

HALLMARK

THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE



Iris

– watercolour painting by Stella Boll

MAY 2008

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THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2008

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, church 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), Paula Oxford (Secretary), Yvonne Axe (Treasurer), 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 Autumn Hallmark will be published in August
- closing date for copy is July 17th**

From the Editor(s)



The more unhappy news first, followed by several items of heartening good news.

I was amongst many who were shocked and saddened to hear that **Gordon Lennard** had died. He was many things to many people. In my case, he was Hallmark's editor immediately before me and passed on his collection of aids to performing this function. There is an interesting obituary by one of Gordon's longest standing

friends on page 26. Lynne of The Black Horse devotes her usual article to her memories of him on page 22. He had previously helped the village in different ways, including as secretary of the village hall committee as well as of the Sports & Social Club. Geoff Gomme's Sports Club article also pays tribute on page 25.

The other obituary relates to **Harold May**, who was well loved by many people and was well known more recently as the only man in the 81st Over 60s Club.

There is a lot to cheer us up, as well, in this issue.

Following our appeal in the last Hallmark, we are delighted to say we heard from three villagers who volunteered to help out with the new village website www.laceygreen.com. Clive Hodgton, our Village Hall Chairman, called a meeting of the five of us and we decided on our respective fields of work. Since then, another villager has also come forward. A letter by Clive introducing the preparation of our new village website was sent to the 21 hall-using and other village organisations and another letter to Hallmark's 58 advertisers. I have received replies from 11 organisations and 16 advertisers as at 29th April, all but one showing positive interest in being included. Each organisation or business can have their own choice of detail referring to them. One of the most immediate of the many advantages to all concerned can be the ability to see photos or illustrations in their original colours instead of Hallmark's black & white. Clive will be calling a second meeting to act on the interest shown to date.

The editing of Hallmark takes an historical step by introducing 13-year old **Barney Parker to edit a page especially for teenagers**. He replied to my request in the last edition. We invite young people to send Barney anything they think would be of interest to people of their age, including local activities, news, jokes, etc. His first contribution appears on page 7. You can email him at hallmarkyouthpage@yahoo.com. I hope you enjoy the teenage backing you deserve, Barney.

Longstanding villager **Sheila Cole (née Anderson)** has returned safely from her exciting memorable trip to the **Himalayas** to raise money for Iain Rennie Hospice at Home – and it's not too late to donate. Her interesting and impressive story follows.

By the time you've read all the other articles, you'll agree we are lucky to live in a pair of villages with so much friendliness, fun and variety of interests!

Collecting annual donations to Hallmark

Our voluntary deliverers of Hallmark will be inviting you to make a donation with this edition.

As a guide, printing and other expenses cost about £5 pa per household.

Sheila Coles Trip to the Himalayas



FOR THE IAIN RENNIE HOSPICE AT HOME

There is little more humbling than standing amongst some of the highest mountains in the world and I know that I was very privileged to be there and to spend time in one of the most spectacular places imaginable. Being

such a speck inside so huge a mountain range makes you think a good deal, and I will always appreciate those people that supported the opportunity that came my way, and the reason I was there, that is to say, raising money for the Iain Rennie Hospice.

Having said that, what an amazing experience! In all, I guess it was about a year's preparation and training, and a lot of other things were put on the back burner, but oh so worth it.

I consider myself reasonably fit but it brought home to me just how fit some people have to be just to survive. I can honestly say that it was tough, but we achieved some hard targets daily and I am proud of that. Still, the rewards were enormous and being in such vast open spaces with overwhelming beauty, particularly in morning sunlight, left me spellbound regularly.

Before starting our trek, we had a couple of days in McCloudganj, the upper part of Dharamsala, a Hill station at 1800 metres (6,000 feet). This was to acclimatise us to the high altitude.

It had been planned for us to visit the Dalai Lama here, but due to the present political climate between Tibet and China, His Holiness was not giving public addresses, so unfortunately we didn't get to see him. However we were able to wander through his gardens and visit his monastery. The garden was extremely colourful, with thousands of prayer flags blowing in the wind. Wall paintings, monuments and golden prayer wheels filled the garden. Tibetan villagers wandered amongst the Buddhist monks and nuns dressed in their maroon gowns, who walked briskly through the garden chanting to their rosary beads.

The expedition took place mostly on mountain paths and each day involved 1-3 ascents and descents. Our route, which was an ancient trading route, took us upwards through oak and rhododendron forests and terraced fields of wheat. The villages built on the steep mountain side that we passed through were very friendly and the children would always come out to watch us or join in with us, especially if we stopped to do a warm up exercise first thing in the morning. Often, the villagers would stand by in family groups and greet us by putting their hands together in prayer and saying 'Namaste', meaning 'I see the God in you'. How humbled and special this made me feel.

Some of the inhabitants of the villages are the Gaddis, who lead a nomadic life, continuing a lifestyle that hasn't changed for centuries. For some months of the year, they live high up in the mountains tending their flocks and living off the land. Time and again, we passed shepherds with small flocks of goats or wizened men and women bent double carrying huge bundles of wood or crops. The terraced fields are farmed by hand and men, women and children work their land from sunrise to

sunset. Sheer effort and hard work was the only way to survive.

We reached a height of 3000 metres (10,000 feet), which felt like being on top of the world, looking down on Himalayan Griffin vultures and Eagles circling and gliding below us. The spectacular panoramic views spread out beneath us but, even at that height, we were shadowed by higher snow capped mountains, some of the highest peaks in the world.

By the end of my visit to India, I had taken over 700 photos, giving me plenty of reflective viewing of my incredible journey. Having had this wonderful opportunity, not just the trek, Himalayas and India but the preceding weeks and months at home, I had come a long way!

I would encourage anyone to take up a similar challenge. It was all well worth the effort. As things stand, I haven't yet worked out a final figure but I will have raised well over £2,000.00.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people that supported me in my trek through the Himalayas, enabling me to focus attention towards such a worthy cause, especially the Hallmark through the help of Norman Tyler.

Anyone who would still like to contribute can contact me, **Sheila** on **01844 346058** and I would be happy to collect, or if you would rather sponsor me online then please visit www.just.giving.com/sheilacoles or email me at sheilajcoles@yahoo.co.uk. Alternatively, just knock on my door at **Meadowbanks, Lower Road, Loosley Row**, where I would be pleased to see you.

Sheila Coles (née Anderson)

On the Farm

by Joan West

Today is Sunday 6th April and I am jotting some notes as I eat my porridge. Porridge is appropriate because outside is a winter wonderland of snow. The cedar trees drooping under it and every pink blossom capped with it - magical! We have had the cold March winds and April always was the month for showers to bring forth May flowers. But April showers can sometimes fall as snow, soft, wet and heavy, the sort that does not stay long. It set me reminiscing. In 1978 Lacey Green Cub Scouts were formed. The following Easter they went for camping experience, our son among them. Heavy snow during the night caused their tents to collapse. Snow-hopping in their sleeping bags to

nearby shelter all adding to the occasion. This is my opportunity to salute those who ran the troop for so long. It's nothing to do with farming of course, unless it is another indication of a changing weather pattern. It was an unusual amount of snow, and I fancy the weather forecasting was less accurate then, but there must have been several inches of snow to bring their tents down, but this morning there is just a nice covering. At the farm there is an ordinance benchmark at 700feet, so quite high, but there were daffodils in flower in the driveway in the first week of December. Are they not really expected in the spring?

Talking of daffodils, their production has been an industry seriously in decline in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly for many years. The weather and the soil there is perfect for them but marketing was the big problem especially from the Islands and of course the competition from imports. This has been overcome by sending direct by mail order, thus cutting out the markets. New communications are saving the day. This employment in the spring is critical where their main income from tourism comes later in the year. Another big industry in Cornwall was the growing of vegetable plants, largely cauliflower, sold commercially, bare rooted. Cauliflowers have a nasty habit of all being ready at the same time. Those who grow their own will be familiar with having to eat 'cauli' every day for a fortnight, then there is none at all, which by that time is a relief because you are fed up with it. Trade for the plants had virtually gone then one enterprising grower came up with the idea of producing them in modules (small individual pots that decompose). Planted one seed to a pot, the production is staggered and the plants sold as required. Again better communication, packed, train to London and out to garden centres or shops for next day delivery. This business is thriving, rapidly growing, now with other plants too. They also have started mail order. Bucks Grassland Society has a visit to them in May. It's an opportunity not only to see for ourselves but also to ask questions, discover how this idea is working out, and meet these people who are solving problems that appeared to be insurmountable.

Farming just gets over one crisis when the next one rears its ugly head. Last year blue tongue disease hit East Anglia. Brought from the Continent by midges.

Farming has always benefited from good hard frosts to kill pests and diseases. We have not had a spell of severe weather for years. It makes a lot of work for us thawing water for the cattle and of course England would completely grind to a halt, but it would do a lot of good too. The danger area for blue tongue has been enlarged and we are now within it. The upside is that we will be the first allowed to order the vaccine. The downside is that the vaccine will not be ready in time for the summer. A special show and sale had been arranged at Ludlow, Shropshire for Simmental Beef cattle. A local farmer entered two pedigree beef bulls. Then the blue tongue area was extended to just beyond Ludlow. Cattle must not cross the line. Most of the potential buyers are outside the new area and his animals did not get a single bid.

Farmers in Argentina are on strike. They have a huge export market and have had between 33 and 35% export tax imposed on them for years. It is going up to 45%. They have got over this by sending nothing to market at all. The shops there have nothing from them either so it is hitting home. And farming is an important industry there. It is having an effect here already. We were buying soya a year ago for £120 a tonne. Then, as with all commodities, it had gone up until it was £158 a tonne. This week a month's supply was delivered. 29 tonnes at £320 a tonne. The world market is chaotic. Returns are up. Costs are up. Much of the food production is being converted into fuel, driven by the price of oil. In some poorer countries there has already been rioting over shortages and costs of food. Where is it all leading? And what on earth can we do about it?



**STRAWBERRY TEA
& BRASS BAND**
Sunday 22 June 2008 3pm

West Wycombe Brass Band

**At "Gracefield", Main Road,
Lacey Green (on corner of Church
Lane nearest to Black Horse).**

**Brian & Judy Wicks have very
kindly offered to hold the
Strawberry Tea in their lovely
garden. Please come & relax while
enjoying strawberries & cream,
scones & home-made cake, being
entertained by the brass band.**

**Starts at 3pm but welcome later.
Tickets £4 - buy at the gate**



Water Lily – watercolour painting by Stella Boll

Hi, I'm Barney and I'm trying to start a sort of teen/kids page for Hallmark magazine. I've had some ideas and stuff, but for the first issue I'd like to find out what you want from this page. There already should be some good jokes, some general news, things to try, things to make you think, (optional), and also some quick articles on hopefully relevant subjects. So if you have any ideas please send them in to;

hallmarkyouthpage@yahoo.com

What is there to do in Lacey Green and surrounding areas for young people? Please let me know your favourite activities, hobbies or pastimes (preferably legal), whether they are with an organisation / club or more freestyle. If I get enough info we could have a 'What's on' section and I could do a small feature in future editions.

St. John's Church Youth Group meets at Collins Farm, Lower Road, Loosley Row, on the first Sunday in the month from 5.15pm to 7.15pm. On the third Sunday of the month we meet in church at 5pm for 5.15pm to 6pm alternative service. This is a relaxed informal worship service led by the youth and leaders. After the service we go back to Collins Farm until 7.15pm, for supper and social time together. During the meeting on the first Sunday, we are following a programme called the Youth Emmaus course which covers some key topics of the Christian Faith. During our time together we have supper too and play

pool, listen to music, sit and chat, learn dances or practice short pieces of drama etc.

Sometimes we prepare for other events in which we have been invited to take part around the Risborough area. Every year we go carol singing in Lacey Green, usually have a camping weekend (first weekend in September), have a bonfire party and other social events. The group is from year 7 (11 years old) and open to all denominations. If you are interested in joining us, either as a member of the youth, or as a leader, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Lizzie Thomas-Davies on 01844 342173 or lizbags@aol.com for further information.

Something to make you go hmm...

How do you plant seedless grapes?

DIY for you to try...

"Home made special effects"

"Try it yourself" has brought you a guide on how to do your own special effects for home movie/youtube videos. To start you need a video clip. Once you have your video you need to import it into windows movie maker (this is normally free on all xp/vista PCs)



The next stage is to separate your video's individual frames, this normally takes quite a long time, but you can experiment on the best way to suit you, but I find that taking snapshots whilst

going through the movie frame by frame works for me.

Once you have these frames you can use 'paint' or some other drawing software (Photoshop if possible) to doctor the frames individually. When you have finished this (rather long) task you need to make an extra quick slide show of the frames so they run real time. You can add the sound later.

The month of May

May is named after the Greek goddess, Maia. The month is a time of great celebrations in the Northern Hemisphere as it's the time when flowers emerge and crops begin to sprout. **May Day** marks the end of the harsh winter months and the beginning of summer. In rural areas it was a major annual festival and was marked with music, dancing and games.

May is a great month for birds. (Yes the feathered kind; I know this is a teen section but come off it!) It is baby bird month so watch your local birds; there are so many different species here in Lacey Green. If you really want to annoy your parents, set the alarm for about 4am, open your window and listen to the dawn chorus. You'll be able to fall back to sleep, being a teenager! P.S. Don't forget to shut your window; it might rain on your head!

NEWS

An aircraft powered only by a fuel cell and batteries is to undergo flight testing later this year. The prototype craft, developed by Boeing's European research centre in Madrid, Spain, is fitted with a proton-exchange

membrane fuel cell that drives an electric motor coupled to the propeller, lithium-ion batteries will kick in to provide extra power during take-off and climb.

Joke;

Finding a child in her class pulling faces at another, Ms Smith gently says, "When I was a child my mother told me if I pulled ugly faces and the wind blew I'd stay that way." The child looked up and said, "Ms. Smith, you can't say you weren't warned!"



*I am currently looking for a new name for the imaginatively named "Young Persons Page".

Any good jokes please send them in!

More Reminiscences of My Girlhood

by CON BAKER - the oldest person in our village

as recorded on audio cassette in 2000, when Con was 91,

for Dennis Claydon, our local historian and Parish Councillor



My name is Constance Baker - it was Gomme - and I'm getting very old.

I'm going to tell you about my school. I lived at the cottage in Loosley House grounds, where I was very happy indeed. I went to

Loosley Row School when I was about 5 or 6, but unfortunately it had to close. The teacher's name, if I remember rightly, was Miss Young. Much to my parents' disappointment, I had to go to Lacey Green School, which was a big thing in those days. I had to take my lunch with me, whereas I'd been able to go home for lunch. Like everything else for all the other children, you get used to it. You have to walk. There was no transport in those days and we had to take our lunch. There was no dining room as such to sit and have your meal. Once a year the doctor came to see if you were well and healthy. We had to sit in the porch to have our lunch, which wasn't very comfortable on the brick floor. We had the "lice-looker", as we called her. She used to come and look through our hair. My goodness, I had to go home with a card to say I'd got lice in my hair and I thought my mother would have gone mad. She took such pride in my hair - she was devastated. Anyway, we got over that, I suppose.

We used to have real fun at school. I never did really well. We had an hour and a half, I think, lunch break and we used to go along to what we used to call "Nanny Cooper's pond". We used to paddle there and there used to be these wormy things we called "blood suckers". Whether they really were or not, I don't know. We never took a towel or anything, so we just had to run in the grass and get our feet dry and back to school. And another time we used to go down to Small Dean, not quite to Small Dean but down the hill, where this man had fallen out of his cart. There was a cross put there with stones and we used to climb this cross. Well, that was really wonderful. Then we'd go back via Church Lane back to school. Why we did all these long journeys I don't know, but we did.

We had the photographer come and took our photographs and you had to look very nice - you had to have your hair tidied up and look a bit decent.

Those were schooldays with not a care in the world. We used to play hopscotch out in the road - we'd got only a very small playground at that time. And skipping. The boys going home used to wind us girls round with our skipping rope. I'd better not say any names - had I? - and I hated these boys because they wound you round on this blooming skipping rope. We used to play marbles going all the way up the hill to school. Oh dear oh dear - fancy doing that now - you'd be run over about half a dozen times. But it was all fun and everybody was happy. No cares about cars and buses and things, so they just went on.

It was lovely when holiday times came. I used to go to London most of the time, to Chelsea with my cousin, who lived in Chelsea. We used to have some real fun there. We used to go to "The Old Men's Gardens", as we called them, which was the old Chelsea Pensioners, and over one bridge and along the Embankment the other side and back home - I don't know whether it was Chelsea Bridge, I forget. That used to be quite fun. I remember there was a play on at Chelsea - it was called the Chelsea Palace - and my cousin and I did so want to go and see and it. It was called "Joan all alone". We had to get permission from her father before we dare think about going, but he did let us go and he came and fetched us, if I remember rightly. They were great fun. We used to come down on the train from Paddington, as it was then, to Saunderton. We used to lean out of the carriage windows and say "full up in here" because we didn't want anyone else in the carriage with us. Oh, really great fun. That was school days.

The school only had three rooms. Mrs Janes, who lived at the Crown Inn, used to bank her fire up with small coal every morning in the winter. Oh, it used to be freezing cold. The condensation used to run down the wall, horrible red walls if I remember rightly.

To be continued in next issue

Happy Wanderers Walking Club

DUNSTABLE DOWNS NEAR WHIPSNADE ZOO Sun 27 Jan

20 Happy Wanderers met at a pub just beyond Whipsnade Zoo on a dry, bright, blue-sky day, although a chilly wind at times. The walk was led by Mike & Maureen O'Neil.

After a pleasant walk through a number of fields and past an interesting quarry site, we walked up a private road and emerged on top of Dunstable Downs, even though we didn't remember having conquered a steep incline. We stopped to watch the gliders taking off from the Gliding Club below.

There were also a lot of kites being flown. It was fascinating to watch – all shapes, sizes and colours. The wind at the top of the Downs was quite strong and we were sure some of the flyers must have had weights in their shoes to stop them taking off with their kites.

The Chilterns Gateway Centre sits on top of the Downs, which offers a range of facilities including a café and a gift shop with guidebooks, maps etc. At Bedfordshire's highest point, 798 feet above sea level the centre has spectacular views over Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Hertfordshire.

From there the walk was a very steady decline with some beautiful views of all the above counties.

Just before the end of the walk we came across a 'Tree Cathedral' which was created following the First World War in a spirit of 'faith, hope and reconciliation'. We wandered along the grass avenues between the trees and hedges that form the chancel, nave, transepts, chapels and cloisters.

A very peaceful atmosphere as you walk round.

The walk then took us through a field and back towards the pub where the majority of the walkers stopped for lunch. A very enjoyable and interesting walk.

Pat Slade & Tony Smart

AGM AND WALK Sun 24 Feb

Once again the Annual General meeting was one of the highlights of the year with over eighty percent of our members attending. This remarkable turnout reflects the nature of the meeting. This year members were able to inspect the Archives of the Club started in 1991.

Rita Probert spent many hours during the last year putting pictures and records into a friendly format, so that members could talk about many good times together walking in the Chilterns and ending the walk with a roast lunch in a local hostelry.

The official business of the day was soon over and the Chairman, Ronnie Lewin, welcomed Ted and Jean Janes our Honorary Life members to say a few words about their dream to start a Walking Club seventeen years ago.

During the year we had twelve monthly walks and a Weekend away organised by Liz Southon and Sue Phillips. This year we will be going to the area around Aldeburgh in Suffolk, which we expect to be rather flatter than the Chiltern Hills.

The AGM was followed by a picnic lunch enjoyed with a glass of wine. During the lunch we had a raffle in aid of the Air Ambulance service who provide a marvellous service for emergency situations in the area. We were delighted to send a cheque for £50 to help fund this important work.

Following the lunch, Roger and Ginnie Brudenell invited the Happy Wanderers to join them on a local walk starting at the Millennium Hall.

Ronnie Lewin Chairman



Happy Wanderers preparing for the AGM Walk

Photo by Ronnie Lewin

WHITELEAF CROSS & WOODS Sun 30 Mar

Twenty four Happy Wanderers met at the Whiteleaf Cross car park on this splendid, sunny, spring morning. Following quite a wet week of weather, it was always going to be muddy and wet under foot.

The walk went in an anti-clockwise direction through the woods and part of the Hampden Estate.



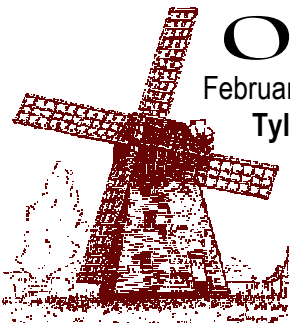
A mid-walk break at Gt Hampden woods, 30 March

Photo by Ron Goodearl

We saw one bluebell (if you were paying attention), many more to come out soon. The walk returned eventually to the top of Whiteleaf Cross, with clear long views over the Vales of Oxford and Aylesbury.

Ron Goodearl

The Windmill WI



Our first meeting for 2008 was in February when our speaker was **John Tyler** talking about *The Ridgeway*. His slides, as ever, were magnificent. In March **Dr Maisey** entertained us with his talk entitled *Spare Part Surgery*. This is the second time we have had Dr Maisey to talk to us and each time he has been very amusing.

At the beginning of March, twelve members travelled up to London by minibus to the **Terracotta Army Exhibition at the British Museum**. This was a fantastic exhibition - it is so difficult to comprehend the time scale - this army was buried in 209-210BC! Thank you, Pat, for organising yet another successful trip.



'Coffee stop' at the British Museum

Our **Spring Jumble Sale** was once again a great success and we would like to thank everyone who supported us by bringing jumble or by coming to buy and a big thank to all our members who helped. These sales

enable us to have good speakers at our meetings and each year we are able to offer bursaries to our members. These bursaries are to be spent on, or put towards, any educational or recreational course.

Lunch time on Jumble Sale day

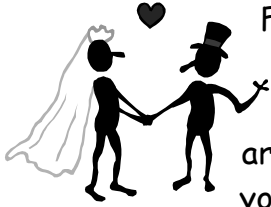


Recently, several members attended the Disraeli Group Meeting hosted by Naphill WI. The speaker was **Mr Hugh Davies** talking about *Women in War*. The meeting was very friendly and the food good.

At our April meeting, we had an interesting talk from **Mrs Taylor**, who is a Blue Badge Tourist Guide. Her talk was about the *life and loves of her job* and was accompanied by slides.

We have again welcomed new members this spring but always have room for more -so don't forget, we meet on the first Wednesday in the month, in the Millennium Hall at 7.45pm. Talks we are looking forward to in the next few months are 'Famous Writers of Bucks'; 'Making a Garden for BBC Gardener of the Year' and 'Healthy Eating'. Come and give us a try!

Daphne Williams



Fred is 32 years old and he is still single. One day a friend asked, "Why aren't you married? Can't you find a woman who will be a good wife?". Fred replied, "Actually, I've found many women I wanted to marry, but when I bring them home to meet my parents, my mother doesn't like them.". His friend thinks for a moment and says, "I've got the perfect solution, just find a girl who's just like your mother."

A few months later they meet again and his friend says, "Did you find the perfect girl? Did your mother like her?". With a frown on his face, Fred answers, "Yes, I found the perfect girl. She was just like my mother. You were right, my mother liked her very much.". The friend said, "Then what's the problem?"

Fred replied, "My father doesn't like her."

Lacey Green Productions together with The Command Performers

HOW WE DONE IT

Choosing a play...

First we ask the members who would like to be involved. Then we make suggestions [bearing in mind the number, age & sex of the prospective actors], hold play readings and see what sounds best. So if you're not already a member and you fancy some acting, don't wait till the play has been selected – tell us straight away.

We like a touch of variation...

We like to keep trying new things. "Oh What a Lovely War" was the dinner theatre offering last November. Chosen for a lot of very good reasons, but only possible because we had quite a few cast members who could sing well. We had a musician prepared to spend hours computerising the music and we had a superb technical team – and boy do you need that for OWALW!

Most recently...

We've just finished a production of "An Inspector Calls" by J.B. Priestley. This came about because one of our members teaches English at Princes Risborough (secondary) School. "An Inspector Calls" is part of their syllabus and some of the children find it hard to read a play text and see a real live play in their minds eye. Could we help? So we planned "An Inspector Calls" as our next "Theatre at Home" and took the final dress rehearsals to the school.

Staging...

"Theatre at Home" plays are staged in a very small area – 16 feet by 11 feet. The audience is on three sides and very close to the actors. Not all plays would be suitable for this treatment, but "An Inspector Calls" is a very claustrophobic play and is therefore ideal. "Oh What a Lovely War" was exactly the reverse, needing lots and lots of space. We didn't use our usual proscenium [picture frame] stage for this production. We used rostra instead, spread out down the length of the hall. These were shaped into 3 platforms linked by walkways. This allowed us to go quickly from scene to scene – finishing one scene at one end of the run of staging and starting the next scene, immediately, at the other end. It also allowed us to use the floor area either side of the walkways as "the trenches".

Some amusing anecdotes and unexpected results.

"Oh What a Lovely War" has no score. The music has to be gleaned from various sources. Our most unusual bit of gleaning came from a visit to the Imperial War

Museum in London. With the silence of the library bearing down and all those earnest students improving their knowledge with the original literary sources that the IWM has to offer, one of our tone-deaf members had to sing (that's what he called it!) the melody of a song (very quietly). Incredibly, the librarian recognised the tune and was able to find the music for us. The most unusual aspect of "An Inspector Calls" came when we performed at Princes Risborough School 3 times in 20 hours, including one performance which started at 9 o'clock in the morning! A few days later, some of the cast returned to the school to be grilled by the students in a question and answer session. Funny how frightening 15 year olds can be!

What happened backstage

Nothing! There was no backstage for "Oh What a Lovely War". The entire cast was on stage pretty well all the time! Getting up and down onto those rostra fifty times a night greatly improved the knee and leg muscles for all. For "An Inspector Calls", most of the cast are on stage all the time and nobody can relax!

Tricks of the trade

In the final rehearsals of "An Inspector Calls", we decided to live dangerously and experimented with running the play at a much faster pace. Although this tested the little grey cells to their limits, it gave the play much more vitality. Why not try this with your life on a wet Monday morning?

Raising money for charity

The profits that we raise from our performances are given to charity. Over the years, with the help of our audiences, we have sent over £34,000 to local, national and international charities. In 2008 we have chosen to give our money to two charities – Samaritans and WaterAid. From "An Inspector Calls" we have already sent £480 to Samaritans. Our next production in early May is for WaterAid and our November production will raise money for both of these worthwhile charities.

Dates for your diary

By the time you read this, our next **Theatre at Home**, which is on Saturday, May 10th at 3pm and 8pm and Sunday, May 11th at 3pm may very well have already happened! Our next **Dinner Theatre** will be in the Village Hall on Friday, November 28th and Saturday, November 29th. For details please contact **01844 344207**.

Peter Brookhouse

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

IS HOLDING A VARIETY OF EVENTS IN 2008 INCLUDING:

- May 18 Ashridge Amble Walk & Fun Dog Show
May 18 Pedal Push Bike Ride
June 8 Hearing Dogs Summer Fayre attractions and activities for all the family including Rockwood Dog Display Team, falconry, Hearing Dog demos, crafts, children's rides and much more.
June 14 Newfoundland Dog Rescue, Aylesbury
June 20 Fire and Glasswalk – a sponsored walk with a real difference!

Hearing Dogs is also looking for help in our small restaurant at The Grange which is for the benefit of both staff and visitors. The restaurant manager, Sue Steedman is looking for extra helping hands. This could be for a few set hours a week or ad hoc weekends and evenings when we host conferences, meetings and fundraising events.

For more information and entry / tickets details please contact **Ruth Dunkin** on **01844 348136** or at ruth.dunkin@hearingdogs.org.uk

The website is very interesting: It will also allow you to receive their news by email. It is at www.hearingdogs.org.uk

SOME OF NEARBY FACILITIES



A typical kennel for rescued dogs who have suffered in their previous life



Being fed by caring people



Individual kennels can be sponsored by any organization

Help for a Hallmark advertiser!

House cleaning help required along Main Road in Naphill. Flexibility around other commitments would be appreciated. Tel **01494 563728**. Mobile **0775 694015**

Risborough Lacemakers Lace & Craft Day

AT OUR VILLAGE HALL

On 29th March, Lacemakers held their third Lace Day at the Millennium Hall, Lacey Green. They were joined by 80 lacemakers from nearby villages, all keen to make lace, chat and enjoy the day. There were three traders in attendance selling items ranging from bobbins, threads and woodwork to cross stitch kits. The exhibition this year was a collection of antique buttons and lace accessories, which was of great interest.



After coffee and making purchases from the traders we were joined by Mr Barry Hughes from the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance who spoke about the work carried out by the Air Ambulance and the many lives that are saved by the helicopter's swift response to the scene and by a rapid journey straight to hospital. The Air

Ambulance Trust receives no Central Government or National Lottery funding, but do rely on donations. Mr Hughes raised £114. 90 from the sale of merchandise, and £350. 00 was also raised from the proceeds of our raffle and guessing how many Easter Eggs a toy helicopter pilot was sitting on. This competition was won by Chris Burrows.



Our next Lace Day is planned for Saturday 28th March 2009.

Jill Baker

Loosley Row & Lacey Green Horticultural Society

In addition to our usual meetings every other month in the Millennium Village Hall, we have three special events this year. You do not have to be a member to attend any of our Meetings or events, although we hope you would consider joining. Membership costs £2 per year!

On Wednesday 25 June, we have arranged a visit to a garden at Great Hampden. The garden is approximately 4 acres, linked into a variety of themed areas, a beautiful rose garden, a courtyard garden with rose pergola, woodland glade, formal ponds, half acre wildflower meadow, and an entry garden with herbaceous planting. The owner's plantswoman will give us a guided tour. We will meet at the house at 7pm. The garden is not open to

the public, and we are fortunate to have been given this opportunity to see it. If you would like to come please give me, or Leigh Axe, a ring, and we will disclose the name of the house! We ask for a donation of £2.50 each to Ian Rennie Hospice at Home, which I will collect on the evening.

On Sunday, 11 May, we have a Plant Stall at the Windmill, behind The Whip P H, by kind permission of Mrs Rosemary Smith. This is National Mills Day. We will be there between 11 and 4. I know that we will have a good selection of bedding, vegetable and tomato plants for sale, so if you need some, come along and see what we have to offer.

We will be running our now annual pumpkin competition. Plants will be available at our May Meeting. The pumpkins will be judged on Wednesday, 12 November, which we propose to make a Supper Social, instead of a speaker. The supper will no doubt have a pumpkin theme, but there will be an alternative, and there will be entertainment! Please note that the 12th is the second Wednesday of the month - we brought it forward one week to coincide with the "Children in Need" appeal. There will be a small charge, we anticipate less than £5, and we are not setting out to make a profit, but if there is a surplus we will ask on the evening what to do with it. I will publish details in Hallmark nearer the time, but try to reserve the date.

We continue our usual alternate monthly meetings, normally on the third Wednesday of the month, in the Village Hall, at 8.00pm. We have a mix of new speakers, and some that have been particularly good on previous visits.

On Wednesday 21 May, we have a talk, entitled "Alpines at 500 feet" by Mr Stephen Cotton, an alpine specialist. The altitude is very appropriate and Mr Cotton is a highly recommended speaker.

The next talk will be on Wednesday, 16 July, by our friends Graeme and Chrissie Hollingdale on the subject of "Roses and Sweet Peas". Growing and showing them. Graeme and Chrissie always give an interesting talk, illustrated by lovely specimens of the plants.

We held the AGM in March, when three valuable committee members retired. John Langlois, our Secretary, and his wife Jill, who looked after the Interest Table at the Meetings and ran the St John's School Competition, and our Programme Secretary, Linda Storey. I am very grateful to them for all that they have done for the Society, in John and Jill's case for 8 years, and for the advice and support they have given to me. They are replaced by Leigh Axe as Secretary, my wife Marcia, as Programme Secretary, and Judith Fitt who will take on the Interest Table. New contact details are:

Terry Fendom
Chairman
01844 342636

Leigh Axe
Secretary
01844 345216
leighaxe@waitrose.com

I look forward to seeing you at our Meetings and events.

Terry Fendom, Chairman

Windmill Under 5s



We have fantastic news - a new Supervisor! Sue Lake-Simmonds will be joining us the first day back after the Easter holidays and has already been in to meet the parents and children and to also do some up front

planning with the staff. We are all really excited and eager to have her on board and I know that the staff and committee feel very fortunate to have found her and we all look forward to a bright future together.

Looking back over our last term we have been extremely busy! The children have been involved in several events and making things for Chinese New Year, Mothers Day, and of course Easter. They have explored lots of new ideas within the themes of opposites and winter. Celebrated and produced cards, gifts and lots of edibles along the way including soup for cold days, Easter bird's nests with chocolate eggs and decorated biscuits, as well as all the creative pictures etc we also receive home.

As Easter was celebrated before we actually had the holidays this year, the Thursday before Easter was our Easter Fun Day. The children sang and paraded their fantastic Easter Bonnets for all their families and friends, followed by a "match the egg" hunt and then cakes and fun afterwards with some great face painting thrown in. Needless to say great fun was had by all.

We are now looking forward to our Summer Term with our family BBQ event, Sports Day and hopefully lots of good weather for the children to just enjoy outside. To start the term our theme is Spring and we have a walk planned to show the children all the fresh new growth and have also been busy collecting frog spawn to enjoy watching hatch and the tadpoles develop plus lots more!

So we start this new term with a new supervisor, lots of new ideas and some new children. We are now almost full and even have a waiting list for certain days, so if you're hoping to send your little one to our great Pre-School please put their name on our list now by calling **Sue on 07765 225987**. You can also call to arrange a convenient time to visit or find out more about us on our website: www.windmillunder5s.co.uk

Tina Zychowicz (chair)



- Question:** What letter of the alphabet is an insect?
Answer: B. (bee)
- Question:** What letter is a part of the head?
Answer: I. (eye)
- Question:** What letter is a drink?
Answer: T. (tea)
- Question:** What letter is a body of water?
Answer: C. (sea)



LACEY GREEN MAIZE MAZE 2008

"The Olympic Farm Maze"

Another challenging maze for you!

OPEN Thurs 24 July to 7 Sept 2008



Find your way around the 15 acre "Farm" cut into the maize

Also: Trampolines. Go Karts. Crazy Golf. Tea Shop

Open 10.30am to 6pm. Last Entry 5pm

Maze prices: Adults £5.50; Senior Citizens £4.50;

Children (5-15yrs) £4.00; Family ticket available

No dogs or unaccompanied children allowed in the maze.

The maze may close in extremely wet weather - if in doubt telephone first

www.LaceyGreenMaze.co.uk or 01844 275591

Did you know - parking is FREE at the maze. Why not just pop in for a cup of tea or an ice cream this Summer?

Hallmark Readers are INVITED to enjoy a drink on us!

Present this voucher to receive one cup of tea or coffee FREE!

Submit voucher at tea shop. Use before 7th Sept 2008.

Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (afternoon)

Feb 14 After four days of bright sunshine & temperatures truly spring-like, the February meeting dawned with only 5°C, so we were relieved to discover that the hall boiler had been repaired! The subject for the afternoon was a Tai-Chi Demonstration by Mrs S Eastgate, which included the challenge to participate, which almost everyone did.

Tai-Chi feels rather better than it looks – for we were arranged in a circle and instructed to imagine ourselves seated upon giant balloons, then, breathing slowly & deeply, we moved our arms as instructed by Mrs Eastgate. It's a strong eastern mix between contemplations and health & fitness; I'm pleased to report no-one nodded off.

Mar 13 The Birthday meeting was celebrated with members being entertained by *Chiltern Handbell Ringers* and a delightful tea prepared by members of the committee.

Apr 8 was the occasion for a Group Meeting when a WI in the area (on this occasion Booker WI) invites members of other WIs in the group for a special tea, speaker, bring & buy etc. Representatives share news of their events and activities and a very sociable informative gathering takes place.

Apr 10 This meeting was an open meeting when friends were invited to join us. Together with these visitors, we

were so very pleased to see that Connie Rowe, one of our very oldest members, had been brought along to join us. The afternoon proved to be a most fascinating one – a talk and demonstration of *Old Bucks Cooking*. It turned out to be inter-active, with members enlightening her about the subject. Like two of our members, Mrs Dineen is a lace-maker and it was through this craft that she heard of “bacon badgers” and “swimmers”, eaten by the women & girls in the old lace-making schools, and so began her research on the subject of old Bucks cooking.

As the talk and demonstration progressed, a “Bacon Badger” was bubbling away in the background and so much to our delight, she concluded by pulling it out of the pan and serving it to all the members, along with “Wiges”, which were caraway yeast cakes, and “Lemon Bisketts”, tiny lemony melt-in-the-mouth biscuits as eaten in Chichely Hall in 1676.

In the course of her talk, we discovered that King Henry VIII had his beef brought from CRESLOW and Queen Victoria had fresh butter brought to her from Little Horwood. Among so many interesting facts, we were delighted when she quoted from research carried out and published some years ago in a book about the Chiltern Hundreds by one of our own members: Mrs Madeline Cleaver.

Jean Gabbitas

Around Our Local Pubs



I am going to use my space in the Hallmark to remember a very good friend of mine and all of us at The Black Horse who sadly passed away this month, Gordon Lennard. He will be so sadly missed by everyone who knew him. I will tell you a few tales about Gordon that hopefully will make you smile.

When I first came to The Black Horse 12 years ago, one of my first customers was Gordon. We got talking and found out that he lived at Booker, Cressex Road, in fact

next door to my grandmother, so we found out we had many friends and acquaintances we both knew.

He offered to take me to the cinema a few afternoons in the coming years, which I gladly attended until I went to the James Bond movie with him one afternoon. We got to the cinema, parked the car and went into the afternoon matinee, found our tickets and went to our seats. The film started and I just don't know really what happened, but I fell asleep. Gordon woke me up at the end of the film and, after that, he never asked me to the cinema again. We used to laugh about it after. He said he wouldn't waste money on me to sleep.

After that, we used to go to see Elkie Brooks and Jools Holland at The Swan whenever I could get away for the

evening from the pub. I love jazz and big bands, just the same as Gordon.

Once we went to see Elkie Brooks and two women were talking in front of us nearly all the way through the performance. Gordon tapped the ladies on the back and asked them to be quiet – he hadn't come to listen to their voices. They never said another word all the way through the performance. Well done, Gordon.

Once we went to see the blues band at The Swan and we took Janet, a good friend, with us. This was fine until Janet got up and started dancing. So did a few others. Gordon didn't like that at all and once again I never went to another concert.

A little while ago, Gordon had a fall and went into Stoke Mandeville to be looked after. I went up to the bungalow and cleaned it for him and I took his jumper/coat home to wash it. I told Gordon what I had done when I visited him and all he said to me was "Oh no, have you shrunk my coat? It is my favourite." To this day, I never saw him in it again, so I probably did.

Dear Gordon, you will be sadly missed and we will all be thinking of you always.

Lynne Comley

Financial Planning

by Steve Wilkinson

The saying about looking at the small print was never so more true recently.

Over the years you may have been contributing or just paid one single premium to a personal type of pension plan. The policy started some time ago and every year you receive a statement from the insurer showing the value of the pension fund.

However if it is a policy taken out many years ago and especially if the contribution was just a single amount, I suggest you urgently look at the policy benefits, in particular the situation on death.

In the event of death, the majority of personal pension policies will pay out the value of the pension fund at date of death. So if the fund value of your pension policy is £XXXXX, then if death occurs before taking the benefits then, £XXXXX will be paid out – the fund value. However policies taken out say in the 1970's the death benefit could be just return of premiums. Think about it, return of premiums?

Supposing you had contributed a single payment of £1,700 in 1977 and the pension fund had now grown to nearly £60,000. You haven't taken any benefits from the policy but if death occurs, just £1,700 would be paid out by the insurer, simply because the terms of the policy stated that upon death, the death benefit is return of premiums.

This was highlighted recently by reviewing a client's portfolio of pension policies and he was naturally aghast to learn that if death had occurred, his wife would have received back from one of the policies just £49,000, whereas the fund value was £109,000! If you have identified some policies whereby the death benefits is just return of premiums then you need to act now.

You need to consider if you wish to take the benefits from the policy now but, if not, then contact the insurer to see if you can transfer the existing policy into a personal pension whereby the death benefit is return of fund value.

However there are many issues to discuss. For example, if you transfer the existing policy to a new style policy will you suffer any reduction in the fund value? What are the charges for the new policy? Would it be best to transfer to a new company as the existing company no longer accepts new business?

Apart from the insurer to contact, a suggestion would be to speak to the adviser or company who sold you the pension policy or an independent financial adviser.

In my experience, this subject of "just return of premiums" under the death benefit of an old style personal pension plan has not been brought to the attention of policyholders or the public in general.

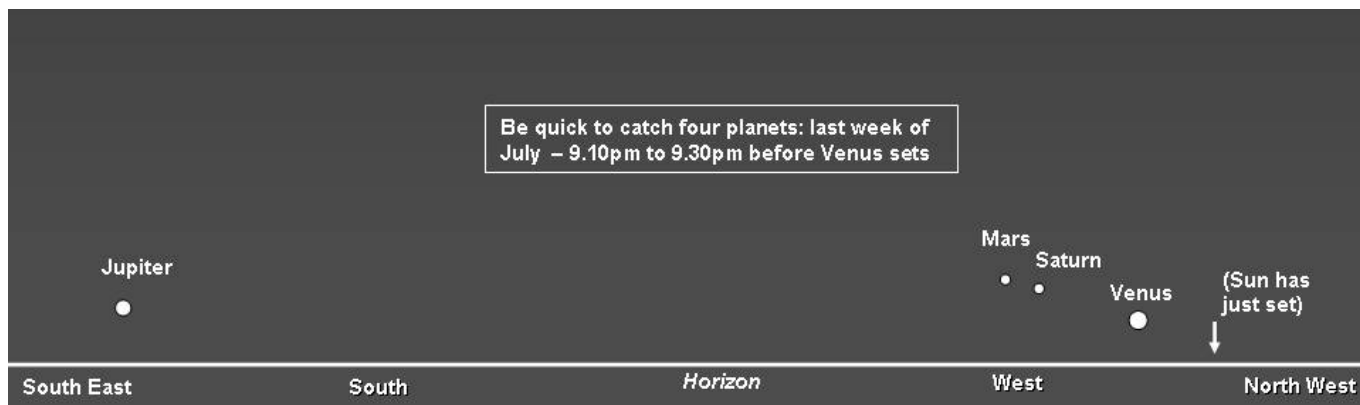
Please review your pension policies now.

Notice above a dryer in a coin laundry "When the light goes on, please remove all your clothes".



Birthdays are good for you - the more you have, the longer you'll live!

23



This summer, you can catch a few dozen shooting stars and witness a rare line-up of the planets.

But first, why was Easter so early this year and why won't summer begin on 21st June? The quick answer is that both dates are set by celestial orbits. Easter Day must fall on the Sunday following the first full Moon on or after 21st March (the Spring Equinox). This year, the Moon was full precisely on Friday 21st March, so Easter Day had to be celebrated two days later on Sunday 23rd March. This was the earliest Easter since 1913. So you can blame the Moon!

The Summer Solstice falls on June 20th this year, for the first time in more than a century. In fact, the exact event happens just 40 seconds before 21st June. Our Summer Solstice, often regarded as the first day of summer, occurs when the Earth's orbit puts the northern hemisphere at maximum tilt towards the Sun. This year, the event happens just a few seconds before 21st June begins - but doesn't cause the hassle produced by Easter's early arrival!

For those who'd like to catch a falling star or two-dozen, summer is a great time if you're outdoors late in the evening. The later, the better. You may see shooting stars on almost any clear night when the Moon isn't

around to drown them out. Make sure you're not near any lights, relax in a garden recliner, point yourself south-east and look up. Of course, they are not 'stars', but meteors - dust particles left as 'exhaust trails' from comets. As the Earth orbits around the Sun, our planet ploughs through these trails and the particles slam into our atmosphere at approximately 65,000mph and burn up 40-80 miles above us.

Because we know the orbits of the comets, it can be predicted when Earth will travel through their dust trails and produce 'meteor showers'. The same eight main showers occur every year, associated with different comets, producing from a dozen to hundreds of meteors per hour. A meteor shower in the first week of May is caused by Halley's Comet, and will be best seen in the small hours. Similarly for a shower which is due on 29th July. The biggest shower - the Perseids - lasts from 23rd July to 20th August, but is not expected to be at its strongest during its peak this year on 12th August.

On 10th May, look for the lovely sight of Mars near the right of the crescent Moon. And if you want to be among those to see four planets at once with the naked eye, consult the diagram. (NB: wait for the Sun to set below the horizon before attempting this).

Lacey Green and Loosley Row Sports Club



CRICKET SECTION

By the time you read this, the sun will be blazing from a cloudless blue sky, the 1st XI will have sailed through the first round of the Village KO Cup (April 20th)

and both teams will have won their first few league matches handsomely.... Well, I can dream, can't I? I hope it is so, and with determination and a bit of luck it's not impossible. Anyhow, the important thing is that the lads do their best and, most of all, enjoy their games.

We have two new captains this year. For the 1st XI, Martin 'Teeney' Roberts will take over from Robert Dell, who has too many work commitments to chase about after teams - although I'm pleased to say he will still act as treasurer and is heavily committed to the running of the club. He has helped to bring about many improvements and we thank him for that.

For the 2nd XI, Simon Williams replaces Dave Sanders who, again, will be involved in making sure Simon has a team to captain. Let's hope they continue last season's late successful spell.

I understand that several former players have decided to attend matches this season and cheer on the teams. It will be nice to see them. And more ladies say they will come - if not to watch all the cricket, at least to chat with

their friends. And, it is a great place to be on a sunny day.

In the past few seasons, many people have complained that they never see a fixture list. At one time, of course, we had fixture cards printed, but the cost these days is astronomical - too much for a club always struggling to pay for the upkeep of the pavilion, the ground, and the machinery - and no help from Government, despite wanting everyone to take more exercise! But I mustn't get political. As I've said before, it takes a lot of money to run a club with the facilities we enjoy so, if anyone has any ideas for raising money we will be glad to hear them. So, for the sake of those folk who would like to see who the teams will be playing and when, I'm asking the Editor if he will fit them in - kindly typed out for me by Les 'Mr Cricket' Rixon:

DIVISION 1 FIXTURES 2008

May 3	Bradenham	v	Lacey Green
10	Lacey Green	v	Cadmore End
17	Lacey Green	v	Ibstone
24	Bovingdon	v	Lacey Green
31	Lacey Green	v	Ley Hill
June 7	Hughenden Valley	v	Lacey Green
14	Lacey Green	v	Waddesdon
21	The Lee	v	Lacey Green
28	Lacey Green	v	Potten End
July 5	Lacey Green	v	Bradenham
12	Cadmore End	v	Lacey Green
19	Ibstone	v	Lacey Green
26	Lacey Green	v	Bovingdon
Aug 2	Ley Hill	v	Lacey Green
9	Lacey Green	v	Hughenden Valley
16	Waddesdon	v	Lacey Green
23	Lacey Green	v	The Lee
30	Potten End	v	Lacey Green

DIVISION 2 FIXTURES 2008

May 3	Lacey Green	v	Lit. Gaddesden
10	Challoners	v	Lacey Green
17	Frieth	v	Lacey Green
24	Lacey Green	v	Aylesbury
31	Downley	v	Lacey Green
June 7	Lacey Green	v	Hampden
14	Nomadic Medics	v	Lacey Green
21	Lacey Green	v	Holmer Green
28	Prestwood	v	Lacey Green
July 5	Lit. Gaddesden	v	Lacey Green
12	Lacey Green	v	Challoners
19	Lacey Green	v	Frieth
26	Aylesbury	v	Lacey Green
Aug 2	Lacey Green	v	Downley
9	Hampden	v	Lacey Green
16	Lacey Green	v	Nomadic Medics
23	Holmer Green	v	Lacey Green
30	Lacey Green	v	Prestwood

Once again, I have to end this report on a sad note. As most people will know, Gordon Lennard passed away suddenly recently. Gordon had been active in village affairs for many years and for the last two and a half years had been our club secretary. I got to know him as Editor of this magazine when I first began to write these reports and found him always helpful and patient. He loved his cricket and when he came down to the ground he always stopped for a chat.

Someone better qualified than me will be writing more about him in this issue. All I can add is that he was a decent man and we shall miss him.

Geoff Gomme

Obituaries

GORDON LENNARD

Born in Tottenham, Gordon moved to High Wycombe early in life, living in Totteridge and Cressex before moving to Lacey Green 30 years ago. Enjoying the village life, he was an active supporter of village functions, editing the local magazine and serving on the village hall committee.

He attended Terriers Infant School and later High Wycombe Royal Grammar School. His working life started with Cross & Blackwell in London, followed by a long spell at Aston & Full in Monks Risborough. He later spent time with Mardon Packaging in Royston selling Food Packaging.

Gordon had many sporting interests. A life time supporter of Tottenham Hotspur FC, he was a member of High Wycombe Rugby Club, High Wycombe Cricket Club, Bucks County Cricket Club and Lacey Green Sports Club. He played cricket for High Wycombe 3rd XI and was their captain in 1973/4. Gordon was a member of High Wycombe's first overseas cricket tour to Kenya in 1973. He also played soccer for Ernest Turners Sports Club and, at the time of his death, was secretary of Lacey Green Sports & Social Club.

Golf was probably Gordon's strongest sport, joining Weston Turville Golf Club in the 1980's. At his peak he obtained a 13 handicap, winning the occasional competition and monthly medal. Gordon particularly enjoyed the Weston Turville golf tours to, at first Spain, and later Scotland. Gordon later moved to Ellesborough Golf Club but never lost touch with Weston Turville, playing in their Old Goats Competitions. An active member of the Black Horse Golf Society, Gordon performed the duties of Handicap Secretary.

Good general knowledge skills made him a valuable quiz team member, enjoying a wide range of music, particularly modern Jazz and big bands. Gordon also enjoyed amateur dramatics, films and art.

Gordon was never happier than spending time with friends and a pint of real ale in the convivial atmosphere of the Black Horse P H.

Ian Feasey

Other thoughts expressed by various people, including David Highgate, Chairman of the Lacey Green & Loosley Row Sports Club, were in praise of Gordon's gusto in willingly & enthusiastically taking on the club secretary's work and his ability to write effective letters requiring a delicate touch. Everyone concerned felt Gordon would be

greatly missed.

HAROLD ROBERT MAY

Harold was born at Darvill's Hill in 1930. From a very early age, he showed a great interest in animals and a great love was to walk Springer Spaniels on the Pink Hill. He belonged to the 81st Club and was a strong supporter of Iain Rennie Nurses.

He attended Lacey Green School from 5 to 14 years and, in the holidays and evenings, helped on Charlie Green's farm, working there on a permanent basis after leaving school, until the age of 26. Harold then moved on to work at Dell Brothers, builders, as a labourer until 1967, when he took up a position with his brother, Gordon, at E Milner (HW) Ltd, then at Oxford Road, but later in Short Street. He stayed on at the Decorators' Merchants until his retirement at the age of 65.

Over many years, at various public houses, he assisted as barman in the evenings and weekends, particularly at The Queens Head, Hazlemere, The Full Moon at Little Kingshill and the main one was The Pink and Lily, with friends Ciss and Ken Fletcher. This is the public house where most people, including police, councillors and various old boys and cricketers around the villages, got to know Harold.

From the earliest time in his life, he attended Lacey Green Methodist Church, where he made maximum attendance records. Harold carried on attending church services for most of the rest of his life and was very upset at the closure of the Lacey Green Methodist Church. He was too stubborn to find an alternative church for worship!

When The Pink and Lily changed hands, Harold continued his great friendship with Ciss and Ken when they moved to their new address in Lacey Green, supporting them in their retirement and after Ken died, he remained good friends with Ciss, taking her shopping and she reciprocated with cooking for him.

He died very suddenly in Stoke Mandeville Hospital after an internal operation, which, in itself was successful but he went down quite quickly with pneumonia and died on Easter Sunday morning 23rd March 2008. Harold was cremated at Amersham Crematorium on Monday, 7th April, attended by approximately 200 people and afterwards at The Gate, Bryants Bottom.

The family would like to thank all the people who have supported them at this time, especially close neighbours in Westlands Road and Tony Cooper, who conducted the service.

Gordon May

Chernobyl Children Life Line

Tanya, one of our previous leaders, sat in her Gomel flat looking at her five year old daughter and said simply 'I hope that my Rita will survive'.

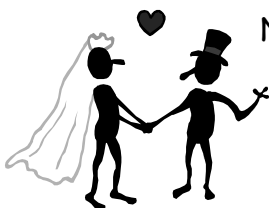
The nuclear disaster at Chernobyl in 1986, the worst the world has ever known, produced clouds of radioactive material, of which 70% fell on Belarus. The Belarussian people suffered immediately, are suffering now and, the scientists estimate, will suffer for maybe 400, maybe a 1000 years. The children are particularly vulnerable and, at the very least, suffer from damaged immune systems, at worst cancer, heart disease, etc.

Every mother has the same cloud hanging over her as Tanya. A month in England away from the polluted atmosphere at home improves the childrens' health and hopefully enables them to live a disease free life.

Please look at your own children, think how lucky you are and consider hosting these children for either two or four weeks at the end of July and beginning of August, 2008.

Please contact me on **01844 345558** for further details. I should be so pleased to hear from you.

Ann Smith, Chairman - Risborough Link 173



Never be unfaithful to a lover, except with your wife.

PJ O'Rourke

To keep your marriage brimming
With love in the marriage cup,
Whenever you're wrong, admit it.
Whenever you're right, shut up.

Nash

If it's true that girls are inclined to marry men like their fathers, it is understandable why so many mothers cry so much at weddings.

If your wife wants to learn how to drive, don't stand in her way.



To a Grumpy Driver

What is life if, full of care

We have no time to stand and stare,
No time to chat or share a smile
No inclination for a while
To still the hedgerow In the sun
And relish dreams of what's to come?
On August days with friends and such
Would smiling really take so much
In effort for your stone face
when passing through this lovely place?
The berries now are turning black
And through the woodland runs a track
Where deer and hare play such a part
Just think how that would lift your heart.
The cattle graze, the swallows swoop
And roses on the wall now group
To drop their heads for you to smell
And realize that "all is well".
But no you sat with furrowed brow
And no doubt thought "you silly cow,
Drive on and give me room to pass
I don't appreciate the grass, the old wall, shed and age-old barn

And mellowness beside the farm.
What is this life if full of care
I have no time to stand and stare?
My anger rises in my belly
Let me get home and watch my tele!!

By Shirley Forsyth
With apologies to William Henry Davies
Supplied to us by David & Wendy Morgan

If you want to pull the wool
over your wife's eyes, use
a good yarn.



The government solution to a problem is usually as bad as the problem.

Milton Friedman



As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes - and I can't remember the other two.

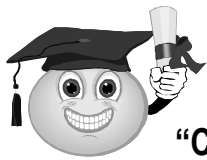
Norman Wisdom

Nothing's wrong with the younger generation that the older generation didn't outgrow.

A plaque on the wall of a psychiatrist's office: 'No one in his right mind ever comes to see me'.

After paying for the wedding, about the only thing a father has left to give away is the bride.

Children are creatures that disgrace you by exhibiting in public the example you set for them at home.



Do you know the origins of

“COLD ENOUGH TO FREEZE THE BALLS OFF A BRASS MONKEY” ?

In the days of Nelson's navy, it was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannon on warships. But how to prevent them rolling about the deck?

The best storage method devised was to stack them as a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on 4, resting on 9, which rested on 16. Thus a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

There was only one problem – how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the

others. The solution was a metal plate with 16 round indentations, called a monkey. But if this plate was made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust. The solution was to make brass monkeys.

However, brass contracts much faster than iron as the temperature falls and, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would roll right off the monkey. Then it was literally “cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey”.

Not the vulgar expression many of us thought it was!

Supplied by Claire Jones



Did you know?

Alphabets of various languages have the following numbers of letters:
English 26, French 23, Italian 20, Spanish 27, German 26, Slavonic 27, Russian 41, Latin 22, Greek 24, Hebrew 22, Arabic 28, Persian 32, Turkish 33.

To read intelligently, Chinese people must learn at least 3,000 characters of their 40,000 or more.

The lifespans of animals: whales average 1,000 years, elephants (in good conditions) 400, tortoises more than 100, horses 25 to 30, pigs 20, dogs and cats 10 to 15, rabbits 7 or 8, swans up to 300 years.

Spaghetti wasn't originated in Italy - it was brought from China to Italy by explorer Marco Polo.



Deer - by Brian Panter

County and District Council News

Some good news coming from the County Council Budget was the inclusion of a 'one off' boost of £3.25m for improvements to road surfacing. This figure is for the whole of Buckinghamshire and will be divided equally across the County, with a work programme progressing using two gangs area by area. I have taken the Local Area Technician to point out the worst parts which included Main Road and Woodway so I hope to see action there this year.

The Review of the new Speed Limits for our area has now moved on with the Committee responsible meeting to consider all the representations that have been made. The most significant for Lacey Green and Loosley Row is the inclusion for 30 mph limits for lower Loosley Hill and Forge Lane. The proposal agreed was that, subject to a site visit to check that the signage could be provided within the verges to give the required clearances, a new 30 mph limit will be consulted upon when the final orders are prepared. Subject to this consultation new limits could be in place by the end of this year.

The A4010 /Woodway junction improvements are now complete and appear to be working well. It was pleasing that the rural nature of the junction was preserved within the design by excluding street lighting and the retention of the trees. As a 'safety scheme' only time will tell if the accident rate improves but from the comments I have received the greatest benefit is the enhanced vision when turning right from Woodway to Princes Risborough.

Finally you will have seen the Questionnaire include in this issue of Hallmark. This is part of the assessment being carried out by independent consultants to look at the Needs of the village. It has been a joint effort, with the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council and volunteers all having an input. It is important that as many of the questionnaires are returned so that your views about Services required for today, and in ten years time, can be taken into account. The results of this survey will also influence the input into the Parish Plan so please try to find time to complete the questionnaire and have your say.

If you do have an issue with which I can help, please let me know. As well as writing to my home address, Canastel, Water Lane, Speen HP27 0SW, I can be contacted by phone **01494 488315** or by email at progerson@buckscc.gov.uk

Paul Rogerson

District and County Councillor

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Police and WDC

URGE RESIDENTS TO HELP PREVENT BURGLARY

Police and partner agencies in Wycombe are asking people to be vigilant after a significant rise in burglaries of homes over the past weeks. Latest statistics show the number of burglaries reported to the police in February 2008 has increased by 53% compared to February 2007.

Crime reports show the main ways burglars have gained entry are through insecure door/windows, by smashing windows, through rear patio doors and by reaching through letter-boxes to obtain keys.

It is vital that residents take the following steps to protect themselves from burglary:

- Lock all windows (even if you are just popping out for a while) – thieves can wriggle through any gap larger than the size of a human head.
- Lock all doors – ensure UPVC (white plastic) doors are double locked so that the handle is fully pushed up and the key fully turned. By pushing the top or bottom of the door, thieves know that if it flexes, it's not locked.
- Fit secure locks on all doors and fit a chain or bar, including locks on patio doors.
- Keep your house and car keys well away from the front door and hide them. Some burglars will break in to steal your car or even have tools to steal keys through the letter-box.

Play your part and share this information with your friends, families and neighbours.

**Sarah Hazel, Community Safety Team Leader
Wycombe District Council**

You can always count on Americans to do the right thing - after they've tried everything else.

Winston Churchill



Many people want the government to protect the consumer. A much more urgent problem is to protect the consumer from the government.

Milton Friedman

A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.

Winston Churchill

British Red Cross needs volunteers

FOR ITS HOME FROM HOSPITAL SERVICE



BritishRedCross

Many people are surprised at the sheer diversity of activities

undertaken by the Red Cross, and, some by the fact that it relies almost entirely on voluntary input.

It is known worldwide for its work in providing assistance at times of emergency and short-term crisis. Its staff has recently been called on as a result of the **floods** affecting many homes and businesses for instance. As part of this, volunteers operate camper-van style vehicles, providing basic short-term relief such as warmth, shelter, hot drinks, a change of clothes, and baby-changing facilities. Other services include the loan of medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walking frames and commodes, and the driving of transport vehicles and minibuses.

A department which always surprises people is the **International Tracing and Message Service**, which exists to reunite friends and family who have been separated, for whatever reason. Where possible, the volunteers in this area act on whatever shreds of information the candidate can give them. Often, however, it calls for a full detective job, and the results are remarkable. The organisation is still putting people in touch with relatives who they haven't seen since the Second World War!

One particularly pressing area for voluntary help is the **Home From Hospital service**. "We urgently need volunteers to help patients immediately after they've been discharged from hospital," explains Senior Service Manager Julie Weston. "This might involve doing their shopping, some light housework, collecting prescriptions, dog walking, or anything else to help the patient remain independent. Just prior to them coming home, it might involve putting the heating on, or opening the windows, or clearing the fridge. It's short-term, generally for the first two weeks or so after they've been discharged, and usually for no more than two to three hours a week. In the case of older people, their children often live a long distance away, so it's not always practical for them to be on call. Our service gives them someone local who can pop round at short notice as and when required."

The Red Cross has worked closely with Stoke Mandeville and Wycome hospitals on this, Julie Weston says, with Amersham Hospital now on board also. "So the volunteers choose which hospital they want to be

linked with, and are allotted a patient. The arrangement is very flexible, and there's no particularly heavy commitment called for. Volunteers can contribute as little or as much time as they're able. It makes a huge difference to the patients in terms of their peace of mind and a reassurance at a time that can often be very traumatic."

Members of the public interested in volunteering for the Home From Hospital service, or any other aspect of the British Red Cross in Buckinghamshire, are urged to contact **Madeleine Hammond**, Volunteering Advisor, on **01235 552660**. E-mail: Mhammond@redcross.org.uk

Local Police seek volunteers

RISBOROUGH RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP write ...

You may have heard of us through the public meetings held in your area. Essentially, we are a community group supported by the Police and Councils with the objective of finding solutions to local problems. This area encompasses the rural **parishes** of Longwick cum Ilmer, Bledlow cum Saunderton, Bradenham, **Lacey Green**, Great and Little Hampden, Ellesborough and Great & Little Kimble. Through public consultation the immediate priority areas have been identified as **speeding, parking and Flytipping**.

Work has begun to look for better ways of dealing with these issues but we would welcome your support. The Neighbourhood Action Group relies on the support of both professional partner agencies and local volunteers. The only qualification for the latter is an interest in local quality of life issues and a willingness to work with others to solve problems. We would welcome a volunteer from each of the seven parishes listed above to meet with us at the most once a month, usually in the evenings. Your input is critical to the effectiveness of this group.

If you can help or would like to know more about how you could help please contact me at Risborough Police Office. Many thanks and best wishes.

Sergeant Nigel Faux

Tel: **08458 505505** Mobile: **07800 703290**

Email: Nigel.Faux@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk



News from St John's Church

(Rector – the Reverend Denise Critchell)

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

Regular Services at St. John's church.

SUNDAY

8.00am	Holy Communion(1662)	1 st , 2 nd , & 4 th . Sundays
10.00am	All age family Communion	1 st Sunday of the month.
10.00am	Parish Communion	2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , (&5 th) Sundays
6.00pm	Choral Evensong	1 st Sunday in the month

Junior Church at 10.00am – all services other than 1st, held in upper room.

Details from Jenny King – 01844-343910

Youth group meet the 1st Sunday in the month at Collins' Farm

3rd Sunday, service in Church. Both Sundays for fun, friendship, and interesting activities. Meet at 5.15pm –both groups are well attended and new members are very welcome.

TUESDAY

9.30am.	Communion Service in Lady Chapel at St. John's.
2.00pm	Toddler Praise – Tuesday afternoons during term time.

WEDNESDAY

10.30am Team Communion Service at St. Mary's church, Princes Risborough.

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.



On going News

After the Palm Sunday service, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held and Mark Roberts and David Williams joined the PCC. Welcome!

There is a list of PCC members in 'Viewpoint', our monthly local Church magazine price 40p – on sale at the entry to Church, or contact Marjorie Palmer and Margaret Gray to place your order and support your Church.

Easter Day was very Special – starting the Service with a traditional hymn beside a beautifully decorated Cross out in the open (in spite of the weather), then returning to continue the service in a welcoming warm church full of enthusiastic members to celebrate Christ overcoming death to rise again. Every pew was full. Friends stayed to chat over refreshments while children searched the church for hidden Easter eggs. The egg, as you know, is a symbol of new life. It was special for Rev. Denise as she also

celebrated her 5th Anniversary of her licensing to St. John's.

Did you know there is a very lifelike portrait of Denise painted by local artist Dennis Syrratt entitled "Rev. Denise in pastures green". Denise herself was an artist before being called to the Ministry.

The St. John's Team Vicar has a brief to develop training and development for Laity across the Team, and will be working with special responsibility for developing Pastoral care, bereavement visiting, and Creative Arts retreats.

The Team Ministry are working on a professional Profile for a Team Vicar at St. Dunstan's. 50% of this post will be working as a Mission Enabler throughout the Risborough Team.

82 members from the Team Parish visited Butlin's at Minehead for a Christian Teaching Conference – with much fun and laughter, friendship and special moments.

Norman wishes to thank all those who offered valuable support during his time of the OP. He is in full recovery mode ('never looked better' said one parishioner) and so glad to get on with life again. Since his article appeared in magazines, awareness of Prostate Cancer has been raised and lives saved because men are going to have the necessary test.

Many families are presenting their children for **Baptism** - always a joyful sign of life.

Wedding dates are 7th June, July 5th, 19th, & 26th, 24th August and 6th Sept. We wish every young couple a beautiful day, and long lasting happiness.

Future dates for your diaries.

Ascension Day May 1st. The day when Christ finally left earth to ascend into Heaven.

9.15 St John's School Service

8pm Communion Service.

The Disciples and Jesus' followers were devastated at His going, But – Jesus promised them He would send a comforter, a Councillor who would teach them all the things they needed to know. Read St. John's Gospel to see for yourself. Hence we have **Pentecost** when the Holy Spirit descended on all those who believed.

May 11th Pentecost Service.

May 14th. 7.30pm The Arch Deacon's visit to St. Mary's Church in Aylesbury for Churchwardens Marjorie and Pat to be legally sworn in to undertake their duties for the following year. Members from our Parish who would like to support them will also be welcome.

June 8th 3pm. Civic Service at St. Dunstan's.

6pm Confirmation Service at St. Mary's.

July 3rd. Rev. Denise is leading a Meditation in the Quiet Garden at Stoke Poges entitled "Dancing with

God" Enjoy a quiet moment and reflection.

July 12th Summer Ball in Marquee on school field. Tickets will be available in Church. This is a joint fund raiser for Church and School and last year's was rated a highly successful, enjoyable evening. Good weather essential.

One more thing - The Church is in good health and growing in numbers (we have some lovely people) but as always in this financial world, extra funds would be very welcome. We need regular income like everywhere else where bills must be paid.

Are you familiar with the phrase 'What goes around comes around' ? Well, whatever you give to God in terms of funding, time, generosity, friendship and caring.....will return to you in abundance. Just try it!

Meanwhile, come and join us at St. John's and enjoy our Church life.

June Brazier



SUNDAY 22 JUNE 2008

This year some of the best gardens in Speen will be open for you to wander around in. On top of the Chilterns, Speen has a host of hidden gardens rarely glimpsed by the public, but on this afternoon some of them will open their gates.

One ticket will gain entrance to them all - big and small - cottage, modern, landscaped, natural, all sorts and styles. All of them raising money for the nearby Parish Church of St John's. Put the date in your diary now.

Hours are from **2.00 to 6.00pm**, tickets **£4 per person** (children free), to be bought on the day. Free car parking. The contact is

Marion Hussey - 01494 488336

What's Happening in Lacey Green & Loosley Row ?

A LIST OF REGULAR ACTIVITIES to which you are welcome. Others take place but are subject, for example, to membership for which there is a waiting list

All events at Lacey Green & Loosley Row Millennium Hall unless otherwise specified



WHO in alphabetical order	WHEN, WHERE if not in Millennium Hall, and OTHER DETAILS	CONTACT	01844 *
Adult Learning – Furniture Restoration	Thu mornings, term time	Bucks office	0845 - 0454040
Happy Wanderers' Walking Club - normal walk (5-6 miles) - short walk (2-3 miles)	10.30am. Starting place informed on previous walk 2nd Wed. 10.30am, Millennium Hall car park	Ronnie Lewin	274961
Horticultural Society	3rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov. 8pm	Terry Fendom	342636
Jazzercise – exercises with lively music & company	Tue evenings	Sue Morris	01494 - 813968
Jingle Tots	Baby to 5 years. Songs, action rhymes, musical instruments, refreshments, playtime. Fridays during term time.	Jenny Stothard	344441
Karate	Mon evenings	Richard Peace	07768 – 896078
Kinder Gym	Pre-school Gym Classes. Fridays during term time	Jenny Stothard	344441
Lacey Green Productions	Various kinds of theatre, some with delicious food	Val Brookhouse	344207
Lacey Green & Loosley Row Sports & Social Club	Various activities	Jane Oakford	346295
Lacey Green Singers	Thu evenings, term time	Jane Brown	346071
Lacey Green Windmill	Open Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays 2.30-5.30pm beginning May – end Sep. See p44.	Michael Hardy	275871
Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI	2nd Thu, except Aug. 2pm	Jill Baker	275442
Pilates Classes	Tue mornings	Sue Croxford	346656
U3A	4 th Wed afternoon of month	Roger Smith	01494 - 484182
Whiteleaf Bowmen	Wed, Thu & Fri evenings, Apr to Sep	Dave Evans	01494 - 538235
Windmill Under 5's Playgroup	Mon-Fri 9.15-11.45am, lunch club 11.45am-1.15pm At Sports & Social Club (next to St John's School).	Tina Zychowicz	344959
Windmill WI	1st Wed of month except Jan. 7.45pm	Stella Boll	347268
Yoga Group	Mon mornings during term time	Annie Silverman	343643
81st Over 60's Club	1st Thu of month except Jan & Aug (was 1 st Tue) 2pm	Carole Knight	01296 – 614113

* Except where shown otherwise

See page 44 re Lacey Green Maize Maze and Lacey Green Post Office

If you are poor, distinguish yourself by your virtues; if rich, by your good deeds
French proverb

True happiness springs from moderation
German proverb



Village Diary

May15 – August 15



All events at Lacey Green & Loosley Row Millennium Hall unless otherwise specified.

May 21 Horticultural Society (3 rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov)	8pm
May 25 Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
Jun 2 Parish Council Meeting at Lacey Green Village Hall "	7.30pm
Jun 4 Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Jun 5 81st Over 60's Club (1st Thu of month excl Jan & Aug) (was 1st Tue)	2pm
Jun 11 Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Jun 12 Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
Jun 18 Happy Wanderers' midsummer evening stroll & supper	TBA
Jun 22 Strawberry Tea & Brass Band in Mr & Mrs Wicks' garden (see page 4)	3pm
Jun 22 Speen Open Gardens in various Speen private gardens (see page 42)	2-6pm
Jun 29 Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
Jul 2 Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Jul 3 81st Over 60's Club (1st Thu of month excl Jan & Aug) (was 1st Tue)	2pm
Jul 7 Parish Council Meeting at Speen (Venue TBA) "	7.30pm
Jul 9 Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Jul 10 Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
Jul 12 Church's Summer Ball in marquee on school field	TBA
Jul 16 Horticultural Society (3 rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov)	8pm
Jul 27 Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
Aug 6 Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Aug 13 Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Aug 14 Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm

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

Sep 6 Horticultural Society Annual Show	
Oct 15 WI Annual Village Quiz	7.30 for 8pm
Nov 8 Windmill Artists' Art Show with all day bar & Bistro	10.30am - 4pm
Nov 28	
& 29 Lacey Green Productions & The Command Performers Dinner Theatre	TBA

* 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

LACEY GREEN MAIZE MAZE will be open Thurs 24 July – Sun 7 September, 10.30am – 6pm, last entry 5pm. Car park accessed from Slad Lane. The Maze may close in extremely wet weather – if in doubt telephone first. Times and other details from **01844 275591** or www.LaceyGreenMaze.co.uk.

LACEY GREEN WINDMILL is open Sundays & Bank Holiday Mondays 2.30-5.30pm 4 May – 28 Sep. Admission is £1.50 for adults and 75p for children. It is the oldest smock mill in the country and still has its original wooden machinery from the mid 17th century. Since 1971, it has been restored to working order by members of The Chiltern Society. For further information, contact **Michael Hardy** on **01844 343560**.

LACEY GREEN POST OFFICE is open in Village Hall 9am-12 noon Mondays & Thursdays for all services except Road Fund Licences (vehicle licences).

CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE SUMMER EDITION
July 17th 2008

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