

Village news

May 2025

Puttenham
Astrope
Long Marston
Gubblecote
Wilstone
Little Tring



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



Long Marston School report by Laura Whateley



IN APRIL we held our annual 'Long Marston's Got Talent' competition. We saw some excellent acts, from trumpet playing to magic shows and gymnastics.

Congratulations to Iqra, Harriet, Isla and Ava for coming first with their delightful dance routine. In joint second place was Liam for his super singing and Eliza with her amazing magic show. In third place was Callum with his talented trumpeting.

Well done to everyone who took part; it takes courage to stand up in front of the whole school to perform, and it was a wonderful way to celebrate everyone's skills and talents.

If you are looking for a place for your nursery (3 plus) or Year 3 child, please contact the school office for a tour of our school to see the children in action and talk to the headteacher about our school and how we could meet your child's needs.



For the residents of Puttenham, Astrope, Long Marston, Gubblecote, Wilstone & Little Tring.

Wilstone Film Nights

...and that's a wrap!

By Peter Walker

WILSTONE Film Nights season has now finished for the summer. The last film was the much-acclaimed drama, Conclave. It has been another very successful season bringing in funds to help keep the village hall up to a good standard, which in turn encourages more bookings.

A new idea for this last film was the introduction of Mr Whippy, selling ice creams. Well, it is not new to those of us of a certain age who remember the Kia-Ora lady walking down the aisle in between films with her tray of nuts, chocolate and ice creams. But Mr Whippy did it with such style and panache that we will continue with this when our film nights return in October.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who help create the film nights, selling the tickets, setting up the hall, running the bar, preparing snacks and cleaning up afterwards, as well as the glamorous assistants greeting and seating. Not to be forgotten is the lighting technician. It is not easy, apparently, turning them off, then on, then off again. Thanks also to Sara Wilmot for creating our trailers. Film nights would not be possible without all this help, so my thanks go to you all.



Mr Whippy will be back later in the year.

In Village News 20 years ago

Little Tring by the late John Painter.

Village View

provided by John Painter

JOHN took this picture recently at Little Tring using a digital camera. The evening sky was a deep pink, and this casts an old-fashioned glow onto the front of the houses, making the scene look older than it is. The absence of the usual clutter of modern life - passing cars, wheely bins, telephone poles - also makes the scene timeless. Indeed it must have looked much the same 100 years ago. It would have sounded much nicer then though, without the constant din of passing traffic which is evident to residents today.



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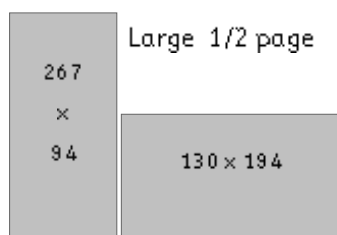
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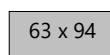
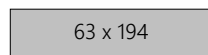
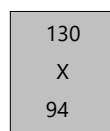
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Medium 1/4 page



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John

Village News is written, edited, produced and distributed entirely by local volunteers. We aim to be local, interesting, informative, fun and a good read. Please let us know if we are not!

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The editor for the May edition is Marcus Postings and the deadline for items is: Wednesday 14 May

This has proved to be one of the most difficult editions, with a general shortage of material. You could say it's been a blooming edition for May.

However, after a bit of juggling and a unique solution to an empty page and, last but not least, a new Wilstone resident coming in at the last minute with a superb photo for the back page, the day was saved.

A friend of mine has been pressing me to use AI. So as an experiment and a page to spare, I asked Chatbot GPT 'to write an amusing article. Just giving the bot the bare facts in two or three lines. It returned a completed article in a few seconds. Can you tell which item is AI-generated? The article in question is word for word as returned by the bot. However its not perfect and made one spelling mistake using the American version.

No way am I suggesting that we should use AI on a regular basis, but it is interesting to see what can be achieved with free basic AI with the minimum of facts.

Talking of facts brings to me another topic. Can I ask all of you who write letters to the editor to ensure that you have the correct facts? Particularity where criticism is aimed at identifiable individuals. In previous editions this has not always been the case. Sometimes we are not able to easily check facts, particularly at the last minute. It is important for authors to act fairly and ensure they get their facts correct.

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

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What's on in & around our villages

Diary Dates

Tring Farmers Market

10** & 24 May, 14 & 28 June
** at The Market Place

Meet on Monday,
Long Marston Victory Hall
2.00 to 4.00pm. 19 May
2 & 16 June

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/>



Blossom Day Sunday 4 May 11am-3pm Jeacock's Orchard, Cow Lane, Tring HP23 5NS

All welcome to this free orchard event, come and enjoy craft, stalls, displays and live music. Bring a picnic, relax and enjoy the beautiful historic orchard! The ground is rough so please take care. Do consider walking to the orchard as parking is limited - please park considerately on Cow Lane or nearby roads.

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 May – **these could change so please check online** at <https://www.tringteamparish.org.uk/news-events> or phone the Rectory on 01442 822170

We also will have live streamed services online so please take a look.

Sunday 4 May – Easter 3

6pm – Celtic Service in All Saints, Long Marston

Tuesday 6 May

10am – Holy Communion– St Cross, Wilstone

Thursday 8 May

11am – VE Day Civic service – St Peter & St Paul's, Tring

Sunday 11 May – Easter 4

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

Tuesday 13 May

10am – Morning Prayer -St Cross Wilstone

Sunday 18 May – Easter 5

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

Tuesday 20 May

10am Holy Communion cw – St Cross Wilstone

Sunday 25th May – Easter 6

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

Tuesday 27 May (Tues)

10am – Morning Prayer -St Cross Wilstone

Thursday 29 May – Ascension Day

10am – Holy Communion BCP – St Peter & St Paul, Tring

7:30pm – Holy Communion – St Peter & St Paul, Tring



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

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



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 con-
tact 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.

**2025 TRING
FAMILY FUN DAY**

PLEASE HELP
TRING'S HEART
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For further information contact Grahame Senior on 01442 822770 or Maya Lashley on 07765 420700

Allotment blues

Pat on page 7 says that there has been a lot of work
going on at Wilstone allotments. That's certainly true for
some - they are on their knees. You may ask well ask
where is Nigel? He's out of shot standing by with a
defibrillator or is it a pint.



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Village Society

HORTICULTURAL SHOW
SCHEDULE - SCAN ME



Proceeds from the **raffle** and **tombola** go towards the cost of running the Show.
Donations of food, drink, toiletries, etc would be much appreciated.
The drop off point is Central Farm or give us a call and we'll collect.



Could you also let us have any unwanted crockery.
We want to be able to give you a "smashing time"!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET PLANTING FOR THE HORTICULTURAL SHOW!!

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Wilstone Allotment Association

**Secretary Wanted**

Wilstone Allotment Association is looking for a new secretary to assist in the running of the Association. This voluntary position is part of a small (6 person) committee that maintains the smooth running of the allotment site. Ruth Patterson has done a wonderful job for us for many years but is moving on to pastures new this spring.

As Ruth will testify, the position of secretary is not particularly onerous, the busiest period is around September when memberships are renewed and the AGM is held, the rest of the year involves a few days a month managing the waiting list for plots and assisting in ordering supplies for the plot holders (manure, wood chip etc). The main requirements are a sociable temperament and a basic level of IT skills.

If you are interested in knowing more about helping to run our successful association, please let myself or any member of the Committee know and Ruth will be happy to talk interested parties through the role before she leaves. Being a current member of the association is not a necessary requirement, but an interest in growing things would obviously help. Steve Smith, Chairman
tringsteve@gmail.com 07753 744437

Dear allotment holders,

I really don't know what to write about this year.

Sadly, because of health issues, the ground being slippery, and the cold, wet weather, I didn't go down to my allotment until the beginning of April. The first thing I had to do was to weed my beds and clear my greenhouse. I have plants ready to plant out, but the frost on my shed roof told me it is still too cold for delicate plants.

There has been a lot of activity down the allotment, making me feel guilty and putting me to shame. Good luck, everybody; may we all have a successful year.

One thing I would like to do is to welcome all the newcomers and wish you all many happy, relaxing hours and a good growing season.

I would also like to THANK all our Villagers and Allotment Holders for the wonderful Memorial Bench for STAN, which you all made possible by your generosity. Stan will be so proud of your kindness, AS AM I. Thank you, everybody.

It is so sad that Ruth has left us. I will miss her tremendously and the encouragement she gave me to keep going when Stan departed and helping me do the odd jobs I just couldn't do myself.

THANK YOU, RUTH, for all you have done for me, and GOOD LUCK in your new venture.

I wish you all the best for 2025.

Patricia Smith

Sudoku Corner by Colin Moore

No 187 moderate

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

Solution on page 21



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SAT 8am-1pm

SUN 9am-noon

It's holiday time but our wonderful shop volunteers keep the show on the road

The public holidays come thick and fast at this time of year but your community shop will be there to supply your basic needs and support the various events going on in the village.

Following the Easter holidays, the next public holiday is on Monday 5 May when we celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day. The Day, which commemorates the end of Second World War in Europe, actually falls on Thursday 8 May so the government has dedicated the Early May Bank Holiday – Monday 5 May – to nationwide celebrations where communities can come together to commemorate the Day. These celebrations will continue across the nation until 8 May. Wilstone's shop will be open from 9am until 12 noon on Monday 5 May.



The shop's marquee always attracts an enthusiastic clientele on the village open days.



The shop will also be open later in the month during the same hours on the Spring Bank Holiday on Monday 26 May and then, looking a bit further ahead, the shop will be supporting the Open Village Day on Sunday 22 June when there will be the usual marquee outside the shop where our super volunteers will be serving tea, coffee and a terrific range of homemade cakes and other goodies.

Please come along and take some time out from all the other activities going on in the village during the afternoon.



Wilstone's free Open Village and Open Gardens event

Sunday June 22nd from midday

Plans are gathering apace for Wilstone's 5th Open Village and Open Gardens event 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. Ivor Spencer has got several musical acts together to provide an afternoon of musical entertainment.

We have been granted permission to close the road from 10am to early evening so that families can wander around safely and enjoy the many 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
- The Joggler mobile juggling
- Tombola at the Church

And lots of refreshment stalls, such as:

- Teas & cakes from the community shop

- Pimms stall
- Burgers at The Half Moon
- Asian vegetarian food from MoMo
- Ice cream man
- Souvlaki stall

The Open Village event is free to all. For a tour of the gardens, tickets are sold on the day from the registration tent, and maps are provided for visitors. All proceeds go to charities.

Jo and Mark Woodbridge are leading the Open Gardens event. If you would like to open your garden for the day, please 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 stall or help on the day, please contact walkersandbrook@gmail.com.

We especially need help on the day directing traffic and erecting gazebos.

Weather permitting, it has been a great village and family event over the years.

The event runs from midday with the gardens opening at 2pm and runs until late afternoon. But first things first – diary this date: **SUNDAY, JUNE 22nd**.



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An account about renovation

From
Steven Tarbox

Over the past two years, my property on Astrope Lane has undergone substantial work both inside and out. Local residents may have become used to seeing my builders' vans outside. I moved in late last year, and I'm pleased that my builders are now back, this time making big improvements to the front garden.

As the work has been so extensive and varied, I thought it might well help if I

outlined some of what's been going on, just in case you're considering work in or around your property. The builders and landscapers I have been using, CKM Building & Landscaping Services, are a local business, based in Tring. They have been absolutely fantastic, and I am grateful for their professionalism and the high quality of their work.

With very fair pricing, CKM has made the renovation viable, and their invaluable advice has helped me avoid costly mistakes. What could have been a very daunting project has, with CKM's unstinting support, been far from it. As part of their service, they also project-managed the entire work. This included recommending the best way of achieving the desired results economically.

Inside, some of the more noteworthy jobs have included:

Rotten floors (both joists and boards) have been completely

replaced, while other floors have been levelled and tiled.

A CKM-designed innovative insulation technique has been employed that greatly improves thermal efficiency while maintaining the all-important breathability older houses require. All walls have been plastered and decorated.

Almost all double-glazing has been replaced, and CKM came to the rescue by significantly improving a particularly poor installation by the original glazing contractor.

The kitchen, bathroom, and ensuite were all gutted, the walls and floors tiled, and new suites and a kitchen installed. All interior doors and frames were replaced, too.

Outside has also benefitted from CKM's varied skills:

Fencing and gates have been installed at the front of the property, rotten trees have been safely brought down, and moribund scrub and old stumps have been cleared. Now the front garden is benefitting from the CKM treatment, where they removed undesirable plants and designed a new, significantly enhanced driveway, with the added benefit of greatly improving safety when arriving and leaving.

The directors are two of the most decent, honest people I have had the pleasure to work with, and with such people running CKM, it is no surprise that the entire business operates to the same commendably high standards. I have been so very happy with the quality of the work, and to show my appreciation, I offered to place this page here. I hope it shows just how proud I am of CKM.

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★★★★★
"The CKM team was so professional and conscientious throughout the renovation. The quality of both the work and the end result far exceeded my expectations. I cannot recommend them highly enough."

★★★★★
"CKM's imaginative landscaping has enabled us to enjoy our much-improved garden and we are proud to say it was all due to CKM."



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Life in the Village of Puddlebrook

by Alan Ives

NESTLED somewhere between rolling green hills and the occasional sheepish glance, the village of Puddlebrook sits quietly in Hertfordshire. It's the sort of place where the local

gossip travels faster than a cup of tea can steep, where the pub smells faintly of aged wood and better days, and where the two shops seem to hold the secrets of the universe in their dusty aisles.

This quaint, seemingly idyllic corner of England is home to all the classic rural trappings: a church, a pub, and a pair of shops that, together, represent everything you could possibly need... or so you would think. Let's take a jaunt through Puddlebrook, where life is simple, if not a little bit strange.

The Church: Where Time Stands Still, and So Does the Pews

The church, St. Wobble's, has been standing proudly for over a thousand years. (Okay, that's a slight exaggeration, but who's counting?) The bell tolls every Sunday, much to the joy of the congregation, who are, on average, about 10% actual churchgoers and 90% people who can't find their way out of a conversation with Mrs. Puddleworth, who insists on discussing her prize-winning dahlias at length.

St. Wobble's is the hub of the village, despite the fact that the only thing it's actually known for, aside from its history of medieval sermons, is the "World-Famous Puddlebrook Cheese Roll." Each year, locals gather for the Church Fete and attempt to roll a wheel of cheddar down a hill while avoiding the wrath of Puddly, the local dog, who has a certain fondness for dairy products. It's a spectacle you have to see to believe.

But really, St. Wobble's is about more than just rolling cheese and dodging dogs. It's the place where you can hear the most amusing tales of village life—from Mrs. Beechwood's cat who thinks it's a pigeon, to the mystery of the disappearing garden gnomes. You won't find a church bulletin here without at least one mention of "The Mysterious Case of Mr. Holloway's Hat" (which, we suspect, may have been eaten by an overly ambitious pigeon).

The Pub: "The Puddle & Pint" – A Haven for Quirks and Quenching

At the heart of any village is its pub, and in Puddlebrook, that means the *Puddle & Pint*. The pub has all the charm of a time warp. The timber beams creak under the weight of history, the fireplace is always burning (even in the summer, because, why not?), and the regulars are as timeless as the jokes they tell.

Inside, you'll find an assortment of village types, including Jim the gardener, who spends an alarming amount of time talking about his roses, Betty the baker who's constantly complaining that "the flour's just not what it used to be," and the mysterious old man in the corner who, nobody really knows, but everyone calls "The Oracle." What he lacks in words, he makes up for in cryptic nods and an occasional sage-like mutter.

And the drinks? Oh, they're mostly just warm beer served in tankards that have seen better days. But it's the *atmosphere* that truly counts, especially during the annual "Puddlebrook Pub Crawl," which involves a total of *one* pub and the entire village trying to walk around it without tripping over a barrel.

The Shops: A Tale of Two Tiny Emporiums

In Puddlebrook, there are two shops. No, that's not a typo—*two* shops. One is a general store, "Puddlebrook Provisions," run by Stan and Doreen, who have been married for 42 years and argue over the price of a loaf of bread every day. Stan insists the bread is too expensive; Doreen says the bread is "an investment in happiness." Either way, you can get anything from jam to jumper cables, but don't expect to leave without some unsolicited advice on life.

The other shop is a quaint little bakery, "Buns of Puddlebrook," where Emily, who bakes her own "secret recipe" scones (which no one has ever been able to replicate, mainly because it's mostly just butter), has a loyal following. The bakery doubles as the local gossip mill—if you didn't hear something there, you can be sure you'll find out in the church after the service.

Both shops are beloved for their absurdly slow hours. Puddlebrook Provisions closes promptly at 4:30 PM, because apparently, after that, Stan simply "cannot cope with another person asking where the eggs are." And Buns of Puddlebrook? Well, they close early on Mondays for "baking recovery," which is apparently a thing.

The People: The Real Heartbeat of Puddlebrook

The real charm of Puddlebrook lies not in its quaint infrastructure, but in its people. The village is home to a fascinating cast of characters, each with their own peculiar habits.

There's Trevor, the self-appointed "village historian" who, despite only having lived here for six months, insists on narrating the history of every building and fence post, even though half of his facts are "heard it from Bob down the pub."

Then there's Linda, who has a dog named "Bartholomew," which she claims is "purebred," but looks suspiciously like a cross between a beagle and a mop. Linda spends her afternoons standing at the village bus stop, even though the nearest bus route is 8 miles away.

And let's not forget Mr. Hollingsworth, the retired postman, who still insists on walking around in his uniform and delivering post to the local ducks. They're not particularly grateful, but it's a noble effort nonetheless.

In Conclusion: More Than Meets the Eye

Life in Puddlebrook is a peculiar blend of timelessness and gentle madness. It's the sort of place where you can take a leisurely walk through the countryside, stop for tea at the shop, pop into the local shop for a loaf of bread (if it's not already closed), and then settle into the pub for an evening of stories and laughter. Here, every person has a tale, every building has a history. With a population of just 750, there's no room for anonymity, and that's what makes

Puddlebrook so special. It's a tiny village, yes, but it's packed to the rafters with heart, humour, and just the right amount of eccentricity to keep you coming back for more.

Extraordinary council meeting

7 March 2025

An extraordinary meeting of the council was held at Long Marston to:

'consider the request to financially contribute to the cost of instructing an expert to prepare an independent report addressing concerns raised in relation to the planning application 23/01998/FUL - Construction of 9 Dwellings, New Pedestrian Link and Bus Drop Off Area Land off Astrope Lane, Long Marston, Tring'.

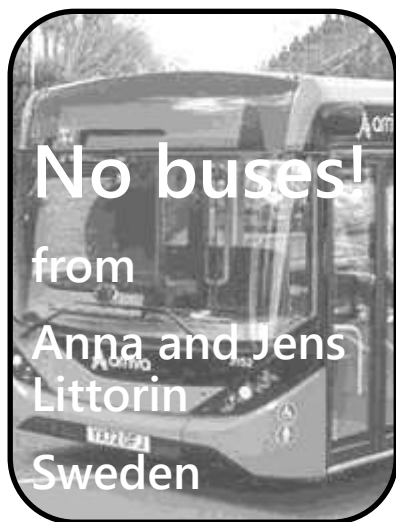
The meeting was attended by 3 councillors including the chairman. No members of the public were present.

The council agreed to 'financially contribute to the cost of commissioning an independent expert report to address concerns raised regarding planning application 23/01998/FUL, at a cost of £1,300 for Phase 2 and £750 for additional work, with the final cost not exceeding the approved budget. The report is to be commissioned by the Parish Council with financial contribution to be received from residents. Dacorum planning have agreed to allow additional time for the report to be prepared.

Update regarding Astrope Lane development

A short update following my article last month regarding the lack of due process in dealing with this planning application. After formal complaints being submitted Dacorum Borough Council have now granted an extension until 14th May for the Parish Council and myself to obtain our own report from a Flood Risk Consultant. This is now in hand. Watch this space!

Sue Foster



The car was in the garage. The bus driver left us at a roundabout near the highway. But our neighbour came to our rescue, and we still love our vacations in Hertfordshire

WE were in our favourite spot again – our home away from home. Two Swedes who used to live in England and always go back.

We have been house and cat sitting for our friends in Hertfordshire many times. This has been our most memorable and enjoyable vacation. Walking across muddy fields, spending time with the lovely neighbours we have gotten to know, and taking the car for a spin to visit local pubs and other places that interest us.

This time, however, our friends' car was in the garage, so we planned to get around by bus. It turned out to be a bad idea.

Berkhamsted was our first planned trip. We had booked tickets to watch a film at the great Rex cinema. Bus times were checked, both on the internet and at the bus stop in "our" village. We waited for more than half an hour, but no bus came. A bus going the other way passed, so we figured that it must be coming our way too, but no. The taxi arrived another 20 minutes later, and we managed to get to The Rex in time.

After the film we found a bus going to Tring, where we thought we could get another bus back to our village. We were happy to be on our way back home when the driver suddenly stopped at the bottom of the major roundabout (outside Tring A41). "I'm not going any further."

Eight passengers tried to change his mind, saying that this is a dangerous place to leave his customers in, but in vain. So, we walked our way through Tring to our next bus stop on the other side of the town only to realise that the connecting bus, the last bus for the evening, had left an hour ago.

Taxi? No, said the switchboard lady. "No drivers available at this time."

What do you do? You call your lovely neighbour, who came to our rescue. Half an hour later, she dropped us off at the house. We could not thank her enough.

Hopefully buses are more reliable next time. Well, you can't really trust aeroplanes either. On the morning when we were going home to Sweden, we woke up to the news that a fire had shut down Heathrow Airport. So, we were lucky enough to spend one more day in our favourite English village. Never mind the buses; it was another great holiday in Hertfordshire.

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Joe is Wing Walking

To raise money for Brain Tumour Research

Photo courtesy of The Wing Walk Company
<https://www.thewingwalkcompany.com>

Hi, I am a long-time Wilstone resident. My husband, Mark, has a vestibular schwannoma brain tumour, also known as an acoustic neuroma. This is a benign tumour that develops on the balance nerve and on the auditory nerve. He is completely deaf in his left ear. The tumour is very slow-growing, but scans have recently shown that it is close to his brain. If left untreated, the tumour could impact his balance, lead to facial palsy and other factors. Mark has taken the decision to have treatment to slow down the growth of the tumour. He is awaiting a date to have SRS radiotherapy.

In addition to Mark's diagnosis, brain tumours have also impacted our family and friends. We both have uncles who have sadly died from brain tumours, and we have a very good friend who has had surgery and thankfully is well again.

As you can imagine, I am keen to fundraise for this very good cause to continue the amazing work of Brain Tumour Research.

I have decided to take part in a Wing Walk on 22nd August 2025. It will be quite the challenge for me! If you are able to make a contribution, I would be extremely grateful and thank you so very much for your support. This is the link/address of my JustGiving page: https://www.justgiving.com/page/jo-woodbridge-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM



If you would like to get in touch with me, my email address is jomarkwoodbridge@outlook.com; I can send the electronic link to you. Thank you.

Brain tumours kill more children and adults under the age of 40 than any other cancer, yet just 1% of the national spend on cancer research has been allocated to this devastating disease. This is unacceptable!

I am fundraising for Brain Tumour Research, as they are the only national charity dedicated to funding long-term, sustainable research in the UK. Please help me fund the fight. Together we will find a cure.



Joe and Mark

Walk or run to rebuild lives at the DENS Woodland Trail.

LOCAL CHARITY DENS is thrilled to announce the launch of its brand-new fundraising event, the Woodland Trail. Taking place on Saturday 21st June, this exciting challenge invites participants to walk or run their choice of 5 or 10-mile routes – immersing themselves in stunning woodland scenery while making a real difference in the community.

Starting from the historic Berkhamsted Castle, participants will follow well-signed trails through outstanding natural landscapes before receiving a special finisher's token at the end of their adventure.

Whether you're an experienced runner looking for a scenic challenge, a keen walker wanting to enjoy the beauty of nature, or someone in the community eager to push yourself to complete a long-distance route, the DENS Woodland Trail offers something for everyone. More than just a day out in nature, every step taken will help local individuals and families facing homelessness, poverty and social exclusion.

Booking for the DENS Woodland Trail is now open. For more information and to secure your places, visit www.dens.org.uk/trail



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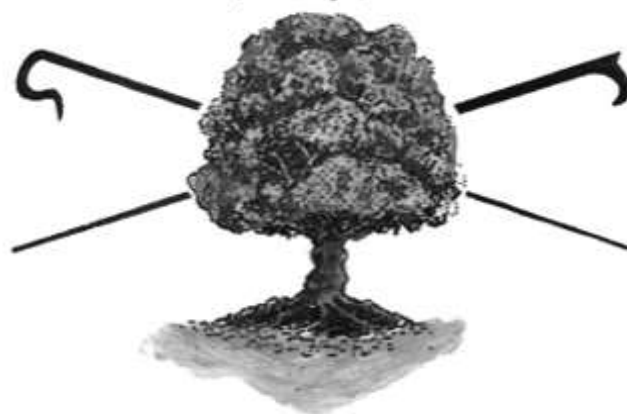
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ARE you spring cleaning your finances? Even if you're not, here are three great charities to consider supporting:

Christian Aid

Each month the Tring Team Parish has a nominated charity which we support by raising money and awareness. For March and April the charity was Christian Aid, who have the wonderful strapline **'Everyone is equal in the sight of God.'**



Christian Aid says, 'For over 75 years, this truth has inspired us to stand together in solidarity with our most marginalised global neighbours, of all faiths and none.'

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. We seek to eradicate extreme poverty by tackling its root causes. Together with people living in poverty, we amplify our voices to speak truth to power and create lasting change. From christianaid.org.uk

The Children's Society

For the month of May, the parish is supporting The Children's Society. Perhaps mostly known for promoting Christingle services, The Children's Society says, 'We provide specialist support that empowers young people to make positive changes and rediscover their hope. They want a future they can look forward to, and we're here to make sure they get it. Working alongside young people, their families and community, we will not rest until together, step-by-step, we've created a society built for all children.'

From childrensociety.org.uk



Your local church

We rely on your generosity to sustain the work of the churches in our villages. This includes having clergy available for funerals, weddings and christenings as well as Sunday services. If you appreciate having an active church in your village, please consider giving regularly.

Please donate online if possible and consider setting up a monthly standing order. If this isn't possible for you, we are also happy to receive cheques and cash donations. Do you pay tax? If so, Gift Aid adds an extra 25% at no extra cost to you. Just let us know your address when you donate. Your donation is much appreciated.



Bank: Nat West

Account Name: Tring PCC Team Scheme Stewardship Fund Sort Code: 55-70-10 Account Number: 60679360

Churches 'Count on Nature' 7 – 15 June 2025

**Including a
family-friendly talk
and activity at
St Peter & St Paul
4pm on Sat. 7 June**

GREAT Big Green Week each year is a time for many people and organisations to come together and take action in support of biodiversity and sustainability.

The five churches in Tring Team Parish invite you to come and help make a survey of the diverse wildlife in our churchyards. You may be interested in plants, fungi, lichens, mammals, birds, or insects – or you may just want to find out what there is to see. You can drop in at any time during that week to make

your survey. There will be information in the churches to help you identify wildlife and sheets for you to leave for us so that we can ensure your records become part of a national database.

To start the event, on Saturday 7th June, local naturalist Nick Bowles will give a short illustrated family-friendly talk at St Peter & St Paul church, Tring, about why churchyards are such rich habitats for wildlife, with an opportunity for everyone to take part in some active 'citizen science' and to observe live moths caught in Tring the previous night. Please come along at 4.00pm. Refreshments will be provided.

Anne Nobbs Eco-Church Group

Notice of AGM

Wilstone Village Hall Committee
hereby gives public notice of the
Annual General Meeting
to be held on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7pm
at St Cross, Wilstone.



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The Puttenham Page

by Christine Rutter

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07514 548289 or email at christine.rutter2@gmail.com

JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY, 31st MAY – 2 p.m.

As always, your help with sorting during the week prior and, especially, on the day of the sale would be very much appreciated. Sorting from 10 am to 12 noon on the week prior or helping with a "stall" on the day of the sale.

No electricals or videos, but anything else is always much appreciated, especially clothes at the moment. We seem to be very low on stock!!

If an item fits easily in a car, then we are happy to offer it for sale.

All proceeds to the Friends of Puttenham Church, which helps to finance St Mary's when there is a bill to pay!

Please contact Christine at 07514 548289. Please endeavour not to bring your jumble until the week prior to the sale.

We are sorry to say that MAY DAY with its madrigals and breakfast HAS COME TO AN END. The Ridgway Chorale asked if they could sing – on May Day over 20 years ago – and we have been doing it ever since, with the madrigals sung from the top of St Mary's tower followed by a full breakfast in the hall. However, age has taken its toll, and climbing the steep spiral towers to the top of the tower, together with an exceptionally early rise from bed, is no longer practical, and the singers have decided that this event must come to an end.

Thank you for all the wonderful May Day mornings that we have had in the past.

"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. Here are a couple of examples :

What do you get when a telescope bumps into a microscope?

What do you call a musician who has lost his music?
Answers

a kaleidoscope. Ian.

Letter from Steven Tarbox Astrope /

After moving into Astrope Lane last year, I have been surprised and at times dismayed by the speed of some vehicles. The vast majority are clearly using the road as a rat-run, and one thing many drivers have in common is the way they glare at you when you're driving sensibly!

Anyway, I have been in contact with some sat nav companies, and to date Apple, Google and Here (which supplies sat navs to some car manufacturers) have all agreed to remove the road from their directions. To a lesser extent, Waze has made a mild concession. While there will be a delay before we benefit from the changes, if you learn of any sat navs that offer Astrope Lane as a through route (i.e., when not a destination), please let me know, and I will endeavour to contact the relevant sat nav manufacturer with a view to having the road delisted from their directions too.

Village News is looking for volunteers

Magazine editor

Village News is looking for an editor to join the team of 4 editors. The role involves producing two editions of the magazine per year. Previous experience is not essential, but some familiarity with word processing or desktop publishing, handling emails, and downloading articles and images would be an advantage. Training will be provided. Editors must be prepared to devote a significant amount of time spread over a few days in the production week of the magazine.

Team Organiser

The Team Organiser provides a vital link between the members of the Village News team. Good communication and a modicum of administration are the key contributions.

Please contact Colin Moore 01442 826976 for further information.

Solution No 185

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

Answers to the bloom quiz on page 24

1. Cherry (Black Forest)
2. Apple (Apple of my eye)
3. Pear (Perry-not Champagne)
4. Sprouting Broccoli (brock)
5. Strawberry (straw and beret)
6. Hawthorn (Hawfinch spurs - thorn),

Local Contacts

Herts Police non-emergency 101

Berkhamsted and Tring Safer Neighbourhood Team 01707 354192

Fly-tipping reports Call Dacorum Waste Services 01442 228000

Call the police if you see a crime being committed.

Reports of river flooding

Environment Agency 0845 988 1188

Cecilia Hall (Puttenham)

Christine Rutter 07514 548289

Cubs and Scouts

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LM&P Village Society (The Horti).

horti@longmarston.org

St Cross Wilstone

Rev'd Jane Banister 01442 822170

Olga Martin 01442 822894

St Mary's Puttenham

Rev'd Huw Bellis 01442 822170

Churchwarden

Christine Rutter 07514 548289

All Saints Long Marston

Rev'd Jane Banister 01442 822170

Churchwarden Judith Weatherall

Long Marston Victory Hall

Bookings: Sara Wilmot 07778 046154

Long Marston Cricket Club

Paul Marsh Chairman

Chairman@longmarstoncc.co.uk

Long Marston Tennis Club

Longmarstontennisclub@gmail.com

Long Marston School 01296 668386

Wilstone Allotment Assn.

Ruth Patterson 07790518105

ruthpatterson15@talktalk.net

Wilstone Village Hall

Chairman: Peter Walker

chairman@wilstonevillagehall.org

07768 605684

Bookings: Peter Myrants

bookings@wilstonevillagehall.org.uk

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info:https://wilstonevillagehall.org.uk

WI Clare Hill 07802415447

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Dacorum's Councillors Tring West

Brian Patterson 01442 823868

Brian.patterson@dacorum.gov.uk

Caroline Smith-Wright 07931 733151

Caroline.smith-wright@dacorum.gov.uk

Changes or additions? Contact the Editor.
editorwlm@yaho.com

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TRPCCouncillor@gmail.com

Richard Foster (Vice-Chairman)

TRPCCouncillor3@gmail.com

Caroline Wright-Smith (Puttenham)

TRPCCouncillor6@gmail.com

07931 733151

Gill MacDonald (Long Marston)

TRPCCouncillor4@gmail.com

Maria Adams

Vivian Wood

Vacancies 2

Clerk to the Parish Council

Chloe Collins 07516344248

email: clerk@tringrural-pc.co.uk

Villages Warden

Colin Reedman 01442 822031

email: TRPCWarden@gmail.com

Where no personal telephone number is shown use the clerks number

The Old Church tower at Long Marston

A continuation of the article in the March Edition
by Sue Foster

The old church tower and its surrounding graveyard are part of the historic fabric of the village.

Prior to the late 1800s, it was a local place of worship for the residents of Long Marston. However, the main body of the chapel was pulled down in 1883 in part due to a deterioration of the building and also as it was felt to then be too small for the needs of the community. At this time, a larger church was built in the village, also to be named the Church of All Saints. However, the spirit of the Tower lives on in the new church, as numerous pieces of stonework and wooden items from the original church were incorporated into the fabric of the new church, along with the font and the organ.

Although the main body of the church has been removed, it has not been officially declared redundant, and so, in theory, services could still be held there. However, the last recorded event was a wedding in April 1882 when only the contracting parties were allowed inside owing to the dangerous state of the building. The graveyard has few graves and only served as a burial ground for 34 years, between 1832 and 1866. Many of those buried there were infants and young people; it is perhaps fitting that a churchyard which itself had a relatively short life received many young people whose own lives were tragically cut short.

However, undeterred, a small group of villagers came together in 1999 to explore what urgent action could be taken to restore the Tower as a fragment of local history. No church funds were available, but this group set about the huge task of raising funds and taking on this challenge.

Although some money was received from grants, a large number of fundraising events were also organised. These included musical events, cream teas and stalls. We also received a number of very generous donations.

The work required for the Tower was immense – it included a new parapet, a new roof and water chutes, removal of significant ivy growth, flint and stonework repairs, replacing window lintels plus many other improvements. Clearance work also included removing pigeon droppings which were almost four feet deep!

The total cost of the renovations came to approximately £47,000 – a huge sum back then and likely to be at least double in today's money – and it is thanks to that committed and hard-working group that the Tower is in the impressive state that is seen today. They have commented that it was very hard work but generated fun, good camaraderie and strong community spirit. 25 years later and a new challenge faces the Tower. With this in mind, a small group of interested parties have recently met with representatives from the diocese and are exploring ways in which to preserve and protect this special local place for generations to come. What is particularly lovely is that this group includes both those new to the village and some of the previous '1999 group' – bringing together different generations, allowing us to learn from previous experiences and share both 'tried and tested' and new ideas.

At this stage, the purpose of this article is to inform the local community of the task ahead and share some of the history of this beautiful site. Over the coming months, we will keep you updated on our progress, and please do also look out for our fundraising events.



Know your fruit blooms

Name the six flowers and identify the odd one out. With the help of the cryptic clues.



1. A German dark area of trees is one..



2. One you admire very much.



3. Not a French district.



4. A name for badger may help.



5, Aid for Drinking while wearing a Frenchman hat.



6. A large finch with spurs.

Answers on page 22



Easter ducklings by Mark Fowler.