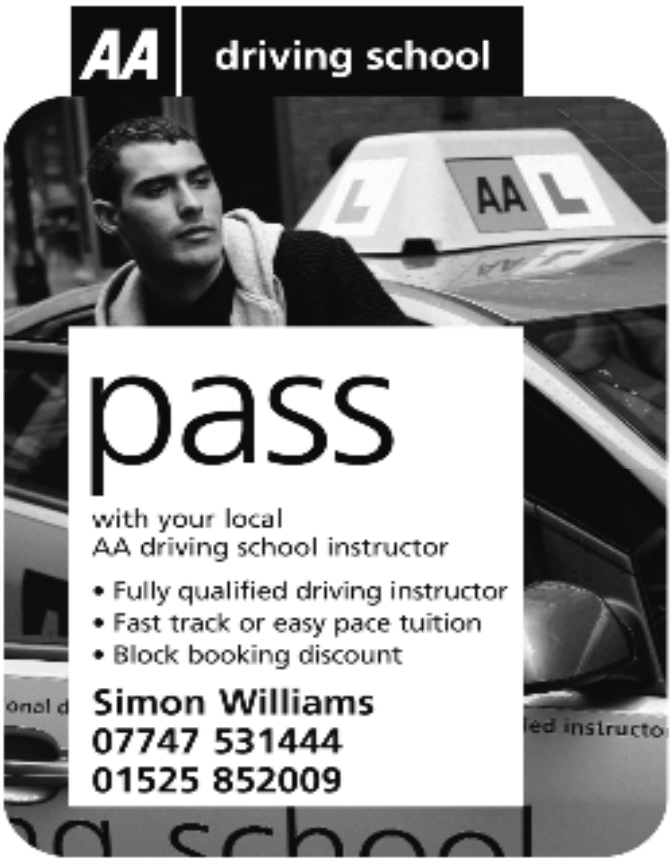

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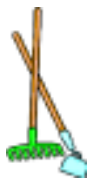

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Store at your door update - October 2008

from the Village Shop Steering Group

So much progress has been made this month to develop a community shop it's hard to know quite where to begin. Our small steering group seems to grow each week as more and more people offer to spend their time and energy to try and make the scheme a success.

A key step has been the survey distributed to every household in the parish. The headline results of the survey are:

- 25% of households across the Parish replied, a relatively high number for this type of activity.
- Over ¾ of respondents said that having a village shop is important to them.
- Key aspects for customers are:
  - Prices must be largely similar to supermarkets, certainly no more than 10% for the majority
  - Convenient opening hours, in particular 8am – 12 pm
  - Good quality and range of foods that are always on the shelves
  - Friendly, welcoming service.
- Postage stamps, newspapers/magazines, fresh goods - such as delicatessen, bakery, local produce and dairy products, plus greeting cards are the most popular products.
- Community services such as tickets for local events and an advertisement/ notice board would also be valued, making the shop an important hub for the community.

Finally, thank you to the many respondents who said they are willing to contribute, particularly by offering to buy shares in any new venture, or to volunteer their help – we will be in touch!

We are looking to display the full set of results shortly on the Wilstone Village website www.wilstone.me.uk and click village news, plus the Half Moon pub in Wilstone, The Boot, Long Marston and on the windows of the old Wilstone Village Shop.

Although these results are positive, the list of things still needing to be done is huge!

We are investigating premises and have had some good leads that need more consideration and work done before decisions can be made.

We have yet to investigate funding routes – although we know there is funding available from several sources for this type of project, we need to write bids and are likely to be competing with any number of villages that have also lost their shops with the Post Office closures.

Then there's the bank account, a business plan, Health and Safety requirements, the stock, the legalities, voluntary staff training - the list goes on and on, but with your support, enthusiasm and energy we may just be able to pull this off.

Our most pressing need at the moment is for people who have knowledge of drawing up rental agreements and business plans so we can start to write bids for funding. Plus we need project management, accountancy and small business knowledge. If anyone has any of these skills and would like to donate them to this project, please contact Jane Waterhouse on 01442 826813.

ASHRIDGE AMBLE ROCKS!!

The 2008 Ashridge Amble was a fabulous success. 309 walkers (a new record) took part raising funds for the Friends of Tring School and in the process enjoying a beautiful walk of either 7 or 16 miles. 34 of the 309 braved the 16 mile walk, including two year 7 girls. Shame on the rest of you!! The weather was hot and sunny, a glorious autumn day. Those marking the course out at 6am were treated to a stunning sunrise over the mist in the valley. Everyone else was treated to an excellent day out.

The walk uses the Ashridge Boundary Trail and meanders from the monument via Ivinghoe Beacon, Ringshall and then the 16 mile route heads down the Golden Valley to Frithsden via Lttle Gaddesden then to Berkhamsted and Northchurch then finally back to the monument. The 7 mile route returns to the monument from Ringshall.

FoTS runs this event every two years as the 'house challenge'; the house with the largest number of walkers, this year Halton with 91, wins the Challenge Cup. The Challenge shield is then awarded to the house that raises the most amount of sponsorship money. The result of this will be on the FoTS page of the school website www.Tring.herts.sch.uk - look us up and come along to our events!

Next FoTS event is the AGM on 10th November. Everyone with an interest in helping Tring School is welcome to attend. 7.30pm in the Conference Room at Tring School. Can't make it but want to be involved? Then call us on 01442 822303 or e-mail friendstringsch@aol.com

Does anyone know the way!

Remembrance Sunday - 9th November
Armistice Day - Tuesday 11th November

The New Tree in Wilstone

By John Painter

The Tree planted by the Bus shelter in Wilstone has been identified as "*Koelreuteria paniculata*", or for those of us without the benefit of a classical education (!) "Golden Rain Tree", also known as "Pride of India".

It is described as densely domed on thick rising branches to 15m, very dark foliage, brown bark ultimately craggy, interlacing ridges. Shoots are pale coppery brown, leaves flushing garish red then ultimately amber pink, small mustard-yellow flowers on dramatic 30cm pyramidal panicles, then pinkish bladders like Chinese lanterns.

Out with the old - in with the new! *(Photo by C. Reedman)*

Sudoku Corner

by Colin Moore

No 35 Difficult NEW now with solution on page 6

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

Give your brain a work out. Fill in the grid so that every column, row and 3x3 box contains only the digits 1 to 9.

Wilstone Film Nights

Friday, December 12th

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The agricultural story line... *by David Mead*

RAPESEED OIL is in production. Like the engine drivers of old with their oily rags, Simon has had his kitchen towel at the ready, mopping up the drips and spillage. Once the inside of the press was polished, output was quite impressive. Filtration was the next challenge. Eventually with the help of Sat Nav, a man was found with experience in these things. He lived in Northumberland, where they were still combining. It meant the oil could be bottled, labelled and ready for sale on the morning of the Cheddington Food Fair. With the salesman in clean shirt (no oily rag) a good number of eggs could be fried for Sunday breakfast. It is almost hot enough this Sunday to fry them on that rock outside.

Working on a Sunday? Not in my Grandfather's time. Cattle and horses were fed and then it was off to New Mill Baptist Chapel - perhaps twice - for the service, have a walk round the cemetery, then home for lunch or tea. It did mean there was no overtime. Those extra shillings (after tax) would have been very welcome.

Wheat prices are still falling, below £80 a ton now. I spoke to David Murrell of Thistlebrook. He and Simon both thought there will be farmers who will leave their land un-drilled. In fact some merchants are offering £115 for autumn '09 because they fear there won't be the wheat about. I gather GB has exported 1 million tons of wheat this autumn. A lot has gone to China. Apparently rice prices are so high, European wheat makes bread to be eaten on the day it is baked. But a grain ship presently tied up at Tilbury is taking a while to fill. The price offered is not high enough to tempt farmers to open their grain stores.

With the grass still growing most of the cattle are still out. With a change in the weather they will have to be yarded and fed silage until next April/May.

Forces sweetheart Vera Lynn pictured on the sheet music for We'll Meet Again, one of her many successful recordings.

Teresa had a lovely day last weekend. Mick Jowett assists at the Aces High in Wendover where pilots from World War 2 are invited to be wined and dined. There they signed paintings and photographs. Anyway, Teresa went and to her delight met Vera Lynn! Apparently the Dame was 91 and looked so well. Mick said the occasion was a great success, with tales coming from all quarters. Mick takes superb photographs of the celebrities. Pilots come from America, Germany, Poland and Great Britain.

It's the time of year for maize silage. The maize, including the cob, makes a very palatable silage. Unfortunately the deer from Ashridge also like the maize at Aldbury. Simon and the girls sell this crop to a dairy farmer.

Chris's father-in-law, George Norman, qualified for the National Ploughing Championship in Kent. Chris took his family to support Grandfather, who found himself ploughing a plot next to a world champion. I believe he knows he is not champion and his result will be posted on to him.

Millennium Copse Volunteers Needed!

A small working party is gathering on **Sunday 2nd November from 10:00am till 12:30 pm** to clear the two footpaths in the Millennium Copse at Wilstone and we would really benefit from extra help from anyone who has some time to spare**.** All tools, gloves, first aid, risk assessments, etc will be provided. This is the first part of a general tidy up and replanting scheme which is being developed for the area, aiming to make it much more accessible and wildlife-friendly. If this project is successful, it is hoped we can move on to tackle other areas in the Parish.

News from All Saints

Sponsored Bike 'n' Hike in September. Apologies for not thanking those who sat in the Church for us and also Stephanie, Elaine and John who cycled. All the sponsorship money has been collected, thanks to you all.

Don't forget All Saints has a **Parish Room** which can be used for meetings – it's where the WI are having their Craft Evenings! There are coffee making facilities and a toilet in the Church too. Interested? – do contact Angus Munday.

Recipe page *by Anna Ashwell*

Blackened sweet aubergine or poor man's caviar.

There are many adaptations of this easy recipe - this is Jamie Oliver's version. It is especially good served with fresh bread as a starter. If you like things a little spicier add more cumin and coriander.

Ingredients:

- 4 medium sized aubergines
- 1 clove of garlic
- Juice of 2 lemons
- 1 teaspoon of cumin seeds
- 1 handful of chopped coriander

Olive oil, salt and freshly ground pepper

Method:

Preheat the oven to maximum and place the aubergines on a tray to cook for one hour.
Once cooked, scrape out the flesh from inside. Add the cumin and crushed garlic and then stir to break up the aubergine. Add olive oil to loosen.
Squeeze in the lemon juice and then salt and pepper to taste.

If you prefer a smoother texture, put the mixture in a blender and blitz for a few seconds.

Best served cold or at room temperature.

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The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

A few years back, I used to run a column in the Parish Newletter called "Times Past", reprinting items from Parish Magazines from 20/30 years ago. I was recently given a little piece of history by Nora Proctor dating back to 1962 and written by the Revd. Anthony. It took the form of a single sixmo sheet of paper (I think I have recalled this correctly from my youth – nowadays the nearest size would be A5). I reprint it below, some of which could have been written just yesterday – hope you enjoy it!

SEPTEMBER, 1962

THE PARISH PAPER

Puttenham & Long Marston with Wilstone

The clerical profession (continued). The priesthood has it roots in the fact that all men are sinners, and the almost universal instinct of the human heart that when an offence has been committed it behoves the offender to do what is in his power to make up. If my bonfire has smutted a neighbour's washing it behoves me to make the housewife a present say of a bar of soap, and perhaps to offer to turn the wringer for the re-rinsing. When it is Almighty God against whom the offence has been committed the gift of making-up is called a sin-offering, and the offence itself is a sin. And the actual offering-up is termed offering sacrifice. This idea of sin-offerings to appease the Deity is a world-wide one. And the principle is right and true even when the god is false, men thinking that a stone is their god, or the sun is their god, or Zeus, or Jupiter or Baal as the case might be. And usually, even among primitive peoples, there developed a special caste of men know as priests for the actual business of offering up the sacrifices on the altar. That is the function of a priesthood to offer sacrifice. In the Jewish nation the sacrificial system was very fully developed, and all through the Old Testament we read of the Jewish priesthood offering-up sacrifices for sin as people brought their animals. But those offerings of bulls and goats and the like could not atone for sin, though they were good as far as they went since at least they expressed the desire to make up. Then came Jesus Christ and offered by the one oblation of Himself on Calvary a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. And now and until the end of time the Christian priesthood re-presents that sacrifice on the altars of the Church. For naming this action we have the business-like little word Mass. And of central importance is the weekly sacrifice, Sunday mass. It is the official collective act of worship of Christendom. The Old Testament principle of sacrifice is not altered but more perfectly carried out now. The sacrificial worship of the Jews was racial. It was the worship of the Daughter of Sion to God. Now in the Sacrifice of the Mass it is the worship of the entire human race. Mass is the only great collective action of the human race as such. And in a world on the brink of ruin, and quite unable ever of itself to regain its sanity, no occasion for fallen men is more fitting for him to take part in. In my coming retirement may the blessed mutter of the Mass fall daily on my ears. Everywhere all over this country are dotted England's ancient mass-houses. But today that which began with bloody sacrifice has given place very largely to the idea of keeping a parish church ticking-over as a sort of social centre, with clubs, and fellowships, and tea-parties and what-not with the clerical profession for running the shows, and the parish church itself useful for passing an hour away on a Sunday evening. "It makes for somewhere to go," said a lady parishioner. Heigh-ho! Ring a ding, ring a dong !! Keep religion going, Girls !!!

****

By way of a canter on my hobby horse, "Puttenham-Rights-of-Way", be it stated that three public footpaths go through the gateway of the main drive at Astrope Folly: one to Aston Clinton, one to Marsworth and one to Wilstone,

Mrs.Thomas Chapman received splendid support both from helpers and patrons for the Puttenham St. Marys effort, resulting in £64 for the funds. The stolen censer replacement costing £5.15s.0d. was quickly paid for at All Saints by donations amounting to £3.2s.6d., and the rest by sale of gooseberries. Many thanks to everyone, not forgetting the Irishman who gathered the gooseberries, but most of all to Mrs.Chapman. It was her first public venture and a very happy and successful one too.

****

Any now I have come to the laying down of my pen as the writer of the Parish Paper. When I come to the last laying down of all may

"Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
Bless the bed that I lie on".

And may they bless my dear readers, too.

E.J. ANTHONY

The Puttenham Page (cont.)

REPORT on the OCTOBER SUPPLY & AUCTION

What a great night we had! We were 90 in number (although two people were unable to come at the last minute) After our usual ample October feast, we were treated to some excellent foot-tapping music provided by John Bly on drums, James Bly on piano and Ruben Godden on electric and traditional guitars. The charity draw resulted in donations to the Parkinson Society (chosen by Eileen Proctor), the Renal Unit at "Churchill" Oxford (Shirley Pinnock), and the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home (Shirley Crawford). After a break for the raffle, we launched into the Auction, and, between the serious business of purchasing and emptying our purses, John Bly kept us in fits of laughter. Luke Brown and Luke England must be thanked for their work as "runners" collecting the money. The "Weight of the Marrow" competition (Marrow A and Marrow B) was won by Rob Elliott and Dennis Godwin.

The Evening raised over £900 (final amount yet to be confirmed as at going to print) and our sincere thanks must go to those who helped set-up for the meal, provided the excellent food and helped in every way possible. As always, a very sincere "***Thank You".***

heArt of Wilstone

By Sara Cross

The next heArt of Wilstone exhibition is almost here - on Saturday 22th November between 11am and 4pm you are invited to enjoy the work of different artists, most of whom live right here in Wilstone.

This year we have a guest artist to exhibit with us. Come along to see the wonderful stained glass work produced by Jenny Timms and Mike Caddy of Vitreus Art. Their Tiffany method of stained glass is stunningly demonstrated in their evocative Art deco style pieces.

Entry is free and everyone is welcome to come along to browse a wonderful and varied selection of art while enjoying some refreshments. Many pieces of artwork are available to buy so you might find some good Christmas presents or even a treat for yourself,

A percentage of sales go to Iain Rennie at Home and the Friends of Youth in Need. Last year, in our first heArt of Wilstone Exhibition, we raised over £500 for the charities.

Please do come along and join the artists at Wilstone Village Hall, Tring Road, Wilstone. Tring Road is just off the Lower Icknield Way B489 close to the reservoir. There is free parking at the Hall.

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Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

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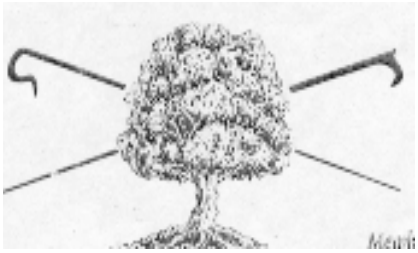

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From the Vicarage… by Rev'd Martin Macdonald

God and War – How do you make your moral decisions?

The month of November often corresponds to a liturgical season known as the Kingdom season. In simple terms one could call this a time to remember. Within this season we have a number of important events: All Saints Patronal Festival; All Souls – the commemoration of the faithful departed at St Cross; and Remembrance Sunday/ Remembrance Day. However, because of the talk on God and War which we had at Tring School recently, I'd like to focus on just one of these - Remembrance Sunday, which again this year will be held at a time when, whether we agree with it or not, the armed forces of this country are fighting on our behalf.

At the inaugural session of the Tring School RE community initiative our guest speaker was Rev'd Stuart Hallam, Chaplain to 40 Commando Royal Marines. He talked movingly about his role as a Christian minister working alongside troops stationed in Helmand province in Afghanistan. In particular he described the peace keeping work and then how he held a young officer, JT, as he died from his wounds. If that wasn't shocking enough, we were made to feel worse when we came to realise that we as a group of well educated interested folk from the local area didn't actually know why we were fighting in Afghanistan.

Before asking the specific question about the Afghan war, it is important for a Christian to ask - may a Christian ever justifiably take part in violence? A negative answer to this question implies nonviolent pacifism, which has a lot of support from many Christians. A positive answer requires going a stage further to address a number of corollary questions defining the conditions under which the use of violence is morally permissible for a Christian.

The German theologian Bonhoeffer argued that there was a movement from the 13th Century towards the autonomy of humanity. That is, we can solve problems without resorting to God. He said this led people to identify themselves against God. However Christ helps us by weakness and suffering, not omnipotence. Therefore we should not expect God to change a situation for us, but we should work for change ourselves. He was therefore able to justify for himself active participation in the German resistance movement. He said, *"If I see a madman driving a car into a group of innocent bystanders, then I can't, as a Christian, simply wait for a catastrophe and then comfort the wounded and bury the dead. I must try to wrestle the steering wheel out of the hands of the driver."* Bonhoeffer was obviously writing at an extreme point in history. But his imperative does emphasise that many have found that there can be 'just wars'.

This idea of a just theory, developed over centuries of Christian tradition, has become codified so that, for any resort to war to be justified, a political community, or state, must fulfil each and every one of the following six requirements: just cause; right intention; proper authority and public declaration; last resort; probability of success and proportionality. How these principles are then put into practice in a situation such as Afghanistan is up to debate.

Stuart asked us all to be more political in our understanding of our war. To realise that young men and women are being asked to risk their lives on our behalf, but too few of us can be bothered to find out why they are doing it. I would like to ask you to be more religious in your approach and to make a decision based on your understanding of God if you think that the war is the right thing to be involved in. If you come to the conclusion that it is an important and just conflict then we must pray for those prepared to risk their lives. If you think it is unjust then as Christians we must exert our prophetic voices to bring about a change of policy. It doesn't seem acceptable to have no view.

Our family service on Remembrance Sunday will be at St Cross, Wilstone with the uniformed organisations. It will be an opportunity to remember all who have given their lives in war both in the past and today, and to pray for peace. There will also be a short act of Remembrance at the war memorial in Long Marston at 10.50 am and there will be a service of compline at St Mary's on 11th November at 8 pm.

Special Services in November

All Saints Patronal Festival
Sunday 2nd November 10 am there will be a joint team service at All Saints, Long Marston.

All Souls Day – a day to remember
Sunday 2nd November 6.30 pm at St Cross, Wilstone there will be a service for the villages to commemorate the faithful departed. There are lists in each of the churches to add any names of loved ones to. You may wish to bring a flower or sprig of rosemary to the service to lay on the altar in memory of someone.

Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 9th November 10 am St Cross Remembrance Parade service finishing at the war memorial with the act of remembrance. There will also be a short act of remembrance at Long Marston War Memorial, beginning at 10.50 am and a service of compline at St Mary's at 8 pm on 11th November.

Habitat Sing - a - Long
Mark, Elaine, Duncan and Emma from All Saints congregation would like to thank everyone who sponsored them as part of our parish trip to Kyrgyzstan. There will be a special service (hymns, no sermon!) where they will share their experience and some photos. Come along – you may be inspired to go next year! All Saints Thursday 27th November 8 pm.

Christingle
Sunday 30th November there will be a Christingle service at All Saints, Long Marston. All welcome to this service at the beginning of Advent.

Long Marston Cricket Club

by Paul Dumpleton

All quiet now at Marlins after a hectic season. Work on the ground has been completed for the winter and then, as always, lovely sunny and very warm Saturday and Sunday afternoons become a feature of the weather. The club will be holding its Annual General meeting on 13th November where among other items, will be the selection of playing captains for the 2009 season.

A very successful awards and presentation dinner, again superbly organised by Julie Green, was held at Mentmore Golf & Country Club on Saturday 4th October. The award winners were:-

JOHN CALDER CUP 2008 (Most improved junior player) - **Adam Wells**
HAROLD CUTLER MEMORIAL CUP 2008 (Most promising junior player) - **James Beesley**

MARY SIMS MEMORIAL CUP 2008 (Best match winning performance) - **Adam Wells**

DUMPY SALVER 2008 (Best all round league performance) - **Peter Toovey**

LEN DEAN CUP 1st XI 2008 (1st XI Players player of the year) - **Peter Toovey**

LEN DEAN CUP 2nd XI 2008 (2nd XI Players player of the year) - **Matthew Wareham**

THOMAS CHAPMAN MEMORIAL AWARD 2008 (Services to LMCC) - **John Waldram**

Back row (L-R): Peter Toovey, Lee Beesley, Matt Wareham, Front row (L-R) John Waldram, Adam Wells

Martin Wright topped the club's batting averages and Peter Toovey the bowling. During the season Peter and Lee Beesley took 108 wickets between them, bowling a combined total of 561 overs.
Top ten in the batting and bowling averages for the season are:

Bowling Average (Qualification: 10 wickets)

	Mat.	Overs	Maidens	Wkts	Eco.	Av.
P. Toovey	27	233.1	37	**53**	3.19	**14.04**
L. Beesley	25	228	41	**55**	3.55	**14.75**
S. Bound	7	44	4	**10**	3.47	**15.3**
J. Beesley	11	68	17	**15**	3.91	**17.73**
P. O'Reilly	13	112.5	24	**19**	3.21	**19.05**
M. Wright	23	91.2	8	**20**	4.19	**19.15**
J. Horn	38	211.3	27	**45**	4.45	**20.93**
W. Dallimore	32	86.1	6	**16**	4.04	**21.75**
A. Wells	41	230	14	**55**	5.28	**22.09**
J. Roberts	23	63.4	8	**11**	3.97	**22.91**

Batting Average (Qualification: 10 innings)

	Mat.	Inn's	N/Out	Runs	H/Score	Av.
M. Wright	23	22	5	**733**	91*	**43.12**
C. Slade	13	11	3	**279**	130*	**34.88**
M. Lyons	31	30	0	**935**	110	**31.17**
B. Evans	12	11	2	**269**	61	**29.89**
G. Graveson	16	15	4	**302**	74	**27.45**
A. Pierce	13	12	2	**264**	84	**26.4**
H. Bowles	29	29	3	**677**	85	**26.04**
J. Beardmore	12	12	2	**239**	73*	**23.9**
S. Robinson	18	18	2	**371**	73*	**23.19**
M. Green	33	32	3	**672**	79	**23.17**

Engine picture!

This lovely old portable steam engine is owned by Mr Chris Griffiths of Gubblecote and was on show (in steam) at the Marsworth Steam Rally earlier this year.

Engines like this would be moved to field or farm yard by horses where they would drive machines such as a thresher using a belt around the huge flywheel as the power take-off.

Preserved examples are unusual, partly because they can't move under their own steam and are therefore a lot more trouble to take to events like this. The almost silent operation is testimony to the huge amount of work done to get this engine in excellent order. (Picture: Phil Buchi)

Local girl goes ape!

By Ann Corcoran

Lucy with baby Tia

Wilstone girl Lucy Birkett is joining the Californian chimpanzees at the end of this month to start her PhD research. Chimpanzees are native to the African rainforests, but are kept in zoos across the country. 'I'm studying personality in chimpanzees,' says Lucy. ' There is so much research now showing how similar the great apes and humans are, in terms of DNA, intelligence, and social abilities, and so it makes sense that they should have individual personalities similar to humans as well'. Indeed recent research has shown the unique characters of these amazing animals, and Lucy is going to look more closely at these differences. 'Each chimp has its own personality, and I am going to look at some of the chimps which behave quite unusually compared to their friends. It could be they are suffering from some form of mental illness, a bit like personality disorders in humans. It's quite new research, so we are not sure what we will find'.

Lucy first started studying primates for her undergraduate degree in Anthropology. After completing University, she worked as a primate keeper at Howletts Wild Animal Park in Kent for a year, before studying the gorillas there for her masters project. 'The gorillas at Howletts are fascinating animals. They know all the keepers' individual personalities as well as we know theirs, and they have learnt such a lot about human behaviour, that they can predict our actions and have even learnt to trick us sometimes. What I loved the most was the way they genuinely cared and showed affection towards their gorilla friends and family. They form very close knit groups.' Lucy is pictured with baby Tia, an infant who is being hand-reared after her mother didn't know how to look after her.

Babydoll - aged 47 *(Love the haircut - Ed!)*

Although nervous about the year ahead, Lucy is looking forward to the study. 'It's an amazing opportunity, and it's a real honour to learn more about our closest living relatives, especially considering the very real threats to their survival in the wild,' she says. We wish her every success!

VILLAGE VIEW

BY JOHN PAINTER

Enjoying the last of the Summer Sunshine