



December 2008

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

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## Disappointment for shop project

A COMMUNITY SHOP in Wilstone is not a viable proposition, the volunteer working group has concluded. Jane Waterhouse, who started the village shop steering group to investigate alternatives when Wilstone Post Office closed, has now reported their findings to the Parish Council and to Wilstone village hall committee. With funding from the Parish Council the steering group conducted a parish-wide market research survey and prepared a business plan based on the results. It became clear that the operating costs could not be covered by the likely profits, and that there would be losses within the first year of operation. Although 25% of households responded to the survey, the research showed that what people mostly wanted were newspapers, milk, bread and stamps. *(continued on page 9)*

## Veterans remembered

THE medals of two veterans attending the service of remembrance, Mr Len Wager (left) and Mr Ben Reeves, illustrate an impressive record of service during the 1939-1945 war. Mr Wager, who served in the Royal Navy, wears (left to right): the 1939-45 Star for overseas service; the Atlantic Star for convoy escort duties, to which has been added the "Normandy" clasp for participation in the D-Day landings; the Africa Star for supporting the campaigns in North Africa; the Italy Star for the invasion of Italy; the Defence Medal for service in the UK, and the War Medal which was awarded to uniformed services. Mr Reeves, who joined the Army, wears: the 1939-45 Star; the Africa Star for service with Montgomery in the desert war; the Italy Star for the invasion and subsequent liberation of Italy; the Defence Medal and the War Medal. *( continued on page 9)*



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## Fowl play has a happy ending

by Jane Shirley

Anybody who walks or fishes the stretch of canal between the bridges of Wilstone and Dixon's Gap will have been familiar with the sight of the two large white ducks who made their home there some three years ago. The amiable birds, with their orange coloured bills, were not pure-bred Aylesbury ducks, a distinctive characteristic of that breed being its pink bill, but were presumably cross-bred with a commercial 'Pekin' type duck. How the pair came to set up home there is something of a mystery as, being heavy domestic birds, they would be unable to fly from place to place as wild fowl do, but could only gently waddle or swim.

The couple, whose gender also seems to be unknown, always welcomed human visitors and any edible offerings they might bring.

Very occasionally, they would leave the towpath and trundle their ungainly way on to the road over Wilstone bridge, but



tragedy struck the ducks as they crossed the bridge on an early November morning, when one of them was hit and fatally wounded by a passing car. The surviving duck, suddenly bereft of its long term companion, was a sad sight, waddling the towpath from one old haunt to another or sitting in solitary desolation on the canal bank.

A new companion was needed as soon as possible, but initial enquiries were not promising: Aylesbury type ducks seemed a very rare breed indeed in the Aylesbury area! Happily, several days later, a chat in The Half Moon finally produced a result! There was one lonely duck remaining on the Tringford Farm pond. Recently bereaved herself, and with the farm imminently changing hands, she was in need of a new home.

Also white, but smaller in build and with a blue-grey bill, Donald's duck was easy to catch and seemed quite unperturbed by her abrupt change of circumstances. At the time of writing, the pair have been living contentedly together on the canal for a week, and so far, all seems to be going swimmingly!

## Tring's Local History Museum makes rapid progress

By Tim Amsden

In 2004 these pages carried an account of the proposal to open a museum of local history for the Tring area in a disused office at the Cattle Market. A great deal has happened in the intervening four years to turn this ambition into reality. Armed with a 20-year lease from the owners, Tring Town Council, the Local History Society looked at the condition of the building and found structural problems to deal with. Research revealed that they resulted from partial demolition of the original three-gabled structure, and we realised that by restoring it we could increase the potential display space. Planning permission was given in 2006, and we approached the Heritage Lottery Fund for support. After many setbacks we were rewarded in November 2007 with the promise of £245,000 from the National Lottery.

The lottery grant enabled us to appoint advisers for the museum content and its educational aspects, and they are now helping us to devise the displays and stories we have to tell. Material will come mainly from our collection, but we are looking for suitable items wherever we can find them.



We will focus very firmly on Tring and district, and do not intend to display general items – certainly not stuffed animals, which are on show up the road! We are keen to accept things that relate specifically to the local area and its life, such as straw plait and its equipment, or photographs of local people, or a local account book, or a Clement clock, or a Meads flour sack. Our curator George Turner will happily give advice on what we can or cannot accept, on 01442 827453.

The museum will be run entirely by volunteers and we would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in helping out with the occasional or regular two-hour shift, two people every session. The building is DDA compliant. We intend to arrange training courses and also the regrettable but necessary CRB checks for stewards. Please phone Marianne Vinson on 01525 384899. If you

would like to join the Society (the subscription is £14 per year, and offers a programme of six speaker evenings) please ring Ron Spiers on 01442 382007. We continue to need financial support and arrange fund-raising events, as well as a stall on Tring Farmers' Market, from time to time. Our website is [www.oldtring.co.uk/localhistory](http://www.oldtring.co.uk/localhistory)

# Village News

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One of the (many) downsides of getting older is how quickly time flies! Christmas is almost with us again! A time of bonhomie, merriment and good cheer.

Having said that, we seem at the moment to be inundated with not such good news. Every newspaper and TV programme keeps reminding us of the recession and on top of that is the news that the project to open a community village shop has fallen on stony ground. This despite the hard work and dedication of the working group.

On the plus side we live in a small but vibrant society in a pretty wonderful part of the country; there is good news about the affordable housing scheme and there is an offer of a shopping service particularly for those in need (see page 20).

So, I for one will take comfort in a pint of ale and perhaps a few glasses of good claret and wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year

**Deadline for items for our next edition (February) is Wednesday 21 January 2009.**

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

**Let us know if we are not!**

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## Church services

**St Mary's Puttenham  
 St Cross Wilstone and  
 All Saints Long Marston**  
*You are most welcome to join us at any  
 of these services.*

**1 December (Monday)**

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

**7 December**

10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer

6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

6.30pm St Cross Evening Prayer

**14 December**

8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion

10.00am All Saints Holy Communion

6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

**15 December (Monday)**

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

**21 December**

10.00am All Saints Nativity

10.00am St Cross Holy Communion

3.30pm St Mary's Carols

6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

**24 December Christmas Eve**

4.00pm All Saints Crib Service

7.00pm St Cross Carols

11.30pm St Mary's Midnight Communion

**25 December Christmas Day**

10.00am All Saints Holy Communion

**28 December**

No services in villages  
 8.00am St Peter & St Paul, Tring  
 Holy Communion  
 10.00am St Peter & St Paul, Tring  
 Family Communion

**4 January**

10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer

6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

6.30pm St Cross Evening Prayer

**5 January (Monday)**

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

**11 January**

8.15am St Mary's Holy Communion

10.00am All Saints Holy Communion

6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

**18 January**

10.00am St Cross Holy Communion

10.00am All Saints Morning Prayer

6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

**19 January (Monday)**

2.00pm All Saints Toddler Worship

**25 January**

10.00am All Saints Holy Communion

3.30pm St Mary's Evening Prayer

6.00pm All Saints Evening Prayer

# What's on...

## The Queen's Head Long Marston 01296 668368

### WHATS ON!!!

#### December

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Live Music No Elvis 9pm  
 Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Ladies Night 8.30pm  
 Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Santa Sack of Cack Quiz 8.30pm  
 Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Music Quiz 8.30pm  
 Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Open Mic Night 8.30pm  
 Wed 31<sup>st</sup> New Years Eve Party

#### January

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Folk Night 8.30pm  
 Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Blues Jam 8.30pm

## 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.

### 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. 7.00pm

### Thursday 18 December

Father Christmas visits Wilstone (early evening).

### Sunday 21st December

Queens Head Christmas Quiz 7.15pm

### Tuesday 13th January

LM&P Horticultural Society A.G.M. in LM Village Hall  
8.30pm

### Tuesday 10th February

WI open meeting "A whistle-stop tour of Gilbert and Sullivan." 8.00pm

### 19th, 20th, 21st February

Long Marston Pantomime (Beauty and the Beast)

### Saturday 7th March

"Bangers and mash" Quiz night, Puttenham

### Tuesday 10th March

WI open meeting "Book binding" with local crafts-woman Liz Young. 8.00pm

### Tuesday 7th April

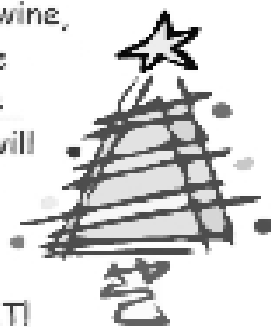
WI open meeting "The Gallapagos and Darwin" - a slide show by John Noakes

### Saturday 16th May

"Horti" May Ball



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 16th DECEMBER  
 2008

LONG MARSTON CHRISTMAS  
 TREE

(By the War Memorial)



LONG MARSTON CHURCH HILL LITTLE MARSTON WILSTONE VILLAGE HALL

## Times for mobile library

*Thursdays, fortnightly: December 4th and 18th.*

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 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.

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

**Tickets for  
THE LONG MARSTON PANTOMIME:  
BEAUTY & THE BEAST**

by Neil Gurney

Will be on sale at Long Marston Village Hall on

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> January**

**from 11am to 12noon**

After which they will be available from:

**The Boot, the Queen's Head  
and The Half Moon**

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

Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm

Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm

Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> February matinee & evening

Adults: £6, Senior Citizens: £4, Children: £3.  
If you would like to help with the Panto please ring

**Toby's Legendary Quizzes**

**PRESENTS**

**Santa's Christmas Quiz**

Featuring his famous Sack of Cack

**(COME & HAVE A DELVE FOR 50p!)**

**SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> December 2008 @ 8pm**

Entry to Quiz £2 per person

Numbers Round £1 per person

**(Win a Bottle of Cava)**

All Proceeds to Long Marston School

**Queen's Head, Long Marston**

# Wilstone Film Nights

Friday, January 16th

repeat performance



# MAMMA MIA!

Due to the overwhelming demand for the first showing of Mamma Mia!, we are showing it again this January. This is a great way to chase away the post Christmas blues, so join us for the best feel-good film ever.

Tickets available from **Dec 6th** from:

The Half Moon pub,  
Mead's Farm Shop or  
Colin Reedman, 25 Tring Road,  
Wilstone  
Tickets £6.

Film commences at 8pm  
Bar open from 7pm



## Caring for our ..... “Wonderful Land.”

by Jon Lill

Many villages these days and not least, our local ones, have groups of people or individuals who responsibly take it upon themselves to care for the localities in which they live. Often they scrutinize local newspapers for obvious things like applications for building, or development consents. They keep their eyes open when walking or driving round villages for planning notices, pot-holed roads, broken fences or gates, and most recently in Wilstone, the wayside amounts of what Frank Zappa (American Rock Musician) called “dog waste”.

Alerted to suspicions, planning applications or in the latter case, unacceptable levels of dog poo (to be more British about it), individuals or groups of villagers might then campaign, to prevent something detrimental from happening. Such groups or individuals can earn the title of ‘nimby’ (not in my backyard) but evidence is that usually they are simply concerned to care for the countryside in which they live. This is certainly the case locally, and those who actively interest themselves in caring for our “wonderful land” are to be applauded.

In the past, however, some groups elsewhere have attracted criticism and even ridicule. I suspect this is usually by those, who sometimes perhaps, out of envy for the idyllic life-style they think rural people enjoy or because they delight in an urban way of living, cannot understand what rural people make such a ‘fuss’ about when, to give a local example of a proposed development, they hear of someone wanting to develop an old second world war aerodrome for industrial/commercial usage. In this case I would argue that the former airfield is essentially a rural but ‘urbanised’ site that but for the sad, often necessary folly of war, would never have been there in the first place and therefore now deserves to be returned to fields. But then, rarely do the architects of wars ‘clean up’ after themselves!

Whilst campaigners for ‘no change whatever’, might sometimes deserve criticism; the more significant point is that villages and the countryside need people, organised or not, to champion rural living and care for the ‘wonderful land’ in which they live. At the same time they are also acting as custodians of a resource and heritage, none the less so as in our own locality. So on my daily walks around Wilstone,

I’m pleased to see, these days, very little dog poo around the village and therefore I am grateful both to those who alerted us all to this unpleasant sight (and I’m sure if we’d had a hot summer an equally unpleasant odorous experience) and to the dog walkers who have taken note and cleaned up after their pets.

Some might, however, be reminded to dispose of the ‘doggy (waste) bags’ in the bins provided or take them home. Hanging them on gate posts or branches, or throwing them in hedges, rather defeats the object of cleaning up and therefore caring for our environment. The plastic may be biodegradable, but even if in a hedge will take a long time to degrade. And hanging on a gatepost, will probably never degrade!

Caring for our villages and countryside is, however, so much more than simply concerning ourselves with the environment. It’s also about looking after one another, caring for the livelihoods, the health and the pleasures of us all. Village halls in our locality play a major part in this. Invariably, most weeks, they are alive and ‘buzzing’ with varied entertainments. My sense is too, that villagers have a respect for each other and a ‘friendliness’ and togetherness that is especially witnessed when pretty much everyone turns out for a fete or a Christmas ‘do’ of some sort or another.

Meeting one another at any one of the many events so caringly organised by dedicated villagers, promotes a sense of belongingness and togetherness that in turn encourages a sense of a ‘caring’ community.

Meeting too, in one of our local hostleries, free in the most part from that awful, often deafening ‘muzak’ that blights so many other meeting places, also makes it possible to talk with one another and have a good ‘chat’ or just catch up on the local gossip, especially if it’s a plan to close a local amenity or build on a ‘green field site’.

So, see you down the pub?

## 90th Remembrance

VILLAGERS marked the 90th anniversary of the ending of the First World War with services of remembrance at the war memorials at Long Marston and at Wilstone. At St. Cross the little church was full as Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Brownies joined the congregation for a service led by Rev’d Jane Bannister. Wreaths of poppies were laid at the memorial by the Brownies, Scouts and by Mr Ben Reeves - a veteran of the Second War.

## News from All Saints

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Quiz Night. We had a very enjoyable evening with Toby as our excellent Quiz Master and John Hunt our Scorer. Twelve teams participated and ‘Old Friends’ were the winners of our trophy. Congratulations to them. £428 was raised for All Saints funds – thanks to you all.

## An unusual trade: Woodcarver

By Fran Flowerdew



Mick and the "Green Man"

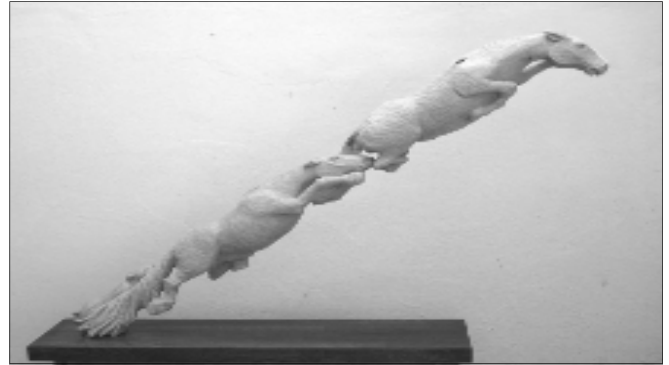
Mick Waterhouse, who lives in Cheddington with his wife Viv and dog Sky, is a Woodcarver and Sculptor. He has been passionate about wood for most of his life, but has been actively involved in carving it for more than 20 years.

A love of medieval sculpture in churches, and in particular an obsession with the 'Green Man' as a subject for carving has helped him to express his feelings about the serious role we all have in caring for the planet. When he began carving, Mick turned to churches to find what he considered the finest examples of the craft to study and copy. It was there that he came across the archetypal 'Green Man' image that has appeared in architecture and decoration through the ages. This image, the combination of foliage with faces and the human form runs through much of his work.

"My 'Green Men' have a serious message, whereas my figure sculptures are expressing the freedom we have to enjoy our world, revelling in movement, fecundity and life" says Mick. Wood is the material he naturally turns to in expressing himself, endeavouring to use local timbers such as lime, yew, walnut, sweet chestnut and especially oak where possible. Mick's training was through evening classes, weekend residential and open college courses. With a great deal of practice he has over the past 20 years established himself as a woodcarver/sculptor with many commissioned pieces to his

name. He exhibits regularly locally and especially in Bucks Open Studios.

More recently Mick has been passing on his skills through teaching at the Queen's Park Arts Centre in Aylesbury and is Tutor/Technician at the Bicester Sculpture Group.



"Chasing," carved in sweet chestnut

*This representation of two horses pursued by a dog was inspired by the work of early man who managed to express the movement of their prey so vividly in a piece of antler or a stick. I just tried to see how much activity I could get into a straight branch.*

Mick gets involved in anything that involves wood – restoration work, furniture, lettering, memorials, mirrors and many other items. He is always happy to be commissioned for any private work and welcomes visitors to his workshop, by appointment, to view his woodcarvings. His work makes a beautiful gift for that special occasion. His phone number is 01296 661839.

### Volunteer needed for the Village News team

*Village News would like to recruit an additional volunteer to join the team as our*

### **Advertising Manager**

*as the current manager is standing down at the end of the year. 80% of the costs of producing your village magazine are met by advertising revenue, so this is a very important task without which we could not continue.*

The advertising manager deals with enquiries from new and regular advertisers, passes their requirements to the editor and arranges for invoices to be raised. No selling is involved, and our finance manager deals with payments. The processes are already set up and running. You need to have a computer with internet access and a little time to spare each month. Previous experience is not necessary and full training will be given.

*If you might be able to help with this vital task and would like to know more, please contact Phil Buchi on 01442 890599.*

## Carol singing at All Saints Church

Tring Team's charity that they are supporting through November and December is Biblelands. Biblelands is a Christian charity that works in partnership with Christian-led projects in the lands of the Bible.

The two main projects of theirs that we will be supporting are the Helen Keller Centre in Jerusalem for the visually impaired, and Hope Secondary School in Bethlehem.

Please come and join us to sing carols in All Saints Church at 7pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December. You can choose your favourite carols from the Biblelands carol sheet.

There will be sherry and mince pies for the adults, and squash and biscuits for the youngsters.

## Village shop committee report

by Jane Waterhouse

Having spent some months looking at the viability of developing a shop as a local social enterprise it has been decided that it is, sadly, unviable at present.

The data collected in the recent parish-wide survey was analysed by the committee working on this project. We came to the above conclusion having identified the types of merchandise most likely to sell and allowing for acceptable profit margins. We were able to make a projection for sales over the next five years, and although the response to the survey was positive, the projected profits from our

findings were not sufficient to maintain a business. Consideration was given to various business models, the most popular being to employ a manager for the project who could then organise volunteers and take over the main aspects of running a shop. This would not be possible within the profit margins identified.

Although this is bad news for the parish, let's hope that in the future there will be more optimism in the economy and an opportunity for small businesses to flourish.

## Help sought for a new children's charity

Wilstone resident Alf Clewlow is seeking help, information or knowledge from anyone involved in or experienced with charitable fundraising. Alf's son Sebastian, aged 6 (pictured here) has a very rare genetic condition called Tricho-Rhino-Phalangeal Syndrome (TRPS). The condition is virtually unknown outside the field of specialist clinical genetics. Alf is aiming to raise awareness of this very rare condition, and also plans to raise funds for dedicated medical research into the syndrome.

Worldwide, only around 250 people are known to have the condition. There is currently no UK charity or organisation that supports patients with TRPS. It is a very complex lifelong condition with characteristics that are highly variable between patients. Individuals affected by TRPS suffer with progressive growth retardation, unusual facial features, multiple bone and joint abnormalities, developmental retardation and severe speech problems. There is no cure for TRPS; patients follow a treatment regime appropriate to their own needs. This may include corrective operating procedures in hospital, constant pain relief, special educational provision and intensive speech therapy, to name but a few.

Although an internet support forum for TRPS does exist, the majority of its users live in the USA. Along with other members of this forum, Alf would like to see a UK-based organisation develop which could then provide specific support for Sebastian and other children living with TRPS.

One of the major difficulties facing families affected by TRPS, quite apart from the immediate and direct needs of the patients concerned, is a lack of any funding for research. This is compounded by the fact that - such is the extreme rarity of the condition - there are relatively very few individuals with TRPS to enable proper medical research or studies to take

place.

In July 2006 a meeting day was co-ordinated by one of the UK members of the support forum (who herself is a TRPS patient) and all forum members living in the UK were invited. This lady's remarkable effort resulted in a gathering of about 28 people (including Sebastian, who was the youngest to attend!). During this meeting, a presentation was given by Prof. Raoul Hennekam, a Dutch geneticist and a leading expert

in TRPS. Subsequently, Prof. Hennekam has agreed, in principle, to start a dedicated clinic - at Great Ormond Street Hospital - for TRPS patients. However, as many will understand, NHS funding is by no means guaranteed. Whilst even large and well-known charities may begin to feel the pinch of an uncertain economy, a charity for TRPS sufferers would be, quite literally, starting from nothing. Despite this, Alf is determined to see some kind of support organisation for TRPS begin. In this regard, things are looking promising with a potential UK support group being discussed. Again though, its success would rely



Seb enjoying a ride

upon regular funding.

The Village Hall Committee has kindly offered to set aside part of this year's Christmas Collection for TRPS support. This generous offer is much appreciated and all funds collected will be held in a trust account for Sebastian, in the interim until the TRPS UK group is established. If you can offer any assistance by way of fundraising experience or advice, Alf Clewlow can be contacted on 01442 828 775 or by email: [mail@alfclewlow.com](mailto:mail@alfclewlow.com).

*(Veterans remembered continued from page 1 )*

Mr Reeves also took part in the liberation of Greece but a separate medal was not issued for this. The Italy Star covered the actions in the Aegean, Corsica, Sardinia, Yugoslavia and Greece as well as Italy, and no clasps to denote particular campaigns were issued with this medal either.

Altogether eight different campaign stars were issued for service in different theatres of the Second World War. The other four campaign stars not present in our picture are: the Air Crew Europe Star; the Pacific Star; the Burma Star; the France and Germany Star. For some reason regulations required that no more than five of these campaign stars could be worn by any one recipient, so further service was denoted

by a 'clasp' sewn onto the ribbon of another award. The colours of the ribbons were symbolic of the campaign. For example, the Africa Star ribbon bears the colours of all three services on a desert background with the red stripe for the army being the most prominent in recognition of the major part they played. The ribbon of the Italy Star has the heraldic colours of the Italian flag. The Defence Medal ribbon has a green background representing 'this green and pleasant land' with black stripes for the wartime blackout, and an orange band for the flames of the Blitz.

*(With thanks to Mr Reeves and Mr Wager for assisting with this article and agreeing to the photo. Picture: Phil Buchi.)*

*(Disappointment for community shop continued from page 1.)*

None of these items has any significant profit margin and could not cover the cost of opening, not even for the 8am - 12 noon opening hours which people said would be the most convenient. The steering group had been offered temporary use of the shop premises at a peppercorn rent, but the lease is up for sale and the position would be uncertain. Jane said that the steering group members were desperately disappointed at the conclusion they had come to. Particularly in the present climate it was not viable, but she hoped that the idea might be revived at some point in the future.

Many villagers will be disappointed too. Without the Post Office component it will be very difficult to run a village shop anywhere. We are fortunate though to have a group of determined people who took the initiative and at least organised a proper investigation into the possibilities.

*(Full results from the research can be viewed at and downloaded from the TRPC website  
[www.tringruralpc.org.uk](http://www.tringruralpc.org.uk))*



**FARM P.E. MEAD & Sons SHOP**

*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 Ieknield Way, Wilstone Green**  
**(01442) 828478**

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Free Friendly Advice & Quotation in the comfort of your own home.

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**Mob: 07767 783 955**

Call now for a free quote

# Parish Council News

by Phil Buchi

## Affordable housing: Back to eight?

OUTRAGED parish councillors have fought back and succeeded in getting the affordable housing proposal for Wilstone back to the original eight dwellings. An official from Dacorum had announced (without consultation) at the October meeting that the scheme had been increased to 13 dwellings. This was to have been achieved by purchasing some additional land (owned by a Mr Coleman), and by packing them in. The Parish Council strongly voiced local concerns that 13 was too many, would aggravate parking problems in Grange Road and was not supported by the housing needs survey. A more conciliatory meeting has now been held with Dacorum planners and the developer, Aldwyck Housing Association. The developer is anxious to get on with the job (hardly surprising with present conditions in the building trade) and is willing to proceed with a scheme of 8 dwellings. Dacorum have been persuaded to shelve their scheme to include Mr Coleman's land. Instead, this will be held in reserve for a possible future extension to the scheme, and the plans will take this into account. So now a proposal can actually be drawn up and put before us. It is likely that will be available for inspection at an exhibition in Wilstone in January. "Quite a breakthrough", said Cllr. Abby Fermont.

## New bus stop, no shelter

Long Marston has a new bus stop, complete with timetable notice. Councillors were not pleased though with its relocation from the Queen's Head to Raven's Court - apparently on police advice - and the refusal of their request to provide a bus shelter. Apparently there is no room to provide a shelter, but Councillors were not invited to the site meeting in spite of an agreement that they would be consulted. Local Councillors did not agree there was no room, and could have pointed out where a bus shelter might be placed. Refusing to be left out in the rain, the Parish Council intends to have another go at this.

## Skate ramp search

Your reporter was impressed at the lengths to which Councillors have gone to learn about the world of skate parks and the technicalities of different forms of skate ramp. Advised by the 10-year old members of the 'Parish Go Extreme' group, the country has been searched for suitable suppliers and existing examples. A skate ramp that might be suitable for the Wilstone recreation ground has been tracked down in a parish near Kings Lynn. This was too far for a site visit, but the local parish council clerk will be contacted for information and advice.



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.  
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## More poplars

Six Black Poplar saplings have been provided free of charge by the Countryside Management Service. They will be used to fill gaps in the tree line around the Long Marston recreation ground, and exact planting sites are being considered now. Although rare nationally, Black Poplars thrive in the damp soils of this parish. Still on the subject of trees, the Parish Council agreed grants of £25 each to the LM&P Horticultural Society and to Wilstone village hall committee towards the provision of Christmas trees in the villages.

## Accounting for £7

Dawn Slade, Clerk to the Council, expressed her disappointment that the auditors had not approved last year's accounts because of a discrepancy of £7 - even though this had been declared up-front and Councillors had offered to make up the difference themselves.

## Housing office: change of hours

Dacorum Borough Council has announced a reduction in the opening hours of their housing office counter at Berkhamsted Civic Centre. The counter will be open to the public daily, Monday to Friday, but only from 8.45 am to 12 noon. Council tenants will still be able to telephone the office throughout the day, only the counter is affected. The change is to save money.

### 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](http://www.tringruralpc.org.uk)

You can view and comment on planning applications at

[www.dacorum.gov.uk/planning](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/planning)

[www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

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# The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

Friends of St.Mary's Church, Puttenham  
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## "CECILIA CHRISTMAS"

An Evening of Christmas Entertainment

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Cecilia Hall, Puttenham**  
**7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m.**

*Hot Puttenham Punch upon Arrival*  
*Light Buffet Supper + Tea/Coffee*  
*\*\*\* Seasonal Raffle \*\*\**

Tickets : £7.00  
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*A Sincere "Thank-You" . . . . . to everyone who has*

cleaned St. Mary's Church and provided floral arrangements throughout the year.

The church is much admired by visitors, and your efforts are always greatly appreciated (Margaret Kelland, Ernestine Matthews, Liz Josling, Pat Jackson, Eunice Hall, Audrey Clay, Sheila Barron).

Also many thanks to David Kelland who helps John Barron with so many 'manly' tasks around the church and churchyard.

The calendar is wide open ready for booking your month for 2009, and I do hope that you are willing to continue next year and will book your month (or months) for this pleasant task.

Anyone else who would like to join our team, please do get in touch with Christine – no special skills required!! YOU WILL BE MOST WELCOME.

*A very happy Christmas and a good New Year to you all.*

**LONG MARSTON DOG TRAINING CLUB**

Long - established friendly club, catering for all dogs. Any age: puppy through to pensioner.

In addition to pet dog training we offer the **Kennel Club Good Citizens Dog Scheme.**

**Monday evenings** (except Bank holidays) from 7 p.m. onwards at the Victory Hall.

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*Evelyn is also a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers.*

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## Wilstone Village Hall Caretaker wanted

**Colin Reedman** has decided to retire as bookings secretary and caretaker of the Wilstone village hall, with effect from 31 December 2008. Colin has performed this duty, along with his wife Sheila, for very many years and will be greatly missed.

The role of Bookings Secretary has been filled so we are looking for somebody to take over the role of caretaker.

The number of hours involved is variable but does include some weekend hours.

The job entails the following tasks:-

1. Regularly check condition of hall and contents and deal with defects as necessary.
2. Liaise closely with Bookings Secretary to ensure hirers can gain access. If necessary meet them at premises at an agreed time and, where necessary, when departing. It may be necessary, on occasions, to be present late at night.
3. Ensure the hall is clean, particularly the toilets. Some cleaning may be necessary if the employed cleaner is not available.
4. During the autumn and winter it will be necessary, in consultation with the needs of hirers, to ensure that the gas heating is turned on and off as required.
5. Assist hirers in setting up tables and chairs etc. if required.
6. Regularly check the security of the hall (doors and windows), also the internal security lighting.
7. Liaise with the Hall Management committee (and be a member of it)

Currently an annual honorarium is paid but this is negotiable.


For further details please contact either Colin Reedman (01442 822031) or Colin Davenport (01442 890713)

## Local girl goes ape (2)



Perhaps inspired by last month's article "Local girl goes ape" (*Village News*, November) Jenny White - pictured here - gets into the swing of things and shows us how to monkey around in Wendover Woods. This aerial exercise experience is not for the faint hearted! She did make a safe landing later after 3 hours in the air. (Picture: No names, no pack-drill.)

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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

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# Pre-School News

First Steps Pre-School is held at Victory Hall, Long Marston every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.15am – 11.45am during term time, with lunch clubs on Tuesday and Friday until 1.15pm. We welcome all children aged between 2½ and 5, which means that many children remain with us until they 'cross the road to big school'.

Pre-school leader, Teresa Giddings, and her team – Maria, Paula and Elaine - help the children encounter new experiences and broaden their imaginations in a safe environment where they learn through the stimulation of play.

We welcomed Alfie Thompson, George Mason, Kody Worth and Maeve Brough to pre-school this term and all have settled in extremely well. The autumn term is always exciting and covers a wide range of subjects ranging from the homes we live in, through Halloween and Bonfire Night to Christmas. We had a great dressing up week when each child wore fancy dress to pre-school, raising £21 for pre-school funds in the process. As I write, the children are making Christmas cards and gifts and preparing for their Christmas Concert which is guaranteed to bring a tear to the eye of every parent!

If you would like to find out more about Pre-School or put your child's name on our waiting list, please contact either Teresa Giddings on 07925 185311 or our Chair, Sally Smith, on 01296 661689.

On Wednesday mornings during term time, why not call in at Toddlers, held from 10.00am – 11.30 at Victory Hall. All pre-school children and their parents or carers are welcome to come for a play or a chat, depending on age, with juice and a biscuit just when you need it most! Contact Sally Smith on 01296 661689 for further information.

## Pre-School Vacancy

First Steps Pre-School is held at Victory Hall, Long Marston every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.15am – 11.45am during term time, with lunch clubs on Tuesday and Friday until 1.15pm. We are looking for an extra member of staff to join our enthusiastic team. If you would be interested in working for 3 mornings a week during term times, please contact the Chair, Mrs Sally Smith on 01296 661689 for more information.



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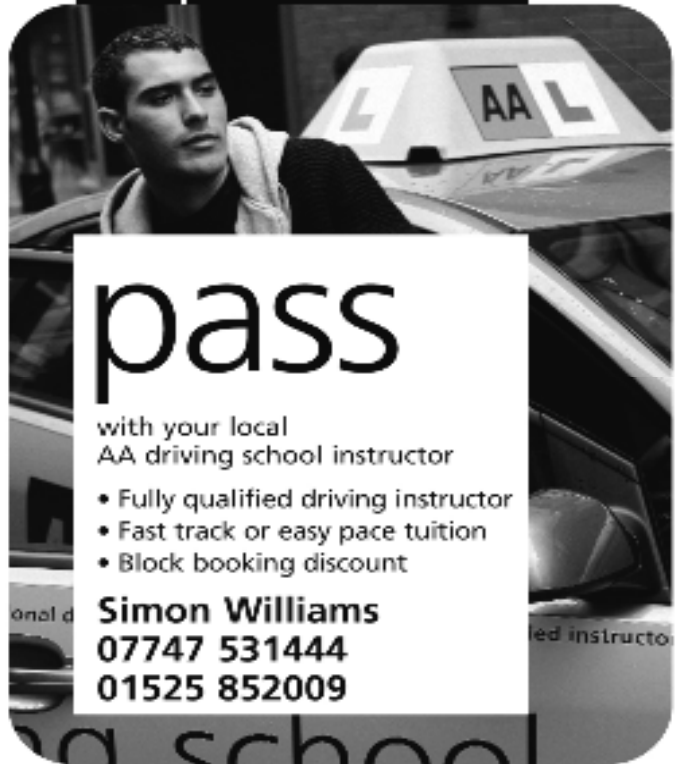
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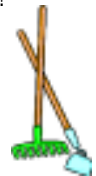
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## *The agricultural story line....*

*By David Mead*

# Will oil put us on the map?

SIMON now has his oil filter. The long-awaited Chiltern rapeseed oil cold-pressed production line is working. A batch was bottled up and off it went to Wendover farmers' market with Alex and then Chris in attendance. Simon set out his stall. The weather on that Saturday was fine but customers were a bit thin on the ground. When explaining where the crop was grown the surprising question from the potential buyers was: "Where is Wilstone?" Over 50 bottles were sold – an encouraging start.

Work on the improvements at the farm shop has started. Because the big black barn is a listed building there were restrictions on what could be done. I think they have been very brave in the present financial climate to do anything. What they plan should make it more comfortable for customers, with more space for displays and the tills.

The lamb trade at Thame market was reasonable. Demand normally remains good this side of Christmas. January and beyond will be the testing time. In the "old" days it was the arrival of New Zealand lamb that upset the job. Over the last 10 years a lot of the dairy farmers packed up milking and, looking around for alternative enterprises, some went into sheep farming. Many soon became disillusioned, not realising the amount of handling required. The price of milk has recovered slightly, but so have the many costs.

I was pleased that my heating oil - ordered this week - was 7p a litre cheaper than the last tank-full in the spring. I hope this is a trend that will continue in fertilisers, etc. The price of waste paper and cardboard dropped from £70 per ton to £10 per ton. I suppose the price for collection of the bales of cardboard at the shop will have to go up. We are not allowed to burn it, so what can be done?

Simon was muttering about the number of Christmas trees to order. It's always pure guesswork - even more so this year.

I had a reflective moment while looking for pigeons on the rape behind the buildings at Wilstone. On the edge of the headland were a dozen poppy plants in bloom, the red flowers above the grass. It is very unusual for them to appear in November.



**The finished Chiltern cold-pressed extra-virgin oil in an elegant bottle. You can see it for yourself at Mead's Farm Shop.**

*(With thanks to Karen Roff, whose hand this is.)*

In fact, I went out again this morning (*Monday 17th November*) to make sure I wasn't dreaming before I put pen to paper. They were still there!

## **Youth in Need** *by Sarah Henshaw*

On behalf of Youth In Need Project we wish you a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for the new year. Also to say "Asante Sana" - thank you very much to all of you who supported the project through the past year.

We would like to say a special thank you to the Missions Committee who through the course of July and August raised over £2000 for the project. This donation came at a very good time, as we were struggling for funds, but this generous amount has enabled us to continue with our work and see the project through into next year.

## **Long Marston Cricket Club**

Many thanks were passed to Geoff Graveson who stood down as chairman of the Cricket Club at the Annual General Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November. Geoff had been chair for the past ten years and the club has made tremendous strides forward under his stewardship. Mike Lyons was elected captain of the first XI for the coming season and Paul Marsh takes over the reins at the helm of the second XI. Simon McLemon was re-elected as Sunday captain. At the time of writing, negotiations are under way to enter a third eleven into the Cherwell league on Saturdays, increasing the opportunities for our ever improving youngsters to develop in the game. All winter preparatory work has been completed on the ground. A themed party will be held in Marlins on New Years Eve.



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# Recipe page

by Anna Ashwell

**PEAR, CHERRY**  
**and**  
**HAZELNUT**  
**STRUDEL**

This is an excellent desert for Christmas Day if you fancy something lighter than traditional Christmas pudding. It can be prepared well in advance and cooked from frozen. It is best served with cream or custard.

**Ingredients:**

- 25g melted butter
- 550g pears – peeled, cored and sliced
- 125g dried cherries
- Zest and juice of half a lemon
- ½ a teaspoon of ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon of cornflour
- 2 tablespoon of golden caster sugar
- 50g of roughly chopped and toasted hazelnuts

4 sheets of filo pastry  
(serves 4)

**Method:**

Put sliced pears and cherries into a large bowl. Mix in the lemon zest and juice, cinnamon, cornflour, hazelnuts and one tablespoon of the sugar.

Lay a clean, damp tea-towel on a board and put two sheets of filo pastry on it so that they overlap by 2½ cm. Brush the pastry with melted butter and lay the other two sheets on top in the same way (making it about 30cm wide). Add the pear mixture down the centre of the pastry, leaving 5cm of pastry showing at each end and about 10cm down each side.

Brush the exposed pieces of pastry with melted butter. Fold the ends over first, then fold one long side across the filling. Using the tea-towel, lift the filling side of the strudel and fold it on top of the exposed pastry. This means that the pastry join should be underneath the strudel.

Brush the top of the strudel with melted butter and sprinkle with the remaining sugar.

Freeze until needed. The strudel can be cooked from frozen. It will take about 50 mins at 200°C.

## Paper delivery and shopping service

Did you know that Liz Faulkner is offering to deliver your daily papers before 8.00am every day Monday to Friday at a nominal cost of £1.00 per week?

Also Liz is prepared to do a shopping service especially, but not only, for those who find it hard to shop regularly.

If anyone is interested in either or both services, give Liz a call on 01442 825204

## More wanted!

Your editors were pleased to receive quite a number of compliments from readers relating to November’s front page story about Vera Rance (“Tea for two, and village hall memories”, by Maggie Buchi.) We would like to have more articles like this for publication in *Village News*. If you would like to suggest someone who would make a good subject for such an article, the editors would be pleased to hear from you - particularly if you can get their agreement to be featured. It would be even better if you can have a go at writing it yourself! But if you don’t want to put pen to paper, we do have volunteers who can do the writing. Please contact Phil Buchi on 01442 890599 with your suggestions.

## Christmas Sudoku by Colin Moore

No 36 Easy!

solution on page 18

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The Long Marston & Puttenham Horticultural Society

## A.G.M.

Will be held at Long Marston Village Hall on Tuesday, 13th January at 8.30pm

**Cheese and wine will be provided.**

We'll be reviewing the past year's events and outlining our plans for 2009.

**If you want to have an input, you do not have to join the committee: just come and put your name down to help at an event of your choice:**

- The Pantomime
- The May Ball
- Children's Bike Event
- Mid-summer Ramble
- The Village Show
- Carols Around the Tree

**We are in need of some fresh ideas and enthusiasm.**

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PCSO Emma Lennox 0845 33 00 222

#### Fly-tipping reports

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#### Cecilia Hall (Puttenham)

Christine Rutter 01296 668337

#### Beavers

Jo Woodbridge 01442 891444

#### Brownies

Rachel Mead 01442 823570

#### Cubs

Tony Short 01442 823096

#### Guides

Sheila Hill 01442 823463

#### Scouts

David Colvin 01442 381544

#### Horticultural Society

David Severs 01296 661021

#### Rector

Rev'd Huw Bellis 01442 851200

#### Churchwardens

##### Long Marston All Saints:

Neil Brown 01442 825956

Angus Munday 01296 660303

##### Wilstone St. Cross:

Andrew Minter 01442 823605

##### Puttenham St Marys:

Christine Rutter 01296 668337

John Barron 01296 631351

#### Tring Crime Prevention Panel

(Neighbourhood Watch) 01442 381793 & 824593

#### Tring Rural Parish Council - Chairman

Cllr Michael Tomlinson 01296 661311

#### Clerk to the Parish Council

Dawn Slade 01442 824138

#### Village Warden

Colin Reedman 01442 822031

#### Long Marston Victory Hall

John Kaye (Chairman) 01296 662975

Mags Severs 01296 661021

#### Long Marston Cricket Club

Paul Dumbleton 01296 668112

#### Long Marston 1<sup>st</sup> Steps Pre-School

Sally Smith 01296 661689

#### Long Marston Baby & Toddler Group

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#### Long Marston Tennis Club

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#### Women's Institute

Pam Edmonds 01296 661370

*Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.*

## Thank you .....

To all our volunteer distributors who have delivered your Village News to every home in Tring Rural parish.

Distribution enquiries to:  
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## Village News

Long Marston, Wilstone, Puttenham,  
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Startops End.

Your editor for February will be:

01442  
editorwlm@yaho.com

Our Advertising Manager is:  
Colette Bernard  
01296 661172

Deadline for next issue is  
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published on 1st February 2009.  
(We do not publish in January)



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## From the Rectory

by Rev'd Huw Bellis

### Martin and Victoria Macdonald

How do you go about trying to say how much we will miss Martin and Victoria? They first came to us seven years ago when Martin was a newly-ordained curate. When he retired from his first career as an auditor, Martin started working full time in the Tring Team parish as a non-stipendiary minister. As a priest he has had a great presence when taking services – never forcing us to focus on his personality, but helping us to worship God. As a pastor his presence around the church and community, talking and listening to people, has given huge reassurance to many and he has often been the welcoming face of our church, showing people the love of Christ. As an intercessor, Martin has championed the value of prayer in our church life and been the leading light in the Prayer and

Healing Group. As a leader in the church he has been the Team Vicar for St Cross, chair of governors at Long Marston school and the leader of the parish project to Kyrgyzstan. All the time he has brought his wisdom and experience of the business world to the life of the church, gently steering us along the way. I will miss him as a colleague. His support to both Frank and myself has been immense, and moving to Yorkshire will leave a huge hole in our parish, especially in Wilstone. And then there is Victoria, with her irrepressible enthusiasm, her ability to talk to, and welcome anyone. Her formal ministry as a reader was only just beginning and she has a huge amount to offer. We wish them the best in their new home, and we will miss them.

### Welcome to the Reverend Joanne Wetherall

Earlier this year we advertised for a new Team Vicar and the outstanding candidate was Jo Wetherall. Currently Jo is an NSM Curate and Family Liaison Minister at St Peter and St Paul's, Godalming. Before ordination Jo worked in early years education in a variety of settings: hospital; social service family centre; day care and schools. She has also worked as a Resettlement Worker in a hostel for vulnerable single women. She is married to Simon and they have two daughters.

Jo is going to bring a lot to our parish. She has an interest in the relationship between the Gospel and social action, in the connection between art and prayer/theological reflection, and working with families to make the church relevant and accessible to them. We are looking forward to Jo being with us. She will live in Aldbury but work across the whole parish and she is going to lead our Spiritual Growth Group.

Jo will be licensed by the Rt Revd Christopher Foster on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 3 pm at St Peter and St Paul, Tring. Please try and come to this important event in the life of our church. Jo will then be visiting each of the districts and leading worship in each of the churches which will give you an opportunity to get to know her.

All Saints (10 am service) - 8<sup>th</sup> March  
 All Saints (6 pm service) – 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
 St Mary's (8.15 am service) – 8<sup>th</sup> March  
 St Mary's (3.30 pm service) – 15<sup>th</sup> February  
 St Cross (10 am service) – 15<sup>th</sup> February  
 St Cross (6.30 pm service) – 1<sup>st</sup> March

## Christmas 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 is 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 21st - St Mary's Puttenham at 3.30 pm & Christmas Eve - St Cross, Wilstone at 7 pm.*

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

### SUNDAY CLUB NATIVITY

*10 am Dec 21<sup>st</sup> All Saints, Long Marston*

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

*All Saints, Long Marston has a Family Communion Service at 10 am.*

### HOLY INNOCENTS (28<sup>th</sup> Dec)

We will worship together at St Peter and St Paul in Tring. The services will be led by the Archdeacon – the Venerable Jonathan Smith.

## Views from a village

by Alison Cockerill

Where is Hall Mead? Ten Groves? Wick Mead Furlong? You don't know? Nor did I, until very recently. By standing on the brow of Little Tring Road, above the line of the Wendover Arm Canal, it is possible to gaze over a vast expanse of open countryside, dotted with farms and villages, and displaying all the wonders of God's Creation - and right in the middle of this lovely vista is Wilstone

On Friday 17 October local photographer, John Painter, presented a "Picture Show of Wilstone in the Twenty First Century" at the village hall. Travelling from one end of the village to the other, the photographs showcased the amazing range of architecture present in one small village, much of it from the nineteenth century. The houses and cottages, farms and flats all meld into one cohesive whole, linked by some lovely gardens, and lots of natural beauty in the mature trees and farmland.

The photographs spanned several years and illustrated the pattern of life through the year, proving that some things never change: the annual visit of the Whitchurch Morris Men to dance outside the Half Moon on a Sunday morning in May; the village fete, going from strength to strength and attracting ever increasing numbers of visitors; the observance of Remembrance Sunday; and the Easter Egg Hunt and Fun Day at St Cross. And all the other occasions which bring the village together - cream teas, dances, jumble sales, Cubs, Brownies and Beavers - served to illustrate the strong sense of community which is so prevalent in Wilstone.

John's skill as a photographer is outstanding and his pictures served to illustrate the wonderful countryside which surrounds Wilstone. His artistic eye can see the beauty in the ever-changing seasons, and reminds every-one of how fortunate we are to live in such a lovely place.

Looking at John's pictures from another angle, they comprise a record of the recent social history of the village, and it has been suggested that some should be

archived at the Hertfordshire Records Office, providing a unique insight into this corner of West Hertfordshire.

So, back to the original question - where is Hall Mead, Ten Groves and Wick Mead Furlong? If you approach Wilstone from Little Tring, pass Meads Farm Shop, and turn right into the village, the first turning on the left is Chapel End Lane. At the end of the lane, a footpath will take you past Ten Groves and Wick Mead Furlong and into Hall Mead, beautiful fields lined with mature trees, including some Black Poplars, a rare and protected species found in the locality of the rural parish.



**The oak tree behind the village (Hall Mead)**

Photo John Painter

"Wilstone in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" was a fund-raising event for St Cross, and the church would like to extend their thanks to John and Janet for a lovely evening, which raised over £200.

As the year draws to a close, it seems the right time to thank all the people who help and support the church. So we would like to express our appreciation to the people who help at the Tuesday coffee mornings, to the ladies who look after the flowers in the church, the cleaners and the garden maintenance team. All of this work is done on a voluntary basis, and it allows St Cross to remain open, and welcoming, to

anyone who visits the church. Our grateful thanks to you all.

Looking ahead to 2009, St Cross will still need lots of practical support, but once again we hope to be able to look outward, and direct most of our fund-raising to other charity projects. So come and join us - at a coffee morning, on an Easter Egg Hunt, on Fun Day - you will be very welcome. Do come to the 7 pm Carol Service at St Cross on Christmas Eve, and stay on afterwards to enjoy a glass of wine.

..... Until then .....

Have a Wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Happy Hallowe'en! - Slug, slime and bat's blood!

SCARY children and frightening adults take over village hall. Just another Friday night? Well, not quite. On this occasion at least, there are prizes for scariness. Wilstone Village Hall Committee's Hallowe'en party for children has proved hugely popular in the past, with up to 90 children attending.

This year organisers were puzzled that the attendance was much reduced, and wondered if the half-term holiday had anything to do with it. The children seemed to our reporter to be having a great time, with lots of noise, games, running around, music and disco dancing. The standard



**The frightening four! Charlie, Ben, James and Sam at the Hallowe'en party. Sam (far right) won the prize for this grim disguise.** (Picture: Village News)

of ghoulish costumes was excellent, as our picture shows. On the streets it was interesting to hear the greeting: "Happy Hallowe'en", replacing the more threatening: "Trick or Treat!" from some of the groups of door-knocking children. It did seem a nicer way to make sure that the sweets got into the bag - and it worked just as well.

Inside the hall, the children and adults enjoyed a supper of hot dogs, slug slime and bat's blood. Of course, no Halloween party is complete without the "Mummy Wrap" game which was won by Sam Rabagliati, James Lovis, Ben Lovis and Charlie Woodbridge. Best carved pumpkin winners were Chloe Moller and Daisy Fermont. The costumes, as ever, were fantastic and the winners were: 6 and under—Sophie Ford; 11 and under—Emma Killin; 12 and over—Sam Rabagliati. DJ Kevin played fantastic spooky music and awarded spot prizes for musical bumps and heads and tails.

## VILLAGE VIEW

BY JOHN PAINTER



**Reeds after the snow at Wilstone Reservoir**