

December 2007

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



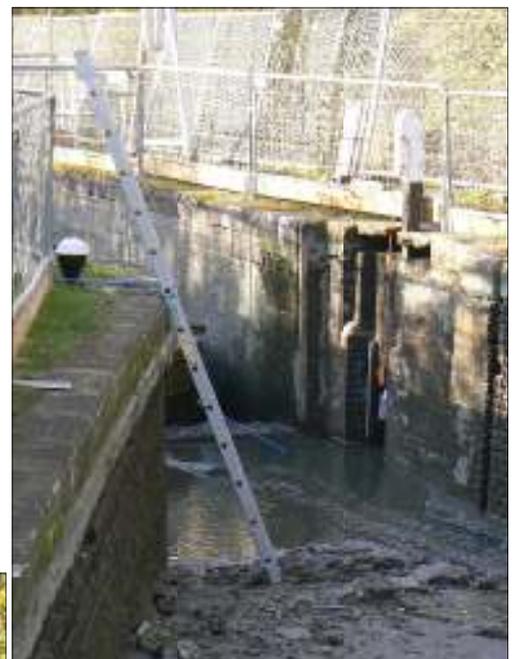
A Very Merry Christmas and Happy new year to all our Readers and Contributors from the Editorial Team.

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Lock-out at No.9!

THERE it was - gone. Presenting an unusual sight on the Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal between Wilstone and Puttenham, major repair works to the Gudgeon Stream Lock No.9 have required the de-watering of a section using a portable canvas dam. The top gate has been removed and will be replaced with a new gate as part of the works. A section of the brick retaining wall on the opposite bank needs to be rebuilt, as does the cill for the bottom gate. On the towpath side, the retaining wall leading to the top gate entrance has acquired an inconvenient bulge in the brickwork, causing it to leak water. This wall will be rebuilt too. Because of this leak, British Waterways engineers were unable to use the conventional stop-boards at the lock entrance to



There it was - gone. No top gate at No. 9.
Picture: Village News



Holding back the Grand Union.
Picture: Village News

hold back the water. Hence the unusual dam of canvas and scaffold poles which enables you to see the bottom of the canal! BW staff said that the work is expected to continue until mid-December, and that you are welcome to come and take a look as the task progresses. The towpath by Lock No.9 remains open and you get a great view from the adjacent bridge. Well worth a visit.

Special features:

- Incinerator update 6
- Tring Cubs & Scouts 7
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- Write for Village News. New articles welcome!

On page 7 there is an article on the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Do you belong to, run or get involved with any local organisations? Why not publicise it here and get more support. Write to the editor with details.

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.

25 November

10.00am St Cross All Age Worship
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion and
Sunday Club
3.30pm St Mary's Evening Prayer
6.30pm All Saints Evening Prayer

2 December

10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer
6.30pm St Cross Evening Prayer
6.30pm All Saints Evening Prayer

3 December (Monday)

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

9 December

8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer
6.30pm St Cross Holy Communion
6.30pm All Saints Evening Prayer

16 December

10.00am St Cross Holy Communion
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion
3.30pm St Mary's Carol Service
6.30pm St Cross Evening Prayer
6.30pm All Saints Evening Prayer

23 December

10.00am St Cross All Age Worship
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion and
Sunday Club Nativity
3.30pm St Mary's Evening Prayer
6.30pm All Saints Evening Prayer

24 December

4.00pm All Saints Crib Service
7.00pm St Cross Carol Service
11.30pm St Mary's Holy Communion

25 December Christmas Day

10.00am St Cross Holy Communion
10.00am All Saints Family Communion

30 December

10.00am Team Worship at
St Peter and St Paul, Tring

6 January

10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer
6.30pm St Cross Evening Prayer
6.30pm All Saints Evening Prayer

7 January (Monday)

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

13 January

8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer
6.30pm St Cross Holy Communion
6.30pm All Saints Evening Prayer

20 January

10.00am St Cross Holy Communion
10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer
6.30pm St Cross Evening Prayer
6.30pm All Saints Evening Prayer

21 January (Monday)

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

27 January

10.00am St Cross All Age Worship
10.00am All Saints Holy Communion and
Sunday Club
3.30pm St Mary's Evening Prayer
6.30pm All Saints Evening Prayer

Village News

Editor this month: Colin Davenport

Email: editorwlp@yahoo.com
 Post: Editor, 27 Tring Road, Wilstone, HP23 4PE.
 Phone: 01442 890599

Editorial Team

Caroline Beevers, Phil Buchi, Colin Davenport, Fran Flowerdew, John McCall, Colin Moore, Jill Walker

Advertising Manager

Colette Bernard 01296 661172

Distribution Manager & Secretary

Carole Harrison 01296 668526

Finance Manager & Treasurer

John Harrison 01296 668526

How time flies!

ANOTHER year nearly over, I can't believe that Christmas is almost upon us once again. And what a year it has been with floods and tornadoes around the country. Luckily our Parish missed the worst of these but the rain seemed to encourage the council/water board to source and repair the leaks that have been with us for many months.

One benefit of this weather has been the beautiful autumn colours that we have enjoyed and the abundance of fruits and berries that our wildlife can also enjoy. Now the cold weather has finally arrived, don't forget to feed the birds (feathered ones).

The next edition will not be until February as the editors need the time to do their Christmas shopping and enjoy Christmas and the New Year celebrations! Send in your articles, letters, reports and photos in good time for that edition. It is your contributions that keep Village News going.

In the meantime have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Colin Davenport

Deadline for items for our next edition (February) is Thursday 17 January 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!

Printed by **Express Printing**

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

Congratulations

to Robert and Melanie Williams of Wilstone on the birth of their daughter Tania Jasmine on 27th October, weighing in at 7lbs. A baby sister to young Lucas shown here proudly holding Tania.



The Internet & Broadband!

HAVE you ever been "slammed"? This apparently is the word used when a service you have, is taken over by another service provider without your consent. This happened to me as I was starting to do this month's *Village News*. The background to it is too long and complicated to go into here but basically my BT broadband service was taken over by TalkTalk which meant that one afternoon when I had started on the *Village News*, my e-mail connection suddenly disappeared along with the internet connection. Panic! After 2½ hours of phone calls to both TalkTalk and BT and listening to endless taped music from South Africa, India, Acton and Northamptonshire, I was finally advised that I would have to re-apply for a BT line which would take 11 working days and then apply for Broadband again. An impossible situation with a deadline for this edition! Letters and e-mails (via a neighbour's computer) to various people within BT from the Chairman down has (hopefully) shortened this timescale - but not yet.

Thanks to modern technology, Yahoo and good neighbours I have been able to go across the road and use another computer, download the incoming articles on to a memory stick and then upload on to my computer. A real hassle, so if you did not get a reply to your article or if anything that you did send in is not quite as you intended, my apologies - blame TalkTalk and BT.

So I must thank Ian & Eileen Doley for the daily use of their computer and Broadband connection and to Phil Buchi for also downloading on to a memory stick. Between us we have made the deadline - just.

Colin Davenport

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...

Mentmore Village Hall

Quiz Night

7pm Saturday 19th January 2008

(Next door to the Stag in Mentmore)
 Tickets will include food and quiz entry
 (6 people per table)
 Licensed Bar & Raffle
 Phone for tickets Diane or Linda
 £6 including food & quiz entry fee
 01296-661141 or 01296 661489
 Proceeds to the Village Hall

Mentmore Village Hall



Christmas Fayre

Sunday 2nd December
2pm - 5pm

**Come and meet
 Father Christmas.
 Christmas Carols
 Mulled Wine,
 Hot Seasonal Food
 Gift ideas, Tombola
 Raffle, Children's Activities
 Home made Christmas Cakes,
 Sweets & Puddings**



Proceeds to local charities

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)

The public are welcome to attend these meetings.

Wednesday 19 December, Wilstone village hall

Special meeting for young people, Tue 27 November
 6pm - 7pm, Wilstone village hall. (See page 5)

Parish Plan Review, Thur 6 December 8pm, LM v hall.

Saturday 24 November

heArt of Wilstone exhibition. Wilstone village hall,
 11am to 4pm.

Christmas Bazaar at LM village hall, 2 - 4pm.

Flower festival, Little Gaddesdon, 11am-4pm (see ad).

Quiz night at Long Marston village hall, 7.30 (see ad).

Sunday 25 November

Panto auditions for children's chorus 3.30pm. Meeting
 for adults at 4.30pm. At LM village hall.

Friday 30 November

Tring Christmas Festival. High St. 6.30pm-9.30pm

Sunday 2 December

Mentmore Christmas Fayre 2pm-5pm

Sunday 9 December

Aldbury Singers Christmas Concert 7.30pm

St. John the Baptist . Aldbury

Wednesday 12 & Thursday 13 December

Long Marston School Concert (LM village hall)

Friday 14 December

Wilstone Film Night "The World's Fastest Indian".
 See ad.

Saturday 15 December

Wilstone Toddlers Group Christmas fair 10.00- 12.30.

Sunday 16 December

Children's Christmas Party (LM village hall)

Tuesday 18 December

Carols round the Christmas tree - Long Marston. 7pm

Monday 31 December

New Years Eve Party. Wilstone village hall. See ad.

Tuesday 8 January 2008

Horticultural Society AGM. LM village hall 8.30pm

Saturday 19 January 2008

Pantomime tickets on sale. See ad. on p7.

Quiz night . Mentmore village hall. 7pm

14,15&16 February 2008

Pantomime "Aladdin", Long Marston village hall.

Tuesday 19 February 2008

WI. Flowers for Valentine past by John Noakes

Tuesday 11 March

WI. Flower arranging demonstration by Mrs P Cundell

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

Wilstone Village Hall

New Years Eve Party



8 till late



Tickets £10
Under 12s £5

Bring your own drinks
Food provided.
Kevin's Disco

Tring Rural Parish Council

The Parish Council will be holding two special meetings to which all villagers are invited to attend.

Tuesday 27 November, 6pm to 7pm
Special meeting to discuss the needs of young people in the villages.

All youngsters and adults who would like to help the Council with this should attend.

At Wilstone village hall.

Thursday 6 December, 8pm.

Annual review of the Parish Plan.

All villagers are invited to participate in this review of progress made with the 2005 Parish Plan actions.

At Long Marston village hall.

TOBY'S LEGENDARY QUIZZES PRESENTS

SANTA AND HIS SACK OF CACK!

AT THE QUEENS HEAD, LONG MARSTON
ON SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER

7.00 FOR 7.30 START

COME AND HAVE A DELVE
FOR 50P

**ENTRY £2 PER PERSON
(TEAMS OF UP TO 8)**

RAISING MONEY FOR THR IRHH



COFFEE

EVENING

with

MARY and ANDREW MINTER

19 NEW ROAD WILSTONE

FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER

at 7.30 pm

BRING & BUY and RAFFLE

in aid of

Wilstone Village Church

No incinerator at Aston Clinton by Phil Buchi

THERE will be no Energy-from-Waste (EfW) incinerator at the College Road site near Aston Clinton and Buckland. (See *Village News*, September 2007). With perhaps a touch of official irony, Bucks County Council chose bonfire night to announce that the Aston Clinton site (known as PAW4) had been removed from the shortlist of five "preferred" locations for this type of waste disposal. In a statement the County Council acknowledged that they had received more than 2,500 individual responses to the consultation document about this particular site, including a petition signed by 12,000 people. But the clincher, apparently, was an objection from a government department because of 'conflicts with aviation'. So we can have a flight path or a chimney it appears, but not both. Interesting choice! Was the proximity of RAF Halton the significant factor, or was it EasyJet? Even so, there can be no doubt that the unprecedented response to the consultation made a big impression on officials. Local people certainly made their voices heard individually, through Parish Councils and through the very well organised protest group ACRID. Because of the huge number of issues raised during the consultation, the timetable for completing the plans has been put back to next year. In February 2008 there will be a further consultation on the final proposals.

Martin Tett, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning said: "This shows that we listen and respond to residents of Buckinghamshire. The whole point of the consultation was to identify key issues and concerns, and there were a number of legitimate issues raised by people across the County. We are thoroughly investigating and assessing these responses. The consultation on the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy next February will give everyone a further opportunity to let us know their views, and proves that this is anything but a fait accompli or "done deal". At the same time we will publish a report with responses to all the points raised so far. I can

assure everyone that all views are being considered. I would urge everyone to take part in next year's consultation."

The Aston Clinton site will still be considered for other waste purposes, such as a household waste recycling site. The official report of the Planning Inspector, Mr B C Wilkinson, sent to the County Council on 19th September, concluded that there is a need for a household waste recycling site on the east side of Aylesbury and that the College Road site would be suitable for this.

In his report, Mr Wilkinson also supported the principle of Energy-from-Waste contained within the County Council's plans and declined to remove it. He wrote in response to objections: "The main matter between the parties lies in the fundamental matter of energy from waste. I understand the concerns... and I do not disagree that the minimisation of the waste at source is of increasing importance. However it is only realistic to conclude that, without a significant contribution from processes such as energy from waste and other "high tech" processes, and with the continuing decline in the amount of waste acceptable for landfill, the amount of waste to be dealt with would at best decline only slowly and might for some time increase, even if minimisation at source were to increase at the hoped-for rate. Without facilities such as those I have referred to (EfW) it is hard to see that the waste produced by society can be effectively dealt with, even if the anticipated reduction in levels of waste takes place. The Council's provisions in respect to such facilities... reflect the national stance and I do not believe that they should alter them."

So more time to consider all the options, but the basic problem has not gone away - how to deal with all the rubbish we produce.

Youth in Need, Tanzania

by Vanessa Iley

THANK YOU all our many friends in the villages who have supported us this year. As many of you know, it has been a hard year with some doubt whether the charity would be able to continue, but with your help we have managed to carry on. As a group over the last three years we have been able to help many children into apprenticeships and a better life, of which we can all be very proud. May I add that Rashidi is now feeling a lot better, and is making a full recovery. He sends his love and thanks for all your help and messages of love and hope.

Janet is still busy making her beautiful Christmas Crackers, and our "Sunderland Depot" is making Christmas stockings etc, all at very competitive prices. We will be holding a coffee morning at Janet's home on 12th December, 10.30 am to 1pm (see advert), and look forward to seeing you there. May I take this opportunity to say thank you and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Wednesday 12th December
10.30am to 1-ish
at 34 Grange Road, Wilstone.

Come along for your mince pie and mulled wine.
All welcome!

In aid of the Youth in Need Project, Tanzania.



1st Wilstone and Long Marston Scout Group *by Jane Dawson*



This photo is some of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at their end of term AGM and summer barbeque.

WE have a thriving well equipped group of about 70 members who take part in varied activities designed to help them develop and challenge themselves. Scouting has been busy in this its Centenary Year. The children have all been joining in the adventure, helped by a team of enthusiastic voluntary Leaders and Assistants. We meet every Wednesday in term time at Wilstone Village Hall.

The Beavers have found out about and met people in the community, been to RAF Halton to learn about flying and then made their own paper planes and kites as well as joined in outside events at Wendover Woods and county campsites. The Scouts have exciting outdoor activities, learning skills to help them in district and county competitions from camping, sailing, cooking and raft building to night time logistical tasks and orienteering. This summer some of them had an adventurous two week camp at a Scottish base in the Highlands undertaking strenuous hill walking, sailing and cycling. Cubs had a camp where they were challenged by rock climbing, archery and building rafts to sail on the lake. They have also been working on badges such as weather, naturalist and fitness as well as making bird boxes and racing go-karts.

As with all organisations we always need help – more help shares the work. We have a good team, but at the moment really need someone to assist the Cub Leader. He is unable to continue after Christmas without at least one Assistant. This person would help with some of the planning and assist along with a parent helper at the meetings. Would you like to help children continue to reap the benefits of Scouting? You do need to have children who are/have been in Scouts. Younger or older, can you help? It would be a shame to see the Cub pack close after Christmas.

If you would like to discuss it further please ring Jane Dawson (Group Scout Leader) on 01442 827410



Festive gifts and Food for all the family

*Christmas trees and Holly wreaths here 1st December.
Christmas hampers to order.
Orders also being taken now for fruit, veg and meat.*

Always a big selection of quality fresh vegetables.
Extensive freezer selection too.
Our own lamb and beef and local venison.
Top brand pet foods and animal feeds.
Garden bird tables and bird food.

Open 7 days

**Lower Icknield Way, Wilstone Green
(01442) 828478**

The L M & P Horticultural Society is pleased to announce:

**Tickets for
THE LONG MARSTON PANTOMIME:**

ALADDIN

by Neil Gurney

Will be on sale at Long Marston Village Hall on

Saturday, 19th January

from 11am to 12noon

After which they will be available from:

**The Boot, the Queens Head
and Wilstone Village Shop**

*Pantomime performances will take place
at Long Marston Village Hall on:*

Thursday, 14th February at 8pm

Friday, 15th February at 8pm

Saturday, 16th February at 2.30pm & 8pm

Adults: £6, Senior Citizens: £4, Children: £3.

If you would like to help with the Panto
please ring Colette on 01296 661172

Christmas presents

by *Andy Ashwell*

DURING our walks in and around the village with 19-month-old Florence strapped to my back I spend quite a lot of time thinking out loud and talking rubbish as a way of trying to encourage her speech development. It doesn't appear to be working particularly well as she generally ignores most of what I have to say unless it involves animal noises, in which case she perks up and mimics me perfectly.

With Christmas not far away, my banal monologues have begun to lean towards my annual worries over what presents to buy for the various relatives, friends and in-laws.

I'm quite easy to buy for because, unlike a lot of people, I'm always happy to receive nice practical or useful presents and over the years I've been given all manner of handy items. For example - just after I first left home and moved into my own place, my parents gave me some gardening equipment, a large tin of paint (magnolia) and some brushes - very useful. The next year they gave me a toilet brush, a large bottle of bleach (extra strong) and some air freshener - very tactful.

On the other hand, my girlfriend at the time (and surprisingly now my wife) wasn't at all impressed with the vacuum cleaner, duster and rubber gloves that I gave her one year. Strangely enough, she wasn't impressed either with the ill-fitting, skimpy lingerie that I bought for her the next.



Florence has fun wrapping the goat's Christmas present.

Photo: Andy Ashwell

As we tramped through the fields the sound of the crunching autumn leaves reminded me that babies are often just as happy playing with the wrapping paper as with the actual present that it contains. So perhaps Florence would be con-

tent with lots of crunchy wrapping paper wrapped in lots more crunchy wrapping paper. A nice and practical present too, as it could also be used for starting a lovely roaring fire after Christmas dinner.

My mind wandered back to our many excursions in and around the village since moving here last December and as I uttered my thoughts over my shoulder ideas for more presents started to flow. For instance, the Astrope spaceship reminded me of my young nephew's obsession with Dr Who; the tennis club of my brother's sporting prowess; the horses of my sister's love of riding; the medieval villages of my ageing parents; and the old goat of my mother-in-law.

As we stood watching the metaphorical "mothers-in-law" I wondered what presents, if any, they might like for Christmas. The rubber gloves that my wife rejected all those years ago sprang to mind and they would certainly come in handy for scaling the electric fence.

So, although I haven't yet come up with a definitive answer to my problem with presents, I certainly have some promising ideas to work with. There's also enough time left before Christmas to fit in a few more mobile elocution lessons during which I'm sure, with a bit of luck, we'll stumble upon all the appropriate answers.

Have a very Merry Christmas.

Reviewed: Iain Rennie Quiz Book 2007/08

A NEW quiz book has been published by the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home charity in time to help you entertain the family over the long Christmas holidays. The booklet contains 12 different brain teasers each with 20 questions on a different theme. A little more unusual than many quizzes there are a wide variety of puzzles such as "What comes next?"; "Who is this?"; "Who wrote what?" and "Odd one out". To add incentive to your endeavours there is a chance to win a prize of £50 of vouchers with the most correct answers. Available for a modest donation of at least £2, proceeds will help this well regarded local charity. Just the thing to keep the family distracted on Christmas Day after the Queen's speech!

Available from local shops, or from the Iain Rennie office on 01442 890222. Look out for the red cover.

(Our illustration can't correctly reproduce the red cover on our black and white page unfortunately.)

THE IAIN RENNIE QUIZ BOOK 2007/08

Iain Rennie

Complete and return to IRHH by 30 June 2008

£2

Small text at the bottom: "This booklet contains 12 different brain teasers each with 20 questions on a different theme. To add incentive to your endeavours there is a chance to win a prize of £50 of vouchers with the most correct answers. Available for a modest donation of at least £2, proceeds will help this well regarded local charity. Just the thing to keep the family distracted on Christmas Day after the Queen's speech!"

Parish Council News

by Phil Buchi

We have a deadline date earlier than usual for this edition of Village News caused by an inconvenient month end. Because of this we went to press before the November meeting of the Parish Council had taken place and are unable to report on that meeting. We apologise to readers for this.

Council meeting for youngsters

A SPECIAL meeting of the Parish Council for young people to attend is being held at Wilstone village hall on **Tuesday 27th November** from 6pm to 7pm. The only topic to be discussed that evening is facilities which the Council might provide in the villages for young people. This will be an open discussion where Councillors will listen to views from the floor, and everyone will be encouraged to put their ideas and suggestions in an informal way. All young people, and adults too, who would like to take part are encouraged to attend the special meeting. This will help Councillors to progress with the Parish Plan Action "Leisure and community facilities".

Review of the 2005 Parish Plan

THE first Parish Plan for Tring Rural Parish was published in June 2005 following an extensive consultation exercise

among villagers. One of the purposes of the Plan was to identify areas of concern and improvement, and to turn these into actions. The resulting Action Plan contains 24 actions grouped under six headings. These headings are: Environment; Countryside access; Transport and voluntary services; Housing; Leisure and community facilities; Crime and antisocial issues. Every year the Parish Council holds a review in public of progress with the action plan and publishes a report (which you can read in *Village News*). All villagers can attend the review meeting and take part. Contributions and ideas from the floor are encouraged, so do go along and add your view. This year the review will be held at Long Marston village hall on **Thursday 6th December** starting at 8pm. If you want to know more contact Dawn Slade, Clerk to the Council, on 01442 824138.

Civic duties!

IF you ever wanted to know what being a Parish councillor entails, this may (or may not) give you a clue. Our snapper was in the right place at the right time to picture Cllr. Abby Fermont undertaking one of her community engagements recently. (*Are you sure about this? Ed.*) See photo on P.11.

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Gates Supplied and Erected
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Alan Winfield

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*Michael
Armson (antiques) Ltd*

Mike & Diane Armson have now had the antiques shop in Wilstone for 14 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@ic24.net

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**



The scary Cllr. Fermont - *allegedly*. (Picture: C.Reedman)

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

You can view and comment on planning applications at

www.dacorum.gov.uk/planning

www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

THE CHAPEL ROOM

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Letters...

From VJ Spratt, Wilstone.

Affordable housing

THE Dacorum Council prompted by the Parish Council have taken the next step in developing "Affordable Housing" in the center of Wilstone. Invitations have been issued by the Dacorum Council this month to four Housing Trusts to tender for the development. The Housing Trusts will prepare tenders showing how they would proceed with the development.

The Design Brief issued to the Housing Trusts requires that 8 houses are built consisting of one, two and three bedroom homes *for rent*, for single people and couples. The development is to be at the rear of 36-42 Tring Road.

The Council say that people with Parish connections will be given preference of tenancy! The parish includes the villages of Wilstone, Long Marston, Puttenham, Gubblecote, Astrope and Little Tring. Depending on take up, priority will cascade down to people in the Dacorum Borough.

Wilstone residents have shown that there is a lot of objection to extra houses in the center of the village. A petition object-

ing to the development was signed by nearly 200 *Wilstone* residents in May 2006. The Councils have received several letters of objection and, if you are also of the opinion that this development would be detrimental to Wilstone, taking into consideration the recent growth of Wilstone due to the extra housing developments that have recently taken place in Wilstone and the extra strain on the existing infrastructure any further growth would have, please write to:

Kate Bowles, Planning Dept, Dacorum Council, Civic Center, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 1HH, with copies to Dacorum Councilor Derek Townsend, 54 Millview Road, Tring, Herts, HP23 4EP.

Chairman of the Parish Council Mr. M Tomlinson, Sunny-mead, Tring Road, Long Marston, Herts, HP23 4QL; and Parish Councilor Abby Fermont, Astrope Lane, Wilstone, Herts, HP23 4.

If you have already expressed your opinion to the Council another letter to the above would still be worthwhile. If you are not against it your comments should also be sent to the above.

Need an evening out? Come to the Half Moon for great food, choice of wines, and good beers.

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Are you looking after a friend or relative who is frail or disabled?

Then you are a carer. "Carers in Hertfordshire" have organised two Christmas celebrations for carers groups in the county. These two events offer carers a chance to get together and enjoy a buffet lunch as well as the chance to chat and maybe a quiz or two!

They can arrange transport for those who would otherwise be unable to attend and can help fund alternative care for those who will need someone to be with the person they care for while they go to the event.

So, even if you don't usually go to the Carers in Hertfordshire Carer's Groups, a warm welcome is extended to you. The two Christmas celebrations are from 12.30pm to 2.30pm on:

**Thursday 6th December at
The Youth Centre, St. Thomas' Church,
Langley Road, Watford**

and

**Wednesday 12th December at
William Crook House, Green End Lane,
Hemel Hempstead.**

To book your place give then a call on **01442 253344.**

LONG MARSTON AND PUTTENHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

LONG MARSTON VICTORY HALL

TUESDAY 8TH JAN 2008

8.30pm

OPEN TO ALL WHO LIVE IN LONG MARSTON, ASTROPE, GUBBLE-COTE, PUTTENHAM

REFRESHMENTS

Long Marston Cricket Club *by Paul Dumbleton*

ALL is fairly quiet at Marlins after the hectic 2007 season. The ground has been treated and “put to bed” for the winter. Late mowing, due to the mild autumn, has been an unusual feature this year. Currently work on the ground includes attention to three diseased Horse Chestnut trees on the North side of the ground to make the area safe for players and public alike

Negotiations are underway to finalise details for a three day Minor Counties fixture between Hertfordshire and Cumberland at Marlins in August and a one day “50 over a side” fixture against Northumberland in early June. It is hoped that

these dates can be confirmed in the near future.

At the recent Annual General Meeting, changes in captaincy for 2008 see Martin Wright taking control of the Saturday first eleven and John Roberts, the Saturday seconds. The Sunday sides will be overseen by Simon McLeman and Chris Chapman.

A Happy Christmas from all at Long Marston Cricket Club.

Trainspotters' Corner

Branch line to Marston Gate: revealed

DAVID MEAD'S story "Wagon train for Marston Gate" (*Village News*, October 2007), and the photos of Marston Gate and Cheddington stations found by editor Colin Moore to go with it, made me wonder what else can be seen today of the former branch line to Aylesbury. Passing Cheddington station recently I got out of the car to have a look. And there it was for all to see - the first section of the line to Marston Gate. In fact I did not even have to get out of the car, because the track bed of the branch line has been re-used as the entry road to the station car park! Though the original station buildings are long gone, replaced with a rather unattractive modern block, the platform is still there (behind the gate in this picture) and is used by Network Rail as a sort of depot for road vehicles. As you stand at the steel gate on the old track to Aylesbury you are standing on the exact spot where, on 9th August 1963, the mail train which had been held up at gunpoint in "The Great Train Robbery" was guarded during the police investigation.



The old line to Marston Gate today runs through the station car park. (Picture: Village News)

The Queens Head Long Marston

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Quiz night first Sunday
of the month.

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Wilstone Film Nights

Present Anthony Hopkins in



This film is NOT about Indians. It is NOT particularly about motorcycles either, but it is on the 600cc Indian motorcycle upon which our central character, played by Anthony Hopkins, wants to achieve a life long ambition to become the fastest man on two wheels against many odds, including his age! This true story is really about the passion of one man, Burt Munro of Invercargill, New Zealand, who had a passion about motorcycles and in 1967 took himself and his motorcycle to the United States, with the goal of breaking the world's land speed record at Utah's Bonneville Salt Flats. A moving film, in more ways than one.

Friday December 14th

Licensed bar open from 7.15pm. Film starts at 8pm.

Tickets £5 available from Wilstone village store from Dec 1st



Wanted: "Council News" reporter

VILLAGE NEWS would like to recruit one or more volunteer reporters to cover Tring Rural Parish Council meetings for us and write the "Council News" column. Our regular reporter will be unable to attend the meetings in 2008.

This is not a difficult task for someone interested in local government and the community, and we think the reports provide a useful service to our readers. The Council meets once a month at 8pm. If you can help us with this please call Phil Buchi on 01442 890599 to discuss further.



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Su Doku Corner

by Colin Moore

No 28 Difficult

		6	2	1	3
		3			5
1					
	3	8	4		9
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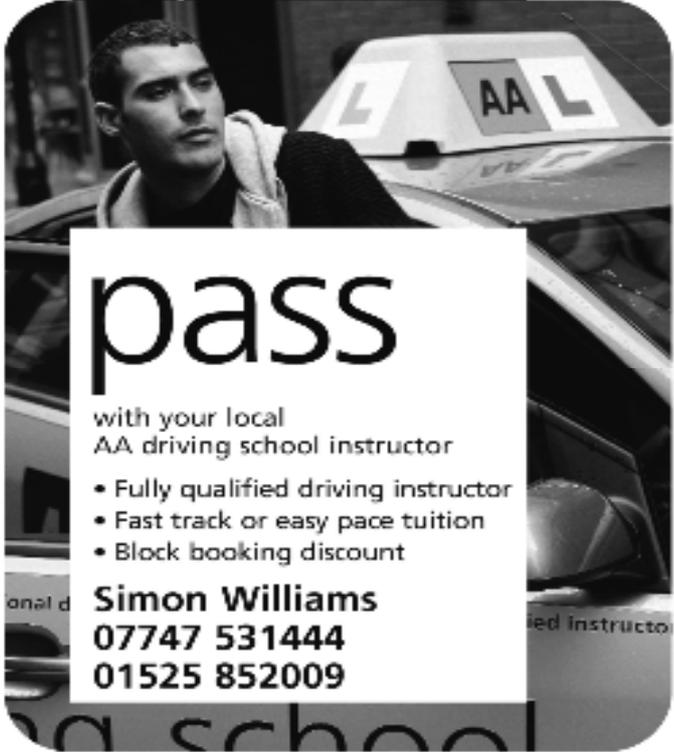
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What's the recipe today Anna?

FOR this month we have a new contributor for the recipe page, **Anna Ashwell**. We also have a volunteer to become the regular contributor for the recipes but if you have a special recipe that you would like to see published, please forward it to the editor.

Sally's

Orange

and

Cranberry

Mincemeat

This recipe was given to me by a very good friend of mine. It makes an excellent vegetarian alternative to traditional mincemeat and has all the same Christmassy flavours. It is also less stodgy than normal mincemeat but I can't guarantee it is less fattening.

Ingredients

2lbs 4oz cooking apples – peeled and chopped
 1 teaspoon mixed spice
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 8oz dark muscavado sugar
 Grated rind and juice of 3 oranges and 1 lemon
 12oz mixed dried fruit
 4oz of dried apricots – chopped
 12oz cranberries (can be fresh or frozen)
 6oz toasted flaked almonds
 ½ pint of brandy, rum or sherry

Instructions

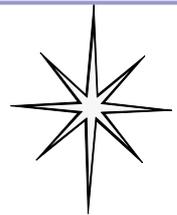
Put the apples in the pan with the spices, sugar citrus rinds and juices and boil covered for 10 minutes. Then add the dried fruit, apricots, cranberries, almonds and alcohol bring to the boil and simmer gently for 10 minutes.

Once cooled, lightly pack into sterilised jars. I find the easiest way to sterilise jars is to put them into a hot oven for 10 minutes, adding the warm mincemeat to the still warm jars.

If stored in a cool place the mincemeat should keep for approximately 4 weeks.



MERRY CHRISTMAS CAROLS ROUND THE TREE



Join us for mulled wine, mince pies & orange squash... and maybe Father Christmas will drop in with a few sweets for the children... so, **DON'T MISS IT!**



**7pm, TUESDAY 18th DECEMBER 2007
 LONG MARSTON CHRISTMAS TREE
 (By the War Memorial)**



SERVICES IN THE VILLAGES

THE churches in these villages, which are part of the Tring Team Parish, have tried to ensure that each village has its own Christmas services, but also to make sure that there are a variety of services in the area so that all styles of worship are catered for. Christmas lies at the heart of our belief. God revealed himself to live as one of us. Come and worship Christ at your church this year.

LESSONS & CAROLS

December 16th St Mary's Puttenham at 3.30 pm & Christmas Eve St Cross, Wilstone at 6.30 pm.

These services are an opportunity to sing your favourite carols and hear the Christmas story.

SUNDAY CLUB NATIVITY



Dec 23rd All Saints, Long Marston at 10 am. In the service there is a traditional nativity play with the Sunday club enacting the Christmas story.

CRIB SERVICE

Christmas Eve All Saints, Long Marston at 4 pm.

This is a chance for all ages to gather together to bless the Crib in expectation of the joyous news we will hear tomorrow.

MIDNIGHT MASS

Christmas Eve St Mary's Puttenham at 11.30 pm A candlelit communion service to greet the Christ Child.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Day All Saints, Long Marston & St Cross Wilstone both have Family Communion Services at 10 am.

30TH DECEMBER

On 5th Sundays we all worship as a Team. The only service will be at 10 am at St Peter & St Paul, Tring.

News from All Saints

Church Quiz – Saturday 24th November. We hope you had an enjoyable evening, or perhaps it has not happened yet? How about joining us? (Victory Hall, 7.30pm for 8pm – just turn up and we will be pleased to see you).

A big thank you to Mags Severs who has organised the village bazaar again this year – we hope everyone involved has a successful afternoon.

Christmas Services. All Saints welcomes everyone to their various services over the Christmas period; details at the front of the magazine. We hope you will join us.

Carole Harrison

Wilstone Toddlers Group

Christmas Fair

Saturday 15th December

10.00am -12.30pm

Wilstone Village Hall



Stalls to include pre-used children's toys, videos, cake stall, Osbourne books and an Avon representative with cosmetics and beauty products.

If you have any pre-used toys to donate, please contact Jane Cole on 01442 828272. Why not join us for a festive glass of mulled wine, tea or coffee.

Strange find!

COULD this unusual object be the tip of a dinosaur claw discarded millions of year ago? Well, probably not, but it is causing some head scratching. Found by a local footpath at a location which is for the moment being kept secret, the claw-like bone (pictured here with a Pound coin) measures about 5cm long and was found on the ground after heavy rains had washed the surface clean. Another theory is that it could be part of a stone-age axe tool. However, all this speculation may be a little too exotic. A local amateur archaeologist when asked for a view said: "Hmm." It might just be a bit of old bone, but it has been sent off the Museum of St. Albans for forensic examination - just in case! If you know what it is, do email *Village News* with your ideas.



Millions of years old?



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The agricultural story line...

by David Mead

A pig he would a-wooning go

A BOAR lived at Gubblecote farm in the 1930s. When "The moon shone over the Chilterns", he would be loaded into a trailer with a net over the top and do some visiting. All very romantic until it comes to the paperwork!

A register had to be kept by the owners of boars in accordance with the swine fever order of 1911 (No. 8184) Article 4(3)

In this register of services by boars these details were written:- Date of each service, description of sow served, name and address of owner of sow. Periodically an official, perhaps the local constable, would examine the book and if satisfied would date and initial. There's no getting away with it. Even so after a couple of journeys, I expect the old fellow needed no persuading to get into the trailer!! (*surprise, surprise. Ed*) I've looked down the list in this book, in this neighbourhood there were at least 30 owners of sows. Today there are none. The nearest commercial herd is in Dagnall where the Cutlers farm.

Here is a list of some of the previous owners:-

In Wilstone:-

H. Cartwright, Mr Bunker (Buckingham Arms), E.Oakley, W.Jeffery, Reg Honour & George Gregory

In Long Marston

W.Bates (Baker), Walter Rodwell & W. Souternwood.

In Puttenham & Astrope

Osbourne, Mrs C.Gregory & Percy Chapman.

New Mill Walter Wilkins, I.Drake, Baldwin (Butcher), A.Brown & J.Ballad.

Others included:-

W.Mead, (Tring Flour Mills) Frank Grace (Little Tring) James Evans (Wiggles Lane), Littlechild (Star tops), Frank Hows (Wingrave) W.Bedford (New Ground) and of course the understanding sows at Gubblecote Farm

There may have been other herds with boars. I'm sure that I have read somewhere that parishes would have boar walkers whose job it was to walk the boar to his appointments, no doubt taking swine fever with him, hence the paperwork. It means that the kitchen tables are no longer heaving under:- Brawn, Chittlings, sides of bacon, Trotters, Hams, Chaps and buckets of blood for the black pudding.

Everything bar the squeak.

Bonfire, Bangers and Balloons

GOOD weather once again blessed us for the Victory Hall's firework and bonfire night on 4th November. I hope that all of you that came had a good time and from the kind comments I have received from many of you the firework display was much enjoyed. The mulled wine, sweets and hot dogs all went down well too. The Chinese lanterns released before the display helped to mark the location of the venue as they rose into a clear, cold sky with the attendant crowd being warmed by a large bonfire. These were followed by 15 minutes of pyrotechnic entertainment that lit up the meadow. The numbers attending were up on last year with 450 people at Old Toms for the evening and I am pleased to report that £660 was raised for our hall's funds.

Once again thank you for your support, thank you to the volunteers who marshalled and served food etc. Thank you to Cole Flatt and Partners for their help advertising the event and to Mr Dean for the use of Old Toms.

David Severs

Victory Hall Committee Member

P.S. As my video camera failed on the night (I should have checked that the spare battery was in the case) I would very much appreciate it if any one has any images from the night, still or moving, if you would allow me to see them or even have a copy. Please contact me on 01296 661 021 or 07742 292 116 or davidsevers@aol.com. Thank you.

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The Vacancy

by Rev'd Huw Bellis

ON Sunday 28th October we had a fantastic service to celebrate the seven years which Frank and Carolyn Mercurio have been with us. In particular we gave thanks for the way in which Frank had fulfilled his vocation as our priest, sharing in our times of joy, and also times of sadness. We also recognized that we would miss him. It therefore seems important to reassure people about exactly what will happen to replace Frank as Team Rector, and what happens in the vacancy.

Firstly the post will be filled. I know there is a perception that the diocese seems to cut posts, but we will definitely be able to keep two stipendiary (paid) clergy in the Tring Team Parish. By the time you read this, The Right Reverend Christopher Foster, Bishop of Hertford, will have been at a meeting of the PCC to start the process of finding a new Team Rector. This is known as a vacancy meeting.

The Bishop wrote to us saying this would be an informal meeting of minds and that he would chair a discussion about the Tring Team Parish, the church's work, and the challenges we face. In particular he wanted to ask the PCC three questions:

1. In the light of the good things that have been happening in recent times, where do the growth points for the parish lie?
2. What are the personal qualities we are looking for in a Team Rector?

What are the things about the Tring Team Parish that we hope will be thought attractive by the person who next comes to provide leadership in ministry here?

The PCC will now delegate a group of people to draw

up a parish profile which will be sent to any prospective candidates. The Bishop will advise us on the best way to advertise the post which can be done through the Diocese and also nationally through publications such as the *Church Times*. I repeat we will definitely be getting a new Team Rector. However what is less certain is the time scale. It may not be a quick process, a year is not unusual in these circumstances

One of Frank's great achievements in his time in the parish has been drawing us together as a Team. It means we are in a stronger position to cope with a vacancy than we have possibly been before. The official control of the parish falls to the two Parish coordinators, Tim James and Janet Goodyer. Tim will chair the PCC meetings, with a declared intention of 'business as usual'. The ministry Team have taken collective responsibility for the services across the Team. We have filled every service until the middle of February including our full pattern of Christmas services. This is a remarkable achievement and we need to acknowledge the work of all of the ministers, both lay and ordained (including the retired priests who help out) as well as those in training. We have another rota planning meeting booked and remain confident that we will be able to continue to provide services in all of our churches until a new Team Rector is in post. The Revd Martin Macdonald remains the first point of contact for St Cross, Wilstone and I am the contact for All Saints, Long Marston. For any pastoral issues relating to St Mary's, Puttenham please feel free to contact either of us, and for issues relating to the church please contact either of the wardens, John Barron or Christine Rutter.

Times for mobile library

Thursdays, fortnightly: December 6th & 20th.

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

Come to Aldbury Singers "Christmas Concert"

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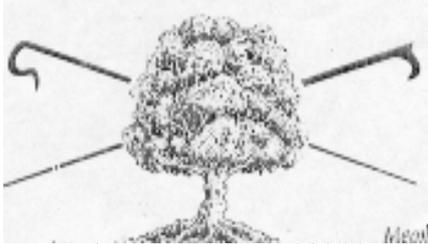
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Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.

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Your editor for February 2008 will be:

Phil Buchi
01442 890599
editorwlp@yahoo.com

Our Advertising Manager is:

Colette Bernard
01296 661172

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From the Vicarage...

by Rev'd Huw Bellis

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

HOW well do you know the Christmas story? I'm sure all of you can give a pretty good account of the nativity, after all we've all seen enough plays with children wearing tea towels on their heads. But do you know how the Bible tells the Christmas story? The problem is that our 'traditional' nativity story is the combination of two different accounts (with a few extra biblical bits thrown in). As we approach Christmas, it is no bad thing to go back and actually read what the Bible tells us.

Of the four Gospel writers, Mark says nothing, and John's account is somewhat otherworldly, which only leaves Matthew and Luke. Matthew doesn't have any shepherds, the angel appears to Joseph not Mary, and Mary and Joseph apparently come from Bethlehem, and only go to Nazareth after the flight to Egypt. It is a distinctive account and it contains a particular theology. From Advent Sunday (2nd December) we will begin to focus on Matthew's Gospel in our Sunday readings for the coming year. So now may be a good time for us all to re-read, or maybe read for the first time, St Matthew's Gospel.

The first thing that you will notice is that he starts in a strange way: he gives us a list of names. It takes a little explanation to understand why he does this and the point he is making. Matthew starts with the early characters from the Old Testament, Abraham, Isaac and the like. His point is that God frequently doesn't choose the best or most noble or saintly. God isn't controlled by human merit but manifests his own unpredictable graciousness. Matthew's is telling us that the story of

Jesus contains as many sinners as saints and is written with crooked lines of liars and betrayers and the immoral, and not only with straight lines. Maybe you too could be part of that story?

Matthew then moves on to a list of kings, and we find that even the institution of the monarchy is both good and bad, and yet it is from this lineage which Jesus comes. I suspect the Church of England may draw comfort from this.

Finally Matthew's genealogy leads us away from the powerful to the unknown. Who are these people, you will probably ask, we don't know. Again the point is that any one can play a part in God's coming. This is emphasised as we look back through the list, we also notice that Matthew has included a remarkable series of women Ruth, Tamar, Rahab, and Bathsheba (i.e. the wife of Uriah). They all have a somewhat mixed history (the saintly women such as Sarah, Rachel and Rebekah are missed out) yet they too were enterprising instruments of God's spirit and they lead us to Mary.

It is against this background that Matthew tells his wonderful news of God coming to be with us, Emmanuel. He finishes his Gospel in the same way with Jesus promising that he will be with us always, he is Emmanuel. The Christmas story isn't meant to be read just by churchy people. God has a role for all of us, and is with each of us. As you prepare to celebrate the wonderful fact that God is with you this Christmas, please try and make a little time to read Matthew's Gospel so that you can be reminded of Jesus' words ***"remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age"***

May I wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

The Rev. Tony Knox *by Phyllis Proctor*

THE Reverend Tony Knox, B.A. of Yarnton, Oxfordshire, died suddenly in hospital on 27th October 2007 aged 76 years. Husband of Susan and father to Anne, Jamie and David.

The Reverend Knox was Vicar of this parish from 28th April 1971 to June 1979. He introduced the Rogation Sunday procession around the three villages with local farmers and parishioners. Riding on tractors and trailers accompanied by the Salvation Army band, blessing the fields and farms - greatly enjoyed by everyone.



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Remembrance

SERVICES of Remembrance held at Long Marston and Wilstone war memorials were both well attended this year. At Long Marston, Mike Watkin led the service at All Saints which was followed by a parade of Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies to the war memorial for the two minutes silence. Representatives of the British Legion attended with their standard. Cllr Mike Tomlinson laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council, and Brownies and Cubs also placed wreaths at the foot of the memorial. At 11 o'clock in Wilstone, Rev'd Martin Macdonald conducted a service with villagers at the memorial. The wreath of poppies was laid by Mr Ben Reeves, a veteran of the North African and Italian campaigns.



Above. The Wreaths laid at Long Marston.
Photo: Village News



The congregation at Wilstone led by the Reverend Martin Macdonald. Photo: C.Reedman



Part of the congregation at Long Marston. Photo: Village News.



Ben Reeves laying the wreath at Wilstone war memorial.
Photo: C.Reedman



Old soldier Ben Reeves with the Reverend Martin Macdonald. Photo: C.Reedman

LEST WE FORGET

Witches, ghosts and things that go bump in the night *by Jo Woodbridge*

AN evening of ghoulish activities and scary dancing was enjoyed by 50 children and quite a few adults at the annual Wilstone Halloween party. DJ Kevin supplied the chilling music and spot prizes for musical bumps and best dancing.

The children were kept busy with games around the hall including feely pumpkin surprise, pumpkin golf and toss the coins into the pumpkin. The old favourites: donuts on strings,



The ever popular donuts on strings. Photo: C.Reedman

pumpkin bowling, ghostly sweet hoopla and apple bobbing were as popular as ever. Everyone enjoyed the "Mummy Game" too. William Ward was a fantastic Mummy helped by Georgina Aylwin, Stephanie Smith, Molly McMunn and Rebecca Adams who all won prizes..

As usual the costumes were fantastic. The winners of the fancy dress costumes were :

Charlie Kenny in the 6 and under category.

Sophie Freestone in the 10 and under category.

Grace Simmons in the 11 and over category.

Joe Smith won a prize with a fantastically carved Jack O' Lantern.



"Mummy" and prize-winners.

Photo: P. Buchi



Even the parents joined in the dressing up.

Photo: C.Reedman

A big thank you to everyone who helped on the day.

VILLAGE VIEW

BY JOHN PAINTER



Wilstone, The Village General Store and Post Office in the Snow .

A seasonal Village View this month, although actually taken after the snow fall last February. Not that we are very likely to get a white Christmas these days – in fact the last time I can remember actually having snow at Christmas in this area was in the 1980s!