



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

Embankment strengthening works now underway at Wilstone Reservoir

£6 million project to strengthen Wilstone Reservoir by the Canal and River Trust

For those of you who use Wilstone reservoir for recreational purposes, you will need to know that work to install two thousand 11-metre-long steel sheet piles into the Wilstone reservoir's two 200-year old embankments, has begun. Stretching for 1,350 metres, the embankments at Wilstone Reservoir are one of the longest of the 71 major reservoirs in the Canal and River Trust's care. Vegetation management work has already been completed, required to create access space for construction plant and materials. Work to create a temporary vehicle access track is underway and the main piling work should have begun by the time you read this article. Ahead of this phase, footpaths and the car park at Wilstone Reservoir will be closed and footpath diversions will be in place. It won't be possible to fish at the reservoir during the main construction element of the works until March 2026. Further details will be published when available, and the closures will be as short as possible.



Temporary road closure

To minimise disruption, the reservoir won't be drained during the works but the water level will be lowered by 0.5 metres below capacity. The reservoir will continue to supply water to the canal, and the water level in the reservoir will slowly reduce throughout the summer, as is usual. The engineering project team will use land-based equipment to carry out the works and, to minimise disruption, will include a silent piling machine. At some point the temporary closure of the B489 will be necessary to safely install piles in the reservoir dam, which is located directly adjacent to the carriageway. The expected closure duration is expected to be to approximately six weeks. The Trust is actively exploring the possibility of reopening the road on some, or potentially all, weekends during the closure period to help minimise disruption. At present, the closure is anticipated to begin around September, although this remains subject to final confirmation of the construction schedule. A traffic diversion will be put in place, and the farm shop and café will remain accessible. Wilstone Reservoir is part of the Tring Reservoirs Nature Reserve Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Originally built to supply water to the Grand Union Canal, the reservoirs are now also one of the best birdwatching spots in southern England. The four individual reservoirs in the Tring Reservoirs Nature Reserve are Startop's, Marsworth, Tringford and Wilstone. The Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust leases and manages the Tring Reservoirs, and the Canal and River Trust maintain operational responsibilities.

Built in 1802 to supply water to the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal, Wilstone Reservoir is the largest of the four reservoirs at 119 acres (48 hectares). It is up to 18 feet (5.5 metres) deep and has the capacity to hold over one million mega litres of water, the equivalent of over 300,000 Olympic sized swimming pools. The reservoir has two five-metre wide embankments stretching for a total of 1,350 metres and ranging in height from two to eight metres.

This information has been provided by the Canal and River Trust and is available in more detail on its web site. This article was compiled by Wilstone resident Peter Walker, who also is a volunteer lock-keeper with the Canal Trust.

Three weeks to go to Wilstone's Open Village and Open Gardens event, from midday on Sunday June 22nd.

Plans are being finalised for Wilstone's Open Village & Open Gardens on **Sunday June 22nd**.

We have had a good response from residents who are willing to open their gardens to the public and from traders who want to participate in such a happy event. Local resident Ivor Spencer has arranged musical acts to provide a variety of afternoon entertainment. So far we have the Wilstone choir to start, led by Anna Swannell, followed by a folk band, rock n'roll, into some blues, rock and pop. Something for everyone.

We have been granted permission to close the road from 10am to early evening so that families can wander around safely, and enjoy the attractions we are getting together, which include:-

- Free playbus for children
- Petting zoo
- Vintage car show at the pub
- Trade & charity stalls, and a plant stall
- Dog 'sniffer' event
- Strolling magician
- The 'Joggler' mobile juggler
- Tombola and craft activity at the Church

And lots of refreshment stalls, including:-

- Teas & cakes from the Community shop
- Pimms stall
- Burgers at The Half Moon
- Asian vegetarian food from MoMo
- Souvlaki stall
- Ice cream van

The Open Village event is **free** to all but there is a charge for touring the gardens and the proceeds go to the Allotment Association. Tickets are sold

on the day from the registration tent and maps are provided for visitors.

Jo and Mark Woodbridge are leading the Open Gardens event. Please open your garden for the day, & contact them for more information:

jomarkwoodbridge@outlook.com

Peter Walker is organising the Open Village event on behalf of the village hall committee. If you would like a non-food stall, please contact him at: walkersandbrook@gmail.com

Please come and help the day if you can, directing traffic, erecting gazebos and just helping visitors. Weather permitting, it has been a terrific village and family event and great for the village.

The event runs from midday with the gardens opening at 2pm, and runs until late afternoon.



Village News

What's on in & around our villages

Diary Dates

Tring Farmers Market

Saturday 14 & 28 June, 2 July
at The Market Place

Meet on Monday,
Long Marston Victory Hall
2.00 to 4.00pm. 2 & 16 June, 7
& 21 July. Tea, cake and a chat
Sunday 22 June

Wilstone Open Village and
Gardens

Saturday 2 August

Long Marston Village Show

Community Action Dacorum - a new free initiative called **Future Ready**. This project is designed to empower Young Adult Carers aged 18 to 24 who live in the Dacorum area and have a caring responsibility, by supporting them to develop their personal journey to employment and become "work ready"

Future Ready offers a bespoke mentoring and training opportunity tailored to each individual's needs, which may include volunteering and work experience placements, upskilling workshops, employability skills development (such as CV writing and interview techniques), and wellbeing activities.

We believe this is a crucial service given the challenges faced by young carers. For more details about the project, please contact the Future Ready Project Officer, Paula, at Paula@communityactiondacorum.org.uk and read more on our charity website <https://www.communityactiondacorum.org/services/future-ready/>



QUEEN'S HEAD
Long Marston

June at the Queens Head, Long Marston.

Sunday 15th
FATHER'S DAY LUNCH
Lunch between 1pm and 4pm

Tuesday 17th at 7:30pm
QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 28th from 7pm
LIVE MUSIC

Sunday 29th from 7pm
OPEN MIC NIGHT

Every Thursday night 6pm till 8pm.
Pie & Pint Night £13.95

Friday Night
PIZZA NIGHT

Tring Rural Parish Council

Meeting start at 7.30pm The public are welcome to attend

Wednesday 16 July Long Marston Victory Hall

Below is a list of the Services for the Village churches for June – **these could change so please check online** at <https://www.tringteamparish.org.uk/news-events> or phone the Rectory on 01442 822170

We will also have live streamed services online so please take a [look](#)

1st Jun – Easter 7

6pm – Celtic Service in All Saints, Long Marston

2nd Jun (Tues)

10am – Holy Communion – St Cross, Wilstone

8th Jun – Pentecost

8am BCP & 10am WfA in Tring, 10am HC in Aldbury

10th Jun – (Tues)

10am – Morning Prayer - St Cross Wilstone

15th Jun – Trinity Sunday

10am – Holy Communion cw – All Saints, Long Marston

17th Jun (Tues)

10am Holy Communion cw – St Cross Wilstone

22nd Jun – John the Baptist (Trinity 1)

11am – Aldbury Patronal followed by lunch in the vicarage garden

3.30pm – Evensong BCP at St Mary's, Puttenham

24th Jun (Tues)

10am – Morning Prayer -St Cross Wilstone

29th Jun – Peter & Paul

11am – Holy Communion Team– St Peter & St Paul, Tring

12:30pm – Parish Lunch – St Peter & St Paul, Tring



All Saints Long Marston

You can always find a copy of **Village News** wherever you are: www.wilstone.me.uk or just scan me



THE BIG TRING YOUTH SING

Sunday 29th June
1pm-4pm, Nora Grace Hall

A workshop for children in
years 5 - 9 of Tring schools
and surrounding villages.

Workshop followed by an
informal performance with a
live band for family and friends.



For further information please contact Trish Dowden
at trish@tringtogether.org.uk

Wilstone Open Village Can you help? Tombola and Bric-a-Brac

WE'RE on the hunt for items to fill our tombola stall, so once again the Community Shop will host a donations box for any items you are able to give us. Any small items are welcome, plus food items; we just ask that the latter are within their use-by date.

In addition we need all your unwanted treasures for our Bric-a-Brac stall. Please contact Irene McCall on 0784

942 5886 or by email at:
irene.mccall3@gmail.com

We're looking forward to a really fun day for everyone on the 22nd June and your support in helping to make this happen is much appreciated.

Did you win a cup at the last Long Marston village show?

If so, could you please contact Sally Smith on 07850 157586 so that she can arrange to collect if from you. All cups need to be returned before the end of July so that they can be prepared for the Long Marston Show, which this year takes place on Saturday 2nd August.



MEET ON MONDAY

at Long Marston Victory Hall

2, 16 June 2025

(first and third Monday of the month)

2.00pm to 4.00pm

The place to meet (and make!) friends and
neighbours for a chat and a cuppa.
Cake to eat in or take away!!



Bring and buy table

EVERYONE WELCOME

Proceeds to Long Marston Victory Hall Funds

Contact Kim 07956 238706

.....
**DROP OFF POINT FOR LONG MARSTON VILLAGE SHOW
TOMBOLA & RAFFLE PRIZES & CROCKERY**

LONG MARSTON ALLOTMENTS

There are several vacant allotment plots at
Long Marston Allotments in Potash Lane.
If you are interested in trying your hand at growing your
own vegetables please call or email.

Elaine Winter

(Secretary to the Trustees of Tring Charities)
01442 827913 or info@tringcharities.co.uk



Beacon Villages Community Library
Run by the community for the community
www.bvcl.org.uk | info@bvcl.org.uk | 01296 387888

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday 5th JULY 2025 at
9.30am**

In the Library

**COME AND HEAR ABOUT OUR SUCCESSES AND
FUTURE PLANS**

Agenda and associated paperwork available at
www.bvcl.org.uk from 28th June.

Committee nomination forms available in the
Library; speak to a committee member or email
secretary@bvcl.org.uk.

Beacon Villages Community Library

Old Town Hall, High Street, Kinghoo, LU7 8EP www.bvcl.org.uk | info@bvcl.org.uk | 01296 387888
BVCL is run by the BVCL Management Committee, a sub-committee of Kinghoo Town Hall (Registered Charity Number 300287)

Maurice Miser's Travel Tips

This month – Stansted Airport Parking Charges and how to avoid them.

I'm off to Spain for a few days at the end of May, flying from Stansted. Total number of days away is just over 4 – so, 5 for the sake of parking quotes.

Using various search engines, the best deals I could get for airport parking ranged between £85 and £120 – depending on the level of convenience.

For that sort of money, I could get two Gin and Tonics at the Waterside theatre 😊 so time to invoke plan B.

What I am going to do (and I've done it before several times) is drive to Harlow, park there and get the train to Stansted.

Total cost £16.50 for parking and £12.05 for a return ticket (with a senior railcard).

- Total walk time from parking location to Harlow Station 12 mins each way
- Train times Harlow Town to Stansted – 15 mins, with direct trains every 30 minutes.
- These are Anglian Trains – arguably the best in the country.

If travelling with a family, then an Uber to Stansted from Harlow will cost around £30-£35 each way and take about 20 mins.

I would argue that if there's a couple of you or maybe more that are away for over a week, then parking at Harlow is worth considering. The overall travel time from home to the terminal should be no more than 15-20 minutes more than parking at Stansted, considering Harlow is closer than Stansted from Tring and you won't have to wait for a terminal bus from your parking location at / just off the airport.

Two apps / websites to look at are JustPark and YourParkingSpace. Same sort of deal, private individuals hiring out their driveways to commuters or holidaymakers. Very easy to use, robust, legitimate and have been around for many years.

There seems to be no real logic and to which towns are the cheapest to park in, but at the moment Harlow is far less expensive than, say Bishop's Stortford. So, assuming you don't read this and don't tell anybody, then this is set to continue!

This could also work for anybody travelling to Gatwick –

parking at Harpenden / Luton / St Albans / Radlett etc and getting the train directly from there without having to change at Clapham Junction.

Next time – Saving money with train apps and advanced tickets and why nobody seems to want to travel to Stoke-on-Trent.

Exclusive Gavin & Stacey prize up for grabs in charity raffle

A rare piece of Gavin & Stacey memorabilia will be available to one lucky winner in a raffle launched by Hertfordshire-based charity, DENS.

A call sheet for the show's last ever scene, signed by the leading cast and featuring a farewell message from creators, James Corden and Ruth Jones, has been donated to DENS by star actor, Adrian Scarborough, in celebration of his appointment as the charity's first ever Patron. The prize also includes a script of the final episode.

DENS is a local charity that helps rebuild the lives of people facing homelessness, poverty and social exclusion by providing a range of vital, integrated services. Scarborough first supported DENS as a guest speaker at the charity's 20th anniversary Gala Dinner in early 2024. The award-winning actor, known for playing Pete in Gavin & Stacey, has an acclaimed career across screen and stage, with roles in Vera Drake, Gosford Park, Miranda and The Chelsea Detective.

Reflecting on his new position at DENS, Scarborough said: "It's a true honour to become the first ever Patron of this amazing charity. I've had the privilege of seeing the incredible work they do to support vulnerable people across the community – and their services are needed now more than ever. I'm excited to work alongside the great team at DENS and do whatever I can to help grow their impact."

Wendy Lewington, DENS CEO, added: "From the moment Adrian started supporting DENS, we knew he was the perfect champion of our cause. We can't wait to see what the future holds for our exciting partnership, starting with the extraordinary raffle prize he has donated."

The charity's raffle is now open, with entries costing just £5 each, and no limit to the number of entries per person. To be in with a chance of winning, and for full terms and conditions, please visit <https://bit.ly/dens-gavin-stacey>.



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SAT 8am-1pm

SUN 9am-noon

June – sunny summer days, Fathers' day and Village day – your community shop has them covered

If you're looking to cool down you can get plenty of ice creams and lollies in the shop, if you're trying to find something for dad there are some unusual gifts and if you fancy tea and homemade cakes on Village day (Sunday 22 June) head for the marquee outside the shop.

Of course, providing all these wonderful products and services takes a lot of work by our tremendous team of dedicated volunteers not just in June but throughout the whole year. Most of these volunteers come from Wilstone, and the surrounding villages that aren't blessed with a community shop, but we are always looking for more people to supplement the team. And that doesn't mean you have to serve behind the counter or be available during the opening hours. Outside of hours we always welcome



help with other activities such as taking the tea towels and floor mops home to wash them, cleaning the windows or watering and weeding the patio plants.

So, even if you've only got an hour or so free each week, and you'd like to join our super team we'd love to hear from you. Just call into the shop and speak to one of the staff. We look forward to seeing you.



Hand painted mugs and homemade cakes adorn the shop's shelves.



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From the Vicarage

by the Reverend
Canon
Jane Bannister

One of the celebrations in the church in June is that of St John the Baptist on 24th June. Aldbury Church is dedicated to St John, so it is particularly important in our team parish. St John was Jesus' cousin and baptised him and many others. He also had the courage to speak truth to power, which led to his death.

Baptism is a very important ceremony in

the Christian faith: often referred to as a sacrament, it is when a person is formally welcomed into the church family through a service that uses the symbolism of water, oil and a candle. There are many different denominations in Christianity, and while we all recognize the importance of baptism (which is the same as christening), there are differences in how it is done. In the Church of England, baptism can happen at any age, while others only baptize adults. We use a font, or sometimes a bowl on the altar as fonts were often placed near the door to symbolise the beginning of the journey of faith, which is not always practical with a congregation. Other denominations use full immersion, and it is always fascinating talking to our Baptist colleagues to find out how complicated this can be, and also how long it can take to fill the baptism bath.

Some of you may remember that there used to be a ceremony called churching, which happened after a baby was born, and was when mother and child came to church to give thanks for having survived childbirth. While that does not happen anymore as it also included aspects of being cleansed which don't sit well in modern culture, it has a successor in the thanksgiving held in a main Sunday service, when those parents who want their child baptized, come and give thanks to God for their child. Some parents also choose to just have a thanksgiving.

We often hear parents say that they do not want baptism as they want the child to make up their own mind, but the interesting thing is as parents, we teach and guide our children about many things in life, and if they have not experienced church, they cannot make a choice. I have also yet to meet a parent who says that they will not take their child to any sporting activity as they want them to make up their own mind.

The role of godparents is also an interesting one in modern society: they are only required for the baptisms of babies and small children, and in the Church of England, there need to be at least three. One complication these days is that godparents need to be baptized themselves. Since baptism is far less common than it used to be, this can be difficult, but it is also possible to have non baptized friends to take a part in the service, and to be recognised for the role parents want them to play in their children's life. Parents can also be godparents to their own children.

We are always happy to have a conversation with anyone about baptism (or any other aspect of church life) so do

please get in touch – details below

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.

Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever.

Jane

Canon Jane Banister
01442 822170

jane@tringteamparish.org.uk

PS There will be crafts in church on 22nd June, Open Gardens Day. Come along and say hello!

Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 189 moderate

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

Solution on page 17



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Lady's Smock

By Martin Winship

***When daises pied and violets blue
And Lady-Smocks all silver white
And Cuckoo-Buds of yellow hue
Do paint the meadows with delight***

William Shakespeare *Love's Labours Lost*

The field to the right off Astrope Lane as you go away from the crossroads in Long Marston is called Upper Brade; it is often also referred to as "The Aeroplane Field", for an American Liberator bomber crashed here soon after taking off in the Second World War. The field shows clearly the old ridge and furrow pattern, revealing that the land has not been ploughed since medieval times. The pattern was produced by ploughing with a non-reversible implement, and resulted in relatively dry ground on the ridges, but quite damp and often wet conditions in the furrows. You will see sedges growing in the hollows, and since April the delicate pale blooms of the Lady's Smocks (or Cuckoo Flower). This plant is a member of the cabbage family, and prefers soil saturated with ground water.

The plant is also known as Milkmaids, though its scientific name is *CARDAMINE PRATENSIS*. There is a plethora of local names, some more flattering than others. In Yorkshire, it is known variously as Apple-Pie, Cuckoo-Spice, Meadow or Pig's Eye. It is called Headache in Cambridgeshire as the smell is supposed to cause such a pain. Natives of Cumberland refer to it as Bonny Bird-Eye, but in the Forest of Dean it has a less appealing nickname – Pee-the-Bed, because of its affinity for wet ground. Other entertaining soubriquets include May-Blob (Nottinghamshire), Naked Ladies (Somerset), Paigle (Suffolk) and Potatoes-and-Herrings (Isle of Man). There was an old superstition that the flowers were unlucky; they were not taken indoors as they were believed to bring sickness. Picking one of the blooms would result in the picker being attacked by a snake, and, apart from in Oxford (for some reason), the flowers were never included in the cross-shaped May Garlands.

The flowers can be seen from April, and it may be that the common name of Cuckoo Flower derives from the fact that the Cuckoo begins its characteristic call at this time too. Coincidentally, the plant is often covered with Cuckoo Spit. This is produced by Leaf-Hopper larvae, which suck the juice from the stem and mix it with air; this forms blobs of froth. The leaves, stems, flower buds and flowers are all good to eat, having a peppery flavour not unlike Watercress (which is also a member of the cabbage family).

Lady's Smocks was considered to have several medicinal properties, similar in many ways to Watercress. It was thought to be an excellent treatment for scurvy, and as a strong diuretic, helping to break up stones.



When eaten, it was said to be good for warming a cold weak stomach, restoring lost appetite and aiding digestion. It was also used in the treatment of jaundice and "Green Sickness" according to Robinson's New Family Herbal (c. 1898).

Sun Halo

From Maggie Winship

The picture below is of a rare sun halo was seen in early May and kindly sent in by reader Maggie Winship. It was a circular rainbow surrounding the sun and was caused by the sun's light shining on ice crystals high up in the atmosphere, quite spectacular.



From our Reporter at the council meeting

The third TRPC meeting of 2025 was held at Puttenham on April 30th. In contrast to February's meeting, there is a lot to report on!

The Annual Report

Chair Cllr Fox started us off with the Annual Parish meeting, which is a look back over the previous year. He reported that the council had been proactive in its endeavours, especially the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money. Cllr Foster and the working party were thanked for their work on

repurposing the Community Asset Building (CAB) and car parking. Cllr Smith-Wright and the villagers of Puttenham were similarly thanked for the installation of the sign at Puttenham and planting the many bulbs underneath it.

There is progress on the pedestrian crossing outside Long Marston school, and the council is awaiting news on extra funds. If you've wondered what is going on at Victory Hall, the answer is that the toilets are being upgraded during May. Three sets of village 'gates' have been installed, and road resurfacing has taken place.

The TRPC is being reactive regarding the planning applications in Astrope and Wilstone (Rectory homes), and intends to be proactive regarding the two empty properties in London Grove, Gubblecote, which have been so for seven years! They are currently designated as 'commercial', but there is clearly no appetite - or insufficient marketing? - for this, so the aim is to request a change of use to 'residential'; Cllr Wood is writing to the senior planning officers about this.

James Kempton of the Flood Working Party was invited to speak next. James reported that it had been an "okay year", in that no homes had been flooded; the main problem had been flooding on the roads. The Canals and Rivers Trust (CRT) had been responsible for a couple of issues: Watery Lane had flooded during the previous week - due to a mechanical failure, rather than a planned discharge - and reconstruction of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union canal has been paused because of problems it is causing to residents in Little Tring. Planned discharges from the reservoirs will be notified on Facebook and the TRPC website.

James also reported on some items of interest regarding the recent housing developments: the new houses in Puttenham are not on mains drainage; the Astrope development has some mitigation in place, but it isn't ideal. Apparently Astrope's ditches will be cleared as part of the development, but there was the questions of who would then maintain them. The vegetation has grown back since Tring Bourne was cleared four years ago, so that will need clearing again soon. Finally, James thanked Cllr Smith-Wright and Herts County Cllr Sally Symington for organising clearance of ditches and kerbs, which prompted the question: shouldn't the CRT be responsible for clearing

The Long Marston Show Schedule



This year for the first time the Long Marston Show schedule is being distributed as the 4 page centre spread in this edition of Village News. This will be the only printed version of the schedule, so if you considering entering, please make sure you keep this edition.

The schedule is also available as a pdf file at <https://longmarstonvillagehallherts.co.uk/the-village-show-2025>.

At first sight the layout of the included schedule may seem a bit strange but when the centre page pages are opened all the classes and the entry form are displayed on one sheet. This should help with your selections. The completed entry form can be cut out sent to the Show Secretary by email (use your mobile to take a photo of the completed form), post or by hand.

the ditches if they are responsible for discharging water into them?

Margaret Kelland then gave an update on Victory Hall. It is a hub of community engagement for Long Marston, hosting yoga, line dancing, dog training and 'Meet on Mondays'. Meditation and pilates classes will also be available soon. Private parties and events have also been hosted there. Nostalgia week was a great success, and the Twilight Market and Race Night will return in the autumn. Planned works are the toilet refurbishment in May and repairs to the roof in the summer. Margaret thanked everyone for their continued support.

TRPC clerk Chloe Collins gave the update for Wilstone Village Hall. The Hall committee is very proactive: there was a fete and open gardens, and regular film nights. The Hall is a much valued village asset, as was Colin Reedman, who retired as caretaker recently. Solar panels had been installed, saving £1,000 per year. Chloe reported that parking at the hall and in the village is a problem.

Chloe also gave a report on behalf of the police. It seems that Long Marston is the "hub" of local crime, with six burglaries, two motor vehicle thefts, two thefts from vehicles and four instances of criminal damage. Let's hope things improve this year!

Regular business

We then moved on to the regular meeting, with Neil Murray of Astrope making a second appearance, this time being welcomed on to the council! (See, that's what happens when you go along to raise an issue for your community! Good for you, Neil!)

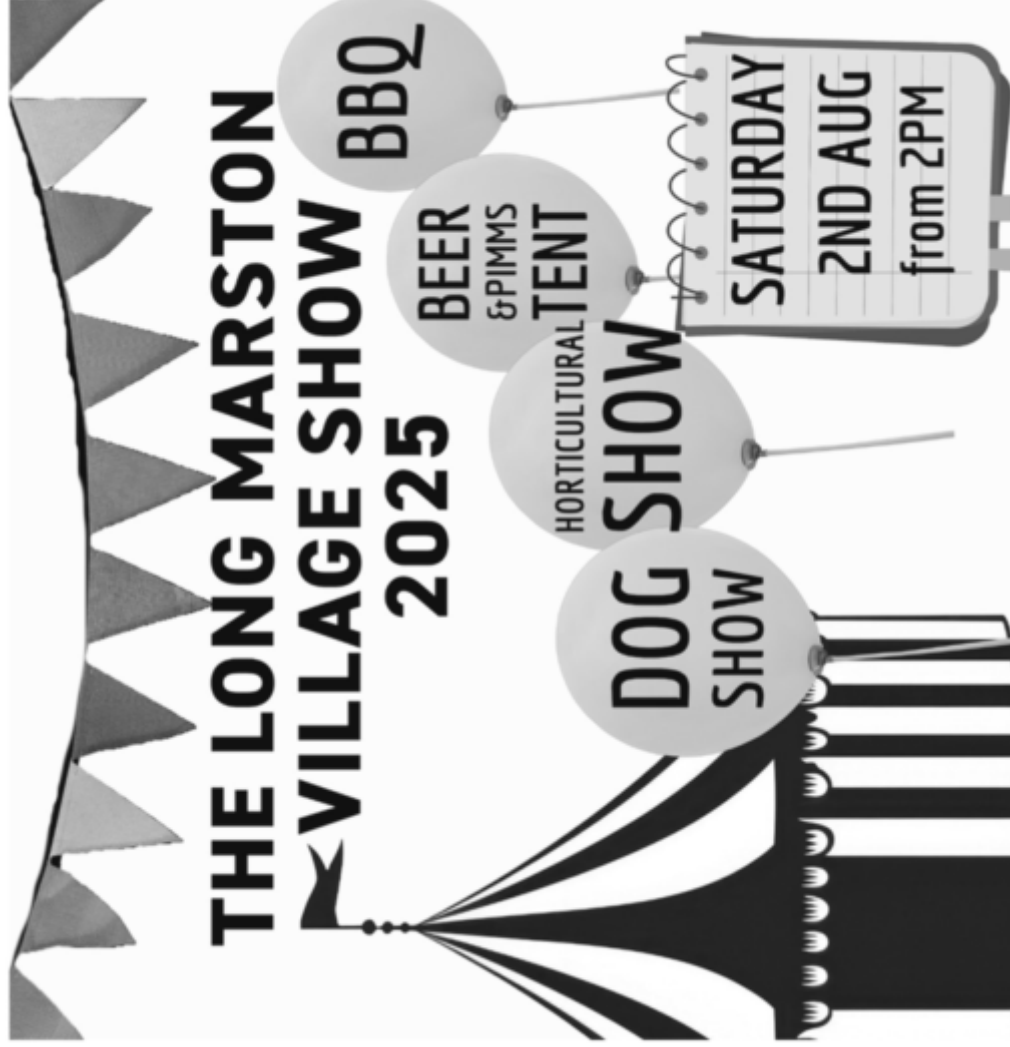
Cllr Fox also congratulated Cllr Symington on becoming leader of Dacorum council, and reported that a feasibility study is being undertaken for a 20 mph speed limit outside the school, and that new road markings had been painted outside the Queens Head.

Continued on page 13

RULES GOVERNING THE SHOW

The Long Marston Village Show 2025 (hereinafter The Show) is open to all, subject to the terms and conditions listed below:

1. Entry for children's classes is free. The entry fee for all other classes is 50p.
2. Only one member of each household may enter each of classes 1 – 46 and classes 67 and 68. Maximum one entry per person per class.
3. Entries should be submitted using the entry form on **page vi** of this schedule, written by hand to emailed to the Show Secretary at longmarstonhorti@gmail.com to arrive no later than 5 pm on Wednesday 30th July. Entries may also be registered in person between 7pm and 9pm at Long Marston Victory Hall on Monday 28th July. All entries must be paid in full on the day of The Show prior to the commencement of the judging at 10am.
4. All photographic entries MUST emailed in JPEG format to the Show Secretary at longmarstonhorti@gmail.com by 5pm on Wednesday 30th July. An image of each entry received by this date will be produced by the Show Secretary and displayed alongside The Show entry card.
5. Exhibitors must supply their own trays, vases etc and are responsible for ensuring the entry is correctly placed. No exhibits will be admitted after 10am on the day of The Show. The Show Hall will be open to exhibitors from 8am.
6. Only amateurs are eligible to compete in any class (an amateur for the purposes of this rule shall be one whose livelihood does not depend wholly or mainly on the type of work entered in the class: either gardener, caterer, flower arranger, artist, seamstress, photographer etc). Please check with the Show Secretary if you require clarification.
7. The judges shall have the power to reduce points if they consider exhibits are deficient in merit, or there are less than three entries in a class.
8. Cups will be distributed on the day of The Show. Cups will be engraved at the Society's expense if left with the Show Secretary on the day of The Show. It is the responsibility of the recipient to collect the cup from the Show Secretary once it has been engraved. PLEASE ENSURE THE CUP IS RETURNED TO THE SHOW SECRETARY PRIOR TO NEXT YEAR'S SHOW.
9. Any protest must be notified in writing to the Show Secretary by 3pm on the day of The Show, together with £1, which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
10. No exhibit shall be removed from the hall before 4.15pm. Any exhibit remaining in the hall after 5pm will be deemed to be left for sale. Containers and accessories left in the hall may be collected from the Show Secretary within a month of The Show.
11. The Show Committee will take every care of exhibits, but will not be responsible for loss or damage, however caused.
12. Special rules governing individual classes are printed with class headings.



THE LONG MARSTON VILLAGE SHOW COMMITTEE INVITE YOU TO ENJOY THE LONG MARSTON VILLAGE SHOW

Show schedule, rules and entry form.

Please support The Show by entering one or several of the competition classes – there's something for everyone!

We are extremely grateful to everyone who supports The Show, whether it be helping with set up, running a stall, entering the Horticultural Section, or just turning up on the day and enjoying yourself.

VEGETABLES AND FRUIT

All exhibits in Classes 1 – 46 must be the property and produce of the exhibitor.

The Show Committee have the right to inspect exhibitors' gardens.

CLASS

1. Five potatoes, white, named
2. Five potatoes, coloured, named
3. Four carrots, long or intermediate with 10cm tops
4. Four carrots, short with 10cm tops
5. Five onions
6. Five onions under 7.5cm diameter
7. Three beetroots, globe, tops trimmed to 10cm
8. Twelve shallots, pickling – 2.5cm or under
9. Twelve shallots, culinary
10. Six radishes
11. Two cabbages, green with 7.5cm stems
12. Two cauliflowers with 7.5cm stems
13. Two lettuce any variety, with roots, wrapped
14. Two cucumbers
15. Nine pods, peas
16. Nine pods, runner beans
17. Nine pods, dwarf (French) beans
18. Nine pods, broad beans
19. Two of any other vegetable not included in any other class
20. Longest runner bean
21. Two vegetable marrows
22. One marrow, heaviest
23. Three sticks rhubarb, leaf blade trimmed back to 7.5cm
24. Six tomatoes with calyces (green flower bud cases)
25. Six cherry tomatoes
26. Twelve raspberries with calyces (green flower bud cases)
27. Collection of four culinary herbs, named, cut and displayed in water
28. A strangely shaped vegetable
29. Collection of five single vegetables, one of each (tray not to exceed 46cm x 46cm)

FLOWERS

All cut flower exhibits must be displayed in water or water retaining materials

CLASS

30. Roses, four blooms
31. One rose, may be wired
32. Floribunda roses, three sprays
33. Pot plant. Flowering or foliage, pot diameter 15cm or under
34. Chrysanthemum, three sprays
35. Twelve sweet peas, mixed
36. Six sweet peas, one colour
37. Two vases sweet peas, two distinct varieties, six per vase
38. Antirrhinum, three spikes
39. Cactus or semi-cactus dahlia, three blooms
40. Decorative dahlia, three blooms, may be staked
41. Any other dahlias three blooms, may be staked
42. Six pansies, with stalks
43. Gladioli, three spikes
44. Vase of annuals, mixed, not more than nine stems, no extra foliage
45. Vase of perennials, mixed, not more than nine stems, no extra foliage
46. Vase of any other NAMED flower, not in classes 30-45, not more than nine stems

FLORAL ART

All floral art exhibits must be the work of the exhibitor.
Class 47 is a Novice Class (a novice is defined as one who has not previously won 1st prize in any Floral Art Class at this Show).
Classes 48, 49 and 50 are Open classes.

CLASS

47. Country Table - An arrangement suitable for a dining table
48. Country Whites - An arrangement in a raised container, white flower to pre-dominate
49. Country Arms - An exhibit to depict a pub sign, to include accessories
50. Chicken Feed - An arrangement in an egg cup.

DOMESTIC

Class 67 and 68 must be the property and produce of the exhibitor.
All other classes must be the work of the exhibitor. Please note stated sizes, your exhibit could be disqualified.

CLASS

51. A novelty decorated cake, designed with a country theme, max. size 30cm square
52. Victoria sponge cake, see **page vii** for recipe
53. 'Cut and Come Again' cake, see **page vii** for recipe
54. Six fancy cakes
55. Six savoury scones, named
56. Six fruit scones
57. Six jam tarts, short pastry
58. Quiche, any filling 18cm diameter
59. Bread – 1lb loaf, white, not from a bread machine
60. Bread – 1lb loaf, brown, not from a bread machine
61. One jar of home-made jam, named
62. One jar of home-made marmalade, named
63. One jar of home-made chutney, named
64. Bottle of home-made lemonade, clear bottle
65. Bottle of home-made wine, clear bottle, named
66. Bottle of home-made liqueur, clear bottle, named
67. One jar of home-produced honey, from your own bees
68. Six matching eggs, from your own poultry

HANDICRAFTS

All exhibits must be the work of the exhibitor and must not have previously been entered at the Long Marston Show

CLASS

69. Needlecraft article
70. Knitted article
71. An article of jewellery
72. Cottage craft – an item decorated by the exhibitor (e.g. stencil, decoupage)
73. Cottage craft – entirely the work of the exhibitor (e.g. lace, metalwork)

ART, PHOTOGRAPHY & POETRY

All photographs **MUST** be emailed to longmarstonhorti@gmail.com by 5pm on Monday 30th July. A print will be produced by the Show Secretary for each entry.

All exhibits must be the work of the exhibitor and should not have previously been entered at the Long Marston Show.

CLASS

74. Painting, any subject, any medium 78. Photograph of farming equipment
75. Painting of a country scene, no people 79. Photograph depicting a summer scene
76. Painting of a country scene, with people 80. A poem about the countryside that includes the phrase 'I love the countryside'
77. Photograph of the Natural World, must not include animals 81. A poem that includes the countryside.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

No entry fee charged for these classes. Entry to these classes may be made on the day of The Show between 8am and 9.30am.

To be judged in two sub-categories: 7 and under; and 8-11 years.

All exhibits in classes 82 – 93 must be the work of the exhibitor and should not have been entered previously at the Long Marston Show.

All photographs **MUST** be emailed to longmarstonhorti@gmail.com by 5pm on Monday 30th July. A print will be produced by the Show Secretary for each entry.

CLASS

82. An arrangement of flowers 89. An 'edible' necklace (that can be eaten, not a picture)
83. Miniature garden in a tray (maximum tray size 45cm x 30cm) 90. Vegetable novelty (eg. an animal, made mainly from vegetables and/or fruit)
84. A painted pebble 91. Six small cakes, with country theme
85. A piece of art, made from recycled materials 92. A photograph of a country scene
86. Painting or drawing, any subject 93. A photograph of people enjoying the countryside
87. A painting of a country scene
88. A poem about the countryside

Entry Registration

PLEASE READ 'RULES' OF THE SHOW ON PAGE ii OF THIS SCHEDULE

SHOW SECRETARY - Sally Smith 6 Long Marston Road, Gubblecote HP23 4NF

Tel 07850 157586 longmarstonhorti@gmail.com

Entries can be registered by sending a completed form by email, post, or by hand to the Show Secretary to arrive **NO LATER than 5pm on Wednesday 30th July** or in person at **Long Marston Victory Hall on Monday, July 28 from 7 to 9 pm**, with a completed show entry form. Note, only children can register their entries, on day of the show, between 8 and 9.30 am, (**see page iv for photographic exhibits**).

For email entries:

email To: longmarstonhorti@gmail.com. **Subject:** **Show registration**

either attach a photograph or scanned image of the completed form or follow the form layout to give your **Name, Address, Telephone No and age** (for children's classes only).

List your entries as in the following example:

Please register me for:

Vegetables & fruit Class 3, 7 and 24

Flowers: Class 33

Art: Class 74 etc.

On the day of The Show, all exhibits must arrive at the hall between 8 and 10am.

Note there is a 50p fee for each adult entry. Late entries will not be accepted.



Show Entry Form

Name:

Address:

Telephone No: Email:

Age (for children's classes only):

Please circle the classes that you wish to enter

Note:

The grey cells indicates the start of a new class.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93							



CUT AND COME AGAIN CAKE

Ingredients

200g Self-raising flour	100g Butter
100g Sugar	100ml milk and water
225g Mixed dried fruit	¼ Teaspoon Salt
1 level Teaspoon mixed spice	1 Egg

Method

Sieve or mix flour, salt and spice together in a mixing bowl.

Add butter and rub in, then stir in sugar and fruit.

Add egg, milk and water.

Spoon into a lined seven inch round tin and sprinkle with sugar.

Bake in the centre of the oven at 180° C (350° F). Gas Mark 4, for approx. 1hr 20 mins.



VICTORIA SPONGE CAKE

Ingredients

110g Butter at room temperature	Few drops of vanilla essence
110g Caster sugar	Some hot water, if required
110g Self-raising flour	Jam and sifted icing sugar
2 Large eggs	

Method

Use 2 x 18cm sponge tins at least 2.5cm deep, greased and bases lined with greaseproof paper.

Pre heat oven to 170° C. 325° F Gas Mark 3, whilst you cream together the butter and sugar until they become a pale fluffy mix that drops easily off the spoon.

In a separate bowl, beat the eggs together thoroughly and add them gradually to the mixture, beating well after each addition.

When fully incorporated, stir in a few drops of vanilla essence.

Using a metal spoon, fold in the sifted flour, after which the mixture should drop off a spoon easily. If not, add 1-2 teaspoons of hot water.

Divide the mixture between the two tins and bake in the centre of the oven for about 25-30 mins.

When cooked, remove from the oven and turn out onto a wire cooling tray.

Once cooled, remove the base paper and sandwich together with the jam. Sift a little icing sugar over the top.

CUPS, TROPHIES AND AWARDS

Thomas Chapman Award	Outstanding contribution to the village
William Dean Challenge Bowl	Most points classes 1 - 29
Grace Trophy	Best from class 29
Ernest Gregory Cup	Most points classes 30 - 46
John Chapman Trophy	Most points classes 30 - 32
Val Brash Memorial Cup	Best from class 47
Parker Cup	Most points classes 47 - 50
Katharine Severs Memorial Plate	Most points classes 51 - 54
William Huckvale Cup	Most points classes 51—68
Woman' Magazine Cup	Most points classes 69 - 73
Frank Hopkins Trophy	Winner of classes 74 - 76
Hales Trophy	Most points gained by a lady in the Show
Alan Taylor Cup	Most points gained by a gentleman in the Show
Sir Harry Vaisey Cup	Most points children's classes 82 - 93
Sheila Wood trophy	Best from class 82
Sheila Wood Cup	Most points children's classes 82 and 83
Astrophe Cup	Best in classes 92 - 93
Potash Lane Allotment Cup	Awarded for the best allotment at Potash Lane

THE SOCIETY ALSO AWARDS

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners Diploma in Horticulture for

'Best in Show' for:

1 Flowers	Certificate in Floral Art
2 Vegetables (root)	For the best floral Art Exhibit
3 Vegetables (non-root)	Children's Awards For winners of classes
4 Collection of Vegetables	82 and 83

CUP WINNERS 2023

Thomas Chapman Award for outstanding Contribution to village life	Gillie & Chris Mann
William Dean Challenge Bowl (fruit & vegetables)	Lynne Bruges
Grace Trophy (vegetable collection)	Lynne Bruges
Ernest Gregory Cup (flowers)	Lynne Bruges
John Chapman Trophy (roses)	Daphne Bateman & Heather Nicholas
Val Brash Memorial Cup (novice floral art)	Andrea Garnham
Parker Cup (floral art)	Christine Rutter
William Huckvale Cup (domestic)	Andrea Garnham
Katharine Severs Memorial Plate (cakes)	Allison Perkins
Woman Magazine Cup (handicraft)	Eeborah Chalmers
Frank Hopkins Trophy (paintings)	Lynne Bruges
Hales Trophy (most points, lady)	Keith Allison
Alan Taylor Cup (most points, gentleman)	Isabelle Lear
Sir Harry Vaisey Cup (most points, child)	Jasmine & Jacob Fox
Sheila Wood Trophy (flower arranging, child)	Isabelle Lear
Sheila Wood Cup (Veg/Flowers, child)	Isabelle Lear
Astrophe Cup (photography, child)	Janet Skells
Joan Dean Allotment Cup	

CLlr Smith-Wright gave an update for Dacorum Borough Council: in 2017 devolution will "go live". The aim of this is to "drive growth", but the impact on town and parish councils isn't yet known.

CLlr Foster reported that the Astrope Lane 9-house development had **not** yet been granted. Following the extraordinary meeting held on 7th March (as reported in May's *Village News*), TRPC are awaiting their own flood report, which is due by 14th May. He also advised that 19 more homes in Wilstone have passed planning consent.

CAB cafe - or is it?!

CLlr Foster reported that the planning application for the cafe had been granted, with two provisions. Firstly, ten trees are to be planted on the recreation ground to offset the environmental impact. Secondly, Sport England have stipulated that a section of the building must be retained for changing facilities*, as part of the Community Use agreement. CLlr Foster stressed that the overriding concern is that the cafe is a community facility, and will **not** be run by the TRPC as a business: a Community Interest company will be running it.

A contractor has been appointed and a site meeting was held that morning. Helena Winter-Brown, of Marsworth, has been appointed as the operator. Helena has previously run a cafe at Potten End nursery. CLlr Foster thanked the working party and former councillors Liz Oakley and Malcom Morgan, and wife Sue Foster, for their work on this project.

CLlr Fox added that the cafe will have wi-fi, and will receive a "proper address" from Royal Mail!

As the building is for the community, it is only fitting that the community comes up with a name for it! Suggestions to the TRPC please!

**For those who may not remember, prior to being referred to as "the CAB" the building was used as changing rooms by Long Marston football club.*

Help us name our Community Cafe

Exciting news! We're transforming the former Community Asset Building(also known as the Changing Room) into a cosy community café, and we want you to help us pick the perfect name. Whether it's something that captures the spirit of our village, nods to its history, or simply has a fun, welcoming vibe – we want to hear your ideas!

Drop your suggestions by email to clerk@tringrural-pc.co.uk. If you have a creative spark. We can't wait to see what you come up with!



Deadline for submissions: Friday 20th June 4pm



The chosen name will be revealed soon – and the person behind it will enjoy a free coffee on us!

Tring Rural Parish COUNCIL

Village Hall says 'one big thank you' to retiring caretaker, Colin Reedman

At the Wilstone AGM three weeks ago, in his annual report the Chairman, reported on progress at Wilstone Village Hall. In recent times, the Hall has benefitted from the investment in solar panels and a new and more efficient overhead heating system, and the annual utility bills have been cut by a thousand pounds. Much has been done to clean and upgrade the hall to make it more attractive to hirers by installing more stylish internal doors. Repeat hirings have increased substantially as a result. A new electronic door entry system has also been installed to make the job of managing parties and other hirings easier.

Despite the cost of this investment, the Halls's healthy surplus is on a par with last year.

The Chairman thanks everyone on the committee that have given so much of their time. Thanks especially for the support of Alla Postings as Treasurer and Peter Myrants as Booking Secretary who have brought their valuable skills in controlling costs and driving bookings through a more proactive bookings system.

Our long serving hall cleaner, Bella, and our even longer serving caretaker Colin Reedman, have both retired. The Committee is very grateful to them both for all their hard work and to Colin for all the care and service he has provided over so many years. He has been at the Hall at the most unsociable hours to ensure its cleanliness. He has built up an excellent rapport and respect with hall hirers. The Committee recognised their service with substantial 'thank you's.'

Pictured here at the AGM is the retiring Colin Reedman with a ridiculously oversized cheque and Chairman, Peter Walker clearly reluctant to hand it over.



Victory Hall Long Marston village hall for hire

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sarahill00@hotmail.com



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Thursday 9.30am and 6.00pm
Friday 9.30am
Saturday 9.00am

Nora Grace Hall, Tring
Wednesday 11.30am



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THE LONG MARSTON VILLAGE SHOW
SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST
ON THE LONG MARSTON RECREATION GROUND
HORTICULTURAL SHOW IN THE VICTORY HALL
2PM - 5PM

Plans for this year's show are well under way! We already have a great selection of stalls for you to browse and many fun games for children and adults alike.

Just a few of our attractions:

Dog Show - Traditional Coconut Shy- Splat the Rat - Golf Putting and Chipping - Beat the Goalie - Hook a Duck - Crockery Smashing (very therapeutic!) - LM Tennis club will be bringing their very popular tennis game.

Display of a Bee Hive with Bees - Information about Owl Conservation - First Aid Demonstrations - Weaving Display - Sand Art and Pottery Painting - Plant Stall, Craft Stalls, the list goes on and on!

For refreshments there will traditional teas, coffee and homemade cakes, supplied by our own WL. Lovely juicy burgers and sausages supplied by GROOMS local butcher, and of course no show would be complete without a well stocked BAR and some lovely ladies making you a PIMMS!

In the main arena we will have traditional Morris Dancers, Line Dancers and The Berkhamsted Rock Chorus, as well as traditional children's games.....so please come along, enjoy yourself and support the Show.

The schedule for the traditional Horticultural Section of the Show is included with this magazine! Please have a good look through and consider entering. We need to keep this lovely tradition going! Even if you don't enter it's well worth a look round on your way onto the showground!

THE BORING BIT!

The Show is an opportunity for the Community to come together to enjoy themselves and for local Charities and Organisations to do some fundraising. We don't try to make a huge profit, just to cover our expenses and perhaps put a little aside for next year!

The Show can't run without lots of help from as many people as possible, whether that be running a stall or helping with what we call the 'Lifting and Shifting' on the day before, day of and day after the Show. Please consider sparing an hour or so to help us with this. We need helpers on Friday from about 11 am for shifting, Saturday from around 9 am for setting up and 5.00pm for taking down, and Sunday from around 10 am to clear up!

Please call, message or email.

A huge thank you to all those who have already offered their help...we will be in touch!

Email: lmvillageshow@gmail.com

Contact Number: 07956 238706/07940 127450

HORTI
Village Society

Far Out.

A story of Longub Puttastone

By Martin Winship

Like almost every other hamlet, village and town anywhere in the country, Longub Puttastone had seen the steady expansion of new houses in and around its previous historical boundaries. Sometimes it would be an extra dwelling squeezed into an existing slightly over-sized garden, or several new "executive" homes thrown up in close-order replacing a previous building that had had room to breathe. But more often than not, it was a bland estate of soulless boxes rapidly built on a green field site. Old Siegfried was ambivalent about such developments; they made little difference to him. If anything, he realised, he benefitted. The "Newbies" who found the recent "affordable" houses just that – affordable – were often initially carried away by their sudden discovery of a bucolic way of life, having in many cases moved out of the cut-and-thrust of city living. Most of the vacant allotments had been snapped up by the virgin horticulturalists, and were once again productive. In a way, Siegfried was pleased (though of course he did not show it) by this rise in popularity for the soil, but he disapproved (and made such disapproval obvious) of some of the crops the newcomers tried to raise. There seemed to be more Rocket than at Cape Canaveral, and strangely coloured variants of other plants; yellow courgettes, pink cauliflowers, even frivolously purple carrots! Siegfried was a traditionalist. He grew sensible things; lettuces, green courgettes, and seriously orange carrots, amongst other standard vegetables. And he won prizes for them, regularly, at the village show.

Some of the new allotmenters, naively unaware of Siegfried's nature, attempted to engage him in conversation and, they hoped, pick up some useful knowledge and tips. They did not often repeat the attempt. Siegfried was content to keep his own counsel, and watch with smug disdain the wasted effort put in trying to cultivate wildly inappropriate fruit; mangos, oranges, and even, in one case, pineapples. He would often find himself chuckling over his cup of tea in his shed, as he reflected gleefully on such disasters.

One morning, as he sat on his potato box in the doorway of his shed, enjoying his strong brew, he became aware that one of the last few vacant allotments, quite close to his own, was no longer unoccupied. The sign had been taken away, and there was some evidence that a start had been made at clearing the overgrown plot. Siegfried made himself more comfortable, and settled down to await the arrival of the new tenant, looking forward to some amusement at their expense. Imagine his astonishment, when who should turn up, with fork and spade, than Rodney Shoemaker. Siegfried rubbed his eyes, and stared. There was no mistake. It was definitely Rodney. Rodney, who had never been known to do any kind of honest work in his life, let alone actual physical labour. Siegfried dropped his tea mug, and almost staggered across to where Rodney was already applying himself to the fork, quite energetically (for him), thrusting the prongs into the matted weeds and rank grass, and straining to turn the sods. Siegfried stopped a few feet from "the worker", his

mouth hanging open foolishly. Rodney paused in his efforts.

"Watcha Siggie" he observed. He put his fork down, resting on the handle. "What's up?"

Siegfried's mouth opened and closed a few times, fish-style, as he tried to articulate his incredulity at the sight of Rodney – of all people – actually working an allotment. "Wha.....what are you doing Rodney? I mean, look at you. You're digging! Actually digging! What the blooming heck?"

Rodney's response was immediate and unexpected. "Never you mind Siggie. I can have an allotment if I want. It's no flipping business of yours. Now you mind your own business and let me get on!" And with that he turned his back on a thunderstruck Siegfried and renewed his assault on the straggling weeds with extra gusto. Siegfried, still in a state of shock, made his way back to his shed, and brewed himself an unprecedented double-strength mug of tea. His bewilderment was not caused by the fact that Rodney had taken on an allotment; it was that Siegfried simply could not see what sort of racket Rodney could possibly run there. It HAD to be something dodgy and dishonest; but what?

Over the ensuing weeks, Siegfried kept a sharp eye on Rodney, as he cleared his plot and tilled the soil – and did a very passable job of it, as Siegfried begrudgingly admitted to himself. It seemed, unlikely as it undoubtedly was, that Rodney was intent on growing a crop of runner beans. For he erected tall supporting bamboo poles on his by now very tidy plot, from one end to the other and right across. He must have been using some very potent fertilizer; before long the sprouting beans had grown to become an impenetrable jungle, apparently covering the whole allotment. They were a very healthy lush green colour, with, as Siegfried observed, a darker shade of green towards the centre. Rodney's work continued, but he became furtive in his manner, and frequently looked over his shoulder as he tended to his crop. Then one day, Rodney was noticeable by his absence. Siegfried kept a lookout for him from his shed, expecting him to put in an appearance at any time. But he did not. Instead, mid-morning, a plain black van with a crest adorning both sides pulled up at the entrance to the allotments. The back doors were swung open, and out stepped a squad of police officers, clad in standard issue overalls and green wellies, and armed with an assortment of cutting and chopping tools. They made their way briskly and determinedly to Rodney's patch, and immediately and unceremoniously set about tearing down the runner beans and their supporting frames, revealing as they did so a quite different crop growing behind them. It was darker, and had odd, almost feathery leaves. The officers chopped and hewed at the thickly growing plants, rapidly reducing them to a ragged pile in the middle of the now almost cleared allotment. A jerry can of petrol was produced from the back of the van, a match was struck, and with a WOOF the impromptu bonfire went up in hot red flames.

An unusual thick greenish smoke poured forth from the blazing heap, and spread out in a rather slow, oily fashion, until it lay in a not unattractive pall over the entire village. It had a pungent, though by no means unpleasant herby

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sort of smell. Siegfried – and all the other allotmenters who had gathered round to witness this unlooked for diversion – sniffed experimentally. Despite himself, a very rare and peculiar thing happened to his face. He smiled. So did all the other onlookers. One of them said “Wow”. They all watched as the police officers packed up, climbed back into the black van, and drove off. Many of Siegfried’s fellow observers waved, and said “Bye-bye”.

There was a remarkably benign and friendly atmosphere in the village for the next few days. Neighbours who had not been on speaking terms for many a long day invited each other in for a coffee, and Rupert, the landlord of the Half Head pub, declared a permanent happy hour. Even the vicar, undeniably a saintly man to begin with, was even more welcoming and warm-hearted towards his flock, who responded to his sermon, not in the usual way (by falling asleep) but by saying “Right-on, man” when he concluded.

Rodney eventually reappeared when, as he put it, “the heat was off”, but he seemed to be the only resident of Longub Puttastone that was not happy. His flirtation with horticulture proved to be a one-off. His briefly-held allotment was soon taken by another recent arrival, a city-dweller who had moved into one of the million pound affordable houses freshly built in the village outskirts. He successfully grew an amazing range of gourds, of many different sizes, shapes and colours. They were decorative but of little use. They made their grower happy, however, which was really all that mattered. Man.

Year 6 SATs Tests at Long Marston

By Laura Whateley

This week, our Year 6 children have been taking their SATs tests. These are statutory assessments that all Year 6 children in primary school must take. The children have been brilliant; they have risen to the challenge and tried their best and that’s all we ask.

We aim to prepare the children for their journey to secondary school as well as possible and not just to pass these tests. Regardless of the results, our children leave us as confident, independent, kind and resilient learners and that is what matters above all else. Well done to our Year 6 children!

SATs don't measure sports, SATs don't measure art.

SATs don't measure music, or the kindness in your heart.

SATs don't see your beauty, SATs don't know your worth,

SATs don't see the reasons you were put upon this earth.

SATs don't see your magic, how you make others smile,

SATs don't time how quickly you can run a mile.

SATs don't hear your laughter, or see you've come this far,

SATs are just a tiny glimpse of who you really are.

So sitting at your table, with a pencil and your test,

Remember SATs aren't who you are, remember you're the best.

Author unknown.

Solution No 189

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

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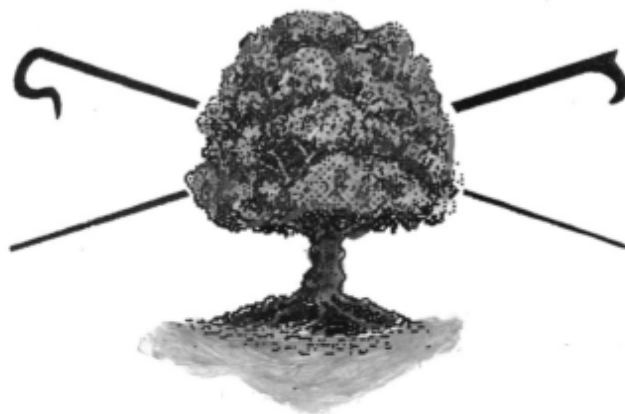
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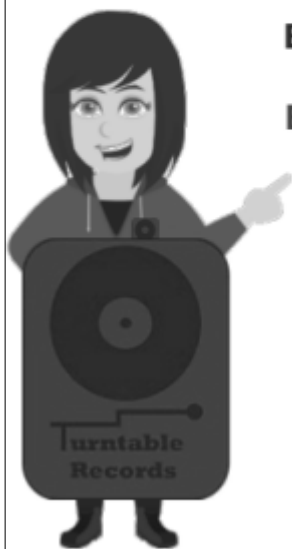


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Miss Mary Grieve: a trailblazer for women

By James Kempton MBE

Woman had a circulation of over 4 million, but actual readership was much higher. At one point it was estimated that 1 in 4 of the UK population (not all of them women) read the magazine. This gave her unprecedented reach into people's homes. It speaks to how much she was in tune with people's daily lives but also to the influence the magazine (and Mary Grieve as editor) will have had in shaping those lives. In comparison, today no similar magazine has a readership of more than a few hundred thousand.

Mary Grieve grew up in an upper middle-class religious family in Glasgow, but moved to London to work as a journalist, after being advised by a leading Scottish publisher that journalism was not a career for women. "A waste of time unless you were to write the bits about weddings and ladies' dresses." But things weren't much more enlightened in London where she was pigeonholed into publications like *The Nursing Mirror* and *Mother*.

The launch of *Woman* magazine in 1937 had not gone well for its publishers and Mary Grieve was part of a team brought in to try to save it. Her big break came in 1940 when she was promoted to Editor after the (male) editor joined the RAF. And she never looked back, retiring aged 55 in 1962 when *Woman* was sold to the Mirror newspaper group.

Mary wrote an autobiography *Millions Made My Story* (Victor Gollancz Ltd, 1964) which is a good place to look for more about her professional career, her thoughts on the influence of women's magazines and on the experience of women across the middle of the 20th century. But of more interest to us is Mary's life in Long Marston which she writes fondly about too.

Life in Long Marston

Mary Grieve and Dee Powell lived in Old Church Cottage, the thatched house at the bottom of Chapel Lane, from soon after the start of the Second World War to the 1970s. It was sitting in that cottage that Mary wrote her autobiography. Dee is a constant presence in Mary's autobiography, without her ever describing the nature of their relationship, as was common in those times. It seems the village was very accepting of the two women living as a couple: no one sought to label their relationship either.

It was Dee who found the cottage as a refuge from London and the Blitz. It seems she had friends in the village and it was convenient for *Woman's* printers Odhams in Watford.

Mary Grieve (1906-1998) or Miss Grieve as she was known in the village, won't be a familiar name to newer residents, but she was one of the most celebrated people ever to live in Long Marston. And in this LGBTQ+ Pride Month, it seems a good time to tell people her story

Who was Mary Grieve OBE?

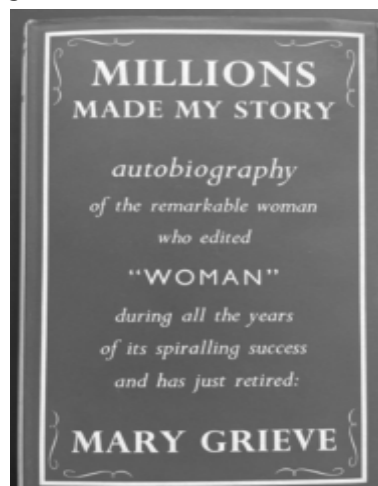
As editor of *Woman* magazine for 22 years, Mary Grieve was one of the leading journalists of her time and a trailblazer for women in the publishing industry. At its height

First they rented Old Church Cottage from the Gregory's at 10 shillings (50p) a week, then as they gradually – and unexpectedly – fell in love with Long Marston and its residents, they bought it. Improvements were made and in echoes of the cottage's later owners the Noakes, much effort went into the garden.

They played a very active part in local village life, especially Dee (or Miss Powell as she was known in the village), as Mary was often away in London for work. They loved giving parties for family, visiting friends and for local children. One of their major investments was putting in a swimming pool which was very popular, especially Miss Powell's swimming lessons for children in the village. Young people played an important role in their lives. Mary Grieve had four god-children in the village (including my husband Tim's late aunt Gill Allen) so I am hoping that there are others with memories of Mary and Dee that they can share with me and Tring Rural History.

Mary sums their life in the village beautifully: "In the summer waves of young people come down to our pool and as evening falls, we sit under the clematis monata and fry sausages and brew coffee and look out along the old moat past the Norman tower to the sunset and continue our conversation till the western sky is dark and the stars are up."

To learn more about local history visit <https://www.tringruralhistory.co.uk/>



In her 1964 book, Mary writes fondly about Long Marston

"Corny Corner"

It has been suggest that we could have a regular 'Corny Corner '. So please submit your best lines to the editor for inclusion in the next edition. Thanks to Mike Glasser for these two

He issues a Royal Pardon What happens when the King burps?

I've just swallowed 20p Do you notice any change in me? No, why?

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The Puttenham Page

by Christine Rutter

We are taking a break from events this June. The Jumble Sale on the last day of May will be reported upon in the July issue, and we hope this will all be good news for the Friends of Puttenham Church.

We also, very much regret having to cancel the spring Cecilia Tea Rooms for the second time due to a serious lack of support. The next Tea Rooms will be mid-summer with the last one for 2025 in the autumn, just before the clocks go back. Dates to be advised later. Please look out for information.

As always, we have our regular Evensong Service on the fourth Sunday of each month, and a Coffee Morning each Thursday. There are the odd times when we cannot open the coffee morning, but we try to be as regular as possible.

THURSDAY MORNINGS 10.30 UNTIL 12 NOON. Coffee Morning in St.Mary's Church. There is never a shortage of conversation, so please give it a try. You will be most welcome!

ST.MARY'S CHURCH – Evensong Service. 3.30 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month. A traditional musical service followed by tea, cakes and a good natter.

If you haven't been before, then please come along – we shall be pleased to see you.

Raising Funds for the Old Tower

By Sue Foster

Our inaugural event, to raise awareness and funds for the Old Tower in Long Marston was an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Monday. Despite the wet afternoon we were delighted by the support from young and old alike. The quiz proved very popular and soggy answer sheets were marked and awarded with an egg. The tea and cake in Victory Hall was enjoyed by everyone too.

Many thanks to all those who baked so enthusiastically for the occasion, to all those who helped with the afternoon and most of all to all those who took part! We raised over £500 for the restoration of the tower.

Look out for our next event in the Autumn when we will be resurrecting Tea at the Tower.



New Season at Long Marston Cricket Club

By Jon Beardmores

Cricket has started with some close matches in the first weekend of the league season. The 1st XI ran out comfortable winners against Silverstone, whilst the second XI lost by four runs against Westcott and the 3rd XI lost with three balls to spare against Great Brickhill – which was played at Ascott House. We are very fortunate to play a number of our fixtures at fabulous grounds like this, as well as our lovely home grounds. Sunday games are also in full swing.



Get Involved

Would you like to play cricket, umpire or score this summer? Training can be provided for umpires and scorers. Please contact Mike Lyons develop@longmarstoncc.co.uk or come along to nets (every Thursday evening at Marlins) and ask to speak to a team captain.

We are also looking to add to our commercial sponsors. If you would like to discuss supporting us, or using our facilities for a commercial event, please contact Paul Marsh at chairman@longmarstoncc.co.uk.

Diary Dates

There are league and friendly fixtures almost every Saturday and Sunday at Marlins (Cheddington Lane, Long Marston). The 3rd XI have nine games scheduled at the bucolic Mentmore Cricket Ground (see website for dates). There are also some special games of particular local interest:

Wilstone v Buckland	Friday 15th August 6pm start.
LMCC v Tring Rugby Club	Friday 30 th May T20 game 6pm start
Herts Ladies V Wiltshire Ladies	Sunday 15 th June 2 x T20's 11am start
Club 6 a-side Day	Sunday 29 th June 11am start
Club Day	Sunday 24 th August 1pm Start

Club Sundays

The Club Bar is open on Sundays between 12 and 2pm - all are welcome. Please remember that our clubhouse is available for hire for a wide range of events and includes a kitchen, large open area and licensed bar, which we can staff. Please contact Paul Marsh (info@esipower.co.uk) for more information.

Ground Security

If anyone spots anything untoward at either of our grounds at Marlins (Cheddington Lane, Long Marston) or Mentmore then please contact our Chairman Paul Marsh at chairman@longmarstoncc.co.uk. If a crime is in progress please call the police.

Find out more at www.longmarstoncc.co.uk