

# HALLMARK

*THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE*



*"A past Christmas night at St John's Church"*  
by Margaret Gray

**NOVEMBER 2007**

**NUMBER 204**

**ESTABLISHED 1970**

# HALLMARK

## THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE

WINTER 2007

Hallmark is published quarterly by the Lacey Green & Loosley Row Millennium Hall Management Committee, although opinions expressed in comment or contribution do not necessarily represent the collective view of that committee.

Our aim is to mirror the mark that the Village Hall makes upon our community, to publish the activities of all Village organisations, and to provide a forum so that the rights, the wrongs, the well-being of village life can be aired.

News from all the Village clubs, societies, churches and school, stories of local interest and entries for the Village Diary are always welcome. In addition, any suggestions for improving Hallmark.

### VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Clive Hodgton (Chair), Rachel Panter (Vice-Chair), Lee Harte (Treasurer / Acting Sec.),  
Karen Hodgton (Booking Sec.), Jill Baker, Stella Boll, Jane Brown, Ginnie Brudenell,  
Cathryn Davies, Carole Knight, Betty Tyler & Norman Tyler

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**The Spring Hallmark will be published in February  
- closing date for copy is January 17th**

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## Chairman's Report

## November 2007



Welcome to the latest edition of Hallmark. Summer eluded us this year and now it is time to look forward to Christmas and the New Year and all that has to offer.

Most of you will have noticed our new fence that has been installed along the footpath side of the car park. There is a gap at the top end by the kitchen, so it is much safer for all when the car park is busy. Lighting will be our next

priority, especially with the dark winter evenings, and we will be working closely with the surrounding houses so as not to create a nuisance. Our aim is, as always, to keep the hall in excellent condition and during the summer we had the main hall floor re-polished as well as some other interior decorating to keep up the usual high standards.

The Hall is being used more and more, with bookings for 2007 exceeding all expectations. Please remember to book early for 2008 to make sure you beat the rush.

We now have a full alcohol licence in the hall and we are able to supply full bar facilities in conjunction with a local firm.

Recently I have noticed a stream of people all heading into the Hall on Thursday mornings. All are meeting up for various reasons and apparently all are having a great time. Thursdays have become the busiest day of the week and it would be a shame for you to miss out. We have the new Library Van service returning every two weeks (see poster for times & dates), the ever popular Coffee Mornings (10-12) and don't forget the Post Office (9 -12). So I look forward to seeing you there soon.

Please keep an eye on the notice boards outside the hall and don't forget the list of users in Hallmark. There's lots to do all week and numerous activities to keep everyone happy.

Have a great winter and may I be the first to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2008 and of course please continue to support all the local activities throughout the village. We may be a relatively small community but we always seem so busy.

**Clive Hodgton, Chairman, Village Hall**

## From the Editor



We can look forward to our usual Christmas – New Year season, with time to enjoy our friends & families (some of whom we don't see often enough), taste

seasonal food & drink, play games. The **annual carol concert** (page 4) is always an enjoyable start to the Christmas festivities. Then come the events organised for members & families of our village's various groups.

Both nights of **Dinner Theatre by Lacey Green Productions with The Command Performers** soon sold out, so they arranged a **Preview**, without dinner, but nibbles & licensed bar. See page 21.

We have so much in this edition that we had to delay some articles which were not time-sensitive. My apologies to the valued contributors concerned.

A lot of people, from Loosley Row and much further afield, have shown a strong interest in the recent changes to, as well as the history of, the **Loosley Row Baptist Chapel**. An impressive conversion has been achieved by the new owner and her local builder. These feature in the centre pages, 22-24.

People who live in highly built-up areas anywhere in the world cannot see the stars we in the countryside can see. We had a Japanese friend visit us and she stopped suddenly in our drive one night to look at the stars. She had never in her life seen so many. It staggered her that she missed so much in her life because of street lighting. This is one of the many valuable things in life that are free – if we take the time to enjoy them! If you're not already enjoying this gift, see **Chris Dignan's article** on page 37 and come to his annual **Christmas Astro Talk**.

Another thing that's valuable in today's world and free is **Neighbourhood Watch**. See pages 29 and 33 for details of the service our Hall's Treasurer, Lee Harte, has provided in Loosley Row and has agreed to provide for interested Lacey Green residents also. Following this article are also details of several scams reported locally recently – they could spoil your Christmas and New Year if you are caught by any of them!

**Don White** resigned from our Parish Council after 23 years as Chairman. His story is on page 25 and a tribute from Rosemary Mortham is on page 16. Thank you, Don for everything you have done for our community!

On page 43 is an article by Karen Lawe, a local girl who does a lot to help **Hearing Dogs for the Deaf** in nearby Saunderton. Karen, after professional specialist training with others, walked on burning wood as her way of sponsoring this charity. It helps nationally to save neglected dogs by training them to act as guide dogs for deaf people. To the fit folk of all ages, why not challenge yourself and raise funds for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People in this, their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year? To find out more about their running, trekking, climbing and other exciting events, you can visit their website [www.hearingdogs.org.uk](http://www.hearingdogs.org.uk). Or contact Ruth Dunkin, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, The Grange, Wycombe Road, Saunderton, Buckinghamshire HP27 9NS. Direct 'phone line: **01844 348136**.

There's also plenty more from our regular contributors - hope you enjoy it. And if you hear of anything else you think other villagers would like to read, do tell me.



If you haven't any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble. **Bob Hope**

# On the Farm

It is an old farming saying "Don't put all your eggs in one basket". There is some sense in that, for if one thing is not doing well there is just a chance that something else will do better. Things do go up and down and with luck it averages out. As overheads and equipment have gone up farming has become more specialised. We used to have a flock of sheep, herd of pigs, poultry for Christmas and a laying flock of hens. All have gone to enlarge the dairy herd and improve facilities and machinery for them and the cereals that we also produce. We do conserve as much for the cattle as possible, mostly in the form of silage, but this has to be supplemented mainly with feed which has to be purchased. Our farm is about half in cereal crops and half in grass.

I have previously mentioned bio-fuels and touched on climate change, both of which are having a dramatic effect throughout worldwide agriculture. Farming used to be a steady routine year after year. It takes many months to change crop and animal cycles and is not undertaken lightly but we are in a global market and things are changing fast. Yearly, crops have failed due to climate change, whatever the cause, and abnormal droughts and floods have made commodities short. Crops are being converted into bio-fuels instead of food, be it for humans or animals. In China and India, the standard of living has been raised so there is a much greater demand for meat. It takes an enormous amount of grass or grain to convert it into meat. But unprofitable land is now being brought back into use, much in the USA and even here the government has seen fit to do away with compulsory set-aside land. So where do we stand now? If only we knew the answer.

Good husbandry and good management can be learned. They, and dedication, are imperative for survival. But now commodity prices are fluctuating like a yo-yo and so much hinges on buying and selling right. I am talking agriculture but it seems to be affecting other things throughout the world too. Take two examples that are having a direct effect on us. Firstly there is a promised increase in milk price. This is because there is a total shortage of butter and cheese and other manufactured products, No other reason. We will be almost back to what we were getting for our milk eleven years ago. Secondly, the price of grain. Not having all our eggs in one basket, we produce grain to sell, but we also use it for our cattle, having milled and mixed it with other ingredients for a balanced ration. Grain prices have changed over the years both up and down. From sowing in the autumn to harvest, storage and selling is at least a

year, often longer. It is usual to make a contract at any time for an agreed tonnage, price and specification to be collected some time in the future. Break the contract in any way and hit penalties. Usually you spread your sales over several months, hoping to get a reasonable average overall. Last august the market went crazy. What might have been an increase over the season was happening day by day. Those not committed to contract made a killing, those that had committed their crops were gnashing their teeth.

The backlash of this was to break the pig and poultry producers whose animals are fed on bought grain, and that is most of them. Beware of EU jointed poultry. Much of it comes salted from South America and maybe the Far East, is desalinated on the Continent and sold fresh from the EU. This is quite legal. "British" is a good label to look for. At least you know the high standard to which it is produced, but it will be dearer and scarcer.

Now the farming community is again suffering from the restrictions of foot and mouth and an outbreak of blue tongue. There are huge sales of live sheep and cattle in the autumn, sold to different farms for their next stage of growth. The culmination of a year's work. Their cancellation spells disaster for these commercial breeders. Exports are banned. Much meat is exported, beef and vast quantities of lamb. Live international pedigree animals cannot be sold. These are individual sales of very special animals and the breeders are stuck with them. This is all because the government did not keep its own house in order. There will be compensation paid to those poor souls whose herds have to be slaughtered, but these animals are personal from the time of conception right through their lives. I cannot imagine how the distress could possibly be evaluated. I have never known the farmers so angry in all my life.

As for blue tongue. This has been working its way up through Europe and has now got here. It is transmitted by midges. Animals may survive but will have very poor health afterwards. Is climate change making it better for midges? Some really cold weather would reduce the pests and diseases. Makes life more difficult looking after the animals though. And of course the schools would shut, "Aaah"!! Maybe better in the holidays with perhaps even a white Christmas. Whatever it is, we wish everyone a great time, and spare a thought for those everywhere that are working during the celebrations. Merry Christmas.

Joan West

# Village Notice Board

## **LACEY GREEN SINGERS**

**Annual Village Carol Concert**  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm

In the Village Hall

Tickets £5 each available from choir members or at the door

## **Bucks CC Mobile Library**

Will call at Lacey Green Village Hall  
on alternate Thursdays  
between 10.30 and 11.30am.

Next dates: 15 & 29 Nov, 13 Dec 2007  
8 Jan, 10 & 24 Feb 2008.

The vehicle will come for 6 months trial, then will  
be reviewed according to its popularity

## **WANTED**

**Sensible person, willing to care for elderly frail lady  
for one day a week, and possibly to live in for the occasional  
few days.**

**Times and rates of pay negotiable.**

**Phone 01844 345863**



Sir Winston Churchill, asked what qualifications were essential for a politician, replied 'The ability to foretell what will happen tomorrow, next month and next year - and to explain afterwards why it didn't happen'.

# Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI

It seems a long time since the summer but we have now settled back into our usual Autumn programme of events. Back in summer, though, we had our August outing to Waterperry Gardens, and what a delight they are, beautifully kept & with such a variety of lovely plants. It makes me wonder whether to give up gardening altogether or whether to be inspired to do better! We enjoyed looking around (and buying) at the garden centre & the other shopping outlets there. The cream tea was good as well.

The group that went to Highgrove had a most enjoyable day. The weather in Lacey Green was awful when they set out, but fortunately it stopped raining while they were at Highgrove & everybody was able to enjoy the tour of the gardens.

We had an interesting meeting in September from someone who had walked the Great Wall of China. It looked to be a very gruelling experience, as in many places it was in a very broken down state. I don't think our health and safety people would have approved at all. However, well done to our speaker, who was sponsored in aid of the Alzheimer's Disease Society.

October brought us London Oddities. Mrs Botright is a London guide & her slides showed us all sorts of things that are not normally on the walking tours. We must walk around looking up all the time in order not to miss these unusual things.

The Village Quiz this year was a great success & the hall was full with 20 teams. 3 teams didn't turn up & we think that they mistook the date. Jamie Carter once again gave us a challenging & entertaining quiz & the results were as follows.

1 <sup>st</sup>	High Wycombe U3A	174
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Black Horse	165
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI	160
4 <sup>th</sup>	Prompt Please (LG Productions)	156

I hope you all enjoyed it – win or lose, it was a fun evening & thank you all for taking part. Now you other pubs, how about challenging the Black Horse next year.

In total we took £214.25. £40 was given to Jamie for his charity 'Lighthouse'. We have some expenses to take out, leaving at least £150, which will be given to the village hall. Well done everybody.

**Doreen de Grey**



**WI President Jill Baker with Ted Chapman, representing the winning High Wycombe U3A team.**



**John West collecting his raffle prize from Phyllis Dell & Joyce Walker**

# Lacey Green & Loosley Row Sports & Social Club



At the Tennis Tournament / Fun Day, five children on Disney Bounce at one time, DIY BBQ, eating, drinking & socializing of all ages



whilst plenty are enjoying playing tennis

## TENNIS SECTION

The Tennis Tournament / Fun Day held on the 9<sup>th</sup> September was a lot of fun for all and boasted a great turnout of approximately 30 players and half a dozen under 9's. After a full afternoon of matches, we finally had two adult winners, who were Peter Morris and David Colchester. However, a massive applause for Lucy Biswas, who was our runner up in her first adult tournament!

The juniors under 11's winner was Sam King and under 13's winner was Nick Johnstone. Fantastic to see the younger members of the club taking an enthusiastic approach to a bit of competition. Our under 9's also enjoyed the day by having a little fun, coaching by adult members before the matches began, followed by a lot of bouncing on the bouncy castle. A BBQ was in place for you to cook your own food.

An excellent afternoon of sunshine and tennis was enjoyed by all. It would be great to do something similar next season. Which reminds me to say that, with the weather being mild and bright through September and October, it has been great to still see members on the tennis courts. Should any of you who didn't get around to joining earlier in the year fancy a little knock about, then please feel free to contact **Linda Malden on 01844 275296**, who will be very happy to give you a bargain membership fee to see you through to next season.

"Could do better". That's the verdict on this season's performances. Much better, in fact. Yes, I know that 6 of the scheduled matches were washed out, and that the ball wasn't 'coming on to the bat' due to damp pitches, but other teams adapted to the conditions. If it hadn't been for superb batting by Skipper Bob and Dave Highgate, I doubt the 1st XI would have made 50 runs in most matches. Oh, the rest of the team played the occasional good knock but were far too inconsistent; hence the team's position second from the bottom of Division One. Of the 12 matches played, the 1st XI won 3, lost 4, 2 winning draws and 3 losing draws, finishing with 184 points. Top batsman, I'm informed, was Skipper Robert Dell with close to 400 hundred runs, and second, Dave Highgate with 300 plus. I have no figures for the bowling, but would think that either Jack Hedgeland or "Teeny" Roberts took most of the wickets.

One of the problems for both teams is that several very good players, owing to work commitments, are only available for perhaps a third of the matches, which doesn't help team selection or consistency.

We are hoping that the 1st XI will be able to remain in Division One. As Flackwell Heath and Hawridge are leaving The Mid Bucks, there will have to be a reshuffle - although I understand that two new teams, one from Aylesbury and one from Beaconsfield, are entering. We'll just have to wait and see. **Continued page 19**

# Happy Wanderers Walking Club

## ASTON, HENLEY & HAMBLEDON LOCK

Sun 26 Aug

Twenty-six members of the Happy Wanderers met at the small village of Aston on a sunny and warm Bank Holiday Sunday to enjoy a gentle walk through fields, woods and along the tow path from Henley, via Hambledon lock, and back to Aston. As can be imagined, the river part of the walk was very busy, not only with families taking advantage of the glorious weather but, also, there were many craft on the river,

with quite a 'traffic' jam at Hambledon Lock. As I said, a gentle walk with lots of time to 'stand and stare'. There was even time for an ice-cream stop before returning to Aston, where some members braved the Bank Holiday hordes and managed to get a lunch at The Flower Pot pub!

Thank you Dennis and Peter for swapping dates with us, otherwise we would have been walking on water!

Marion Hazell



Approaching Hambledon Lock from Henley

Photo by Ronnie Lewin

## THE TRING RESERVOIRS

Sun 29 July

With the Thames in flood, a last minute decision was made to swap the July and August walk venues so, in spite of the short notice, some 30 walkers assembled at the Startop's End car park at Marsworth on a sunny day with a slight breeze to enjoy a walk around a rather more disciplined water course, the Tring Reservoirs and the canals they serve.

Our route took us alongside the Startop's End and Tringford Reservoirs, a mixture of elevated vantage points and wooded paths with wildlife in abundance. At Little Tring a shorter, 3 mile, route was offered for those who might be daunted by the planned 5+ mile trek but, in the event and with later regret by some, only 2 of us, not fully fit, opted for this. So Peter Green led the majority along the canal and across fields to the Wiltstone Reservoir and then through Wiltstone village to the Aylesbury Arm Canal and its series of locks, which feeds into the Grand Union Canal just north of our starting point. Meantime, Ronnie Lewin & I made our leisurely way along the Wendover Arm Canal, with its pumping station and mill, to join the Grand Union Canal at Bulbourne and head back to Marsworth and

the White Lion, where the first gulp of Abbots Bitter was like nectar! Eventually, several gulps later, we were joined by the main party and many enjoyed lunch here or at the Anglers Retreat down the road. As always, a very convivial gathering and, this time, not a muddy boot in sight – the Thames towpath, where we might have been, was inches deep in water but, as you read in the August report, all was well by then.

Denis Croucher

## WEEKEND AWAY NEAR BEWDLEY

Fri 28 – Sun 30 September

It had rained heavily early in the summer and two members of the Walking Club became more and more anxious as the rivers of the West Midlands swelled and flooded. Towns and villages were cut off and rivers burst their banks, water covered acres of farmland and they feared the worst: their carefully planned and explored walks for the walking weekend were surely under water - and they were! However, by the time September came order was restored, the cellar of the



riverside pub chosen for its food and position was drained and the tracks were passable.

33 members met at the excellent Jarvis Ramada Hotel in Bewdley on Friday afternoon and were treated to an easy stroll beside the River Severn and through the charming old town before dinner.

On Saturday morning, we all gathered in the woods above the Severn Valley for group photos before setting off through wonderful old trees on a path that eventually led down to the River Severn, meeting our non-walking members for a shared lunch in the pub garden as the sun shone.



**Walking alongside the river Severn**

Sunday saw us all gathered at Harvington Hall, a restored Elizabethan mansion on the outskirts of Kidderminster. We were taken on an excellent four-mile guided walk by Tim and his wife, who showed off the magnificent countryside in Worcestershire of which they were very proud.



**Always plenty of laughter**

After a delicious lunch, we were treated to a most enjoyable tour around the Hall, with guides dressed in Elizabethan costume, who showed us the most cunningly disguised priest-holes, for which the Hall is famous. The weather was perfect for walking and the whole weekend was voted as one of the best we had all enjoyed. What can Sue Phillips and Liz Southon do to measure up to this next year?

**Liz Southon**



**Photos by Ron Goodearl**

# County and District Council News

**Library Service** I am sure you will be pleased that the Mobile Library Service has resumed regular visits to Lacey Green. The new fortnightly stop at the Lacey Green Post Office (Millennium Hall) commenced on Thursday 4th October and stops between 10:30am – 11:30am. Thank you to the Millennium Hall Committee for letting the service use this site and their continuing support for the Post Office. Please give these services all the support you can because if we lose them they will not return.

**A4010 - Culverton Cross Roads** The Works will begin on 5th November 2007 and finish in March 2008 and it is expected that scheme works will last 16 weeks. As this scheme has had a long wait in the funding queue, I thought you would be interested in a refresher on design proposals. The scheme design centres on two main aspects to improve the crash record:

**A right turn lane** will be provided by widening the road around the Woodway junction. This will mean that any vehicles wishing to undertake right turn into Woodway from the A4010 are able to use an additional area of carriageway to wait in, should they need to.

**The vision for drivers** emerging from Woodway will be improved to provide motorists with a greater opportunity to judge the speed of vehicles on the A4010. With improved vision, the crashes involving vehicles exiting from Woodway should be reduced. The proposed junction arrangement will also improve the layout of the side roads, Woodway and Upper Icknield Way, and will remove the existing junction with the Upper Icknield Way.

On site scheme works will be staged, commencing with the widening, realigning and installing new footways on the Upper Icknield Way junction with A4010. The Upper Icknield Way junction with A4010 will be closed throughout the duration of the scheme, with a diversion route in place. Once works on the Upper Icknield Way junction have been completed, the next stage will be to widen the A4010 (at Culverton Crossroads) so a new right turn-in lane can be installed along with new footways, traffic islands, road studs and road markings. During this phase, there will be a temporary 30mph speed restriction running through the A4010 at the crossroads for the duration of the scheme works.

From January 2008, works will then begin on realigning the Woodway junction with A4010. The existing Woodway carriageway will be broken up, top-soiled, seeded, a tree will also have to be removed and a new Woodway junction will be reconstructed along with the installation of a new traffic island, new ditches and road markings. There will be single lane closures on

Woodway, with temporary traffic lights for the duration of these works at this junction. The next stage will be to resurface the A4010 and the newly realigned Upper Icknield Way and Woodway junctions. There will be a night time closure in place for the resurfacing works on Woodway so that no public transport services are interrupted.

The final stage of the scheme will be to complete the landscaping by installing new hedgerows on the highway boundaries. As there are bound to be significant delays during peak times, it probably will be worth avoiding this junction for travel towards Princes Risborough

**Speed Limit Review** Following the appointment of Alan Baverstock to progress the county wide project, work is back on track with the post-implementation review for Area 5 which includes Lacey Green and Loosley Row. All responses to date have been collated to identify what and where the issues of concern are. In addition, further speed measurements have been taken at key locations and 'crash data' is being analysed (up to most recent available- June 2007) to compare the number of crashes before/after the new speed limits were put in place.

Site visits and further investigations will take place as soon as possible, so that the Working Group can be provided with all relevant information to assess the officer's recommendations. Current estimates are that the Working Group will meet towards the end of this year. Public consultation on any proposed changes will then take place by the end of 2007/early 2008, with resultant speed limit changes being in place by spring /early summer 2008.

## Directional Signing (Finger posts)

The consultant's proposal for new and revised directional signing and minor amendments are currently being made to the final schedules. Given the scale of the re-signing, it is likely that we will be delivering these in smaller packages. Once these have been finalised with the supplier, we will circulate a delivery programme, but we anticipate the directional signing will be completed by spring 2008.

## Temporary Speed Indicator Devices (TSID)

Following the trials of the TSID, formally known as Vehicle Activated Signs, in conjunction with Reading University, a final report has been presented, which was positive in that it indicated that drivers were reducing their speed when the devices were deployed. You may have seen one in Main Road, Lacey Green. I have asked that these be redeployed in our area ahead of the County Council preparing a policy and procedure for the wider use within the county. The County Council has

agreed that, within the Tranquil area, the option of training Local Area Technicians will be taken so that the devices may be deployed more easily at selected locations. Parishes will be advised when the Local Area Technicians have received the required training so that they can request the devices for their areas. I have asked that Main Road be given a high priority in an effort to reduce traffic speed.

**Kiln Lane** As you may be aware, it was the County Council's intention to enter into a formal agreement with the developer to ensure that reinstatement of the lane was undertaken to the satisfaction of the Rights of Way Authority and the Parish Council. This agreement has not been reached and therefore a formal notice in accordance with s149 of the Highways Act 1980 has been served on the developer which gives until the 19<sup>th</sup>

October for him to remove the concrete strip and to reinstate the lane to the satisfaction of the Authority. If this notice is not complied with, then the County Council will apply to the Magistrates Court for an order to undertake works itself and to recover the costs of so doing from the developer as a civil debt.

**Community Leaders Fund** This fund has again been agreed, both by District and County Councils, which means that funding for small community projects can be made. If you have a project that requires funding or would like to know more about the schemes please give me a call.

**Paul Rogerson**

**District and County Councillor. 01494 488315**

## Donald Elliott White resigns as Chairman of our Parish Council

**CHAIRMAN 23 YEARS FROM 1984-2007**

**- A TRIBUTE**



**D**on was born of the local White family, who had run the well known building firm in High Wycombe of White Brothers. This was sold to Lovells in 1968. His grandfather, Arthur White, had been Mayor of High Wycombe. Don attended St. Edwards School in

Oxford. He now lives in Speen with his wife, Mollie, daughter Jill and son Stephen.

He takes a keen interest in vintage cars and owns a 1954 Rolls Royce, a 1932 Austin 7 tourer and a 1933 Austin 10 saloon.

Don joined the Parish Council in 1979 as an independent member for Speen and was elected Chairman in 1984. When Lacey Green Parish Council was formed in 1934, there had been a "gentlemen's agreement" that 5 members should represent Loosley Row and Lacey Green, with 2 members representing Speen. In the early 80s, it was agreed, at Don's suggestion, that the parish should be "Warded". This provided a guarantee that there would always be 2 members to represent Speen.

As Chairman, Don took part in the "Beating of the Bounds" ceremony in 1987.

During his Chairmanship, a gas supply was made available to the villages of Lacey Green and Loosley Row. This was brought about by negotiations between the Parish Council and British Gas.

Over many years, the Parish Council campaigned for a reduction in the speed limit in Lacey Green & Loosley Row. The 40mph limit in Lacey Green was considered too high, whilst in Loosley Row only the national speed limit of 60mph was in force! A successful result was finally achieved in 2006, when both villages became subject to a 30mph limit.

Don has been a member of the winning team at the annual village quiz on several occasions. For 25 years, he and his family ran the ice cream stall at Speen Fete. Recently, he has taken part in the Speen Festival. His latest appearance was as the "Ghost Teacher" in the 2007 performance of "Three Cheers for Mrs Butler".

After 28 years on the Parish Council, Don has decided it is time to retire. He has always tried to be impartial and not to let politics influence his decisions. He will be greatly missed. There are few local people prepared to put so much time into helping the community as Don.

**Rosemary Mortham**

The 2nd XI also had six matches washed out. Out of the ones played they won 5, lost 5, had 2 winning draws and one losing draw. From the second week in July, they were able to turn out a much stronger team, thrashing League Winners Ibstone on their own ground and beating old rivals, Hampden, in the last match.

Top of the 2nd's batting averages was Derek Marshall 23.45, second Tim Page 15.57, third Simon Williams 23, and most of the rest had very good averages. In the bowling, Dave Sanders came top with 22 wickets average 12.81, Robbie Brown second, 22 wickets at 16 and Simon Williams third with 15 wickets at 16.33. Five other bowlers had very good figures. I'm grateful to Simon for the averages.

It was a pleasure to sit and watch their enthusiasm and determination, ably led by Skipper Dave Sanders. And it was good to see Derek Marshall batting really well again, Simon Williams chasing round the field like an Olympic sprinter - and batting and bowling more like his old self. Dave Sanders bowled accurately (as usual), Robbie Brown his consistent self, a much improved Tim Page with bat and ball, Roger Whipp scored well and his son James surprised us all with the pace of his bowling for a 13 year old. Nine-year-old Charlie Williams (surely the youngest ever to play for Lacey Green) turned out twice and acquitted himself well, I'm told.

After a disastrous start, the 2nds pulled themselves up to finish fourth in Division Two with 213 points. A great effort. If only they could keep that team together, I'm sure they would be amongst the medals. But my greatest pleasure from watching was to see a team pulling together and enjoying the game.

I must mention our two umpires, who stand in all weathers for six hours or more. That's Leslie Rixon and Derek Briscoe - I think they deserve a medal apiece. And what about our supporters? Though few in number these days, they turn up win or lose, hoping to see the team do well. The range of ages amazes me: from about 6 years old to 99 (yes, that amazing woman, Connie Baker).

Another of our supporters who is going through a rough time at the moment is Dave Allworth, who not only likes to see a bit of cricket, but also keeps an eye on the ground and clubhouse for us, which is useful with all the vandals about these days. We wish Dave a speedy recovery.

To all our supporters, A Happy Xmas and A Healthy New Year.

A final thought: Have you noticed when you are ill how many people are doctors?

**Geoff Gomme**

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## Around Our Local Pubs



Where has the year gone? Halloween bonfire night and then Christmas. Once again, we are doing a Christmas menu. We are offering a choice this year of a two course, three course or our special five course. Also buffet starting at £7.50 per head. Come in and see us or

email me at [lynnecomley@btconnect.com](mailto:lynnecomley@btconnect.com) or even look at the menu on our website [www.blackhorse-pub.co.uk](http://www.blackhorse-pub.co.uk).

The domino and crib season is now on its way - something to fill in our Monday nights. The darts board is now up and running, so if anybody cares for a game, call in and have a throw.

Well done, Tom, for passing your driving test - another Dell on the road. Thank you, Jane, for organising the

ladies' night at the sports club - we all had a really good time. I don't no how you manage it.

A new event for The Black Horse on the first Sunday of every month - we now hold a psychic evening. Tarot cards etc. This starts at 6pm till late. You just come and wait your turn. Look forward to seeing you. We are also thinking about starting a music evening on a Sunday once a month. Look for the information in the next Hallmark. We still do the Quiz on the last Sunday of the month but we really could do with some more teams. It would be nice to see some village support at the Black Horse.

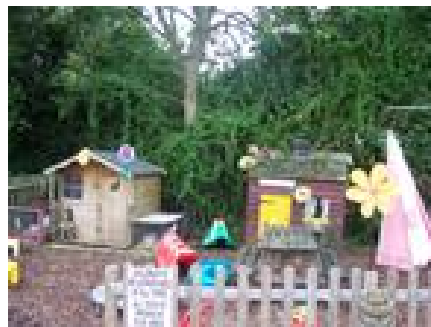
Well done to John and Jo Jones, Lisa Saxton and Magoo for coming second in the WI Quiz this month. Unfortunately, we didn't get much response to the old toy appeal but maybe next year, when we open the playhouse again in the garden, people will think of us.

Also just to remind parents that you are able to use the car park for school collection in the morning and the afternoon.

New Years Eve will be a disco until very late. Look forward to seeing you.

All of us at The Black Horse wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year. I wish to thank all my staff for being so loyal throughout the year. Also, a big thanks to all my regular customers - without you we would not be The Black Horse.

**Lynne Comley**



One of 8 photos (colour, of course) of the beer garden and play area on Lynne's website, which is very helpful - Editor

## Lacey Green, Loosley Row & Speen 81<sup>st</sup> Over 60's Club

Sorry we missed the last edition - a misunderstanding on my part.

At our April meeting we had a Victorian Magic Lantern Show, which was excellent entertainment. How clever those Victorians were.

June was our outing. We set off as usual in glorious sunshine, albeit a bit breezy. Our first stop was The Waterfront Café at Benson, where we all enjoyed an excellent lunch - the puddings were exceptionally delicious and what a choice! After a short relax in the garden, where the group photograph was taken, we set off for Toad Hall Garden Centre, where some members enjoyed tea and a browse.

At the August meeting, we played a lively game of Bingo and in September a friendly chat between

members. In October, we had a most enlightening talk by Jessica Watts, a young girl who lost her eyesight at the age of twenty one. Some six years on, she has come to terms with her future in a most positive way, her main lifeline being her splendid guide dog, Jasper (who accompanied her to the meeting and behaved beautifully). I think I can speak for everyone present to say we were in awe at Jessica's bravery and determination to lead a very full life. She also spends a lot of time and energy campaigning for others who have lost their sight - a project we wish her success with.

Our usual message to over sixties - everyone is welcome to come along to our club, which meets on the first Tuesday of the month in Lacey Green Village Hall at 2pm. WARNING: there will be no meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> January.



**Carole Knight**

# Lacey Green Productions together with The Command Performers

Only a year ago we were struggling with corny French accents and second world war comedy. Now we are in the thick of the mud of Flanders, the despair and humour of the soldiers and the music and songs of the first world war. Never say that LGP and the Command Performers don't give you variety!

## **"Oh, what a lovely war"**

Once again, we have sold all the tickets for our dinner theatre performances. You have overwhelmed us with your demand and, although we know that you really only come for Rachel's food, we would like to say a big thank you to all our audiences!!

However, if you have not been able to get tickets – do not despair. We are putting on an extra preview performance on Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm for 8.00 pm. We cannot serve a dinner with this but there will be nibbles and the licensed bar will be open. Tickets for this preview are free and should be obtained by telephoning either **01844 347518** or **01844 344207**.

All profits from these performances of "Oh, what a lovely war" are being donated to The Royal British Legion

Poppy Appeal and if you come to the Thursday preview, we hope that you will make a donation to this charity.

## **After the war is over**

Get ready for our future theatre-at-home production, which will be performed in the spring of next year. A full length play is on offer this time. **"An Inspector Calls"** by J.B. Priestley will start rehearsals soon as part of our rolling programme of dramatic happenings in Lacey Green. So, if you would like to act with us and didn't fancy being musical with "Oh, what a lovely war", do come and join us for "An Inspector Calls".

## **After that**

We are hatching plans for an evening of light comedy for performing in Lacey Green. We then intend to take this programme on tour to other village halls in the neighbourhood. So, if you know any other hall or organisation that would like to raise some money and have a good evening's entertainment, why not tell them to contact us at LGP and The Command Performers (at these same telephone numbers)?

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## Windmill Under 5s



The children and staff have all returned to Pre-School after their summer holidays full of enthusiasm for the new term ahead. The theme for the first half-term has been "senses" and the children have been encouraged to explore and investigate their five senses in every way imaginable – although so far I think playing with shaving foam and jelly has been the favourite. We have cooked fairy cakes, made bread, and been joined by Wendy Randall for "Musical Mayhem". Lots of art work has been produced, some incorporating herbs, musical instruments made and face painting will be next! All this has coincided with the children having their school photographs taken, just in time to make excellent Christmas presents.

The second half-term will begin with a Halloween party in the Village Hall and then it will be all systems go for the Christmas festivities. Our Christmas Play will be on Monday December 10th in the Village Hall and all parents, grandparents and visitors are most welcome, with refreshments served after the "main event". On the

last day of term our Christmas Party will of course have a special guest, games and plenty of party food!

We have just held our fab *Ladies Night* with yummy food, entertainment by Drew Christie followed by a good boogie. It was attended by 63 ladies & hugely supported by a number of local businesses, who gave us fantastic prizes for our *Stand Up Bingo* and *Indulgence Auction*. Thank you to everyone who came, helped or donated prizes, especially to Jane Oakford who organised, cooked & basically ran the show. All monies raised will go towards a roof for our outside play areas.

We are holding a *Car Boot Sale* on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November so, if you have any extra stuff lying around you would like to convert into money, please ring **Tim Britton on 01844 347575** to book a table - or if you just want to browse around and partake of a coffee and a cake, we would love to see you there. We will also have some more fantastic Fransa clothes on sale again at *Car Boot Sale* for anyone who missed our sale earlier in October.

**Continued on page 25**

# Loosley Row Baptist Chapel transformed with love and care



## SUMMARY OF HISTORY

Using information from Marion & Dudley Stevens, Paul V Evans and Dennis Claydon

**B**aptists had worshipped in Loosley Row since at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Early Baptists belonged to a scattered society based at Ford in the Vale of Aylesbury, which spread over the greater part of central Buckinghamshire. With no set meeting place, worship was held in members' homes. The Ford Minute Book records meetings in Loosley Row and "The Row", as it was sometimes referred to by older folk.



The Chapel as built in 1813.

In 1809, land was purchased in Loosley Row and in 1813 a Protestant Meeting House was erected on it. Lay Preachers from near and far travelled on foot or by pony. In 1862, a new Baptist Society was formed and used the building. The 9 "founder members" comprised 4 from

Speen, 2 from Haddenham and one each from Askett, Princes Risborough and High Wycombe. It thrived and in 1866 an upper storey was added.

Around the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a new building became necessary and plans were drawn up for a new larger sanctuary on the same site. The last service was held in the old Chapel on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1905 and the new Sanctuary was opened on 20<sup>th</sup> December the same year! During building work, materials were deposited near The Whip, then carried by hand down Loosley Hill by members and their families, determined to erect the new building.

Construction cost a little over £600 (today's equivalent about £60,000), then a considerable sum for a small village Chapel to find. In 1910, the Chapel acquired some nearby land for a cemetery, additional land then added in 1917. The cemetery has outstanding views and is the last resting place of many former stalwarts. At the entrance to the cemetery is a memorial to the 12 men of the neighbourhood who gave their lives in World War I.

Records from early times reveal that the Chapel had around 40 adult members. A Sunday School has been in existence since 1862, with as many as 180 scholars at one time. The children won various awards over the years, had happy memories of summer outings to the seaside, a park or zoo, successful November bazaars to raise funds for the school and various charities. A party was enjoyed after each Christmas. The Sunday School closed in 1988 due to lack of children.

After 180 years of service to the community, the Baptist Chapel closed on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2001. The closure had

several major causes, including the fall in membership and the cost of necessary repairs.



**Sunday School class about 25 years ago. First photo & this one by Joyce Walker**

## THE SYMPATHETIC & RESPECTFUL CONVERSION OF THE CHAPEL

Judy Fitch, the new owner, bought the Chapel in 2006. She is trained in Architectural and Interior Design. She has renovated and re-designed several period properties, including her previous home in Speen.

Taking on the Chapel has been her biggest challenge yet. The property was in good structural condition but was going to be a testing job. She fell for the beauty of the building and could visualise how she could convert it into a modern home while still retaining a lot of the Chapel's original features.



**The Chapel today, with gates open**

Judy employed the services of a well known builder, Russell Goldie-Jones and his team. Russell was as keen as Judy to create a house but also to respect and maintain the building's character. No short cuts were to be taken and a skilled and perfect finish was required. The work started in April 2006 and amazingly was completely by the October. Each day, the builders worked until till late to get it finished.

When Judy bought the Chapel, it had planning permission to be turned into a dwelling, but the planners were insisting that the rear extension was knocked down to make a space for a garden at the lower ground level. She objected to this and re-applied to keep the rear extension, take down the roof of the old kitchen area and create a private roof garden. This was eventually passed by planning. When the work started on this area, it was discovered that after carefully removing wood and plaster from the walls, underneath was beautiful crafted brick and flint, proving that the extension was in fact part of the original Chapel!

Judy created another floor to provide a vast open plan living area incorporating the dining area and kitchen. This allowed French windows and a balcony (fire escape) to be erected and take advantage of the stunning views over Bledlow and beyond.

The entrance hall has been left the original full height of the building to maintain the atmosphere of light and space as you enter the building. Several features of the Chapel were saved and restored and are featured in the large hall area. These include the organ pipes, an original pew and a refurbished plaque.

**The original-height entrance area includes the Chapel's organ pipes...**



**...an original pew, restored...**





...and the refurbished plaque listing 100% attending Sunday School scholars from 1958-9 until 1968-9.



Looking up from roof garden



Two stained glass windows have been added.

This window is at the foot of the stairs up to the top floor from the reception. Another is in the lobby door.



Rear external staircase down to roof garden



Looking westerly from the top of the stairs towards the spacious lounge, views & sunset. Views are more spectacular than when the building was single storey, of course.

The rest of the building has been converted into a modern light and airy house. The 30ft x 25ft lower ground floor room below the roof garden was once used by Jingle Tots. It also housed the 6ft Baptist bath used for full submersion baptisms. It is now a light airy family room and useful utility and storage rooms.



View from rear, towards front staircase, of upper floor lounge and kitchen

If you would like to contact Judy Fitch, her email address is [judy.fitch@btinternet.com](mailto:judy.fitch@btinternet.com).

Photos of today's home by Norman Tyler

If you are considering a Pre-School for your child, then please come along to our *Open Morning* on November 8<sup>th</sup>, or to arrange an alternative time, call **Denia on 07821-554343**. I feel confident that you will like what you see. A friendly, warm and nurturing Pre-school, where our children have so much fun whilst learning. You can

also find out more about us on our website: [www.windmillunder5s.co.uk](http://www.windmillunder5s.co.uk)

**Tina Zychowicz (chair)**

## **My time as Chairman of the Parish Council**

BY COUNCILLOR DON WHITE

**I**t all started some 30 years ago, when the late Gordon Ellis - my near neighbour in Speen - suggested I might like to join the Parish Council. He had been Councillor for some years and a vacancy had arisen. I wrote an application letter to the Clerk but was unsuccessful. At the 1979 Election I submitted nomination papers and was elected unopposed. The Council at that time had only direct responsibility over bus shelters and Parish ponds. They did not own any property.

The Council nevertheless were involved in activities for the general benefit of the Parish and our efforts, amongst others, did achieve a supply of a gas service to Lacey Green and, after many years, the speed limits only recently installed.

The majority of Parish Council work is involved in planning discussions - I spoke at several Planning Appeals and, fortunately, we won them all. We worked hard for a couple of years and produced a Parish Plan in 1987 looking into the future development of the area, several of the items of which have now been carried out.

Our Parish consists of the villages of Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen. In many ways, Speen is somewhat different in its layout and that village did not have any Parish Councillors separately elected. Speen residents who were on the Council were of course subject to the electorate of Lacey Green and vice versa. I think my major achievement as Chairman was the successful warding of the Parish whereby Speen elected its own two Councillors. A few years ago it was suggested to me that as Speen was large enough to have its own Parish Council, it would be worth making an application to separate from Lacey Green. I conducted negotiations with the appropriate authority but, in the end, support was not forthcoming from the District Council. During my time, the Council had acquired some property - namely long leasehold interest in the new Playground at Lacey Green and recently the purchase of the Methodist Chapel Burial Ground.

I did find that some of our work was very frustrating in that we were often directly involved in important local matters, final decisions on which invariably rested with either District or County Council. A lot of time and effort was often spent realising that probably the higher authorities, although purporting to consider our suggestions, had often already made their decisions. I had read, in recent years, Parish Councils were going to get more power but it seems there is little chance of this in the near future. I was always happy to consider any problems brought to the Parish Council, but in almost every case having to hand it to another authority for action.

I have been fortunate in having, over the years, a good team to support me - in the early days in connection with the gas service and, more recently, the amount of work put in to the village Planning and Design Statement now completed. The outstanding event during my time would obviously be the new Lacey Green Millennium Hall, which was a marvellous effort for all concerned.

My experience has shown how vital the Clerk to the Parish Council is to the running of the authority, usually being able to provide most of the answers and certainty the rules and regulations to keep us on the right track.

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GWYNETH BYRNE**

**CHRISTMAS SALE  
For cancer research**

# Lacey Green Parish Council News

There doesn't appear to be a great deal of news from the Parish Council this time. The wheels of local government have a habit of turning very slowly at times, much to the frustration of us Parish Councillors, as, although we meet once a month, we are kept informed of any new developments via email by our clerk, Sue, who is very efficient!

In the summer, we produced a leaflet about the Parish for distribution to people in the villages, giving some statistics on size of the Parish, population, facilities, Parish Councillors' names and 'phone numbers, etc and it was distributed at the Speen Festival. If anyone who didn't have one, would like a copy, please get in touch with the clerk, Sue Griffiths, or any of the Councillors.

There seems to be a fair number of people who are planning to extend their homes in the area; it's probably a case of 'don't move, improve', and the way that we, as a Council look at plans, is changing. It's a symptom of the electronic age; the plans are to be looked at online at the WDC website by Councillors, who will each make any comments to take to the meeting instead of having 'hard copies' to peruse. This will not be as useful as being able to discuss a particular application together at the meeting, but that is progress.

The litigious society in which we now live, another 'sign of the times', has prompted the appointment of a Health and Safety Officer by the Council, to look at and check playground equipment, seats, bus shelters, ponds, etc so that any potential problems can be put right as soon as possible. The playground is inspected by WDC each year, but now it will be checked once a month, by our own Officer and any problems fixed by our local playground contractor, Safe and Sound Playgrounds. If anyone sees a problem with any of the play equipment, bus shelters or seats etc, please let us know as soon as possible, so that suitable action can be taken to fix it.

Discussions and plans for the Lacey Green Garden of Rest continue, under the guidance of the Management Working Group. This includes plans for the refurbishment and re-siting of the War Memorial in the Garden of Rest, so if anyone has any thoughts and ideas on this, please see Dennis Clayton.

The Council will be setting the precept for the coming financial year 2008/9 at the November meeting. It is at this time that groups and individuals who are looking for financial help in funding a project, support for

organisations such as the air ambulance, etc can be considered by the Council. Interested parties need to send their request in writing together with a copy of their accounts, to the council before the meeting, which is always held in November. Requests outside this period will be held over to the following financial year.

The first meeting of the newly reformed Risborough Area Forum took place recently, and meets four times a year. It consists, among others, of Thames Valley Police, officers from WDC, BCC (rural towns), members of other groups in the area, such as Risborough Area Residents Association, Darby and Joan club, the U3A, Neighbourhood Watch, Princes Risborough School, WI, Guides, Risborough Area Community Action, etc. The Parish is represented on the Forum by Miv Hughes, who takes over from Lance Adlam as Chairperson at the next meeting in January 2008. If there are any Lacey Green/Speen/Loosley Row local groups who would like to be included, please contact Maureen Judd, the secretary, at [mojo.judd@virgin.net](mailto:mojo.judd@virgin.net).

The terms of reference of the Forum are to:-

**A** Share issues and make recommendations for the improvement and promotion of Risborough and its surrounding area.

**B** Improve communications between bodies and organisations with a common interest in the Risborough area.

**C** Co-ordinate and disseminate information on the Risborough area and

**D** Promote joint working and partnership approaches to the further improvement of the Risborough area.

Let's hope that this produces a two-way exchange of ideas over the next few years.

By the time you read this, work on the Culverton Crossroads will at last have started. It will take about 4 months and begin with the west side of the A4010, the Upper Icknield Way, then work on the main road, the Woodway section being the last part of the project to be completed, which should be by the end of February.

There is a saying "If it ain't broke, don't fix it", a statement which the Council believes must be true, as no-one in the Parish bothers to come to the Parish Council meetings apart from the Councillors themselves - to complain about or compliment any of the work we are doing on your behalf. It really would be nice to meet some of the people in the Parish at the meetings, it's only once a month, so come along and say 'Hello' and meet us so you can put a face to a name!

**Miv Hughes**

# Loosley Row & Lacey Green Horticultural Society

## OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

The Annual Show was well supported despite the difficult mixed summer growing conditions. Thanks to Adam Heeley, who organized the Show for the first time.

It was pleasing to see the trophies shared around and in particular some new names being inscribed on them. Alison Shreeve was very successful again this year with her vegetables and won the Plowman Cup for vegetables and the Hughenden Cup for the most points in the combined produce sections. However, the Marshall Cup for fruit went to Victor Lindsay, who has only been a member for a couple of years, and Vic also won the Bill Cleaver Memorial award for the Best exhibit in Show, with an enormous flowering pot plant.



**Vic Lindsey – one of the happy winners**

Doreen de Gray, another first time winner, won the Domestic Salver, with Joy Lawrence's Barm Brack winning the Special Award for the best exhibit in the Domestic Section. The Floral Cup went to Les Hazell for the second year running, but another newish member, Doris Burnett, won the Special Award for best floral exhibit with her pot plant. The Jubilee Cup for the most points by an entrant who had not won a Trophy at the Show in previous years or this year, was awarded to Joy Lawrence. Joy has been a member for a number of years, but had not previously entered the Show.

The September talk by Mr Mike Brown on *Clematis* was most informative. We all learned a lot about planting and pruning and it was illustrated by dozens of beautiful pictures. It seems that if you plant different varieties you could have a Clematis in flower throughout all year.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 14 November. Please note the date, which for this month only, is the second Wednesday. The speaker will be Mr Bob Keating, who will give an illustrated talk on the *Bailiwick*

of Guernsey. We will also be judging the Pumpkins. There will be prizes for the heaviest, the biggest, and the best looking pumpkins, and the smallest, for which I must stand a very good chance. John and Laura will be serving spiced pumpkin tarts and a fruit punch. This is an evening not to be missed, and you do not have to be a member of the Society in order to come along, whether or not you enter a pumpkin.

**Terry Fendom, Chairman**

## Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Down here in Loosley Row, we run an electronic version of Neighbourhood Watch. I am registered with the Thames Valley Police (TVP) as the Coordinator of the Loosley Row Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. TVP email me with various warnings of current and ongoing criminal activities in the Thames Valley area generally - and in our area specifically, requests for assistance and other crime related matters. I, in turn, transmit this information to members of the Loosley Row Watch Scheme via email where the information is likely to be of interest &/or benefit to members.

Nobody, other than me, has access to email addresses of Scheme Members and these email addresses are not used for any other purpose than to transmit Neighbourhood Watch related matters.

By operating this Scheme electronically, costs are minimised, administration is kept to a minimum and it can be managed/coordinated by one person supported by volunteering Scheme Members when physical activities, e.g. pinning up Neighbourhood Watch Signs around the area, etc, are required.

Of course, the Scheme works much more effectively if:

1 Scheme Members who are communicated with electronically ensure that their neighbours - especially the elderly or infirm whom are less likely to be electronically accessible - are made known of warnings or advice passed on by TVP.

2 Scheme Members communicate with the Coordinator if they come across situations, e.g. strangers sleeping rough in cars around the area (a recent example), which

**Continued on page 33**

might be of interest &/or benefit to fellow Scheme Members.

If you, being either a resident of Loosley Row or Lacey Green, would like to be joined in to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme just email me at LRW990@aol.com and I will add you to our information distribution list.

**Lee Harte, Scheme Coordinator  
Loosley Row Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**

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## **Don't fall for these scams!!!**

The following scams have been experienced recently & locally. Beware – you could easily lose £1000s!

**Phone hoax confirmed by The Daily Telegraph**, who informed the police when reported by a Lacey Green resident: Someone phoned her, saying she was from The Daily Telegraph, trying to sell vouchers (which do exist legally) by which you can buy your newspapers at much lower cost. They don't accept cheques & you can

only pay them by credit or debit cards. You are asked to give your card details to them on the phone. Never do that for anybody, of course.

**Postal scam confirmed by Royal Mail:** A card is posted through your door from PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) saying they were unable to deliver a parcel & you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). DO NOT call – it is a scam originating from Belize. If you do call, you hear a recorded message & you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call! If you receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 723 96655 or inform ICSTIS at <http://www.icstis.org.uk/>

**“Mock auctions”** usually appear as a clearance sale or stock liquidation. Bucks Trading Standards warn about the risks of attending these sales. Organisers often distribute leaflets advertising branded PCs, TVs & Hi-Fis at greatly reduced prices. Buyers have paid good money for goods that were not even available or poor quality or counterfeit. Some have bid for goods they haven't even seen. More information on [www.ripofftipoff.net/auction](http://www.ripofftipoff.net/auction).

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No one will ever win the battle of the sexes.  
There's just too much fraternising with the enemy.  
Henry Kissinger, quoted in the Daily Express



# The Windmill WI

We have had another busy three months since the last edition of Hallmark. Our annual Summer Supper took place in July at the home of Pat Richards, where we had a very relaxed time and a warm and sunny evening was a great bonus!



We had a Celebration Supper in the Village Hall in August (kindly prepared and served to us by The Black Horse) for our 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday! The celebration was slightly early but was intended solely for our members and it was a pleasant change for our Committee not to be preparing the food! The hall

was decorated beautifully and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Our September meeting was our 'official' birthday, when we were joined by 12 members of our Group institutes. We enjoyed cheese and wine and a birthday cake and our speaker for the evening was Andy Hughes talking on *Working as a News Reader/Reporter*. He was very entertaining and gave us a great insight into his work.

October brought us to our annual AGM, when a new committee was elected. The existing committee is continuing, with the exception of Margaret Gray who has decided to take a break, and one new member, Ann Bartlett, was elected to the Committee. Pat Richards was again elected as President for the ensuing year. The speaker in October was Dr Savage, a consultant radiologist from Stoke Mandeville, who gave us a very informative talk on cancers prevalent in women.

Following our October meeting we had our Autumn Jumble Sale. As always, we thoroughly enjoy the day and, though we did not have the same sort of turnout of people on the day, we nevertheless made some £315.00. A good effort all round!

We hosted the Group meeting in the Village Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, when we had 18 of our members and 78 members from other WIs of the Group. We prepared a supper and the speaker was Bob Harding-Jones, a former farmer, paramedic and entertainer talking on *Village Life*. We had a very enjoyable evening.

Plans are being made to visit the Tutankhamen Exhibition in November and a Carol Concert at the Albert Hall in December, and these will be followed by our Christmas Party in December.

New members are always welcome – we meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall – we hope to see you there!

**Pat Richards**

The only one of your children who does not grow up and move away is your husband.

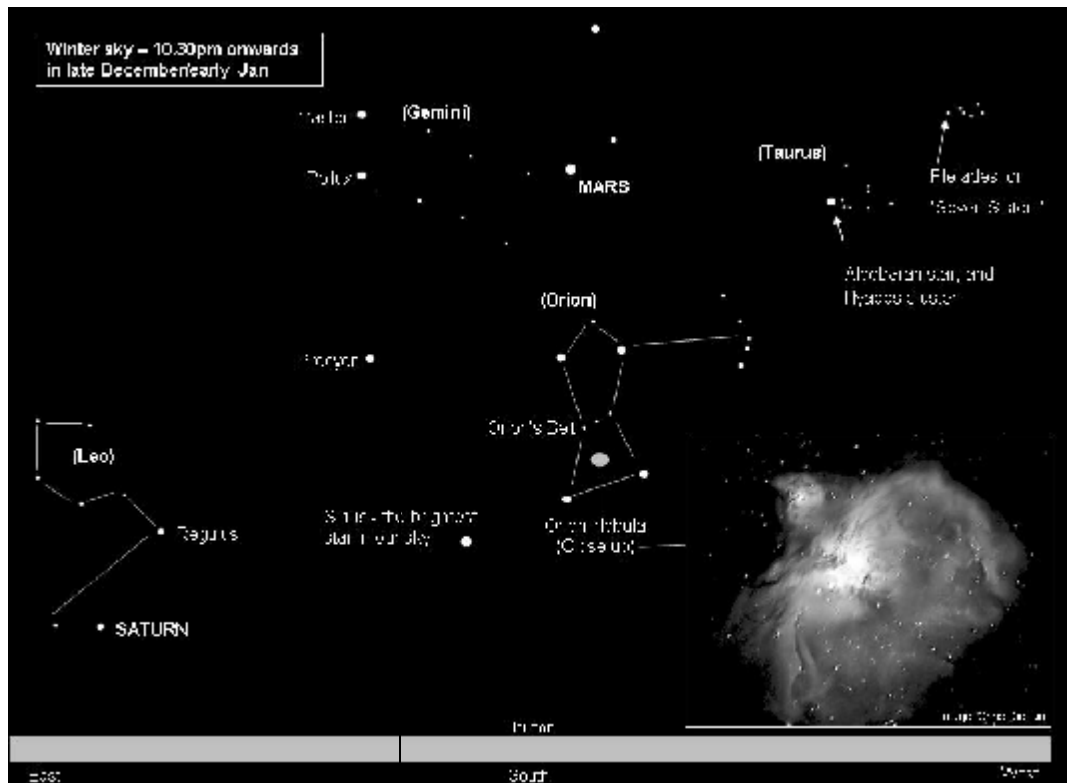


Although getting dark early is not usually an inspiring thought, the next few months are ideal for sky-gazing in the early evening without having to wait up late until the heavens turn black!

The winter constellations are traditionally the highlight for cosmos-watchers because of the rich and vivid variety of objects on show. Here, we'll focus on two major treasures – a planet and a nebula, which are both easily seen with either the naked eye or binoculars.

The Red Planet - Mars - returns after its usual year's absence while it lurked on the other side of the Sun for most of last year. But this winter, it makes its closest approach to Earth (55 million miles away) just after 12 midnight on Christmas Eve morning when it will shine brighter than anything else in the night sky. The Moon passes almost in front of the planet at that particular time and just 'grazes' Mars from our point of view. But you can see Mars now if you can wait until about 11pm, when it hangs as a dazzling orange disc in the East, about two outstretched fists' widths to the lower left of the 'Seven Sisters' (Pleiades). To confirm you've got Mars, the Moon will be next to it on 30 October and 26 November. During the late evenings in December, Mars will appear over the top of the Orion constellation (see graphic).

And it is Orion which provides one of the most famous sights in the northern skies – the Orion Nebula. This lies below what is sometimes called Orion's Belt (three stars in a line) and within Orion's Sword. The nebula is a vast cloud of dust and gas which are the remains of a star – or stars - which exploded a very long time ago. The Orion Nebula is also a 'stellar nursery' with stars being born in this fertile region, and it is estimated that



there is enough gas and dust to produce more than 1,000 new stars.

Four new baby stars light up the gas and dust around them to enable the nebula to be seen as a faint glow with the naked eye, with more detail seen in binoculars and lots of detail using a telescope and camera which is how I produced the image inset on the graphic. The nebula is one of the most colourful there are, brimming with reds, blues, pinks, yellows and oranges. It's hard to believe that little smudge is 180 trillion miles wide and 9,000 trillion miles from Earth.

The annual Christmas Astro Talk, entitled "The people who brought space down to earth" will be held this year on Sunday, December 16th at 7pm in the Village Hall. Tickets are £5 each and the price includes free tea and coffee before the talk and wine afterwards. Tickets are available from

**Val Brookhouse on 01844 344207.**

To be conscious that you are ignorant is a great step towards knowledge



# News from St John's Church

(Rector – the Reverend Denise Critchell)

Serving the village communities of Lacey Green, Loosley Row, and Speen.



The Harvest Lunch was very successful for all is safely gathered in. There was a superb spread in St. John's School hall as everyone brought a plate for 'Bring and Share'. This was after a very enjoyable Harvest service, where we learned that sometimes 'it's not what you know but who you know', in this case God. The story of the powerful wind and small leaf was enjoyably dramatised by some of our young actors with much waving of banners to illustrate the power of the wind. As well as gathering in, this was also a gift day for St. John's – a time for giving generously in the special red envelope to support and sustain our beautiful church. Well done all those who care.

Any spare pennies (or £££s) can be spent at the **Christmas Market** in the Millenium Hall on **November 3rd. Come and buy for Christmas.** Yes we know it's early but we do want the bargains! Cakes and pies and craft stalls and goodies, and refreshments. Put this date in your diary.

**Lest we forget...** notice for Remembrance Sunday..... **November 11th.**

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

## Church Family News.

Jean and John Grabbitas – Many Congratulations on becoming grandparents to Daisy.

Congratulations to Ken Brazier on his successful climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro and raising funds for Mercy Ships. Sierra Leone – another challenge for Ken and June as they return from their second trip to the Clinic which they helped to build in 2005. Many thanks to all those who gave their support in goods, funds and prayers for such a worthwhile cause. Fistula Operations give new life to those ladies who need them and the children's clinic is always busy, primarily giving Polio vaccinations.

Home Groups continue to meet in the village, attracting many members.

Watch the notice board for scheduled meetings of the next Alpha Course. This is designed for those who are unsure of where they are with their beliefs and may find answers to their questions...or more knowledge and more questions!

Youth Service. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month at 5.15 pm. In Church.

Lizzie and Hugh Thompson-Davies, Graham and Jenny King, and Amanda Day Invite all young people from Year 7 up to join them. Also meet at Collins Farm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month for great fun and activities.

It is with excitement and great anticipation that 82 people from the Team Churches will be attending Spring Harvest at Minehead and another 15 going to Skegness. Have a wonderful experience.

Bishop Alan visited Speen School during September – he commented that it was a special school indeed and should be preserved. He is keen to see the attendance figures increased. He will visit St. John's on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

On Monday November 5<sup>th</sup>, Bishop John (Oxford) is visiting the Aylesbury Deanery, seeing various interesting venues and having supper with Norman and Denise before attending the Synod Meeting at St. Mary's Church in Princes Risborough.

On Thursday November 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a Team Forum Meeting at St. Dunstan's Hall for a lively discussion on the future of the Clergy in the Team Churches. **You'd better start praying for your local church.**

The usual Service Times are listed for your convenience. As you can see we have not been slacking. God is good to us and continues to bless us. However we are struggling a little financially, and would value your prayers as well as your consideration in giving financially to keep your local Church going – with our continued love and prayers and blessings for you.

**Please note – 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. Candlelit Carol Service – always a special time in the church's calendar. Not to be missed.**

Dec 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> school services for Speen and St. John's respectively.

Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> Normal Service

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Eve Crib Service at 3.30pm.**

**11.15pm Holy Communion (Midnight Mass)**

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Family Communion – celebrating the Birth of Jesus.**



## Regular Services at St. John's church.

SUNDAY	8.00am	Holy Communion(1662)	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , & 4 <sup>th</sup> . Sundays
	10.00am	<b>All age family Communion</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.
	10.00am	<b>Parish Communion</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , (&5 <sup>th</sup> ) Sundays
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month
Junior Church	at 10.00am – all services other than 1 <sup>st</sup> , held in upper room. Details from Jenny King – 01844-343910		
TUESDAY	9.30am.	Communion Service in Lady Chapel at St. John's.	
	2.00pm	Toddler Praise – Tuesday afternoons during term time.	
WEDNESDAY	10.30.am	Team Communion Service at St. Mary's church, Princes Risborough.	
January 8 <sup>th</sup> – Start of Term Service at St. John's School. Happy New Year !.			

Full details of services and more information about St. John's church are published in the monthly Parish Magazine 'Viewpoint' and displayed on the notice board outside church.

We look forward to meeting you in our lovely church – you are always welcome – come and be blessed.

**June Brazier**

We have celebrated three local weddings in the past couple of months. Jonathan Dell married Stephanie and their marriage was celebrated in St. John's School which was transformed by friends and family into a beautiful venue. Andrew and Michelle Smith were married with a Wimbledon Theme and a wonderful reception at Bradenham Manor. Caroline Moore married Andy Cowie

last weekend and this was a fabulous celebration - Scottish piper and guard of honour (Royal Marines!). It was awesome and we thank the ladies of the church who arrange the flowers so beautifully and the Choir who are second to none! We wish our couples a very bright future, held in the love of God.

## STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

September 2007 was designated as a special 'Gift month' for the upkeep of our beautiful Church building & we celebrated Harvest on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. This was also a special day of gifts towards God's work at St. John's. The 10am Service was followed by a shared lunch at the School Hall, enjoyed by everyone.

There is often a misconception that the Church has rich resources and therefore we do not need to make appeals. The reality is that each church has to be self-sufficient and not only keep the Church building in good repair, pay for lighting, heating & insurance, but also pay a large 'Parish Share' to the Diocese each year. The parish share is paid into a pool, from which stipends are paid to clergy in the Diocese, along with pensions & other expenditures. The amount of our annual Parish share for 2006 was £25,432 and the current 2007 year has been increased to £28,570. This is calculated by the Diocese using a formula which applies to all churches. As you will now realise, we do need to make appeals in order to keep St John's Church afloat here in Lacey Green for the whole community – and the facts are that at some time in our lives we will need the Church to be there!

We would like everyone to give thought & prayer to their giving, which can be made by either the envelope scheme, by bank standing order/direct debit, by cheque or in cash. If you would like details of any of the foregoing, or if you would like to increase an existing pledge, please contact one of the Churchwardens either at Church or on the telephone number below. If you are a taxpayer & you wish to Gift Aid your donation, the Church can reclaim tax on that donation (£28p in every £).

If you would like to make a 'one off' donation, please send it to **The Covenant Secretary, Old Stocks, 1 Hets Orchard, Lacey Green, Bucks HP27 0PS and indicate you are a taxpayer.**

One further appeal (not money) is for everyone to give thought & prayer to how much of their time & talents they could devote to the Church. As with any ageing building, there is always work to be done, some jobs small, others much larger, and the upkeep of the Churchyard is an ongoing job. Your help would be very much appreciated, on whatever basis it can be given & again please contact either of the Churchwardens for further details.

St John's Church is committed to the worship & praise of God & to encouraging & supporting the growth of Christian faith & life – please do help us with that commitment.

# What's Happening in Lacey Green & Loosley Row ?

THE LIST OF REGULAR ACTIVITIES, WITH TIMES, PLACES, CONTACTS & 'PHONE NUMBERS is unchanged since last edition, as far as we have been informed, and so is not repeated here.

## Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

## THE FIREWALK AT SAUNDERTON

**KAREN LAWE** writes of her experiences – **ONLY to be done with training by specialists!!!:**

“**F**or the first time, a couple of hours before I was due to arrive at Hearing Dogs, I looked on the Blaze website. It reassured me, as they have 100% no injury record. I was a little excited by the time I arrived at Hearing Dogs and signed my life away just after 7pm. By 7.20pm all of those taking this challenge were seated in the puppy hall and met Martin, the guy who was going to instill in us the ability to walk on fire. After a brief introduction from Martin about how long he has been doing this and how he got into it in the first place, he explained the physics of it to us. It's all to do with how carbon burns.

“Your voice is going to keep telling you that fire is hot and you WILL burn”. We carried out some exercises. It was all about reading our body language, so he could know whether we had doubts.

We then went out to look at the fire, smell the smoke and walk next to it to count our steps so we have the distance measured in our own minds. Eight steps for me. The Blaze team had been carefully constructing and lighting the fire whilst we were in the hall. Then back into the hall after a 10 min loo and fag break to do practice walks - just on the hall floor, no fire involved yet.

We all did our practice walk three times. Martin then suggested that, when we went back out, not to look or wave at our beloved friends and family, as they would look scared or worried, or make comments which could cause us doubt, much as they love us and have come to give support. He told us we are heroes. He told us that

people will try and take away from our fantastic experience but not to let them. So out we all went towards the fire, not looking at our supporters. We walk round the fire - it is HOT. The voice starts. We are all geeing each other along around the fire “Lovely fire. You are my friend. You will not burn me. I can do this.” Then Martin's voice, “Shoes and socks off now and line up. ARE WE READY?”

After a few others, it was my turn. Martin stood in front of me. “What's your name?” he booms. “KAREN !” I shout back as per instructions from earlier. “Are you ready?” booms Martin. “YES I AM!!!” I shout back. And I was. Off I stepped, the first step still on the cool grass and then on the coals, shouting a word with each step - “I-AM-KAREN-AND-I-CAN-WALK-ON-FIRE!”. Then I was back on grass being hugged by those who had already gone.

It seemed like no distance - it was about 20ft. I felt like it could've been 40ft and I still could've done it. Whilst on the coals it felt like hot sand on a summer's day temperature wise and crunched under my feet like crisp deep snow, compacting as I stepped. I knew my inner voice had some effect on how my first step on the coals had been. As soon as I touched the coals, my voice said “Go really quickly now, this is very hot”. So my first step was a bit of a jig but I paced myself and succeeded. It's a fantastic feeling, Doing this has given me tools to achieve just about anything in my life. I feel empowered for sure”. All to promote *Hearing Dogs for Deaf People!*

You can donate by sending a cheque made out to *Hearing Dogs for Deaf People* to The Grange, Wycombe Rd, Saunderton, Princes Risborough Bucks HP27 9NS.

◀ **Us getting to know the fire and checking our number of steps**



All events at Lacey Green Village Hall unless otherwise specified. Sometimes includes some at Speen.

Nov 14 Horticultural Society (NOT THIS TIME, BUT NORMALLY 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov)	8pm
Nov 17 Windmill Under 5s <i>Car Boot Sale</i>	TBA
Nov 22 Preview of Dinner Theatre. No dinner, but nibbles & licensed bar ###	7.30 for 8pm
Nov 23	
& 24 Dinner Theatre by LG Productions with The Command Performers	7.30 for 8pm
Nov 25 Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
Dec 4 81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month)	2pm
Dec 5 Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Dec 9 Lacey Green Singers <i>Annual Village Carol Concert</i>	7pm
Dec 10 Windmill Under 5s <i>Christmas Play</i>	TBA
Dec 10 Parish Council Meeting at Lacey Green Village Hall *	7.30pm
Dec 12 Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Dec 13 Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
Parish Council Meeting at Speen Village Hall *	7.30pm
Dec 16 Annual Astro Talk The People who brought space down to earth by amateur astronomer, Chris Dignan. ##	7pm
Dec 30 Happy Wanderers' Yuletide walk #	10.30am
Jan 2 Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Jan 9 Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Jan 10 Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
Jan 16 Horticultural Society (3rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)	8pm
Jan 27 Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
Feb 5 81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month BUT NOT ON JAN 1)	2pm
Parish Council Meeting at Speen Village Hall *	7.30pm
Feb 6 Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Feb 13 Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Feb 14 Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm

- \* Members of the public are always welcome to attend these meetings
- # Starting place informed on previous walk - usually within 1/2 hour's motoring of village
- ## Tickets £5 (to include tea, coffee and wine) from Val Brookhouse on 01844 344207

**SOME LATER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY including in Speen & North Dean:**

None informed to editor of Hallmark

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**CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE SPRING EDITION**  
**January 17th 2008**

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Published quarterly by the Village Hall Management Committee.  
Printed by Risboro' Printers Ltd., Station Parade, Princes Risborough (01844 344827)

