

HALLMARK



The Lacey Green and Loosley Row Magazine

FEBRUARY 2014

NUMBER 229

ESTABLISHED 1970

Welcome to the February edition of Hallmark

We have a wealth of articles from our politicians this edition - ranging from Parish Council up to our MP, it's good to see that they are all trying to keep in touch with their electorates.

The local council have asked us what sort of library service we want in the village, possibly replacing the existing mobile library. They have suggested that we might like a service where people can request a book at the

Village Shop and it will then be delivered .

We hope to have a better understanding of the proposal in time for the Village Hall AGM on March 11, so come along then or tell us your preference in advance.

I'm happy to say that we now have a functioning Post Office again on Monday and Thursday mornings - details on p23.



In Memoriam - Constance Lillah Baker

As we go to press I have just heard of the death of the village's oldest resident Connie Baker. She passed away in her nursing home on Jan 23 aged 105. The Funeral Service will be in the Hampden Chapel,

Amersham Crematorium on Wed. 5th Feb. at 11.30 am, followed by refreshments in the Village Hall from 12.30 pm. Everyone welcome. At Connie's request, please do not wear black.

Donations to "The Ian Rennie Hospice at Home" or "Macmillan Nurses", via Surman and Horwood, Funeral Directors, High Street, Princes Risborough.

Village History Group

The last few months of 2013 were very busy for group members. The CDs describing the houses in the village and those who lived in them up to the Second World War were completed in time for our Open Meeting, and will now form a useful resource for future generations. They will no doubt, be amazed by the changes which have taken place.

We would like to thank everyone who helped on that day. It is lovely to see so many of the locals come together and enjoy our meetings.

The other half of the day was the Exhibition of Family Trees. These are becoming truly monumental, and the group is still receiving feedback and enquiries about past residents.

Another very enjoyable occasion was the Second World War Concert held in the school hall on the Saturday of the Remembrance weekend. Our group only played a small part in the whole occasion, but we were pleased with the interest shown. The display of food rations for a week was a real eye opener! We were especially pleased with the many memories of the war received from local people. This will be another archive to interest people in the future.

The big event for 2014 will be:-

A COMMEMORATION OF THE CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

This will take place from Sat 8th to Tues 11th November in the church.

It is planned that during this time there will be: **A HISTORY EXHIBITION** by our group. We are keen to show the effect that the Great War had on the whole village, and would be grateful for any family memories, photographs or information from Hallmark readers, regardless of whether their families lived locally at that time. Some work has already been done on the many young men who died in our parish, but we are also interested in the families who were left behind, the women who had to take on men's jobs, and the changes that happened in the villages as a result of the war. Anyone who can help in any way, should contact me on 01844 345863

Rosemary Mortham

What's On

Tues 11 Mar 8pm
Village Hall AGM

Fri 21 Mar 8pm
Tennis Club cheese & wine
Sports Club Hall

Sat 22 Mar 10 to 4
Lacemakers' Annual Lace
Day

Wed 19 Mar 8pm
Horts Soc AGM
Talk: 'Best of British'
Village Hall

Sun 11 May 11am
National Mills Day
see page 34

Sat 31 May 10am
Bledlow Country Show
Lord Carrington's Farm
see page 6

Youth Club

For 6 to 14 years old.
7.30 - 9pm
Feb 14, 28
Mar 14, 28
Apr 11, 25
Contact Leigh Axe
345216

Parish Council

3 Mar 7.30pm Lacey Green
14 Apr AGM 7.00pm Speen

National Trust

Hughenden, West Wycombe & Chilterns National Trust

Volunteer Open Day

Sat 15 March 10am-1pm Hughenden Manor

All welcome ! No need to book.

For more info contact Helpingout@nationaltrust.org.uk or call
01494 755573

Do you feel passionate about heritage ? Are you a keen gardener or do you enjoy working outdoors? Do you like meeting people and chatting to them ? If the answer is yes to any of the above, you should consider becoming a National Trust volunteer.

Whether your interest lies with history, gardening, helping with events or the countryside, we have the right volunteering opportunity for you. It is a great way to make new friends, learn new skills or to develop new interests.

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers for a variety of roles such as room guides for Hughenden Manor (open throughout the year), the home of Victorian prime minister and author Benjamin Disraeli and the secret location for British map making during WW2.

We also look after West Wycombe Park, one of the finest Palladian Houses in the country which is open to the public during the summer months. Volunteers help maintain the extensive gardens at Hughenden and are developing the Walled Garden as a lesson in sustainable gardening.

Risborough Lacemakers Annual Lace Day

Village Hall Sat 22nd March 10.00 to 4.00.

**Specialist traders will be present to sell
needlework requirements.**

Admission to visitors is 50p

Mobile Library Service

Eastlands 11.30 to 11.55
9 Feb, 19 Mar, 16 April

Over 50s Pub Lunch

Come and meet some
new people. First Tuesday
each month. Contact
Yvonne Axe 345216

Nativity Play

There were definitely moments when I thought that a Live Nativity was not a good idea. It was not easy finding suitable animals, it was hard finding enough children and helpers who were free on the busiest weekend before Christmas and it was impossible to predict the weather!!

However Rosemary always says that God gives you just what you need and she was right.

The donkey we found was CRB checked, (well the handler was), and both were very obliging. All the angels and shepherds had a much enjoyed donkey ride. We had a small crisis when we realized you needed a license to move sheep but the replacement goats were easier to move and liked being stroked.

We had enough angels for a small choir, aged between 2 and 9 years old who looked magical in their feathery halos and light up wings. Stall holders and the snake charmer in the Bethlehem market place set the scene as the audience entered, as did the musicians.

The older children were brilliant at improvising the busy inn scene, even to the point of a small fight breaking out. The audience were briskly moved on at that point by the innkeeper,

Lacey Green Cricket Club

With Christmas out of the way, the new season will be on us before you can say "Too fat to bowl".

With this in mind we will be starting winter nets from Sunday 9th February, 4pm to 6pm, at Great Marlow School. Once again we will be sharing with Marlow Park CC, to ease the cost burden.



played brilliantly by Graham King. The shepherds managed to guard their flock outside as the rain stopped just at the right time, so, as light fell the audience could see their flickering lanterns and their surprise as the angels appeared.

There was a sudden silence as Alexandra sang the first verse of Silent Night and this spiritual atmosphere continued as they watched Joseph and Mary walk past with their donkey and take their place under the glowing star in the stable.

The shepherds, the angels and the kings followed, and with everyone in the stable, Rev Peter Viney said the words of the gospel and the audience and participants all sang "Hark the Herald Angels Sing".

So many people in the villages and the churches were involved, children from the schools, teenagers from the Youth club, young adults who are in 6th form, children and mums from Kindergym - all willing to work together to make something special, and I think we did!

If you are interested in playing cricket this year, and fancy a bit of pre season training then feel free to just turn up, or you can give me a ring on 07813 299683 for more information.

The first games of the season see the 2nd XI facing Holmer Green II's at home, and the 1st XI away at Knotty Green.

The complete fixture list is on www.midbuckscricket.org.uk.

Luke Weston

On The Farm

Once again the farm in the last three months has been influenced by the weather. It turned to rain in October and November.

We were harvesting the maize for silage at this time and had to hire a road sweeper to clear the mud that we were bringing onto the road.

We had hoped to make a further cut of grass for silage, but it became so flattened that being afraid of spoiling it with earth we let most of it for sheep grazing. This involves another farmer bringing his sheep and sheep fencing, while we get a little income per sheep per day.

A drier period in December allowed us to plant the last of the winter wheat opposite Culverton Manor Farm. It is now just emerging (mid-January). No field work over Christmas but naturally all the routine work with the animals of feeding, cleaning, bedding up and milking continued as normal.

About a year ago when we updated our milking parlour we installed a computer system which so far is proving a successful herd management tool. Maybe last summer when

the cows were in the fields you noticed a blue pedometer on the front legs.

These record the cow's daily activity. It is read as she comes into the parlour, together with the time, her yield and the conductivity of the milk, which is an indication of quality.

A sudden increase in the activity reading probably means she is in heat and needs inseminating. A decrease and she may be under the weather. Either way she needs further examination. It is critical to get the cows in calf quickly to maintain a regular calving pattern. Although expensive this investment is proving to be worthwhile.

Recently, showing a group of Young Farmers round the farm the topic of A.I. was raised. 90% of our cows are made pregnant by artificial insemination. This enables us to use top quality bulls from around the world. Knowing the cow's genetic history our mating programme will prevent inbreeding and if there is a possible weakness, say feet or legs, pick a bull to improve this trait.

If a cow is to have a healthy productive life it is really

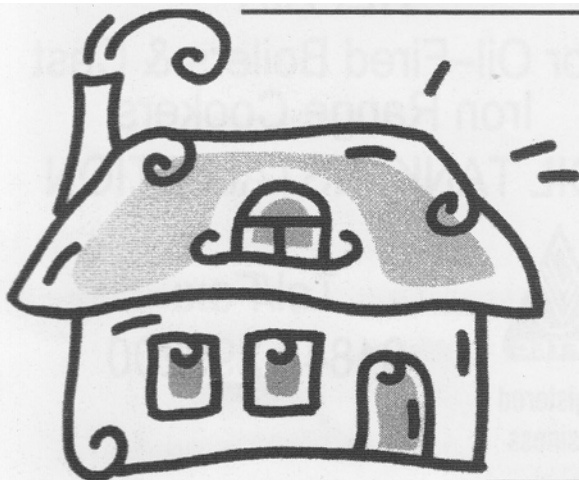
important to do this. Having chosen the bull we buy "straws" of semen which are frozen and stored in liquid nitrogen. Most cost between £10 and £20 and we have a herd conception rate of around 35% per insemination.

The Young Farmers Club is a young peoples' organisation for teenagers up to 26 years. There is a branch at Princes Risborough. It is a national organisation and you do not have to have anything to do with farming to join.

It covers a wide variety of interests. If you have an opportunity go along to a meeting, you may really enjoy it.

This year Princes Risborough is staging the YFC country show (an annual county event) at Lord Carrington's Manor House Farm at Bledlow. For more information see www.bledlowcountryshow. It is a great day out for absolutely everybody of all ages. You would be very welcome and it is a good opportunity to see the organisation in action. It will take place on 31st May 2014. Why not pencil it in your diary?

Joan West



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Please ring:

01494 563728 or 07775 694015

www.woodpeckersbedandbreakfast.co.uk

Lacey Green Productions

As the nights closed in at the end of November, we entertained capacity audiences to 3 performances of a farce called "Holiday Snap". The play was set in the summer sun of Portugal and one member of the cast even had to speak a few words of Portuguese, which we have since heard were actually understood by a Portuguese speaker! With mistaken identities and ensuing chaos, we hope we didn't give our audiences too much indigestion at the dinner theatre evenings on the Friday and Saturday.

We are very pleased to say that, as usual, LGP has already donated the profits of £2400 from "Holiday Snap" to local charities. We sent £800 cheques to each of the following:

The Princes Centre in Princes Risborough – this is the day care centre for our local area, helping the elderly and those with physical disabilities and mental health issues.

The Free Christmas Lunch run by St Mary's church in Aylesbury – this has been held for over 20 years and entertains and feeds the homeless, the elderly and those with mental health issues for free on Christmas Day.

High Wycombe Homeless Connection – this charity helps over 300 homeless people in High Wycombe and surrounding area.

This brings the total of LGP's charitable giving to nearly £53,000 over the past 31 years – all of it made possible by the generosity and support of our audiences.

Photographs of "Holiday Snap" in performance are shown, taken by the indefatigable Norman Tyler. We are very grateful for all the photos that Norman has taken of our shows over the years and are sad to think that he is no longer able to do this. (Some photos were also contributed by Peter Esders ... Ed.)

In February and March we shall be performing our latest Murder Mystery entertainment to audiences in Gerrards Cross, Lacey Green and Radnage. The Gerrards Cross performance is in aid of the Wycombe and Amersham hospitals Scannappeal, while in Lacey Green and Radnage we are helping the local PTAs to raise money for their schools. Because we are performing the same show at each venue, audiences are sworn to secrecy



even if they don't understand the plot!

Please let us know if you would like to join LGP and contact us via our website at

info@laceygreenproductions.co.uk

Peter Brookhouse



District Council News



As everyone will know, the new Waste Service was introduced at the end of October and overall, this has been a great step forward for recycling. Like many people I have spoken to, I have

not needed to make any trips to the bottle bank or tip and the increased range of items that can be collected, such as batteries, is a significant improvement.

However, I am aware of some problems with missed collections and it is unfortunate that the handover to the new contractor has not been as smooth as we would have liked. With lots of phone calls and prodding, the situation is steadily improving, so hopefully everything will have settled down within the next few weeks.

At the end of January an important consultation will begin on the Wycombe District Council Local Plan. This crucial Plan provides the policy framework, used alongside the National Policy Planning Framework

(NPPF), to determine planning applications. The Local Plan must demonstrate how the District will respond to the anticipated growth in demand for housing and employment through to 2031. Without a clear and comprehensive Local Plan, which has to be approved by the Government's Planning Inspector, the Council has no mechanism to effectively manage and defend any part of the District, particularly the Green Belt, from over development.

A leaflet will be delivered shortly to all households with details and I would encourage you to participate in this key consultation.

Mel Foster
mel_foster@wycombe.gov.uk
01494 488905

PR Rural Neighbourhood Action Group

The group met on 6th November 2013 in St Johns Lacey Green, to discuss policing issues which have caused concern recently. This was the first of a series of public meetings designed to give the opportunity for residents to meet with the police to discuss matters of concern and to look for solutions to ongoing problems that are raised.

There was a strong representation from the police led by Acting Sgt Andy Ralph and supported by PC Heather Blake and PCSO Aidan Siemers-Mayne who brought with them samples of DNA marking fluid and other materials which can be used to protect property in the home.

The issues raised were:

1. Theft of heating oil

2. Distraction burglary
3. Theft of catalytic converters

Several residents joined in the debate of how crime was being tackled within the rural area of Princes Risborough and how residents can help reduce crime in the area. Crime remains at a low level but does suffer from sporadic opportunist crime such as theft of heating oil and theft from home and gardens, often resulting from the actions of a single person.

Public awareness is of concern to the police because of the low level of criminal activity. In response to this the NAG decided that more public meetings would be held and more widely advertised through village magazines and web sites.

Meetings will be held in villages making up the NAG area where the public can attend to talk through their concerns. For 2014 these are:

26th March for Bledlow & Longwick Parishes;

18th June for Lacey Green & Hampden Parishes;

10th September for Ellesborough & Kimble Parishes.

Venues will be advised closer to the date of each meeting but in the meantime if you do have any issue that is pressing you can contact the local policing team on Princesrisboroughnhpt2@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Paul Rogerson
Chairman

Pink and Lily

Bringing in the Spring!!

Although as I sit here the rain is once again lashing against the windows as indeed it did throughout our incredibly busy festive season, I'm reliably informed that, truly, Spring isn't that far off!

But before I tell you about the exciting new menu that will mark the change in seasons, I really want to thank all of our customers, regulars and newer friends, for the most amazing first festive season in the new Pink and Lily!

We certainly celebrated our first Christmas in style, hosting a whole heap of parties in the build up to the big day, which we celebrated with the inaugural Pink and Lily Christmas lunch!

Christmas Day started with many of our regulars popping in for a festive quick one, followed by a superb four course extravaganza brilliantly cooked by Head Chef Carl, ably supported by his fabulous kitchen team.

A lot of locals as well as many who had come from further afield had chosen to spend their Christmas Day with us and a memorable afternoon of food, fun and frolics was had by all! Everyone pulled a cracker and it all went off with a bang!

Of course a big thank you goes out to all of my wonderful staff – we couldn't have done it without you! We're taking bookings already for next year – make sure you don't miss out!

But now for the spring, a fantastic new menu. Carl has put together a wonderful set of seasonal choices, but all the old favourites are still there too.

Exciting new dishes, including a signature Porterhouse Sirloin and a cracking Coq au Vin, rub shoulders with well-established favourites such as the glorious gammon rib eye and of course the ale-battered fish and chips. All the meat is locally sourced with the majority travelling no further than from Haddenham!

There's a new pudding menu too, but in amongst the menu changes our fantastic Sunday roasts remain! Remember that our kitchen stays serving until 8pm on Sundays so a late Sunday lunch is never out of the question!

Before I sign off, a final word again about our Head Chef Carl. He's set himself an incredible series of challenges for 2014 to raise money for a cause very close to his heart – the Huntington's Disease Association. He'll be running marathons, half marathons and ridiculously long off-road trails and even climbing Kilimanjaro; as if feeding you lot wasn't enough!!

So we at the Pink would massively appreciate it if we could all get behind him – all donations and loose change gratefully received – and we promise to post pictures of him looking even rougher than usual!! In the meantime we look forward to welcoming you all soon!

Alice Hill
Landlady

Windmill WI

In October we hosted the Village Hall Quiz which was a big success that everyone enjoyed.

In November we had Tony Brown and Gordon Casbeard with their Victorian Magic Lantern Show. This was a fascinating evening as they had many lantern slides and lots of interesting stories to go with them.

Also in November two of our ladies went to a Floral Lunch held at the Golf Club at Weston

Turville. Edwin Rye was the speaker and showed us many beautiful floral arrangements for our Christmas Tables. Several ladies were fortunate to win these in the raffle. We certainly learnt some very new ideas.

In December we had our Christmas Party, we were greeted with drinks on arrival. The committee had worked very hard and put on a beautiful three course meal. Each member had a small box of chocolates and we had the popular Secret Santa

where every member received a gift. After toasting each other we departed until next year.

Now it is 2014, our next meeting will be 5th February when funds will be due. Everyone is very welcome to join us especially the younger members of the community. We meet at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Happy New Year to all.

Ann Bartlett

Horticultural Association



November saw our annual social event, the Pumpkin Supper. We had a fine collection of pumpkins grown by our members and more pictures can be found on the village web site. We had an excellent supper cooked by members of the committee with a lot of help from members. Thanks to everyone for their contributions, we had a glorious evening!

Our last talk was a presentation from a local beekeeper who described the life-cycle of one of



our most important insects, and the kinds of plants which offer good pollen to support the colony. This was a fascinating evening and was helped by the speaker's lifetime of knowledge and some excellent images to illustrate his points.

Our next event is the AGM. As well as the formal business we will be having a social evening with homemade chutney tasting, a quiz and hopefully a display of members' spring bulbs,

depending on weather and growing conditions!

We hope to see you there or at one of our next meetings. On May 11th we will have our annual plant sale at National Mills Day. Come and stock up on flowering plants and vegetables. The next two evening meetings will be May 23rd and July 16th with talks on gardens and gardening.

Alison Shreeve

Happy Wanderers

On Sunday October 27th twenty Happy Wanderers, including our youngest member, a little boy of six months and Badger our mascot dog, started the walk from the car park at West Wycombe church. Fortunately it was a fine autumnal day and the sun lit up the Golden Ball. The

group proceeded through the woodland towards the parish church at Bradenham. At this point some of our members returned to the Garden centre at West Wycombe for coffee. The remainder of the group retraced their footsteps back to the

Golden Ball on a lower set of pathways.

Both groups then met up for a well deserved traditional Sunday lunch at the George and Dragon in West Wycombe High Street. A most enjoyable time was had by young and old.



Tennis Club



During these long and dark nights of winter, it is nice to sit back, reflect on the past year and make plans for the new tennis season, which thankfully is just round the corner.

2013 was a successful year for the club. We finally raised sufficient funds to have court number 2 resurfaced during May, which coincided with a reasonable summer. The men established Monday nights as their practice night, and turnout was excellent with sometimes as many as 14 players turning up. Plenty of sunsets were enjoyed over the Pavilion, as play went on well after Wimbledon's definition of bad light! Unfortunately, the extra practice didn't translate into a particularly successful showing in the Aylesbury League men's doubles. We were lower mid-table in Division 7, but have learnt a lot from the experience. Doubles is all about team tactics, knowing where your partner is and making full use of the larger court size, completely different from the singles game.

Spurred on by our younger generation of keen players we have entered the Men's winter league, and so far it is going well.

The ladies practise on Wednesdays and Fridays during the day, but for those that find these times difficult, the plan is to have an evening play session

during Spring and Summer. The Ladies compete in Division 7 and regrettably the results mirrored the men's performance. Oh well, there is always this year!

Our Head Coach Steve Bell, continues to offer coaching to the under elevens on a Saturday morning at 9.45am. It is on a "pay per session" basis, so is extremely flexible to family demands. The cost is only £5, so if you have a child that would enjoy a little coaching, please come along.

For the first time in many years the Ladies' and Men's teams organised Christmas dinners. The Ladies' was held at the Pink & Lily and the Men's was held at the Black Horse. An excellent time was had by all.

On Wednesday 15th January we had our AGM. Jokes were made prior to the start, that too many tables and chairs had been put out. This proved not to be, with eventually 14, literally, squeezing round. We have new faces on the team and welcome Caroline & Steve Johnston as our new Social Secretaries and Graeme Aitken as Members Secretary. The rest of the Committee are: Angela Gibbings, Secretary; Linda Malden & Jenny King, joint Tennis Secretaries; Paddy Woods-Ballard, Maintenance Co-ordinator; Miles Cunningham, Tennis Representative to the Sports Club; Julie Harris and Andy Wingrove as general committee members. I will continue to be Treasurer of the Club and have also agreed to step up to become Chairman.

It is extremely pleasing to note, that all the positions were filled and in terms of numbers and

breadth of experience, we have the strongest management team in recent memory.

Regretfully, Ian & Brigid Ward decided to step down from the team after some 20 years of loyal involvement with the Club. They both had numerous roles on the Committee, Ian having served recently as Chairman for 4 years and Brigid as Secretary. On behalf of members I would like to thank them both for all their hard work.

A key theme for the Committee going forward are more social activities, so that members can get to know each other better, with the eventual aim of more tennis being played. Our first event is a cheese & wine evening at the Sports Club from 8pm on Friday 21st March. Tickets are only £5 each. It is also open to non-members as well, so why not come along, have a glass of wine and share a few laughs with friends?

We offer the most competitive rates for tennis membership in the area, so with the new

Season commencing on 1st April, why not dust down your tennis racket and come and join us. Just Google "LTA Lacey Green places to play" to find our membership rates and further contact details.

Finally, we shall be creating a new membership category for students who are in full time education and are aged between 18 and 25. This will be at a substantial discount to the adult



Windmill Under 5s

Happy New Year to everyone, and hope you had a lovely Christmas break.

Halloween Party

When the last magazine was published Windmills was just about to have a Halloween party for the children. The party was really exciting for them and they crafted Halloween decorations, played musical statues and apple bobbing, ate hot dogs and sweets, all in their Halloween costumes!

Christmas

Performance & Party

During the second half of the Autumn term the staff and children were very busy practising Christmas songs in preparation for the performance for their families and friends. The week before Christmas break the performance was held in the village hall. It was beautifully decorated by the Windmills staff, and the children dressed up in their lovely costumes and sang their hearts out. Everyone enjoyed the Christmas performance! There was also a very popular raffle. A big thank you to the staff for all their hard work practising with the children

and for creating decorations; to all the volunteers that helped out before and on the day; to everyone that donated raffle prizes; to Clive for filming the performance; and last but not least to the children who performed so beautifully!

On the last day of term a Christmas party was held at Windmills. Dinky Dancers entertained the children and there was party food, and fun was had by all! Santa came to visit, and all children received a nice book to enjoy during their Christmas break. A special thank you to Santa for making time in his busy schedule to come and visit Windmills!

New logo

Windmills committee and staff decided last year that the preschool logotype needed updating to a more contemporary and exciting design. We are all very excited to be able to announce that we have now chosen the new logotype, and you can see it on page 26!

Spring Term

This term we are excited to welcome ten new joiners, and

the staff are currently busy making sure they settle in well. This half term the children are looking at both Valentine's Day and Mother's Day, and the special theme for the half term is numbers. The children have already decorated some lovely number biscuits, a special thank you to Lucy for making them! There will also be lots of counting, rhyming and sorting going on based around activities. They will also be looking at 'more', 'less', and number recognition. The children have been asked to keep a special eye out for numbers at home and in the environment, like house numbers, clocks, and speed signs, and take photos. New for this term is the builder's role play area, complete with lots of bricks of different sizes, safety jackets, lots of tools and of course a tea break area.

Windmills has a waiting list until the Summer Term 2015, and if you would like your child to start Windmills in the Autumn Term 2015 (September) we would recommend that you submit your child's application form as soon as possible.

Johanna Young - Chair



St John's School Parents Association

The children have enjoyed a busy half term to Christmas. We held two PA events, the first being a Barn Dance in October. This was a great evening enjoyed by parents and children and this year incorporated competitions including make a mini garden which the children really enjoyed.

Our next PA event was the annual Christmas Fayre held in November. It was again a very busy afternoon, in which the children were able to visit Father Christmas, play games designed by year 6, enjoy face painting and buy presents for their family and friends at the secret room. The parents enjoyed craft and toy stalls to name but a few, as well as a cup of tea and cake! Thank you to the parents, relatives and friends who visited and supported the Fayre during the afternoon. We raised an amazing £3,050 for school funds!

The children worked very hard to practise and learn lines for the school Christmas performances. The first school performed a traditional nativity and the middle school performed "Jack and the Lacey Green Stalk". Thanks must go to the teachers for again putting on two incredible performances.

On 19th December we held a Walk to School Day with the support of Princes Risborough Neighbourhood Police Team.

They organised for Sting, the London Wasps mascot and Bodger, the Wycombe Wanderers mascot to take part much to the delight of the children.



In October we were lucky to have GIST, the National Child Road Safety Programme visit the school to teach the children about safety around large vehicles. The supply chain company runs the programme free of charge and brings a lorry into the school grounds to show the pupils what a lorry driver can see from the cab of the vehicle.

Children in Year 5 and Year 6 were able to sit in the cab and see how little can be seen from the cab.

They all really enjoyed the morning and will be more aware around large vehicles in the future.

We have also been lucky to have 25 RAF personnel helping in the autumn term, doing community related jobs for the school, keeping up the grounds and gardens.

This term the children are looking forward to a School Disco and we will be holding a Murder Mystery Evening on 1st March kindly put on by Lacey Green Productions.

St John's School is putting together a Community Cook Book to celebrate the new school hot meal service and the development of a new school chef's club. The cookery book is only in very early stages and we hope to involve the whole community, with sections and recipes to reflect all areas of life in Lacey Green, Speen and Princes Risborough. If you would like to become involved please email Kate Collet-Fenson on colletfenson@gmail.com and join us for our first development meeting (date to be confirmed).

Happy New Year

Julia Spittles



News from our MP



First the good news: I was pleased when the sub-post offices in Lacey Green and Hampden Row re-opened. Along with local councillors, I'd pressed the Post Office to resume normal service.

Much of my time in 2014 will be taken up by two issues: HS2 and housing development. That doesn't mean the usual constituency caseload – individuals' problems over benefits, school places, care homes, immigration, housing, tax, planning and so on - will diminish. But those two big topics will inevitably and rightly demand attention.

On HS2, I continue to press the PM and Transport Ministers over the principle of the scheme, especially when new arguments come forward on things like rail capacity or the cost/benefit analysis.

At the same time, I'm working with local action groups and councils from Wendover through Stoke Mandeville to Aylesbury and Fairford Leys to ensure we have the best possible Plan B if the scheme goes ahead.

I publish correspondence about HS2 and links to key documents on the HS2 page on my web site www.davidlidington.com.

My evidence to the compensation consultation is there. (It's 13,500 words but there is an executive summary!). I'm drafting something similar on the Environmental Statement for the 24 January deadline. I've met HS2 about compensation and mitigation and done the same with the Transport Secretary. Next are meetings with the new chairman of HS2 Ltd and with National Grid, who take decisions about pylons and cables.

While Lacey Green isn't on the HS2 route, plans for construction traffic include use of the A4010 both north and south of Risborough. HS2 Ltd have told me that they are willing to meet parish councils along the route and I'm ready to take up with HS2 bosses and Transport Ministers any concerns that this parish may have.

On housing, Wycombe District Council will shortly begin public consultation on options for new development. The Council faces a difficult challenge balancing the need for homes with protecting the countryside.

On the one hand, we all know how expensive it is for young people to get on the housing ladder. People living longer and the incidence of family break-up means there are more households for any given number of people. And that's before you factor in more people wanting to live in the South East.

In Wycombe, much of the District is Green Belt and AONB. Should development be focused on non-Green Belt land, which means in the Risborough area? Or can some Green Belt be sacrificed? Should Wycombe try to get other Districts to take some of its housing – and is that fair?

It will be important that people in Lacey Green make their views known to the Council when the consultation starts.

David Lidington MP

Community Planning Group

Post Office news

After some delays, primarily for technical reasons associated with the equipment used, the Lacey Green sub post office reopened in early December. Our new postmaster is Mr Surjit Singh, colloquially known as 'Shary'.

The Post Office is open on Mondays and Thursdays between 09.00 and 12.00.

Community Planning Group

The Community Planning Group has been in existence for 11 years. Its function is to find out what residents in Lacey Green Parish are pleased or displeased with, and to improve the situation where appropriate and necessary. It operates by direct action where it can, and by using powers of persuasion on other

bodies where direct action is not possible. The Group does have limited funds and can use these as it sees fit.

There are only two projects currently operational – the village shop 'Lacey Green Stores', and the Welcome Pack given to new residents in the Parish.

The Group is supposed to hold a public meeting every year so that residents can air their views, and elect the members of the Steering Group, but has not done so for a long time. The reason for this is simply that there does not seem to have been sufficient public interest to make this worthwhile. There has not been any expression of extreme discontent that might trigger greater interest.

However, we would welcome some input from you, and will set

up a meeting so that you can have your say, if there is sufficient demand.

Lacey Green Stores

The Group runs this with a team of dedicated volunteers, our newest and very welcome recruit being Alison Mueller who lives in Woodfield. We can always use fresh faces to help run the stores, so if you would like to give it a go yourself, please contact me.

Welcome Pack

We would like help from residents because it is often very hard to spot when there is a new arrival. If you see a new occupant near where you live (or anywhere else in the village) do let us know.

Tony Molesworth

Community Plan Steering Group

Black Horse

The year of 2013 with the Black Horse - the good and the bad:

1. First ever beer festival, so good, more to come.
2. Babies born to my customers and my friends . Harry Smith, Noah Smart, Molly Tucker, Sam Mahajan, Dexter Dell to name a few.
3. Dear friends who have passed away and are sadly missed: my mum, Tony's mum, John Schofield, Ian Thorne's mum, Magoo.
4. Staff who have left me and gone to university or to work: Gemma Kelloway who has been with me for 13 years - will miss her so much, but will still see her on a weekend at the Black. Lauren Whip who also has been with me for many years, will miss her too, but again will see her in

the pub. Tina McDonald miss you too, nobody cleans like you amazing, and not forgetting Will Carter.

5. New staff: Hannah, Georgia, Sam, Amy and Sue. And Kath has come back after a long break. Welcome to our family.

I took the staff out for our Christmas party, all 25 of them. We started off at the noodle bar in High Wycombe, they didn't know what had hit them, then after that we went to the adult pantomime at the Swan. If you have never been to one it is a must. So funny, really funny, then back to the pub for more drinks. Really good night.

New Year's Eve was as good as usual: kids' disco then adults' disco, lots of dancing and singing and a very very late night or should I say morning.

This year will be my 19th year at the pub and I have done a lot of thinking. I will be sixty this year, also my health has not been 100 per cent and my lease is up in March. The brewery that own me wanted to put my rent up as well.

I have been to a meeting with my manager and accountant and have come to an agreement and I will sign on for another 3 years. I just cannot imagine not being here, so I will continue for a little while longer.

Well all I want to do now is wish everybody a really good 2014, watch out for the A boards for events on the way and don't forget everybody, a pub only survives if you use it.

Lynne

County Council News

As the year begins, may I wish you all a very Happy New Year 2014.

Here is the latest news from Bucks County Council. After the local elections in May 2013, the County Council recognised that following several bad winters with snow and rain, that the roads had deteriorated considerably.

It was decided that an extra £25m would be spent on improving the roads over the next 2 years and a further £3m was vied across from Reserves to accelerate the repairs in 2013/14. This takes the extra total to £28m. In the previous 2 years £30m was invested in our roads. However in reality, £300m needs to be spent within the County to bring the main roads up to a standard which we sadly do not have the resources for.

We now are at the stage of setting budgets for the forthcoming year 2014/15, as well as the Medium Term Plan. A public consultation took place in the Autumn asking for residents' views on various options available for potential increases in Council Tax. Sadly after 3 years of a freeze on Council Tax, we have no option but to look at an increase. If we increase Council Tax below 2%, we do not need to hold a referendum.

One of the options proposed was to increase Council tax by 5% which would enable a greater funding opportunity for investing in our roads. In that case a referendum would need to be held in May to coincide with the European Elections. This would incur considerable costs and would be after the Council Tax Bills had been issued.

If the electorate rejected the increase, then there would be additional costs in reissuing Council Tax bills at less than 2%.

Therefore proposals are being sought for a 1.99% increase in Council tax from 1st April 2014, which will go before Council on 13th February. For those of you have Internet access, you can follow the Budget debate live as Council meetings are webcast.

Towards the end of 2013, in our area I am pleased to say that Main Road in Lacey Green was fully resurfaced which was part of the roads programme. I will continue to ensure that we can secure further funding for other roads in the area. If you find there are roads which are in need of immediate attention, please don't hesitate to contact either Transport for Buckinghamshire or myself.

On Jan 18 I was asked to present a cheque to Mr Paul Hewson from the RAF Benevolent Fund who is also a resident of Lacey Green. The money (£2625.00) was raised at a Charity Dinner for the Battle of Britain which I held as Chairman of the County Council back in



September at the Judges Lodgings in Aylesbury.

If there are any other matters relating to Buckinghamshire County Council that you would like raised, please contact me either via email cetholen@buckscc.gov.uk or by telephone 01494 564771 and if you would like a person to person meeting with me, I will happily come and see you.

Carl Etholen

Councillor for the Ridgeway West Division - Bucks County Council.



High Speed 2 Update

Members of SAAG-Speen Area Action Group against HS2, (Denise Bolland-Secretary, Tony Bobroff- Chair, Tony Davies, Mel Foster, Miv Hughes, Keith Rosling-Treasurer, and Jeremy Symondson) continue to represent the area at meetings of Bucks HS2 Summits, Chiltern Conservation Board, Chilterns Wider AONB, Central Chilterns Community Forum Group and HS2AA.

The Environmental Statement ES, lodged with the Hybrid Bill, has been published disclosing even more damage and potential damage than had been anticipated.

Copies of the ES Key Introductory and Local Community Forum area reports are available at Great Missenden, Wendover, Amersham, Little Missenden and Wendover libraries.

Amongst the key aspects for concern are:

- destruction of the Chilterns AONB
- impacts of construction and construction traffic
- socioeconomic impacts
- impacts on health and well being
- destruction of ancient woodlands
- impact on wildlife habitats

- impact on footpaths and bridleways
- issue of compensation

Aspects of the Hybrid Bill provide extensive powers to the government on the purchase of whatever land is required if HS2 provides an opportunity for development, ignoring Green Belt controls, and the lifting of restrictions on heavy lorry movement including London night time ban. There is significant risk of adverse public water supply problems to this area and NW London. There are likely to be a significant traffic delays on the A413 at Denham, the Chalfonts, Amersham, Great Missenden and Wendover. The A4010 will also be affected.

The longest possible fully bored tunnel under the Chilterns AONB would significantly alleviate, many of these detrimental impacts. The demand for this will be central to all local responses.

At the time of writing no decision has been handed down by the Supreme Court following the Judicial Review Appeal although one had been expected by the end of November 2013. The delay is unexpected and may mean there is not unanimity between the Judges.

Increasingly public and political figures are now openly opposing or questioning

the scheme, however, the Government still clings to the belief that this hugely expensive vanity project is worth doing.

Costs are likely to exceed £70bn but there are many better uses of this money. Resurfacing of roads and water defences are just two examples. Residents can help by responding to the ES, petitioning where appropriate and pressing politicians on the wider issues of HS2. Write or email to Patrick McLoughlin, Baroness Kramer (Minister of State for Transport), Stephen Hammond (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport) or Robert Goodwill (Parliamentary Under-Secretary State for Transport) at Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 4DR. There is a link 'Write to your MP' on the 51M website and writetothem.com (HS2AA).

We continue to challenge the case for HS2. More information can be accessed on the Internet at

<http://hs2aa.org>
<http://51m.co.uk>
<http://www.hs2.org.uk>

Denise P. Bolland Secretary
 01494 488422
 Tony Bobroff Chair
 01494 488688



Windmill Under 5's Pre-School,
 Lacey Green & Loosley Row Sports
 & Social Club,
 Main Road, Lacey Green, Bucks
 (Next door to St John's School)

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 Caring environment for your child'**



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 or email us: admin@windmillunder5s.co.uk
 Or visit our website:
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 or
07936 791833

St John's Church



Regular Services at St. John's Church

SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion(1662)
1st, 2nd, & 4th Sundays

10.00am All age Worship
Communion
1st Sunday of the month.

10.00am Parish Communion
2nd, 3rd, 4th, (&5th) Sundays

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

TUESDAY

9.30am. Communion Service in Lady Chapel at St. John's.

2.00pm Toddler Praise –
Toddlers meet Tuesday afternoons during term time.

WEDNESDAY

10.30.am Team Communion Service at Chapter House, St. Mary's Church, Princes Risboro'.

School Assemblies during term time are held on Friday mornings
9.15 am at St.John's and
10.00am at Speen.

A note from our Churchwardens

We hope that the vacancy at St. John's will be advertised in February and we will keep everyone informed.

We would like to thank our congregation for all their support for the services over the Christmas period, and for the success of the Christmas Fayre.

As we continue in our Interregnum, we express our appreciation to all the team clergy who take our services on a weekly basis, and to Archdeacon Karen and Bishop Alan who took services in December.

With good wishes to all – from Pat Richards and Dick Field.

Reports.

The Crib service and Midnight Communion were especially well attended, not one empty pew!

Carols were sung enthusiastically with some brave and excellent solos from members of the Junior Choir.

The ambiance and welcoming atmosphere in the Church emphasised the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of God's son, Jesus.

We now celebrate Epiphany when the Wise Men came to pay homage to Jesus, the newborn king.

For your diary...

Sunday February 9^h is Education Sunday when pupils from St. John's School will be giving presentations in Church.

Men's Breakfasts continue at The Black Horse – contact Graham King on 01844 343910 for more information – usually a Saturday at 9.00am.

Please check the Notice Board for forthcoming events or buy Viewpoint Magazine in the Church.

St. John's Church has a hard working and sincere PCC plus many friends who are keen to enliven and enrich the life of our Church. We welcome new ideas, fundraising and social happenings, so please join us and support us.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or would like a home visit, or to book weddings, christenings or funeral services: please contact churchwardens Mrs. Pat Richards on 01844 345452 or Mr. Dick Field on 01494 562231.

On the last Sunday in the month our 11 – 15 year olds are welcome to attend 'LATER' from 6-8 pm at Jim and Gill Taylor's house in 26 Summerleys Road, PR

With all good wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

June Brazier



My turn again. As some of our readers may have noticed your councillors take it in turns to write comments for Hallmark. Please note that it is my views that are being expressed, and not necessarily those of the collective council.

Garden of Rest Memorial Inauguration

The gates to the Methodist Church served as a War Memorial to former members of the Methodist Sunday School who gave their lives in the two World Wars. These gates were taken down after the Methodist Church was closed, and a new memorial has been erected in the Garden of Rest.

The four brick piers of the original Memorial have been replicated and the Portland Stone caps reused. Since the memorial no longer serves as a gateway, a donated seat has been incorporated into the design. New plaques record the names of the fallen.

A formal inauguration ceremony will take place at 15.30 on 8 June 2014. Amongst those invited are relatives of those whose names are commemorated, together with representatives of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Royal British Legion, and other organisations. There will be light refreshments afterwards in the Millennium Hall.

Other residents of the parish will be welcome to attend the ceremony, but the Parish Council would ask those who would like to attend to first sign a list of attendees that will be available in Lacey Green Stores from 1 May.

Neighbourhood Planning

The matter of a Neighbourhood Plan was again mentioned recently in Council, our attention having been drawn to a plan prepared by Woodcote Parish (near Goring). The Woodcote council managed to put together a team of volunteers with sufficient expertise to be able to avoid the high costs of professional advisors.

Such a plan might not provide total protection, but should at least ensure that any developments are appropriate to the Parish. I would like to be confident that there are not going to be unpleasant nasties resulting from recent government sponsored moves towards the construction of more housing in rural areas. Wycombe District Council is intending to produce a Local Plan, and there now seems to be a possibility that it may require use of some 'green belt' land to achieve requisite housing targets.

What is the Parish Council for?

It includes the management of any council property, and consideration and action, where appropriate, with regards to matters of interest to the residents of the parish. It is responsible for the children's playground, the Garden of Rest, the bus shelters, benches, notice boards and the three ponds located within the parish boundary. It is a statutory consultee for planning applications, and participates in discussions with external bodies that may have impact upon the Parish.

As regards requests for financial assistance, the Council is able to provide monies for other organisations either as grants or loans, but these have to be included in the annual budget. It is important that organisations submit financial requests in good time and certainly well before the monies are actually needed. In practice this means getting your request in by November at the latest.

I believe that the Parish Council should play an active role in helping the community, where possible. However, its ability to do so is constrained by the rules of local government especially as regards the timing of financial commitments, as indicated above. It is also necessary for the Council to ensure that demands are not so large as to require an excessive increase in the precept, which forms a small proportion of your Council Tax. The Parish Council tends to be re-active rather than pro-active.

Flooding

Lacey Green is fortunate in so far as any flooding that has occurred has been small scale, localised, and so far as I am aware, without causing damage to property. I actually have strong views on the topic and my criticisms would be directed mainly at national government, planning authorities, the Environment Agency, and developers. At present, there does not appear to be any clear indication that anyone is doing anything to properly resolve existing and potential future problems.

Cllr Tony Molesworth

Heavenly Bodies

The potential drama of a blazing comet (which was eventually destroyed by the Sun) gives way to a stunning serenity in the night sky. Darkness falls later and later but spring remains dark enough at sociable hours to look up and discover.

Firstly, for those who are keen to know when winter is over, the spring equinox takes place at 4.57pm on **March 20**, when daytime and night time will be equal, heralding the beginning of longer days.

The most obvious thing in the night sky, apart from the transitory Moon, is still Jupiter – big, bold and beautiful within the constellation of Gemini. It's high and south at a very convenient time of around 8.30pm in February, and even earlier as the weeks pass. Two planets pursue the gas giant in our skies – the first of which is Mars (Saturn awaits us in the next issue).

It lies quite a way east (left) of Jupiter, and currently resides in

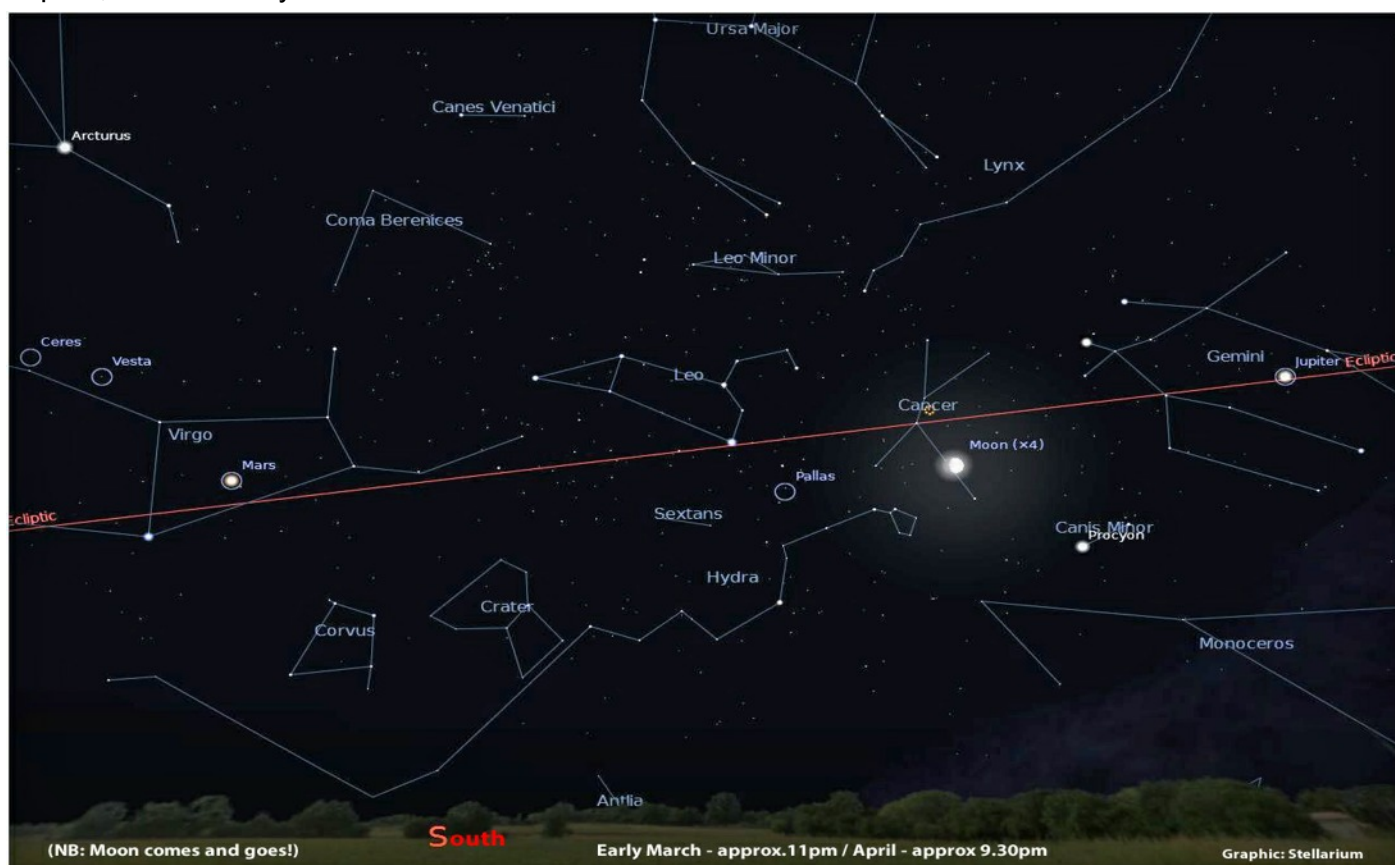
the Virgo constellation. We only get to see the red planet once every two years, so it's always worthwhile going out to spot it when we Earthlings swing inside its orbit. It gets more sociable time-wise into March and April, but can be spotted rising in the east with a star called Spica from about midnight in mid-February. Look out for it several weeks later when it will be higher and earlier. I use the distinctive shape of the constellation Leo to find it by following the two hind stars of the 'Lion' to two bright 'stars'. The more orange of the two is of course Mars. It glows at its brightest on **April 8** when it will be at its nearest to Earth this time round at about 58 million miles away (close compared to Spica which lies 262 light years away).

The line cutting across the sky on the adjacent star map is known as the Ecliptic which is the path that the Sun, Moon and planets roughly follow across our skies. A lovely lunar event to

watch out for is an exquisitely thin crescent Moon (2% lit) low in the west just after sunset on **March 2**. Want to see an asteroid, or two? The largest one in the Solar System is Ceres, which can be spotted through binoculars in March and April, along with sister asteroid Vesta. Both are to the left of Mars – see star map and find precise locations via the Internet (they move fast!).

The serene spring sky could be punctuated by a stream of shooting stars on the night of April 21/22 (and a few days before and after). That's the time of the Lyrid meteor shower which won't be washed out by the Moon until the small hours. If all else fails, grab a pair of binoculars and sweep them through Gemini, Cancer and Leo, and see what you can see. Good luck.

Chris Dignan



Organisation	Meetings	Contact	Phone	Email address
Happy Wanderers Walking Club	Full walk last Sun of the month 10.30	Ronnie Lewin	274961	relewin@btinternet.com
Happy Wanderers Walking Club	Short walk (2-3 miles) 2nd Wed 10.30	Linda Taylor	345261	
Horticultural Society	3rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov. 8pm	Alison Shreeve		a.shreeve1@btinternet.com
Kinder Gym & Melody Minors	Baby to 5 years. Fridays during term. After school classes for up to Year 3	Jenny Stothard Gabby Kenny	344441 07793 80745	jennystothard@btinternet.com
LG Singers	Thursday evenings in term time	Denise Kinnard		lukeden2@hotmail.co.uk
Lacey Green Productions	Theatre, drama, and sometimes food			info@laceygreenproductions.co.uk
Windmill Under 5s	Mon-Fri 9.00-12.00 or 1.30 if your child stays for lunch	Paula Cunningham	07502 198405	admin@windmillunder5s.co.uk
Windmill WI (evenings)	1st Wed of month except Jan. 7.45pm	Daphne Willash	01494 562455	daphne.willash@btinternet.com
High Wycombe & District U3A	4th Wed afternoon of the month	Margaret Graham	01494 630713	Margaret@margaret-graham.com
Youth Club	Alternate Fridays - see laceygreen.com web site for details 7.30pm	Joan Smith	342322	joansmith38@googlemail.com
Over 50s Pub Lunch Club	Black Horse. First Tuesday of the month	Betty Tyler Yvonne Axe	344606 345216	
Short Mat Bowls Club	Monday 2pm	Leigh Axe	345216	leigh@laceygreen.com
LG Sports Club Secretary		Stephanie Dell	07768 831196	steph.dell@btinternet.com
LG Sports Club - Cricket		Jonathan Dell	07786 386912	
LG Sports Club - Tennis		Nigel Glenister	342771	ne.glenister@btinternet.com
LG Sports Club - Football		Ben Foster	344906	laceygreenfc@hotmail.co.uk
Karate	Monday evenings	Stephen Fincham	07540 531034	stevefincham@sky.com
Whiteleaf Bowmen	Wed, Thu & Fri evenings, Apr to Sep	Brenda Cordwell, Sec	01494 485037	www.whiteleafbowmen.org.uk
Pilates Classes	Tuesday mornings	Sue Croxford	346656	susancroxford@gmail.com
Wycombe District Council		Mel Foster	01494 488905	mel_foster@wycombe.gov.uk
Bucks County Council		Paul Rogerson	01494 488315	progerson@buckscc.gov.uk
St John's Church		Pat Richards	345452	
LG Community Planning Group		Tony Molesworth	344975	molechem@yahoo.co.uk
Scouts (Naphill & Hughenden)		Peter Byerley	01494 565955	peter.byerley@capgemini.com
Parish Council		Susanne Griffiths	275912	sue@princesrisborough.com
LG Post Office	Monday and Thursday 9 am to 12 noon			
LG Windmill	Sundays & Bank holidays 2 to 5 pm May to September	Michael Hardy	275871	contact@laceygreenwindmill.org.uk
Millennium Hall		Clive Hodgton	343113	clive@laceygreen.com
Millennium Hall bookings		Karen Hodgton	274254	karen@laceygreen.com
The Black Horse	Quiz night last Sunday of every month at 8pm	Lynne Comley	345195	lynnecomley@btconnect.com
Police		Andy Ralph	101	

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.

We welcome news from all the Village clubs, societies, church and school, stories of local interest and entries for the Village Diary. A version of this printed Hallmark may be found on our website www.laceygreen.com, which also has breaking news and many additional articles & photos.

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VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Clive or Karen on 01844 274254 (answering service)

LACEY GREEN POST OFFICE

Currently closed

LACEY GREEN STORES

Village Hall 8.30 am - 1pm every week day

COFFEE MORNINGS

Held in Village Hall 10am-12 noon Thursdays.
Friendly chatting with tea or coffee & biscuit

THE FOOT CLINIC

Chiropody services with Cathy Maynard. Tel 274521 Tuesdays by appointment

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LACEY GREEN WINDMILL

WINDMILL OPEN: 2 pm to 5 pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays from 4th May 2014 to 28th September 2014. Admission: Adult £2 - CHILD (5 to 15): £1.
NATIONAL MILLS DAY: Sunday 11th May 2014 - Open 11 am to 5 pm, Sails Turning (weather permitting). Horticultural Society Plant and Produce Stall at Windmill.

Michael Hardy : Phone: 01844 275871: contact@laceygreenwindmill.org.uk

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CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE MAY EDITION

April 17th 2014