



The wreath of poppies at the Wilstone memorial.

December 2009

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

Village News: Long Marston, Puttenham, Wilstone, Little Tring



We will remember them

SERVICES of remembrance were held at the War Memorials at Long Marston and Wilstone on Sunday 8th November.



Scouts lead the parade from All Saints.

At Long Marston, the All Saints morning service finished with a parade to the memorial led by Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. The act of remembrance was conducted by Rev'd Jane Banister, with the minute's silence at 11am. Councillor Mike Tomlinson laid a wreath on

behalf of the Parish Council. At the same time villagers gathered at the Wilstone memorial for a short service followed by the minute's silence, which was led by Didier Jaquet.

The wreath of poppies was laid by veteran Ben Reeves, now 89, who served with the Army in Greece, Italy and Africa between 1941 and 1945. At both services villagers remembered those who died in two World Wars, and in more recent conflicts including Iraq and Afghanistan.



Rev'd Banister and Cllr. Tomlinson at Long Marston.

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Eileen Doley: a great writer for Village News

EILEEN DOLEY, who died in September, was a prolific contributor to Village News and its predecessors. This may come as a surprise to many readers as she rarely wrote under her own name. Articles from her pen appeared under a whole host of amusing 'by lines', with some editions having two or three articles from her under different names.

One thing that did give her away to sharp eyed readers though was her brilliant command of the English language. Her grammar and punctuation were not to be doubted. Proof readers never had to mark any corrections on her work, but were often made to reach for their dictionaries to learn about some of the fabulous words Eileen found to include in her articles - always correctly. But best of all she could make the everyday events of village life amusing and interesting, and eye catching too, with a lengthy alliterative headline that made you want to find out what on earth she was on about. She spent her working life with the written word and our village magazine benefited greatly from her skill, and also from her mischievous sense of humour - she liked to be a little rebellious!

Much has already been said about the loss to the community at her untimely passing, and the cessation of her contributions to Village News is a part of that loss. The editors of this journal will miss her support and encouragement, her good ideas for new articles, and of course the beautifully crafted pieces themselves. *PB.*

Special features:

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Readers' contributions are welcome. Send them in!

The Prairie Dogs reporting

by Ed & Alfie

Ed and Alfie continue the stories of their adventures since moving to Canada from Long Marston last spring.

WINTER arrived with a vengeance this week. We were subjected to a five hour blizzard, locally called a "white out". There was good fun to be had when it finally stopped; I just love rolling and rocking about in the snow. Alfie isn't so keen, but is getting better at it, and let's face it, we shall have a lot more to come. Our new recruit to the family is just a puppy; didn't think much to it at all and stayed indoors.



Our new home

I had better introduce you to our new bedfellow. He is a white/cream Labrador who is supposed to grow up into a big, fierce guardian for both Alfie and me to keep us safe from the coyotes over winter, when they come in from the prairie looking for easy food, ie. Alfie and Me, but if first examples of his guard duties are anything to go on we will be looking out for our own safety. Oh, by the way, his name is Duffuss; anyone with American connections will know what the Americans call a Duffuss!! I think we have a right Duffuss with us!! Now winter is closing in, our resident owls, (they are like tawny owls only four times as big), leave their summer roost in our granary and roost in the Oregon pine trees that protect our house from the north winds. As is the order of the day, we all troop out at 0700hrs for first stables, well this time of year it's dark then, therefore it was quite startling to be "terwit-terwooded" at by the owls in the trees. Alfie went into attack mode, as he does with cats and gofers, barking and trying to climb the tree and I jumped a bit, then carried on to the stables whilst out new friend, big, bad, tough Duffuss took one look then turned tail and ran like the wind, with tail between legs, back indoors and wouldn't come out again until the sun came up. I ask you – what hope have we got against the coyotes! OK he is young and floppy at this stage, only just having left his mum and nine brothers and sisters, so he has a lot to learn and the first thing on that list is to keep away from my dinner bowl, especially when I am having my supper. When I growl at him I am called a grumpy old Grandad, and I am not keen in joining in with Alfie and his silly games of hunt the slipper etc, kids stuff, much better to curl up and have a comfy nap after supper.



New boy Duffuss

One advantage we do have in our location in the South West corner of the prairies of Alberta is the 'Chinook Winds'. After our snow storm the wind, which comes in off the Pacific Ocean and swirls around a gap in the Rocky Mountains, which are to our West, bringing warm airs off the ocean soon melted the snow, because that wind can raise the temperature very quickly. Then it tends to blow for a couple of days which doesn't bother me too much with my little short legs and low undercarriage, but does get a bit dusty around the eyes when everything had dried out, but what we do like is the glorious sunshine for most of the time.



Ed

In my last report I mentioned that Miss Nina, the toffy nosed mare, hadn't arrived. Well now she is with us and has a nice boyfriend called Beau. For you knowledgeable horse lovers, he is an American Quarter horse. To us he is a big bag of muscles with a very nice gentle nature you could call him a gentle giant. Miss Nina arrived by a flight carrying the British Equestrian Team to the big event at Spruce Meadows near Calgary. We don't know if this had any influence on her, but her temperament has changed for the better; she no longer tries to take a nip at you when you least expect it and I even get to drink out of her bucket when she is in the stable. She did step on poor Alfie one day but then that was his fault for being under her feet. He had his paw in a bandage for days and was very sorry for himself.



Alfie

We have been to several events, which over here means travelling quite a distance; now instead of an old lorry we have a nice modern pick-up and trailer for the horses. So a lot more comfortable. So far Miss Nina has won all of her events, adding to her collection of ribbons. At her last event she was reserve champion and collected a horse rug for her efforts. We are warned off from using it as a bed in the stables. Also in that event Beau won some ribbons in a novice event. He is just learning to be a jumping horse instead of a 'round up' horse; all his efforts before have been with the cowboys rounding up cattle on the ranges. In fact one spectator wanted to buy him because he said there aren't too many Quarter horses like him around, but no, he is destined for the cross country competitions when he has learnt his trade, and by all accounts he is a willing learner and quick to understand that which is required of him. We think it's a lot of TLC that he likes because as a cowboy horse they don't get too much of that.

That about brings you up to date with our adventures so far, we have included as requested some pictures of our location, hope you enjoy them.

Village News

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This will be the last issue of the *Village News* that I will have the privilege of being editor for.

The period of remembrance is not just for thinking about the past and those lives lost, but also for the present and looking to the future. Those that sacrifice their lives do so to give future generations opportunities that they did not have and could not know about.

For those that know us will know that we are selling our lovely cottage and moving to Norfolk. Having been in the village (only!) six years we have seen changes, made brilliant friends and enjoyed the village life that Wilstone has to offer in full. We will miss all of these but know that deep down in our hearts it is a move that we must make.

So when we finally move it will be with sadness for what we are leaving behind and excitement for the new life that we are embarking on.

Thank you all for your support

Caroline Beevers

**Deadline for items for our next issue
 (February) is Wednesday 20th January 2010.
 We do not publish in January.**

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.*

29 November

10.00am All Saints Holy Communion
 6.00pm St Cross Advent Carols

20 December

10.00am Nativity at All Saints

22 December

2.00pm Social Afternoon All Saints

24 December

4.00pm Crib Service All Saints

25 December

10.00am Family Communion All Saints

St. Cross Carols

The Annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held again this year as usual on Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th and of course everyone is very welcome to attend, to sing, to listen again to the Christmas story and perhaps to stay afterwards for a glass of wine and nibbles.

If anyone feels they would like to read one of the lessons (and this particularly includes children) Please do get in touch with our Team Vicar, Rev'd Jo Wetherall on 851200 or Churchwarden Andrew Minter on 823605 or speak to any of the St. Cross congregation.



What's on...

Christmas Bazaar

28th November 2009

2-4 pm



Long Marston village hall

In aid of All Saints church and local organizations

THE QUEENS HEAD

PRESENTS

THE ANNUAL SANTA'S SACK OF CACK QUIZ!

SUNDAY 20th DEC - 19:30

RAISING MONEY FOR THE FRIENDS OF LM SCHOOL

COME & HAVE A DELVE
IN SANTA'S SACK FOR 50p!

A FUN NIGHT FOR ALL

Diary dates...

Tring Rural Parish Council meetings (8pm)

The public are welcome to attend these meetings.

Wednesday 18 November Wilstone village hall.

Wednesday 16 December Puttenham Cecilia hall.

Friday 27 November

Tring Traditional Christmas Festival

Friday 27 November-Sunday 29 November

Art in Cheddington. 6 Town Farm. 10am - 5pm.

Saturday 28 November

Christmas Bazaar. LM village hall 2-4pm

Saturday 5 December

Long Marston Cricket Club Race night. See ad on page 7

Friday 11 December

Wilstone Film Night 8pm

Saturday 12 December

Christmas Crafts at All Saints 10 - 12am

Thursday 17 December

Father Christmas visits Wilstone

Looking ahead to 2010 in Puttenham

Saturday 6 February

"Pie & Jazz" 7:30pm. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham

Saturday 10 April

Jumble Sale 2:00pm. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham

Saturday 1 May (TBC)

"May-Day" madrigals & breakfast 6:00am, Puttenham

Saturday 2 October

Jumble Sale 2:00pm. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham

Saturday 30 October

Supper & Auction 2:00pm. Cecilia Hall, Puttenham

Your local event details can be included here for free.

Wilstone Village Shop

Opening hours

Monday to Saturday: 7.30am to 1.00pm

Sunday: 9.00am to 12.00noon.

Times for mobile library

Thursdays, fortnightly: December 3rd & 17th.

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

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

Wilstone Film Nights

Friday, December 11th

**Dustin
Hoffman**



**Emma
Thompson**

Last Chance Harvey

Last Chance Harvey is a film of real optimism. It shows that you are never too old to fall in love and make new memories. It's also a movie about putting the past, as well as any fears behind you; it's never too late to make amends.

The ending may be a little predictable but Last Chance Harvey is a heart warming and up lifting movie that will leave you with a smile on your face.

FRIDAY Dec 11th

TICKETS £6

Available now at:

THE HALF MOON PUB, WILSTONE

THE VILLAGE SHOP, WILSTONE

MEADS FARM SHOP

Film starts at 8pm.

Licensed bar opens at 7.15pm



VILLAGE VIEW

BY JOHN PAINTER



I've picked a seasonal shot for the Village View! The picture of the cottages in Little Tring was taken a couple of years ago when we had a sudden heavy snowfall at the beginning of February. (However the weather is so unpredictable I could be taking pictures like this in the middle of July before long!).

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Esther Matthews on 01442 827237

esther.matthews@barkingmad.uk.com

www.barkingmad.uk.com

Neighbourhood policing newsletter

Hello all,

Just a couple of messages for everyone to be aware of in the run up to Christmas, again we have seen a rise in burglaries in the centre of Tring. These appear to be occurring throughout the day, so please ensure that we are keeping our homes secure. We do not want these criminals coming into the villages. Please take some simple precautions:

- Ensure all your windows and doors are locked and secure
- Ensure side gates, sheds and garages are locked and secure
- If you are away, let your neighbour know, consider timer switch for lights to come on. (making your home look lived in)
- Keep expensive items out of sight. Ensure packaging for expensive items are discarded in a way that it's not easy for someone to know what you have in your property.

Theft from motor vehicles is still happening. Please pass the message on to people visiting the area, to leave nothing of value in the vehicle.

As the weather is becoming colder, please all take care to ensure that should we have an icy morning and you're de-icing your car that you stay with it. We have seen a few people fall victim and as a result had their vehicles stolen. It only takes seconds for someone to jump in and go. Please take care.

By PCSO 6096 Thomas Montgomery, Herts Police

With the closure of the Tringford Road Refuse site, I have already seen a few items of furniture discarded at the road side. If you should be out in the village and notice fly-tipping occurring then please contact us. Should you want to report items to be removed please contact Dacorum Borough Council on 01442 228084.

All that's left for me to do is wish you all a fantastic Christmas; please all take care and enjoy the holidays. I will see you all back here in the New Year and hopefully see you when I'm out in the villages on patrol, so please feel free to stop me for a chat. As usual should you have any questions or require us please don't hesitate to call.

Happy Holidays

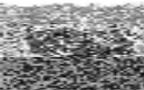
Smartwater

Smartwater is a security marking product widely used across the country. Each bottle is unique. It is not hazardous, is virtually impossible to remove and can be used on most items including jewellery.

There is a special offer now available to anyone in a Neighbourhood Watch area at a one off cost of £15 plus VAT and carriage. Hertfordshire Constabulary will fund signage. Anyone wanting more information or wishing to take advantage of this offer should let me know at Fairfield, Chapel Lane, Long Marston or email me at john.n.harrison@googlemail.com.

*Wedding?
Special Event?*

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Email - chrism@bodyshopmag.com
Tel: 07785 972126

FIRST STEPS PRE-SCHOOL, LONG MARSTON

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

We are open 4 mornings a week from 9.15am to 11.45am

We have a great team of Fully-Qualified Staff

Lunch Club on Tues & Fri: 11.45am - 1.15pm

For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact our Playleader: Teresa Giddings on 07925 185311

LONG MARSTON BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Everyone Welcome. Come And Meet Some New Faces:

Wednesday mornings (term time) 10-11.30am

Victory Hall, Long Marston

£1.50 per child (50p additional children over 1 year)

Sally Smith: 01296 661689

EXPECTING VISITORS

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in your natural pond (¼+ acres) ?

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Enjoy your pond, don't endure it!



Long Marston Parent & Toddler Group

If you have a youngster who is not at school, why not pop along to Toddler Group at the Victory Hall?

We meet every Wednesday morning from 10am – 11.30am during term time and all children who are not yet at school, and their parents or carers, are welcome. There is always something for them to do and somebody for you to talk to. So if you find yourself at a loose end and your children need to let off steam, why not come along. For £1.50 you can enjoy a moment of tranquility whilst the junior members of the family have fun in a safe environment.



**Wilstone
Village Hall
Friday
9.45 a.m.**

Other Morning & Evening Classes across Aylesbury, Halton & Tring. **Jazzercise** blends aerobics, Pilates, yoga, and kick boxing movements into fun routines, suitable for all fitness levels. Expect fantastic results and great value for money in a fun, friendly environment.

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Aston Clinton)*



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Christmas Opening Times at Wilstone's Community Shop

Christmas Eve:	7.30am – 1pm
Christmas Day:	Closed
Boxing Day:	9am – 11am
27th December:	9am – midday
28th December:	9am – 11am
29th-31st December:	7.30am – 1pm
1st January:	Closed

And there's still time to place orders for turkeys, geese and other Christmas meats from our popular Chesham butcher.

There is also locally made mincemeat and Christmas puddings available, as well as a small range of other Christmas items.

Liz would like to express her gratitude for all the support and encouragement that been shown from around the Parish. It has really helped to set the foundation for a true community shop to be established in Wilstone. If you haven't managed to visit her yet, please call in and see what's on offer.

Liz sends warm festive greetings to all her Wilstone shop customers and her best wishes for a successful 2010 for all of us.

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

Tickets for

THE LONG MARSTON PANTOMIME:

DICK WHITTINGTON

by Neil Gurney

Will be on sale at Long Marston Village Hall on

Saturday, 16th January

from 11am to 12noon

See posters for where tickets can be purchased after that date.

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

Thursday, 18th February at 8pm

Friday, 19th February at 8pm

Saturday, 20th February 2pm & 7.30pm

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

If you would like to help with the Panto please ring

Vicky on 01296 661586

Early Christmas treat at the Farm Shop

ANOTHER downpour did not seem to discourage people from turning out for the first event of the seasonal social calendar - the Christmas food fair held at P.E.Mead and Sons' farm shop at Wilstone Green. The place was packed, and once inside, the thumping rain on the roof of the marquee entrance was a great reason not to leave. There were plenty of other reasons not to leave too, not least of which were the many food tastings on offer. Good plan to greet us with mulled wine and spiced local apple juice. (Very nice, thank you!) Favourites with the tasting public were the roasted venison from the nearby Gade valley, Mead's own beef and lamb, speciality cheeses and some very fine chutney. The now famous Chil-tern cold pressed rapeseed oil can be purchased in a gift box this year; very natty. Clearly much effort goes into putting on such a good evening for customers, and though the tills were busy, many seemed to be also enjoying a pleasant social event with friends and neighbours. A nice start to the festive season.



Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 45 Easy

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

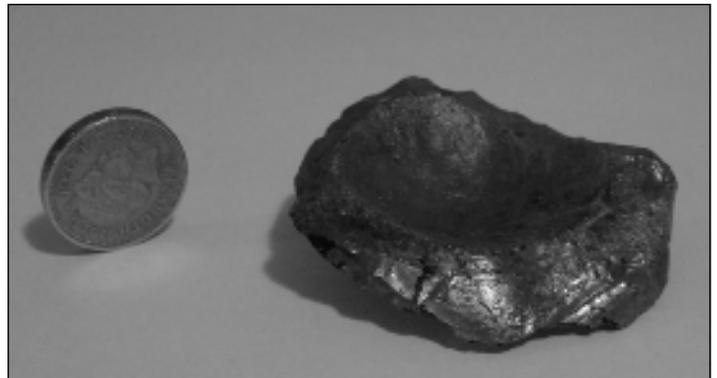
Start with the usual inspection and you should fill several squares. Now locate the missing 1's in the right hand boxes and then you will be able to complete the right hand centre box. Now you are own your own!

Weird object stumps pub's best (!) brains

by Lawless Kenn

THE great thing about a village pub is the fact that it's a good place to meet socially and especially with friends. The Half Moon is an ideal watering hole with good food aplenty. Better still for many of us with no work on a Saturday, to get together on a Friday evening, relax, unwind and partake of the many liquid refreshments it's the ideal venue. Whilst Col, Pete, and I were in heavy discussion about the past week's events, we were alerted to the speedy entrance of Plymouth historian Professor Phillandorus Buchasie otherwise known as Horatio and side kick PW of the crisps giants. Immediate uproar was unearthed as the Prof. threw upon our table his latest find. Silence fell all around as more and more people looked in awe upon what sat on our table. What could it be? A gem from the deep? Or even some artifact from a bygone era? Who knows!

What was relevant was that this was truly some find. Local artist Philby waxed lyrical upon seeing it and braced his iron, whilst Ben Nevis of Reeves thought it may have come from the area covering the Normandy landings. Plumbing the deeps, Toby likened it to a plectrum. All of a sudden the air was embraced with the odour of sweet perfume (which alerted B. Nevis of R.) and thus entered into the area Magdaleana de Bucci with Jil de Walker, of Tiller fame. Voices were asking what Can Can this mean? To put people's minds at ease, innkeeper Yan of Totting Sundayland stated the premises were not to be used for uplifting events. So back to the find! Sadly John le Cameyra was not available to photograph this event nor was CI Reed Man to investigate further as their services would have been appreciated.



Some sort of glass fragment. What is it? (Pound coin, for scale.)

However, upon heavier inspection it was deemed to be of a glazed surface and apparently Kneel of Smailliw had notified Scrapey of Windows but doubted it was of IT fame. Another frame of thought was suggested by Paul de Cardiff who believed it was IT. Mrs. P de Cardiff appeared to have some idea but sauntered into the first steps of the Charleston and was quickly cautioned by the Tiller Foundation which closely monitors her condition. Anyway by this time the jury was out and a decision was made to enlist the observations of the Local News Magazine readers and test the many brains therein to what it truly is.

Let's hope it's some find. What is it? (Answers on a postcard please to Lawless Kenn, c/o Table by the toilets, Half Moon; or to Village News.)

Have some Retail Therapy with the Hospice

With just a couple of months to go until Christmas, people are already thinking about what to stuff in their stockings this year. Yes it's true, the countdown to December 25th has already begun for some savvy shoppers. Keen not to miss a trick, the busy retail team at the Hospice of St Francis, who already have six hugely successful charity shops and a designer boutique called Number 20, in Lower Kings Road Berkhamsted, have now launched an exciting shopping opportunity for shoppers looking for the perfect present, just in time for Christmas.

Retail Therapy is a stylish new virtual gift scheme, ideal for that hard-to-buy-for person who has everything. Gifts will range from £5 to £500 and include things which will benefit the Hospice of St Francis and the care it gives to patients who are terminally ill and their families.

For just £5 you can buy two nutritious smoothies which are enjoyed by patients who have very poor appetites. A problem shared is a problem halved and for £5 you could also buy an evening session of phone calls to families who need help coming to terms with their emotions following the loss of a loved one. For £10 you can help purchase this season's must have accessory - a pair of support tights which are essential in bringing comfort and easing pain for patients suffering from swelling following cancer treatment. Or spend a tenner and provide a beautiful bouquet of flowers without breaking the bank and bring a smile to our patients and families.

Buy a breath of fresh air for just £25 and provide a whole day's supply of oxygen. It's an unusual gift for someone who has it all and you can never have enough O₂. £50 will buy a counselling session for children suffering from bereavement to help them remember their loved one and for £100, a day's nursing

shift for one of our Home Care Team who work in the local community will be a thoughtful gift.

If you want to blow the budget, for £500 you can buy someone a morning's shift at the Hospice of St Francis - a morning full of delicious meals, first class care, emotional guidance and physio and much, much more from the dedicated team. But that's not all: the catalogue which is available in all the Hospice charity shops, also has the exciting range of Christmas cards currently on sale.

Don't forget the beautiful designer shop, Number Twenty, on Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsted has just taken delivery of tons of gorgeous items which make perfect presents and is brimming with Christmas gift ideas.

Shopat@stfrancis.co.uk, our Ebay store, is also a great place to bag a bargain and help the charity at the same time! To make your purchases you can pop into the Hospice charity shops or call the shopping team on 01442 869555. With your purchase you'll get a beautiful card to personalise before giving it to the person you are buying a present for.

It doesn't have to be for Christmas - why not show someone you care all year round.

Sarah Thompson, Fundraising Director, said: "We're hoping that the Retail Therapy scheme will be really popular this Christmas and throughout the year. It's a great way of giving something special to someone you love, and also to someone you've never met before! All the money raised through the Retail Therapy scheme will go towards funding all our patient care, and we always promise our supporters we'll spend it wisely, and where it is needed most. Now that's what I call 'Retail Therapy'!"

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Pre-School News

As the festive season approaches, things become rather secretive at pre-school and when questioned about what they have done sly smiles spread across the faces of the children and they reply, "I can't tell you, it's a secret!"

Amongst the 'secrets' is the traditional Nativity play which is performed in front of an audience of parents, grandparents and assorted friends. Each child has a part and they all take their roles extremely seriously. The dedication of the staff is clear for all to see as the children perform perfectly and bring the whole house to the point of tears.

It is also hoped that a certain bearded gentleman in a red coat will make an appearance at the Christmas party, which will delight every child there, especially when he shows them the contents of his sack!

Late in November members of the Long Marston WI visited Pre-school and presented us with a "Very Hungry Caterpillar" Story Sack which they had made as part of a national competition. The children were delighted to take part in the retelling of the story and the staff marveled at the love and detail

which had been put into creating this wonderful resource. Thank you very much indeed to the members of the WI who put so much time and effort into such a fantastic creation.

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 and as a result many children stay with us until they 'cross the road to big school'. The Christmas party will mark the end of term, and pre-school will close for Christmas on Friday 18th December and re-open on Tuesday 5th January 2010.

In January we will be welcoming Isabel Armitage to First Steps and we hope she will be very happy during her time with us. If you would like to know more about Pre-School, come and look round, or put your child's name on our waiting list. Please contact either Teresa Giddings, pre-school leader, on 07925 185311 (during pre-school hours) or our Chair, Sally Smith, on 01296 661689.

Opengardens



Open your Garden for Charity

Do you have an inspiring garden? or do you and some of your neighbours have a collection of unique eye-catching gardens? Would you allow people who appreciate gardens to come and visit yours?



Open your garden for a good cause

British Red Cross Open Gardens programme is dependant upon the dedication of all the garden owners that take part and the enthusiasm of attendees visiting as many as possible.

Please let us know if you have a garden that you could open one Sunday. We currently have over 18 that open throughout the county and last year raised a fantastic £30,964. British Red Cross use money from programmes such as this to deliver emergency, medical, practical and emotional care for people in their own homes, in this local community, throughout the UK and abroad. Crisis situations happen every day, whether it is someone infirm and not able to assist themselves or someone who has just lost everything through disaster. People need the Red Cross to be there, meeting suffering with care, understanding and without discrimination, when there is no one else to turn to.

If you would like to help, either as a volunteer or by opening your own garden, please call **Sarah Amexheta or Cas Lawson on 01992 586609.**

Tring Rural's Big Tidy up Saturday 30 January 2010



At this time of year, as the trees and verges die back, litter is more visible so it seemed a good time to organise another parish litter pick.

The planned date is **Saturday 30th January, from 10am-12.00.**

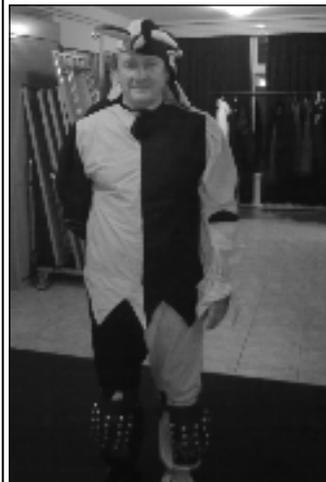
Please come along to Wilstone or Long Marston village hall and pick up your tabards, bags and litter pickers and get picking!

This year our event has been registered with 'The Big Tidy Up' national campaign, so the number of bags we manage to collect can be added to the 'tidy up omeater' on their website: <http://www.thebigtidyup.org>

"Tring Team Churches"

Wilstone, Pottenham, Long Marston, Aldbury & Tring.....

Come and warm the Vicarage in Aldbury - It still feels new to us so come and help us feel really at home for our first Christmas on Friday 11th December, from 7.30pm for mulled wine and seasonal nibbles. We may even have curtains by then! No need to bring anything but if you would like to make a donation to our Christian Aid - Zimbabwe appeal, we would be happy to receive it. If you would like a lift to this event, or could provide lifts for others, please see the lists in the churches.



So who is the jester?

The local village jester joined in the fun at the film night when the Morris Men was shown.

He turned up in a very fetching black & yellow outfit suitably attired with bells!

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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

Email: clerk@tringruralpc.org.uk

The Village Warden is:

Mr Colin Reedman 01442 822 031

Parish Council website: www.tringruralpc.org.uk

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The agricultural story line...

by David Mead

As Katie Price emerged shivering from a flooded cave the phone rings. The editor's spaniel has eaten my masterpiece, my latest and very best effort. As I extract my quill from the ink well in the oak table I gather my thoughts - what would Shakespeare have done? Perhaps his lurcher ate his first copy of Hamlet and we only know his second attempt Yoricks!!

I thought Friday 13th was lucky at the farm shop. The marquee with pallets of coal acting as anchors did not take off scattering venison, pate, mulled wine and apple juice over Marsworth and all points east! Yes I know I am biased but I thought the food, presents and drinks were well displayed and very tempting. It seemed quite a few people thought the same. The true heroes of the evening were the carpark attendants Euan, Alex and Karl.



Now do I look as though I would do anything like that!

Simon has checked the latest DEFRA maps of the farm, and part of Wilstone reservoir is included in the hectares. This was fairly obvious but any missed mistakes concerning footpaths, hedges and ditches etc must be noted or will incur penalties.

The autumn sown wheat has appreciated the rain and is now growing away. Last years flocks of pigeons have not yet appeared so the oil seed rape plants are making the most of the peace and quiet and are growing away which is just as well. At the food fair I was told that rape oil is being used to massage babies(!) although I think we had better check this out before we all have a go.



Startops on a slightly fuller day

British Waterways always comes in for a bit of stick. Apparently Marsworth reservoir has been leaking directly into the canal, hence the low level at Startops. Plans were made to repair the leak but when it came to the final decision there was no money available for the proposed repair. I cannot see the situation changing with the government selling British Waterways assets, the money going elsewhere. I think there should be a spokesperson invited to write a regular article in the magazine as we are surrounded by waterways. I have also heard that a number of waterside dwellings are to be built on the old Fencetre site by Watery Lane in Marsworth. No mention of limited access then.

On another point entirely I have been getting my Winfields mixed up. Daphne was sure Reg Winfield was not in the Home Guard. I've gone back to Tommy Chappin's book. Daphne was right, there was a Thomas John and a Frederick Henry, but Reg Winfield was not on parade.

The village photographer was deserting his post, by bus. All the action was at Dixon's Gap Bridge; police were stopping traffic but it was plain to see that there was a lorry tilting at 45° on top of the bridge. There is talk of a burst tyre and a car - perhaps the office boy took his Brownie to get his scoop for this edition. (*See story later in the edition - Ed*).

The dog will have to go hungry next month as the magazine is on its well earned rest. Teresa and I wish everyone who can read a very Happy Christmas. Those that can't read haven't missed much!

Note from the Editor: Tankelda Tango in the Night - aka Bruce the article eating spaniel sends his apologies and has told me (in strictest confidence of course) that he thought the writing was very good but the paper tasted even better!! He is very sorry for any inconvenience and has had his privileges curtailed!

Letters...

From Mr Damian Boyce.

More stories of local people please.

I admire the work that you and your colleagues do with this monthly magazine/news sheet. As an ex-village lad who still tries to keep an interest in the goings-on in the community I find the work that you all put into these pages is really commendable.

My only wish would be a page where the people who have grown up in the area and have stories of interest to tell could have their say. I still think of that little place as my home. I still know most of the names on the village memorial; we were taught to respect our village. I wonder do they still hold Remembrance there? As a Cub we always held a minute's silence on the recreation ground, before we beat any team that turned up, we were that good.

Damian Boyce

A friend of the village

The Editor adds: We are always delighted to give space on our pages to stories from villagers. More needed. I am pleased to say that Mr. Boyce has agreed to write something for Village News.

Dear Editor

As a resident of Long Marston I, like many others, was incensed to learn of the recent closure of the Tring dump. This was particularly annoying to me because, only last week whilst in my garden sweeping up leaves, I had come across an old mattress, a large moth-eaten sofa, a black and white TV, a roll of underlay, two pots of dried-up paint and a bucket full of rubble, that I didn't know were there.

So imagine my horror when, having driven all the way to the Tring dump with the mattress balanced precariously on the roof and the sofa hanging out of the back, I found that it had been closed for three weeks. I was not amused, I can tell you.

I drove home seething and in my rage inadvertently took a wrong turn. As I pulled to a stop in a farmer's gateway to consult my map, the mattress slipped onto the ground next to some old tyres and a rusty fridge – obviously some enterprising local initiative in protest at the council's ridiculous deci-

sion to close the dump.

With my mattress already on the ground, it made perfect sense to support this local enterprise, so I off-loaded the rest of my haul and stacked it as neatly as I could between the fridge and tyres.

It makes my hackles rise when I think of all the money that is wasted on building flash new facilities like the one in Aston Clinton, when our generous farmers are happily offering their gateways and ditches for us to use for free. I'm now happy with the closure of the Tring dump because with the proliferation of new mini-tips cropping up everywhere I no longer have to drive very far (better for the environment) in order to dispose of my unwanted rubbish.

Well, I must finish there as I have just noticed an old wardrobe and a large pile of asbestos hiding behind the garage that I need to take to the new 'facility' down Watery Lane.

Yours,

Robby Schtipp

Cecilia Musical Evening Review, November 14th

The newly formed **Ridgeway Ensemble** provided an appreciative audience with a programme of musical gems at the Cecilia hall, on the evening of an exceptionally stormy autumn day. We were entertained by;

Valerie Ashworth-Pirillo. Piano

Margaret Richards. Cello

Judith Sheridan. Voice

The three founder members of this unusual combination played a mixture of Vaughan Williams, Brahms and Ravel in the first half, interspersed with poetry, read by Judith.

A lighter second half introduced us to the music of Poulenc and Satie, both members of 'Les Six'. Margaret and Valerie had fun in the playing of a fairly unknown composer, Gabriel-Marie, and were joined by Judith in completing their programme with an arrangement of Gershwin's songs. Rhythm was such a feature of the last half that we found our feet tapping. But with such a varied programme we were able to appreciate the real musical talents of this fantastic group, all having received some of their musical education in Germany and all living on our doorstep!!

Medecins Sans Frontiers benefited by the money raised on the evening. Let's hope we can invite them back again soon.

Margaret Noakes

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The Puttenham Page

compiled by Christine Rutter

St. Mary's Church, Puttenham

Service of

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY, 20th DECEMBER

3.30 p.m.

Service followed by hot Puttenham Punch & Mince Pies

CHURCH DECORATING

The decorating of St. Mary's Church in readiness for Christmas will take place on Saturday, 19th December from 10 a.m. Do please join us. We have a lot of fun (including seasonal "elevenses" !!) If you are able to contribute any holly or other suitable greenery, this would be much appreciated.

St. Mary's Church, Puttenham

THURSDAY, 24th DECEMBER – 11.30 p.m.

"MIDNIGHT MASS" WITH CAROLS

CHURCH CLEANING!....

It is at this time of the year that it is most necessary to thank all those who have been involved in cleaning St Mary's, decorating it with flowers and carrying out all the other jobs that become necessary during the year Audrey Clay, Eunice Hall, Ernestine Matthews, Liz Young, Margaret Kelland, Betty Lear, Liz Josling, Pat Jackson, Sheila Barron, David Kelland and of course, my fellow Churchwarden, John Barron.

The Church is always much admired by visitors, which makes it all worth-while. If you would like to join our team, please contact Christine Rutter (Tel: 01296 668337). As I always say – Absolutely no previous experience necessary.

A very Happy Christmas & New Year to you all

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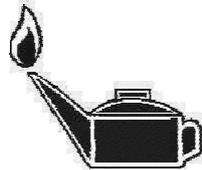
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Recipe page

by Anna Ashwell

Cherry and Chocolate Christmas pudding

I am trying this recipe for the first time this year. The quantity below serves 8 as it is very rich. It is best served with clotted cream or a good quality ice cream. To store the pudding, wrap it well and keep it in a cool place. To reheat, follow the instructions below but steam for 2 hours only.

Ingredients:

- 220g of dried fruit (I used all glace cherries. The original recipe uses 60g of cherries and the rest of the weight is made up of a mixture of sultanas, currants and raisins)
- 1 tbsp black treacle
- 4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 small apple, cored, peeled and grated
- 2 tbsp whisky
- 40g plain flour
- 25g molasses sugar
- 15g cocoa powder
- 2 tsp mixed spice
- 1 tsp salt
- 85g chocolate – 70% minimum cocoa solids (grated)
- 1 large egg, beaten

Method:

- Mix together the dried fruit, treacle, olive oil, apple and whisky and leave for at least 4 hours, or overnight if possible
- Mix all the dry ingredients together
- Add the egg to the soaked fruit and mix well. Finally add the dry ingredients and mix well. Do not over-mix
- Place the mixture in a pudding basin, 17cm (6½in) in diameter and 9cm (3½in) deep, and cover with a circle of grease-proof paper, then fold in the centre to make a pleat
- Place the pleated papers on top of the pudding basin and use a long piece of string to tightly tie the papers just below the rim of the basin. With an extra piece of string, tie a long loop across the top to use as a handle to lift the pudding in and out of the pan
- Place a heatproof saucer in the bottom of a large saucepan and sit the pudding on top. Fill the pan with enough boiling water to come halfway up the side of the basin, then cover with a tightly fitting lid
- Bring the water to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer gently for 4 to 5 hours. Check the water every couple of hours and add extra boiling water as necessary to maintain the water level until the pudding is cooked. Serve with the clotted cream



Engine picture!

THE Metropolitan Railway 0-4-4 tank engine No.1 overtakes a more sedate service on the slow line at a September steam day at the Bucks Railway Centre, Quainton. Photographed from an open wagon on the slow train, which was great fun (and sooty) to ride in. In the early days of rail travel, all third class passengers travelled in open wagons, which must have been grim in the winter rain. The Metropolitan Railway, which now finishes at Amersham, once ran through Quainton and on to Verney Junction. For a time they even operated a Pullman service to and from London each day. (Picture: Phil Buchi.)

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Avoid Christmas Weight Gain by Jazzercise

By Kerri Donnellan

The results are in. The average person gains one to two pounds during the Christmas season. That's not so bad, right? Wrong! The problem isn't just that the average person gains a couple of pounds; the real problem is that this weight is never lost. People gain weight each Christmas, maintain that weight throughout the year, and then put on more pounds next Christmas. Gain two pounds every winter, and that equals 24 pounds in ten years.

How do we stop the cycle? The first step is to be realistic. It's not likely that you will lose a large amount of weight over the holidays. So, making drastic calorie cuts is probably not a viable solution. Instead, set a personal goal of maintaining your current weight through the end of the year. Make it your personal mission not to gain excess pounds.

Of course, avoiding holiday weight gain is often easier said than done, right? Here are five simple questions to ask yourself this Christmas to keep weight gain at bay.

- **What is my plan?** Before the holidays even begin, create a plan. Mark your calendar with pre-set appointments for your exercise sessions. Decide on your menus ahead of time, and head to the produce section of your supermarket to stock-up on fruits and leafy greens.
- **How can I get my colleagues to help out?** Office settings can be a catastrophe for nutritional eating. So, talk to your colleagues ahead of time. Ask everyone to agree that fattening desserts and sugary treats will be kept in one section of the of-

rice only. That way, you can easily avoid the route of temptation.

- **Why am I attending this party?** When you think about it, you generally don't attend a party strictly for the food. You're there to spend time with your friends and family. So, do exactly that! Focus on socializing. There's no reason to make three trips to the buffet when you're engrossed in calorie-free conversation.

- **Am I getting my five-a-day?** Eat five or more servings of fruits and vegetables every day. The fibre in these low-calorie foods will give your stomach a full sensation, so you're less likely to snack on cakes, sweets or crisps.

- **What are my favourite indulgences?** It's okay to have a tasty treat now and then. If you deprive yourself of everything, you're more likely to binge in a moment of weakness. So, pick your favourites, and allow yourself those indulgences this Christmas.

Jazzercise can help you maintain or improve your body shape and size, depending on how many times a week you attend class. Kerri Donnellan's Jazzercise classes run in Wilstone, Tring, Halton and Aylesbury and offer you morning, evening and weekend classes, so you have plenty to choose from to find a time that suits you! Take a look at www.jazzclass.co.uk or call 07900 987230 to find the class for you.



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A Sure Start Children's Centre

From the Vicarage

by Rev'd Jane Banister

I love catalogues – ones that arrive in the post with my name on, ones you pick up in shops, and even the ones that fall out of newspapers. It drives my husband mad because I keep them all, yet rarely get round to buying anything from them. For me, it is about finding out what is possible, discovering what is on the market, and much of the time being amazed that anyone buys these things.

Of course, the run up to Christmas sees thousands of these catalogues around, and it becomes very clear how much buying for buying's sake goes on, and how many of us would rather buy pointless presents than admit we do not know what to get somebody. It also shocks me all the expectations that are put on Christmas: the need to have the perfect table runner, the need to co-ordinate decorations, and how to look elegant while cooking a turkey. No wonder most relationships are put under strain.

It was all brought to a head for me by an interview with an interior designer who said she started thinking on her summer holidays about what her colour theme for wrapping presents would be. She then described her blissful Christmas which seemed to involve her family enjoying her home and lots of food. There was no sense of anything other than that. I know that is what Christmas consists of for many people and for them it is a happy time. But for me, there is a huge hole in the

middle of it, because Christmas really does begin with Christ.

It is about the amazing and the mysterious; it is about the birth of a child with all the joy and fear that that brings; it is about promises fulfilled and the knowledge of divine love; it is about something far bigger and greater than presents can ever be. And if Christmas does not contain something greater than us, then it is hollow.

We can catch a glimpse of this greatness in worship, in prayer, in taking time to thank God for Christmas, and it is always so much easier to catch that glimpse with others, surrounded by familiar words and music, being made to think by new words and music and in a place where hundreds have prayed before us.

Of course we would love to see you at church this Christmas – you know I was going to say that – but whatever happens, put something greater at the centre of it all.

Let me leave you with a thought from one of my catalogues. It is one that publishes posters for churches, and one poster shows an image of a snowball paperweight with the word "Jesus" inside and underneath it says "Be all shook up – experience the King this Christmas".

Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year.

News from All Saints

A very successful Quiz Night took place at the end of last month; thank you to all those who joined us for what was a very enjoyable evening. A big thank you to Toby, without whom the quiz could not have taken place.

At the time you read this we shall be having, or have had, the Christmas Bazaar. We hope you supported this event which raised funds for our local organisations.

Sunday 20th December at 10am in Church we are having the Sunday Club Nativity. The children will have been busy re-

hearsing so it should be as enjoyable as in previous years.

Tuesday 22nd December Social afternoon at 2pm. Tea and mince pies this week – everyone invited.

On Christmas Eve at 4pm we have our Crib Service. All families are welcome – from babies to grandparents – see you there. **On Christmas Day at 10am** there will be a 10am Family Communion service.

From All Saints we wish you all a very happy Christmas and hope you will be able to join with us sometime over the festive season.

Carole Harrison



A bridge too far!

Precarious Parking Location

by Vic Spratt

Wilstone saw a great increase in the amount of traffic through the Village starting on Tuesday the 17th of November. This was because the Dixons Gap bridge was closed due to a lorry precariously parked on the parapet, see photograph.

Fortunately no one was seriously hurt - the only injury was that the driver hurt his arm. The lorry was heading towards Tring, the sky was clear with not a cloud to be seen; with the sun shining in his eyes the driver said he suddenly had to avoid a car coming in the opposite direction. The result was that the lorry mounted the parapet of the bridge.

The lorry was removed from the bridge by Tuesday afternoon, but the bridge remains closed until a structural examination is made to assess the damage to the bridge and to determine if it is safe for vehicles to use it again.

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HO HO HO for the Hospice of St Francis

Hemel Hempstead Town Centre, Sunday Dec 6th 2009 from

We're turning the streets of Hemel Hempstead a festive red and white in what we hope will be the biggest Santa Dash this side of Hertfordshire this December.

Join hundreds of Santas of all ages as they take to the streets of Hemel dressed as Santa to raise money for local people with life-limiting illness.

Fran Martin, chief elf and event organiser said: "At only 2.5 miles the route is suitable for everyone - whether you are a Santa who sprints, or a Santa who saunters! Push for a seasonal best or take as long as you like, the choice is yours. As long as you have fun and raise money, we don't mind how long it takes!"

Anyone of any age can take part in the Santa Dash 2009 for the Hospice of St Francis.

Last year's youngest entrant was just 8 weeks old, the oldest 80 and we even had four-legged entrants joining in the fun. Entry is just £15, £5 for children or you can enter the whole family for £35. Entry fee includes a medal, Santa suit and breakfast from Oojam in Hemel Hempstead.

Adds Fran: "We would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing sponsors at The Snow Centre, Haven, Butlins, Warner Leisure Hotels, Oojam, Herts Mercury, Riverside and The Gazette for all their support - we know this event



What a jolly bunch!

will be fabulous and will really help make a difference to patient care at the Hospice of St Francis. Please raise as much as you can."

Ralph Harvey, official Santa for Santa Dash 2009, took part last year said: "Being a part of the Santa Dash is very important to me as my wife died at the old Hospice many years ago. Even without having to go to where the patients are you get a sense of love and care."

For more information see www.stfrancis.org.uk or call 01442 869555



Tring Parish Men's Society Britain's New Aircraft Carriers

By Leslie Barker

You may have heard in the news recently about defence spending cuts which could jeopardize the Navy's proposed new aircraft carriers. Do not worry, as at least one will be completed by 2015 as work has already begun on its construction. All that is required is for its fit out and communications equipment to be designed to fit into their allocated spaces.

Brian Berry of our St.Peter and Paul congregation is Technical Lead for Communication Systems in charge of one of the antennae for the QEC aircraft carrier, and commutes to Crawley where he works for a defence industry firm (which Google failed to find for me). However you can watch a video of the carrier in action on U Tube.

Before showing us the video Brian gave a brief history of aircraft carriers, from the first modified ship with a crane to hoist sea planes in and out of the water, to the Ark Royal and the Invincible class carrying Harrier jump jets. Their original role was to be a floating airfield without land support, but this has evolved to replace the traditional battleship and, with its communications systems (visual if all else fails), to command the theatre of war. With helicopters, aircraft carriers also act as landing craft for troop and munitions supply. And of course they also have their own defence systems, supplemented on QEC by an encircling Trident submarine, surrounded by four destroyers, a minesweeper out in front, and a supply ship amongst the destroyers. You won't know this fleet is approaching because they all come by stealth. It also has a communica-

tions mast that can be lowered to allow it to pass under a bridge.

Amongst its other features it generates enough power for a town the size of Swindon, is the first to have air conditioning, and with its automation which includes munitions loading, requires a crew of only 1500 compared to 2250 on the Ark Royal. This allows space for better accommodation including health facilities, 24 hour videos and a gym.

As an architect I was struck by its method of construction after seeing the clear open span across the hangar deck. Block integration is similar to prefabricating room size elements for a housing scheme, or simply stacking shipping containers. The QEC is three blocks wide with narrow outer blocks supporting what are in effect box girder bridges containing a deck height within them, spanning across the hangar. It does not have the problem of the roll on roll off ferries because the hangar deck is above the water line and the aircraft use the lifts. But I did wonder what would happen if a plane caught fire in the hangar.

In our discussion we raised a number of queries, and Brian assured us it would be alright on the day, but did not give away the secrets of how.

The next meeting on 2nd December will return to twentieth century communication technology and building construction when I show slides of Barluzzi's pilgrimage churches - but still in a war context.

Local names and numbers

Herts Police non-emergency number 0845 33 00 222

Local Police Officers (in emergency dial '999')

PC Stephen Hunneysett 0845 33 00 222
PCSO Emma Lennox 0845 33 00 222

Fly-tipping reports

Call Dacorum Waste Services 01442 867858
Call the police if you see the crime being committed.

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

John Kaye 01296 662975

Rector

Rev'd Huw Bellis 01442 822170

Vicar

Rev'd Joanne Wetherall 01442 851200

Churchwardens

Long Marston All Saints:

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

Hall hire: Mags Severs 01296 661021

Long Marston Cricket Club

Paul Dumbleton 01296 668112

Long Marston 1st Steps Pre-School

Sally Smith 01296 661689

Long Marston Baby & Toddler Group

Sally Smith 01296 661689

Long Marston Tennis Club

Margaret Kelland 01296 668314

Long Marston Football Club

Daphne Bateman 01296 668054

Long Marston School 01296 668386

Member of Parliament (House of Commons)

David Gauke 020 7219 4459

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Evelyn Chapman 01908 502272

Whitchurch Morris Men

Richard Moorhouse 01494 722259

Wilstone Village Hall

Bookings: Tony Short 01442 823096

Wilstone Toddlers

Jane Cole 01442 828272

Women's Institute

Lynn Foster 01296 662466

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:
Carole Harrison, 01296 668526.**

Village News

Long Marston, Wilstone, Puttenham,
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Wednesday 20th January 2010

for the February edition. We do not publish in January.

Read *Village News* on line at:

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

www.wilstone.me.uk (Click on Village News)



The Puttenham Page (2)

compiled by Christine Rutter

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DIARY DATES – Please see the magazine’s “Diary” for our confirmed social events
so far for 2010.

Apple Fumble

by Andy Ashwell

After my pathetic attempts at making apple juice last month, I was quite surprised to receive a phone call from the editor of the Village News. A reader who had read about my dismal efforts was, so he said, willing to donate her own apple press to me – absolutely free of charge. Not being one to refuse a ‘freebie’, I was on the phone to Mrs Beeson of Little Tring, quicker than you could say ‘Cox’s Pippin’ to arrange its collection before she changed her mind.

I bundled Florence into the car and, just as we prepared to leave, I suddenly realised that in the rush to secure my free-gift, I had omitted to ask how large the thing was. So, just in case any heavy lifting was required, Mummy was invited along to help.

As it turned out, the apple press wasn’t the industrial-sized monster that I had feared. It was, instead, a very compact and easily portable affair, as Mrs Beeson demonstrated by passing it deftly to me with one hand. Before I popped it into the car and did a runner, we posed for a quick photo. Florence, who was too shy to pose with our sponsor, offered to take the picture but because I didn’t particularly want a picture of the leaves on Mrs Beeson’s patio or of Florence’s grubby fingers, I used my superfluous labourer to take the snap instead.



The handover of the press

As soon as we arrived home Florence and I were eager to get to work on the compost-heap escapees that I had holed-up in the garage. While Mummy disappeared to prepare our lunch, I dusted down our new toy and Florence checked that it worked properly by squashing my fingers in it. Having extracted my throbbing hand

from the press, I quartered some of the apples and grated them using a manual cheese-grater. Grating apples on a cheese grater isn’t as easy as grating cheese, especially with bruised fingers, and after four and a half apples my fingers were shredded to bits and too sore to continue. My subsequent moaning and fran-

tic search for plasters awoke Mummy from her chores and once she had stopped laughing at my raw and swollen fingers smugly produced a food processor from the cupboard. It was much more comfortable to use and Florence quickly mulched 20 apples in a matter of seconds.

We wrapped the pulp in one of Florence’s ‘comfort-blanket’ muslins (clean) and jammed the damp bundle into the press. Florence found it quite hard work turning the screw but laughed



Florence with the press!

excitedly when the juice started to flow into the collecting jug. She was a little surprised by its colour because, unlike the commercially produced stuff that she drinks by the gallon, homemade juice turns brown almost immediately (unless you add lemon juice): something to do with polyphenol oxidase, I’m told – or more likely in this case, the blood from my lacerated fingers.

After a few minutes we had a decent glassful of juice to show for our efforts. More apples, followed

by more liquidising and more pressing, produced sufficient juice for the three of us to wash down our lunch. In total we extracted about three litres from a hundred apples and, although it doesn’t sound much, it was an infinite improvement on the measly four tea-spoonfuls coaxed out of our baked-bean-can embarrassment of last month.

The apple press is now safely ‘mothballed’ in the garage ready for next year when I envisage using the windfalls as they drop to give us a constant supply of juice throughout the autumn. This has got to be much better than composting bucket-loads of apples every week. In fact, there’s the added bonus that the liquidised apple pulp should actually compost better than the unadulterated fruit. Thank you, Mrs Beeson.



Very Important job—juice sampling

Sudoku solution No45

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

Be aware—Parcel scam

With Christmas coming the Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 611911 (a Premium rate number).

DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 02072396655 or ICSTIS (the Premium rate service regulator) at www.icstis.org.uk.

At the Hop

*By A bopper
Pictures by John Painter*

Wilstone Village Hall Committee has excelled itself once again by staging a fabulous 'vinyl' night on Saturday 14th. The 2 DJs, Fat Boy Phil and the Luton Disco Kid were just great. Fat Boy opened the show with 'Telstar' (No. 1 hit - 1960 The Tornados) - the evening just got better and better.

The Luton Disco Kid, with a completely different style, played music from the 'Caister' years. Stuff like Shame by Evelyn 'Champagne' King set the place alight. There was plenty of dancing from an audience that were a mixed bag - hippies, punks, plenty of mini skirts, even Wonder Woman put in an appearance.

The bar was excellent with real ale from Tring Brewery, terrific wine and of course some yummy snacks.



Roger White's superb routine, dancing along with Lonnie Donegan's My Old Man's a Dustman!



Fat Boy Phil, (Phil Buchi – who else could it be!) our DJ for the first part of the evening, operating the turntables and 'playing a guitar' along to the music.



Katie Price - No she hasn't left the jungle so it must be - Mrs Walker!



Tony Short underneath the Jimmy Saville outfit - there was some superb seventies style dress but Tony's was quite distinctive!



Vinyl night rendition of Happy Birthday Mr President, perhaps (Ed: a bit of an in joke - sorry)