

# HALLMARK

The Lacey Green and Loosley Row Magazine



Hellebores by  
Stella Boll

**NOVEMBER 2015**

**NUMBER 236**

**ESTABLISHED 1970**

**£3.00 where sold**

# Welcome to the November edition of Hallmark

In this issue we have a wide variety of articles covering how our villagers spend their spare time. This ranges from researching the history of the village, studying nature and, growing vegetables, through to Jamie Buchanan (our sometime photographer) who is launching into the world of self-publishing authors.

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure to go on the tour of Stocken Farm run by Charlotte West. It was fascinating to see all the different faces of farming, from the arable to the cows for beef, through to the milking herd. It's a really complex business; but it still has a personal touch. They seem to know many cows personally and have even installed what looks

like a big roller from a car wash that the cows can use to scratch those difficult to reach parts! See p 27 for more.



Now we are into November and the clocks have gone back our thoughts are turning towards Christmas. We have articles from two of our pubs on their Christmas plans and details of the annual School shopping fair.



It's nice to have some input from the Sports Club after a long silence (p32), I hope their teams do well this winter.

**Mike Piercy**  
**Editor**

## Youth Club

Following my last request for help I am pleased to say I had one special Somebody step up, but since then I have lost one, so we still need, and probably always will need, regular helpers. The admirable people who do help all have jobs so they cannot always be there, especially with two on shift.

The job involves: watching for the most part; stepping in if there is a squabble or danger of serious injury, both of which are very rare; setting up and clearing away - 2 hours a fortnight or maybe a month if there are enough of us. You can join in some activities but that is not compulsory either. We have over 60 youngsters attend in September as they become old

enough to join but this drops off as some of the older ones drop out. Our average is 40.

Why do we need so many helpers? Well the kids are everywhere, including the main hall, kitchen, meeting room, outside - front and back, and in the toilets. If a game is supervised in the main hall those not participating still need watching. That's six people, and a squabble or injury can tie up a couple of people. There is also a tuck-shop to be staffed. There are too many kids to confine their location, so to work well, allowing for absences, we need ten and we have six who, quite unfairly, feel guilty if they are off.

Right now we are lucky to have

at least one parent, usually two, taking a turn and these are organized by another parent to whom we are very grateful. Good for now but parents stop helping when their youngsters stop coming (fair enough) and we might not get another organizer which is very time consuming.

The kids are very well behaved - full credit to parents - but they do need guidance here and there or they will wreck the place.

Give it a go, there is no obligation to come again but it would be great if you can. You might just enjoy the change of activity.

**Leigh Axe**

# What's On

**Sat 14 Nov 7.30 pm**

Sports Club Quiz

**Tues 17 Nov 7pm**

St John's School Christmas Shopping

**Wed 18 Nov 7 pm**

Horts Club Pumpkin Supper

**27/28 Nov 7pm**

LGP Dinner Theatre

**Fri 4 Dec**

St Johns School Christmas Fayre

**Sun 6 Dec 6 pm**

Lacey Green Singers Xmas concert

**Wed 9 Dec 2.30pm**

Ted Janes 90th Birthday Party

**Fri 11 Dec 11.15am**

Kinder Gym Imagination Party

**Sat 19 Dec 7.30 pm**

Sports Club social evening

**Wed 20 Jan 8pm**

Horts Club: British Wild Orchids

**For Christmas events at the Church see page 38**

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EVENING**

TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
7 – 10 PM  
ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL





# Happy Anniversary Ted and Jean



**You are invited to a party to celebrate the 90th birthday of Ted Janes. In the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th December 2.30 - 4.30**

Everyone is welcome, and we would ask that you either bring a plate of food (sandwiches, savouries or cake), or make a payment of £5.00 at the door, towards the cost of drinks etc. Help with organising the party would be much appreciated. We shall be setting up in the hall from 1.30 pm

The 1st of November will be Ted and Jean Jaynes' 70th wedding anniversary. Congratulations to them both, I hope they have a lovely day.

Also Ted will be 90 in December, and we will be having a tea party for him. He has done so much for the village, including starting Hallmark, so this is well deserved.



We would like to pay tribute to all that Ted has done for the village. If you have any special memories, photos etc please let Rosemary Mortham know on 01844 345863. It would also be very helpful if you could let her know what refreshments you intend to bring to avoid duplication.

This should be a very special and happy occasion. Please help to make sure that everyone is made aware of the date.

**Rosemary Mortham**

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you: you have done it again. We were able to send £1,308 to Macmillan, an increase on last year.

Our thanks go to all of those who helped on the day and a big



thank you to those who came and spent money so readily. We must also mention the people who were unable to come to the hall but made generous donations. Lacey Green and Loosley Row again showed a generous heart and compassion by willingly helping others in time of need.

Thank you again and dare I say 'see you next year'.

**Jill Baker and Joy Lawrence**



# Party Time up at the Pink

## Christmas with all the Trimmings!

After a superb summer, as the nights are drawing in and there's a little chill in the air, as the leaves turn, so here at The Pink, do our thoughts, towards, dare I say it, Christmas! But fear not – we have put together the perfect Pink packages for all of your party needs!

For those of you who have been lumbered with the unenviable task of sorting out Christmas – whether for work or for families – we can take the party pressure off!

01494 489857 is the only number you'll need this festive season! Call us to book your party now – we even chuck in the crackers! And we're open on Christmas Day – believe me when I say that you'll need to book early – the last two years have been sold out by the end of November.

We've really planned something for everyone – from the littlies to those not quite so small!

Following the massive success of our movie nights in the summer, on Monday December 21st at 8pm we're showing the all time Christmas classic, *It's A Wonderful Life* to get you all in the mood!

To get you into an entirely different mood (no promises!) we're planning a little pre-festivity festivity for all the busy parents out there. It's difficult to find a little adult space at this time of year, so we've decided that December 23rd is your opportunity to kick back and relax before it all gets too chaotic! An extra-special chance to spend some quality time together before the Quality Street is cracked open, with a special menu, port and cigars!

To *Elf* you out on Christmas Eve, the Will Ferrell funny will be on from 2pm to keep the kids entertained while the lucky one pops in for a pint! And on Boxing Day, follow the *Yellow*



*Brick Road* and plan your *Great Escape* from the in-laws with a selection of classic movies – no prizes for guessing what films are on offer!

## A Little Party Never Killed Nobody

so we're throwing a big one! Get into a flap on New Years Eve at our gorgeous Gatsby gala! Well, strictly speaking, a magnificent evening of food, fizz and dancing to see 2016 in with a bang! Tickets - including a brilliant buffet and bubbles - available from the bar. Gatsby glamour encouraged!

We'll even soothe your sore heads with our Bloody Mary New Years Day Brunch! Roasts and brunch served all day in front of the fires to finally finish the festive season – what better way to start the New Year!

**Rodney  
Landlord of the  
Pink & Lily**





# Nature Notes

When did you last actually notice a hedge? That may seem a bit of an odd question: after all we're surrounded by them wherever we go (by my reckoning there must be over forty miles of them in our parish alone) and you may well have one at the bottom of your garden. But perhaps it's because they are so ubiquitous that we tend to walk or drive past them without giving them a second thought, and we certainly don't appreciate them as much as we should. For one thing they give our local landscape so much of its character and without them much of our farmland would be an almost featureless expanse of grass and crops. They are also an important part of our local history, some of them dating back more than a thousand years.

As a rule hedges come in three varieties. The youngest ones are generally garden hedges, planted within the last fifty or hundred years to mark out our properties and keep out the neighbours. They often consist of introduced shrubs like garden privet or the dreaded *leylandii*. Next come the field hedges, most of which were laid out in the 19th century when common land was being carved up into private fields. They make up the vast majority of the hedges in our parish and are easily recognized because they are generally ruler-straight and made up almost entirely of just two species - hawthorn and blackthorn - with the odd oak or ash poking through the top. Holly was also left to grow up, allegedly to stop witches from running along the top of hedge (and this does seem to have worked surprisingly well).

But the oldest of our hedges, and to my mind the most fascinating, are the ones known as relic

hedges, which are the last surviving fragments of the ancient woodland that once covered much of the Chilterns. For thousands of years people have gradually been clearing the forest to make way for farming, and where two clearings met they would often leave a narrow strip of trees to mark the boundary between one farming clan and the next. Some of these ancient hedges still survive in our parish today: for example the one that snakes its way along the ridge between Promised Land Farm and Smalldean Lane, or the one that runs down Loosley Hill from Lower Road to Foundry Lane. But possibly the oldest, and certainly the most famous, is the so-called Black Hedge that stretches through the woods from Brimmers Farm to Speen. Today it marks the northern boundary of Lacey Green parish, but it was already here over a thousand years ago, forming part of what is thought to be the oldest parish boundary in England, between Monks Risborough and Princes Risborough. Nowadays these ancient relic hedges may not contain any particularly old trees but they are still easy to spot, once you get your eye in. For one thing they tend to meander rather than running in boring straight lines, often following natural features like ridges and valleys. They also boast a much richer mix of trees and shrubs than your average field hedge (as a rule of thumb if you count up the number of different trees and shrubs in a thirty-yard length of hedge you can reckon that this is very roughly the age of



the hedge in centuries). This is often most obvious in the autumn when the leaves of spindle, hazel, field maple, ash, hawthorn and whitebeam all take on their own distinctive colours.

But our hedges are not just pieces of history: they are also hugely important for today's wildlife. Many relic hedges for example support a variety of plants that are normally confined to ancient woodland, such as dog's mercury, bluebells and wood anemones (in fact this is another way of recognizing a relic hedge when you see one), and hedges of all sorts act as natural 'corridors', allowing woodland wildlife to travel between woods which would otherwise be isolated in a sea of farmland. They offer food, shelter and nesting sites for birds, insects and other animals (in fact there are normally many more creatures living in a thin strip of hedgerow than in the rest of the field) and they also keep foraging humans supplied with blackberries for crumbles, sloes for gin, rosehips for syrup, elderberries for wine and blackthorn for walking sticks. So, given how much they do for us, perhaps we need to take a closer look at our hedges and get to know, enjoy and appreciate them a bit more.

**John Tyler**

# Have you old photos of Church Lane?

As many people in the village will know I have spent the last 2½ years attempting to write the history of Grace Cottage in Church Lane and although this work is now largely complete, I have still not been able to identify when the first extension was built.

I now know that the original cottage was almost certainly built in the period 1877 to 1880 and that it appears on the Ordnance Survey Map dated 1880.

Drawings or photographs of the original cottage have not survived but using later architectural drawings I commissioned Dennis Syrett, the excellent artist who lives in the village, to give an impression of how the cottage may have looked when it was first built. At this stage it was a classic two up and two down workers cottage.

Sadly we will never know if this is an accurate painting of the original cottage but, on the positive side, it does bear a resemblance to some of the older cottages in the village.

The first extension, as shown in this 1968 photograph, was added at some unidentified date and this resulted in a significant increase in the size of the cottage. Unlike the original cottage, the extension has cavity walls and excavated foundations which suggest that the extension was built in the 20th century. After this extension the cottage became a three bedroom family home. At some unidentified



date both sections of the cottage were rendered.

The second extension was completed in 1968/9 by Martin Jourdan and this converted the cottage into a five bedroom house. Apart from internal



improvements it has remained unchanged since then.

So I know when the cottage was built and when the second extension was added but when was the first extension built? In the 1911 Census the occupant, Ernest Robert Stevens reported that the cottage had 3 rooms (the scullery had to be excluded) so this must have been the original cottage. In 1949 Peggy Jourdan purchased Gracefield and the conveyance documents clearly show Grace Cottage with a symmetrical first extension. This would suggest that

the first extension was added at some time between 1911 and 1949.

This is where I need help from anyone in the village who may have old photographs of Church Lane, Grace Cottage and/or the surrounding area which have been passed down from great grandmothers or great aunts etc. For example a long distance photograph which shows whether Grace Cottage had one or two chimneys would tell me if the first extension had been built or not.

I appreciate that finding these old photographs may mean scrabbling about in the attic and by way of compensation I am willing to pay a donation to your chosen charity for every photograph or document that I copy (you keep the original).

Any help will be greatly appreciated.

**Laurence Rostron**

Grace Cottage, Church Lane,  
Lacey Green, Bucks. HP27 0QX

Tel. No. 01844 343276



# In the news - 1900!

## Returned from the Front: Lieut C.E.Forrest

This gallant young officer returning from South Africa was brought to Lacey Green in his father's carriage. The horses were decked with red, white and blue rosettes. When they arrived at the windmill a huge crowd of men, women and children greeted him with vociferous cheers.

The horses were then taken out of the traces which were covered with red, white and blue material affixed to the equipage, which was subsequently pulled by some of the villagers to Grymsdyke, his father's residence.

Prior to the start however, the Speen Brass Band (under the direction of Mr. W. Plumridge, jun.) played "See the Conquering Hero Comes" and the Bandmaster read aloud the following address:

"To Lieut. C. E. Forrest - We the inhabitants of Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen desire to present to you our hearty  
congratulations

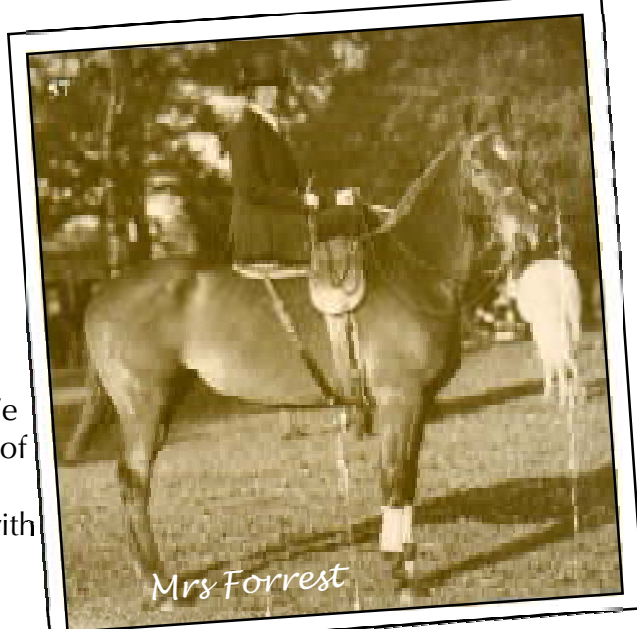
on your safe arrival on British soil and return to your home and friends. We are profoundly conscious of the many hardships and privations you, together with Her Majesty's Forces in South Africa, have undergone, in order to maintain the prestige of our beloved country, and uphold the valour of the British Army.

Our sympathy is extended to every sick and wounded officer and man, and while we wish to see a speedy termination of the war, we are desirous that every effort should be made to uphold the glorious traditions of the Army, Navy and Colonial Forces and we are convinced that at whatever cost of blood and money, no effort will be spared in the present conflict to add yet another to the brilliant victories which for ages have made the British Army at once the admiration and terror of the world.

We welcome you back to our midst and we wish that your life

may be spared that you may help to develop and maintain the efficiency for which the Regiment to which you belong, is distinguished". (Applause).

Lieutenant Forrest, who



Mrs Forrest

was enthusiastically cheered, in a brief reply, said it was very kind of them to give him that address.

He did not think he deserved it, because there were fellows out in South Africa who were doing a great deal more than he had done. He did not expect anything like the present welcome at all and his father never told him that any preparations were made to receive him. He thanked them all, the band and those that were going to pull the carriage.

Then Charles, accompanied by John Forrest his father, were taken to Grymsdyke, the band playing appropriate marches including "Soldiers of the Queen", "Home sweet home" and "God Save the Queen".

Such a homecoming is hard to imagine in this year of 2015 and it is tempting to wonder whether Mr. Plumridge had a scriptwriter!

To find out more about this illustrious family, especially what they did for Lacey Green, Charles's mother in particular, go to our website address .

<http://www.laceygreen.com/Sections/History/people.php#forrest>

**Local History Group**



Grymsdyke staff



# Princes Centre update

Work is in progress with the refurbishment of the heating system. The latest news is that much of the background work has been completed and that the new boiler has belatedly arrived from Germany and will be delivered to our contractors next week. If you would like to see the results of this work, please come along to our AGM which is being held on Thursday 19th November at 7pm for 7.30 pm. If you request one of the trustees will be delighted to show you round.

We were allocated a stall at the Kop Hill Climb event in September, and held a raffle on the Saturday and a cake stall on the Sunday raising a total of £547. Many thanks to the committee of the Kop Hill Climb for giving us the opportunity to raise awareness of the Princes Centre. As well as providing a huge entertainment attraction, the organisers donate their profits to local charities.

Kim, our manager, and Lucy, Tesco's Community Champion, recently held a Mad Hatter's Tea Party outside Tesco where passing shoppers were invited to sit down with tea or coffee and cake. Fortunately the weather was very mild and a total of £106 was donated. Many thanks to Lucy, and the Manager and staff of Tesco. Kim has also sold greeting cards and is holding a Quiz night at the end of this month to aid the fundraising.

With the unavoidable cancellation of our collection at Tesco in September we will be holding our collection there this week and 21 volunteers have offered their help for which we are very grateful.

We have recently been notified by the Nationwide Building Society that we are one of their nominated charities in Risborough. They have a 'disc pot' in their store and customers can place a disc into one of the three nominated charity's slot of their choice. The charity with the most discs will be awarded £500 so please place a disc in our slot if you are visiting Nationwide this month. TSB have also kindly nominated us as their charity to support this year and are holding monthly coffee mornings to support us so please go along and enjoy them when they take place.

If you wish to contribute financially to the continuing refurbishment needs, you can donate on line by visiting [www.princescentre.org.uk](http://www.princescentre.org.uk), and by clicking on the 'My Donate' button. If you would like to offer support in any other way Kim would welcome a phone call from you on 01844 345105.

**Maggie Wooster**

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Back to Kindergym and Melody Minors for another busy term!

This week we are using the children's favourite layout with the technically named "swingy thingy" and the big trampoline.

The Melody Minors class will soon be beginning their Bonfire Night and Halloween songs, before the excitement of Christmas begins. Unlike the shops we like to appreciate the excitement of Autumn leaves and see Gabby in her witches hat making up magic words with the children, before Father Christmas starts popping in and out of his chimney!

By the time you are all reading this all the fun of our half term holiday "Mildly Spooky" sessions will have

taken place, but we still have the fun of our Christmas party workshops to come.

All children up to 5 yrs are welcome to join us at our special Imagination Station Christmas parties. Wednesday 9th December at The Scout Hut, Courtmoor Close Monks Risborough and Friday 11th December at Millennium Hall, Main Road Lacey Green, both 11.15am - 12.15pm. We will be providing food in theme for the children, and treats for the Mums/carers so would like you to book in. £4 for 1 child £6 for two siblings if your family is already attending Kindergym (£5 and £7.50 for 2 siblings for friends)

We will be playing Christmas games, making lovely glitter decorations and singing Christmas songs.



*Kindergym Christmas Elves*

Contact Jenny 07784 518034  
Gabby 07793 807454

[kindergymjenny@gmail.com](mailto:kindergymjenny@gmail.com) for more information or to book in.

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# Horticultural Society

Since the last report to Hallmark we have had our annual produce show which includes exhibits of flowers, fruit, vegetables, domestic baking and preserves and also a photography section. We had a good number of entrants with a high standard throughout. The vegetable section was won by Les Hazel, who has frequently won the cup before! The floral Cup was awarded to Denise Cottis, who with a new garden, must be congratulated for bringing it to order and producing blooms to such a high standard. Michael Hardy, the society president, performed his usual expertise with the most points in the fruit section and John Burnett excelled by winning the domestic shield again, proving that his culinary skills are not a mere flash in the pan.

We were delighted to present a new cup in memory of Connie Baker for the best rose exhibit in the show. This year it was won by Stella Boll, whose single rose managed to outdo the poor weather conditions and was a worthy winner. A full list of prize winners and more pictures can

be found on the village web site. We would like to congratulate everyone who entered and helped to make such a magnificent display in the village hall, particularly our younger entrants who won several prizes.

Now is the time to start thinking about your plans for next year's growing season. If you haven't grown any fruit, vegetables or flowers this year do think about having a go. It's very satisfying and so much nicer to eat your own fresh produce, so do try and enter something in the show next year. If you need any encouragement or help the committee would be delighted to offer you support, just contact one of us, full details on the web site.

Our next event is the Pumpkin Supper and Social on Wednesday 18th November from 7.00 for 7.30 pm. You must be a member of the society to join in, but all are welcome! We have a great evening with a quiz, pumpkin competitions with various categories, not just the biggest, and of course good conversation and excellent food and wine.

Please contact Laura Chapman to reserve your place and join or renew your membership. Places are limited for the supper!

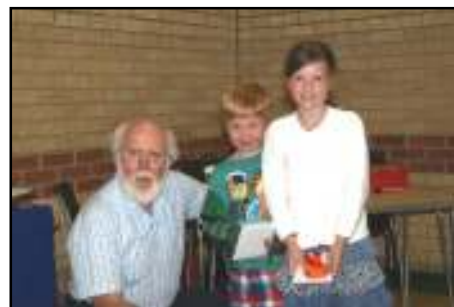
Our forthcoming events are:

Wednesday 20th January:  
British Wild Orchids

Wednesday 16th March:  
AGM followed by Singita  
Safari, South Africa

We look forward to seeing you

**Alison Shreeve  
Chair**





# Tennis Club



## Court refurbishment

Out with the old and in with the new. It certainly feels that way as we enter the home straight of a two year renovation project for the courts.

Gone is the old tired fencing around court 1, some of which was leaning at 45 degrees. Good riddance to the old metal trailer structure which used to support our old tennis cabin, and goodbye to all our other legacy equipment such as the broken plastic chairs and tables!

In their place, we have new fencing and a resurfaced court, a new patio area at the back of court 2 with picnic tables and new wooden benches for the courts.



We are finishing off the transformation with a blue coloured court with a green perimeter (similar to the U.S. Open). For some of the traditionalists this goes against the grain, but we think change is good and we know that in other clubs, the younger generation love playing on blue courts.

The last few years of parsimony have definitely been worth it as we managed to accumulate a big pot to enable the project to go ahead. The end result is a dedicated car park, two good courts, new shed and equipment for members.

## Team news

Turning to matters on court, the ladies' team finished the summer league mid-table in division 6 after winning 3 matches, drawing 1 and losing 2. A great performance given that they had just been promoted.

The men's team came top of division 6 and will be facing stronger competition in division 5 next May. I hope it's not a

case of "careful what you wish for"!

Whilst the men have a plentiful pool of willing players to draw upon, the ladies could do with a few extra recruits. They are particularly short of players who are in the 20-40 age range, so if you fancy playing some tennis with a friendly bunch please do get in touch.

Socially, the men had a great pub night in July and have recently been for a curry in Princes Risborough followed by a late night trip to Duke's Wine Bar. Those extra bottles of vino seemed like a good idea at the time, but some of us paid for our enthusiasm the next morning!

The ladies have also recently enjoyed an evening at the wine bar, sensibly not making the same mistakes!

Looking forward, our next evening out is the annual Xmas dinner which is proving very popular. At the last count I think we have 27 coming, so roll on 4th December!

**Nigel Glenister**



# St John's School PA Outdoor Club



Since I wrote for the first time about the club in the Spring edition of Hallmark, we have held 21 events!

We lit fires and built shelters in Munt's Wood; learned to orienteer around Bradenham Woods with map and compass; learned to track and follow trails across Naphill Common; and had a campfire cookout to celebrate the passing of summer, with live music and singing.

We looked at the moons of Jupiter, Venus and Saturn through a telescope while the parents drank wine; found glow worms and trapped moths on Brush Hill at night; dissected barn owl pellets to analyse their diet; learned to identify mushrooms and toadstools; went pond dipping; learned to identify trees from their leaves; trapped insects; learned about edible and medicinal plants and flowers; and photographed butterflies and rare orchids.

We met and patted different kinds of pet; built dens and made stick people; made models out of clay; learned to draw horses and ponies; watched baby lambs and piglets at Drovers Hill Farm; and made rockets powered by alka-seltzer tablets and water.

## Thanks to helpers

From the school community I would like to thank Sam Hooper, Andrew Calder, Richard Crook, Simon Hamilton, the Ebdons, the O'Connors, Rebecca Howson, Kay Bolton, Ian Chitson, Tracey Curtis, and Peter Smith, all for running or helping with the running of fabulous events for us; Emma Kenny for assistance with marketing; and Susi Catchpole for her general support.

Many thanks also to last year's PA committee for all their help and encouragement, and for setting up the brilliant event booking web page.

From the local community, special thanks also go to: John Tyler, Julie Hopton, Chris Dignan, Jean Trill, and Penny Cullington for donating their time to lead events for us; to Emma Anderson from the Chiltern Society for partnering with us; to Matt Shrimpton, NT ranger for the Bradenham Estate, for finding us land to use; to the Horses' Trust for allowing us to hold an event there; to Hughenden Parish Council for allowing us to dip in their pond; to Mark and Nicola Knop for showing us around Drovers Hill Farm; and last but not least, to Widmer Feeds for explaining to the children how to care for, and allowing them to pet, various animals.

## Future plans

We have 7 more events planned between now and the end of November (more on these in the next article), after which we will shut the club down until spring next year (over the winter we will be planning next year's events).

## Join us!

We are delighted that several parents have volunteered to help with the running of the club next year, and would love to hear from any more, or indeed anyone else in the community who would like to help.

Certainly most parents get the idea that together we can create better entertainment for our kids than individually. The more people enjoy our events, the more they come forward with ideas and initiatives themselves. I've watched this positive spiral with fascination. Judging by attendance figures this Autumn there is now a sense of reaching a tipping point, and that's exciting.

Who knows where this type of collective mobilisation could lead this special village already locally famous for its community spirit? Let's dream for a second.

Dreaming aside, what is certain is that the Outdoor Club will definitely organise some ferocious Nerf shootouts next year.....

**Ed Mueller**

# Windmill WI

In July we supported St John's Church, Lacey Green and the Historical Society with a Flower Festival and Exhibition of the history of Wedding dresses. This was a very successful weekend with lots of people visiting the Church. The WI were very busy serving teas and cakes both days.

At the beginning of July our speaker was Jean Young who entertained us with the Ikebana Japanese style of flower arranging.

In August some of our members had a lovely day at Buckingham Palace. There were so many interesting things to see including the Banquet Table all set up for a Banquet. We then had an excellent conducted tour of the gardens. We were shown a horse chestnut tree that the Queen's father had planted and also two oak trees that were

planted from acorns when Prince Charles and Princess Anne were born. We then had a delicious lunch at Henrys in Piccadilly and then a safe journey home.

Brian Fisher from the RSPB was our August speaker and he gave us many tips on how to encourage birds into our gardens.

September's speaker was David Owen talking about Hypnotherapy. We learnt all about fusion of Hypnosis, Neuro Linguistic Programming and coaching techniques.

Also in September we had our Celebration Lunch in Ann Bartlett's garden. The day was dry but the sun did not come out until the afternoon. We had a beautiful lunch cooked by ladies from Princes Risborough. Most of us sat in the garden and there

was lots of laughter and chatting. A very enjoyable social day.

This month several of us helped with the MacMillan Coffee Morning.

Some of our ladies went to the Town Hall in High Wycombe for an Autumn Event. We had two excellent speakers - Julie Summers, author of Jambusters and Peter Slack, a Derbyshire dairy farmer who gave us a very entertaining talk about farming in the Peak District.

If you are interested in joining our WI you would be very welcome. We meet the first Wednesday in the month at Lacey Green Village Hall at 7.45 pm.

**Ann Bartlett**

# Happy Wanders Walking Group

Seven hardy souls, including the walk leader, turned out at the start of the July walk at Butler's Cross in very wet and windy weather.

The walk started from the car park at the crossroads and picked up part of the Aylesbury Ring path along the base of the Chiltern escarpment as far as Ellesborough church.

After leaving the Aylesbury Ring and climbing the steep path to the church, we crossed the road and continued to climb more gently to meet part of the Ridgeway and descend again to

pass through the grounds of Chequers and across the road between Butler's Cross and Great Missenden.

This leads into the woods below the monument and the path then runs virtually parallel to the road until it passes by the side of Ellesborough golf course and then through part of the course itself.

By this time, the weather had cleared sufficiently to enjoy the fine views from the path where it passes close to the club house. A few other hardy souls were on the course by this time. The path

drops down to meet the Aylesbury Ring again and so back to Butler's Cross.

Even in less clement weather, the four and a half mile walk is varied, not too taxing and provides wonderful scenery. Perhaps despite or even because of, the weather, most of us had worked up an appetite for lunch at the Russell Arms.

**David Cliff**



# Lacey Green Productions



They all look pretty guilty to me. We shall be performing this murder mystery again in the Spring of 2016 for the U3A in Princes Risborough and for the Wycombe Hospitals Scannappeal in Great Missenden. So, if you missed it, there will be another chance.

## And now for something completely different!

We thought that this year we would perform one of the LGP "Themed Evenings", rather than a play. Therefore, on Friday and Saturday, November 27th and 28th at the Village Hall, LGP will present "Around the World in 80 Minutes".

We had full houses for our outdoor "Theatre at Home" Murder Mystery performances of "The Phar Phetched Phantom" in mid August. Our audiences had to puzzle out who the guilty person was (some of them got it right) and were treated to either lunch or tea. And not a drop of rain in sight!

The cast included some rather strange characters and some dogs – have a look at the photos.

While eating a four course dinner, LGP Travel Unlimited will transport you by Airship, TGV, Ship and, finally, Rocket to Paris, Naples, Athens and Christmas Island. And, of course, there will be plenty of entertainment on the way.

Possibly there'll be some mishaps, probably some emergencies and definitely some singing, a little dancing, a game or two (it will be nearly Christmas, you know) and some

optional audience participation. If you feel that dressing up in holiday gear would help the evening go with a swing, then please feel free!

Tickets are on sale now from 01844 347518 or 01844 344207 or email us through our website at

[www.laceygreenproductions.co.uk](http://www.laceygreenproductions.co.uk)

LGP will, as ever, be contributing its profits from the above shows to charities. In 2015, we are supporting three charities.

- "Educate for Life", a charity which has built a school/community centre in a remote farming village in India [www.educateforlife.org.uk](http://www.educateforlife.org.uk) .
- "Focus" which provides support to families and children at Saunderton Lodge hostel [www.bucksvoice.net/focussaunderton/services](http://www.bucksvoice.net/focussaunderton/services)
- St Mary's Church in Aylesbury's Free Christmas Lunch, which provides lunch and entertainment on Christmas Day to the homeless and lonely in the Aylesbury area – see [www.freechristmasdinner.com](http://www.freechristmasdinner.com)



LGP's charitable contributions so far total over £57,000 to charities both locally and overseas.

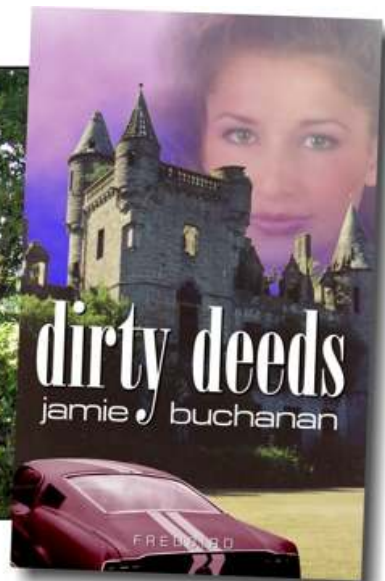
**Peter Brookhouse**

# Support your local author

59 might seem to be a somewhat advanced age at which to change career, but this is the course that has been taken by local resident Jamie Buchanan who this year relaunched himself as a novelist.

As this edition of Hallmark lands on doormats, Jamie will have lived in his house on Loosley Hill for 29 years. 'I don't think I can be considered a newcomer anymore!' he jokes, 'though plenty of my neighbours have been here far longer, many for generations.'

Jamie was raised on the neighbouring hill of Bledlow Ridge and attended the Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe. After a 40-year career in advertising and marketing, redundancy pay enabled him to blow the cobwebs off the self-penned novel he had stashed away on an old hard drive. 'The revolution in book publishing and delivery has empowered writers, enabling them to circumvent the arduous hunt for agents and publishers,' explains Jamie. 'While the traditional route to market still thrives, the



online revolution, led by Amazon and its Kindle and CreateSpace arms, has given everyone the tools with which to offer their work to the book-buying public.'

In Jamie's case, the book is Dirty Deeds, which he describes as a lighthearted adventure. 'It's an exciting race against time with thrills, spills, romance and plenty of laughs. And nothing about life in the Chiltern Hills! Until Amazon delivered my first copy of the paperback version, I really had no idea how it would turn out physically. I couldn't be more delighted.'

Asked if he has any advice for other aspiring writers, Jamie is clear: 'Do it! The belief persists that "vanity publishing" is prohibitively expensive; it isn't, not now. The only substantial investment required is your time. The sense of accomplishment is immeasurable.' Is there a second novel in the works? 'Oh yes - watch this space!'

Dirty Deeds, published by Fredbird Publishing, is available from Amazon in paperback and Kindle formats. See [www.jamie-buchanan.com](http://www.jamie-buchanan.com) for further details.

## Lunar eclipse - Sept 28

Photos taken in Lacey Green by Andrew Brown





# County Council News



Here we are in November already with the nights drawing in and long gone are the sunny summer days which we had earlier this year.

As you may be aware Bucks County Council provides many important services, not just maintaining the roads but others which we sometimes take for granted and are not always visible to the public: such as safeguarding children and supporting the elderly.

As ever, the Council's budget is changing – with less money year on year from the government, more people living longer and a growing population. It means that financial pressures are greater than ever. It does mean that Councils up and down the country including Buckinghamshire need to find innovative ways of generating further revenue without any major increases in Council Tax and being able to maintain essential services.

We still have a shortfall in the funding for road repairs.

However it was agreed at the Council back in May to invest an extra £25m in the programme with a further £3m on a plane and patch programme specifically in rural areas this year.

In the area, I am happy to report that Lower Road and Little Lane in Loosley Row as well as Lily Bottom Lane in Lacey Green are roads which were identified as requiring immediate attention and when you read this, works should have been completed.

The Public Health team at Bucks County Council which moved across from the NHS in April 2013 are currently running a campaign "Active Bucks" to encourage us all as Buckinghamshire Residents to do more exercise so we can lead happier and healthier lives. Doing 150 minutes of exercise per week reduces the risk of heart disease and disability.

There is also funding through the Local Area Forum spread over 2 years for projects within Communities to support this initiative. This could be for setting up Simply Walks for example to enable residents to be more independent through exercise and yet connecting people with others in the community.

BCC is looking for volunteers to help deliver Active Bucks by being Community Champions. You don't need to be a fitness expert. All you need is the enthusiasm and motivation to try something new and help others do the same. To find out more about this, either contact me or the Parish Council.

The library "Click and Collect" service at the Lacey Green Community shop has now been available for a year with a link to Buckinghamshire County Council library services. This is a great opportunity for residents to order books online and have them delivered to the shop, without having to travel to a designated Library such as in Princes Risborough or High Wycombe. If you have no Internet access the volunteers at the shop can order online books on your behalf.

So that is about it for now!

To end, I know that we have another month before the Festive season commences, but I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2016.

If there are any matters relating to Buckinghamshire County Council that you would like to raise, please don't hesitate to contact me either via email [cetholen@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto: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

Chairman of the North West Chilterns Local Area Forum





Your Parish Councillors are here to listen to you and provide a link for you between your District and County Council and Councillors

We have entered into delegated services with both Bucks County Council and now Wycombe District Council and taken on the services of the Princes Risborough Maintenance Team to carry out the work. The Parish Council feels that this has proved to be an excellent choice, any works requested are done with care, haste and more importantly, properly, so our thanks go to the team.

We have had our annual inspection on the playground in the grounds of the Sports Club, and only some minor adjustments needed to be made, although it was highlighted that a

new table and chair set would be required. This is being dealt with and should be in place by Xmas.

We have co-opted a new councillor for the Lacey Green Ward, Councillor Edmund Mulcahy, after Mr John Sherlock decided not to stand at the last election. We wish to thank Mr Sherlock for all the time and energy he put towards his role as Councillor. Councillor Mulcahy can be contacted through the normal email address for the Council.

We are pleased to see that one of our residents has taken up the challenge of co-ordinating a speed watch campaign in the village. This has shown that not only do cars go faster now, but that their drivers also go faster.

Several letters have been sent to those exceeding the speed limit, some have received more than one letter from Thames Valley Police!

Please check your speedometers as you drive through your village, remember this is a country village, we have pedestrians, children and animals hoping they can walk in safety along the footpaths.

If anyone wishes to help with the speed watch, or has any ideas re speeding through the village please contact the Parish Council and we can forward your details.

Anyone is welcome to come and observe our meetings which are listed on our website. Our contact details are on page 41.

**Cathryn Davis**

## Lacey Green Singers

First of all, I should like to draw attention to the fact that the remembrance-themed concert planned for 7 November has had to be cancelled and so the choir is now already busily preparing for the annual Christmas concert on Sunday 6 December. As last year, this will be held in the Millennium Hall at Lacey Green and starts at 6 pm. Tickets cost £5, which includes mulled wine and mince pies. Children under 14 are free.

Following the publicity in the last issue of Hallmark, we are delighted to have been joined by

a few new members, but of course there is always room for more. As with all choirs, men are especially welcome. So if you find yourself at a bit of a loose end one Thursday evening, come along to St John's School at 7.45pm and see what we do. As Gareth Malone has so ably demonstrated on TV, singing can be fun!

Finally, at Christmas we will sadly be saying au revoir - 'goodbye' wouldn't be right - to our lovely musical director Fiona Insley whose patience and skills have been an inspiration to all of us

for the past five years. With her other teaching commitments and increasing involvement in the musical development of her three children, she has decided that her busy schedule had to be reduced and with regret she has resigned.

As we go to press, we are still looking for a replacement, so if you, or someone you know, would like to carry the baton forward, please get in touch.

**Alan Lewis**

# On The Farm

Harvest seems like a distant memory. Contrary to popular belief however all is not safely gathered in. Maize is never mature until October and this year will be very late. It had a slow start in April and May as it was too cold and August and September were too dull. A spell of beautiful weather improved it recently, so it should be ready by the end of the month. This maize is grown to make into silage to feed the cows in the winter. It is not like sweet corn for our consumption, but very dry and hard and we have to get in a contractor with a forage harvester.

It feels like being in a straightjacket with farming at present. Whichever way we turn nothing looks encouraging. We grew equal amounts of wheat and oil seed rape this year. The rape yield was average, with good oil at 46%. This will eventually be taken to a crushing plant at Erith to be made into vegetable oil. Unfortunately the story of the price has what is becoming a familiar ring. £250 tonne this year, four years ago over £400. There are serious questions regarding the viability of this crop, especially when you take into account the problems of flea beetle, slugs and pigeons all making a living from it as well.

The wheat yielded well with heavy bushel weight, a “full spec.” milling wheat. The current price at £105 tonne barely covers costs. So any profit must depend on a good yield per hectare. Ours was well over 10 tonne so fingers crossed. The low value of the arable crops is good news for the livestock farmers. Their prices are not good at the moment either, but they should be able to buy the feeds that are used to supplement their grass products at lower prices, which will help this sector a little.

We have been very busy with cows calving, with 150 calves born since the beginning of August this has put a strain on our calf feeding system. They are individually fed on a powdered milk for eight weeks, by which time they are able to be weaned. Due to a member of staff moving on, combined with the low milk prices, we have gone back to twice a day milking. For many reasons we prefer milking three times a day and will keep this decision under review, but at present it is just not economic.

Throughout this summer “Dave Knott” has been running Bush Craft Survival courses on our farm. More information can be found at

“[www.surefirebushcraft.co.uk](http://www.surefirebushcraft.co.uk)” This happens less than a mile from Lacey Green.

Charlotte is still running her farm tours, and these are different from the summer as things change with the seasons. They are now at weekends only due to the dark evenings and term time, Charlotte now studying for “A” levels. See her website, “[laceygreenmaize.co.uk](http://laceygreenmaize.co.uk)” for details.

The Chiltern Hills Association competition results are in. These cover an area 10 miles radius of Wendover, the crops being divided north and south, “south” being south of the Icknield Way. We are glad that we had a better year than last year. We had three 3rd prizes for Grassland, Winter Barley south and Wheat Samples, shown at the ploughing match. We had two 2nd prizes for Dairy Youngstock and Small Arable Farm. And three 1<sup>st</sup> prizes for Forage Maize, Dairy Herd, and Best Large Farm. I am particularly proud on Richard and Maxine’s behalf to win the Best Large Farm competition. It will be great to see “R.M. West and Son” engraved once more on that cup.

**Joan West**





# Black Horse

As you get older time seems to fly past quicker and quicker. You wait all year for a holiday then it has gone in a flash. Then after your holiday you know you have to get the Christmas menu sorted. In the pub trade it is like a never ending clock of events that go on year after year.

Well what has happened since the last Hallmark? Beer festival; what a great weekend, even the weather stayed nice on the Saturday, but not on the Sunday. Which was better than the previous years. Saturday was music in the garden provided by John Jones. It was excellent as usual and we were packed out with beer drinkers and music lovers. It went on into the early hours. A big big thank you to John.

On the Sunday we did something different and put jazz on in the garden. This was so good, we saw new faces that have never been in the Black Horse before which was really nice. Unfortunately it poured with rain so we didn't have so many faces, but never the less it was a great afternoon and it will be happening again next year.

A charity event was held at the pub in aid of pancreatic cancer in memory of Peter Craven. Kim and her family and friends made



cakes, did games, sold raffle tickets and raised an incredible £946, they worked so hard. We also held our charity quiz for the Wycombe lions which raised over £200.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Turner and Steve on their wedding. I also now have a new darts team: Black Horse B captain is a young man named Roberto who is currently looking for more players; we play on a Thursday night. Please ring 01844 345195 if you would like to join this up-and-coming team P.S. You only need to throw a dart and hit the board but it would be nice if you are good as that would help them so much.

Dominoes has now started I will let you know how that is going in the next issue. The Christmas menu is now available. Come and join us and have a great evening or lunchtime just ring us up or email me for the menu. We are doing the menu through November, December and January. Book now. I welcome some new staff to the Black Horse: Ali, Ellie, Mira and Tom, I hope you enjoy working with my other mad staff. It will be nice for Sam Oakford to have another man buddy so the girls can stop harassing him. Amy, Laura and Fern, you three know what you do to that poor boy.

**Lynne**





# Windmills under 5s

The autumn term at Windmills is now well under way, but thanks to the amazing Indian summer the children are continuing to enjoy many outdoor activities. This term the children have been learning about houses and homes, and harvests.

At the end of last term we said an emotional goodbye to 22 children who have moved up to “big school”, and one who has moved to another pre-school in preparation for “big school”. Their departure was marked in traditional Windmills style with a topical beach themed leaving party. The children all looked fantastic in their Hawaiian shirts, grass skirts and leis. Again, in accordance with Windmills traditions the parents of the school leavers very generously donated a new trolley to store the lunch boxes on, and some construction toys. Thank you all for this wonderful gift – I am reliably informed that they are proving very popular with everyone.

At the end of term we also said farewell to Elise, who moved onto a new job at a local school. She will be sorely missed by all of the children and staff at Windmills, but we wish her well for the future.

In September we welcomed lots of new children to the preschool, and after a relatively quiet start as the children settled into their new environment, it is once again buzzing with happy children who are enthusiastic and keen to learn. It is no surprise that the waiting list is also filling up again fast and this is testament to the fabulous job that the staff; Angela, Louisa, Lucy, Annie, Keeley, Joel, Lisa and Paula, do in making Windmills a fun and successful environment for our children. Thank you to you all for your hard work and commitment.

The new academic year also brings change in the committee of Windmills. At the AGM next week we will say goodbye to Sarah Wernham, Lisa Ashdown, Jo Boothroyd and Karen Blagojevic who have all been fantastic

members of the committee and will be sorely missed. Thank you all for your efforts, enthusiasm and commitment to the preschool.

Next week also sees us host our first fundraising event of the year - the annual Halloween party. This has been a great success in recent years, and I am sure that thanks to the efforts of Kristina Black and Nell Rigg this year's will be even better! We are also starting to plan for our Christmas activities, and I am sure that it won't be long before the children start practicing for the Christmas play and renditions of Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer are heard up and down Main Road!

If you would like your child to join Windmills, we would recommend that you contact Paula as soon as possible, and she will advise you of the most up to date information about our waiting list.

**Victoria Geenes  
Chair**

# Pump hunt for sewage station owners

Thames Water is appealing to customers to help identify privately owned sewage pumping stations.

The utility, which serves 15 million customers across London and the Thames Valley, will take responsibility for around 4,000 pumping stations in October 2016, but needs to track down 1,800 currently off its radar.

New legislation means sewage pumping stations, which power wastewater away from properties and out into the public sewer pipe network, currently owned and maintained by customers will

become legally owned and operated by the local water company.

The pumping stations are found in all shapes and sizes, and can be in places where there are a number of properties needing to connect to the public sewer network. Customers will know they have one as they'll be paying to maintain and power them.

**Jerry White, of Thames Water, said:** “This is really good news for customers. We'd urge anyone who thinks they may have one to get in touch so we can check they are eligible for the transfer of

ownership. In some cases, as well as electricity savings, maintaining and replacing pumps can cost thousands of pounds so it's an excellent deal for them.

“We believe we know where approximately half of the stations we need to take over are, but really need help to find the other 1,800. Please get in touch if you think this applies to you and we can take on the responsibility forever.”

Anyone with a private pumping station can make Thames Water aware at [thameswater.co.uk/pumphunt](http://thameswater.co.uk/pumphunt)

# LG & LR Sports Club



The Sports Club has had a very busy few months. We have completed major repairs to the roof, appointed a new committee, had several fantastic fundraisers and gained lots of new social members.

## AGM

At the AGM in July our Chair and long standing committee member Jane Oakford stood down after many years of service to the club. I would like to express our sincere thanks to Jane for all the hard work and commitment she has put into the club over the past fifteen years plus. I would also like to thank Cath Saunders who stood down from the sports club committee to concentrate on the cricket section.

A new committee was elected with some old faces and some new additions. Brian Kirby was re-elected as Treasurer, Kerry Wiles as our new Secretary, Ben Watson and William Carter were also co-opted. Also re-elected were Roger Whip (cricket), Paddy Woods-Ballard (tennis), John Jones, Jamie Blackburn (football) and myself as Chair.

As our groundsmen put the cricket pitch to bed and the football pitch is marked out we reflect on a very busy summer, a great season of cricket and

socialising, newly refurbished tennis courts and a shiny renovated clubhouse roof. Our social membership saw a massive increase this year with the decision to open the bar on a Friday night for 10 weeks in the summer. The bar was open from 5.30pm and lots of families came down to enjoy a drink and enjoy the fabulous view while the children played; special thanks to the St Johns parents who signed up as social members, came down every week and helped us raise a significant amount of money for the club.

## Support us

The sports ground and club house are privately owned and are managed by a team of volunteers from the local community. As it is not a council-run facility it receives no financial help from the parish or district councils. All the facilities are paid for and maintained by subs from the sports sections (Cricket, Football & Tennis), contributions from Windmills Pre-School (who hire the clubhouse Mon-Fri mornings in term time) and fundraising events organised by the sports club committee and members.

## How to support us

- **Join one of the sporting sections**

We are actively looking for new members to play cricket, football and tennis.

- **Become a social member**

If you are not a member of any of the sporting sections you can become a social member. Over the summer months cricket is played every Saturday from 1.30pm and the bar is open in

the afternoon and on a Friday evening from 5.30pm. Football is played from September to April and tennis all year round. Social membership is only £5 per person, per year and it's a great place to meet, watch sport and enjoy a drink in the sunshine (if you are lucky).

- **Attend one of our fundraising events**

We have a calendar of social events coming up...

**14th November** – Quiz Night - teams of 4-5, £15 per table. Win a cup and Beer or Prosecco for your table. – Doors open 7.30pm – Tables must be booked in advance

**19th December** – Christmas get together from 7.30pm, come and enjoy some music and Christmas cheer.

For more information or tickets please email me [steph@soundmarketingpractice.co.uk](mailto:steph@soundmarketingpractice.co.uk) or call 07768 831196 . We hope to see you there

I would like to thank all the people who are involved in the running of the club, particularly the groundsmen who quietly get on with looking after the grounds all year round and commit hundreds of hours every year to making our facility one of the best around. The committee for its tireless efforts to run the club and the hours of time spent in and out of committee meetings making things happen and everyone who has supported us including all our members and social members, without whom we wouldn't have a club.

**Stephanie Dell**

# Community Planning Group



## Public Meeting

It has been decided not to go ahead with the possible public meeting, because we believe that there is insufficient interest at present. I hope to hear a loud scream from concerned readers, telling me that I am completely wrong.

## Lacey Green Stores

The shop has been operating now for 6 years, and continues to thrive. In August, we ran a celebration week, giving a prize voucher to any customer spending at least £1.50 on goods other than newspapers. The draw for the prize hamper took place on the last day of August, and the lucky winner was Mr. Peter Coles. The hamper was donated by Widmer Feeds, whose owner Cathryn Davies, who is also Chairman of Lacey Green Parish Council, made the presentation on 4th September.

The Stores is still looking for other ways to improve its service to customers and other visitors. One idea under consideration is to be able to offer a cup of coffee (for a small charge). We wouldn't do this on Thursday

mornings, because this is already provided on that day by the WI.

To run the Stores, we have a team of volunteers, but we can always use more. The people that we have do a splendid job, and I really can't thank them enough. We are very pleased to welcome two new recruits - Pat Bundock and George Locke.

## Time Credits

The Stores has recently joined a national scheme that rewards volunteers with Time Credits. These look rather like paper currency, and can be used in a variety of outlets. For example, a 1 hour time credit can be used to obtain an hour of free swimming at Risborough Springs. Two credits can be used on selected occasions to see a show at Wycombe Swan. Or they can be used further afield, for instance to visit St Paul's Cathedral or the Tower of London. They can be given to friends and family if you didn't want to use them yourself.

So, being a volunteer in the Stores not only looks good on your CV, but you now receive an additional perk.

## Click and collect library service

This is being used successfully, and provides a useful alternative to making a visit to the library. The only snag is that you can't browse books without actually borrowing them! You can get on to the library website at home, or come into the Stores and do it there.

## Defibrillators

The Rural Community Defibrillator Group, which has just obtained charitable status, has installed defibrillators in Lacey Green, Speen, Princes Risborough Golf Club, Princes Risborough (fire station), Bledlow Ridge, Bledlow and Bradenham. The Community Planning Group provided some funding in support of this project.

## Welcome Pack

We try to ensure that anyone moving into the Parish from outside receives a Welcome Pack. Do keep an eye on the street scene, and let us know if you acquire new neighbours.

## Tony Molesworth

(01844 344975)

[molechem@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:molechem@yahoo.co.uk)



# Autumn Days



Autumn is “officially” defined in the Northern Hemisphere as the period between the autumnal equinox (when day and night are equal in length), being September 22 or 23, and the winter solstice (the year's shortest day), December 21 or 22. In the Southern Hemisphere, autumn is the period between March 20 or 21 and June 21 or 22. So, for 2015, and north of the Equator, autumn officially began on Wednesday 23rd September and it ends on Monday 21st December.

Some years ago, as Chair of Governors of Beechwood Primary School in East Leeds, I was asked to accompany and assist some of the teaching staff for a week's Year 6 residential holiday at Coniston in the Lake District. It must have gone reasonably well because I was asked by the school to go again the following year with the next Year 6 group.

And, a few years later, as Chair of Governors for another school in Leeds, I twice assisted with Year 6 residential trips to the historic Second World War sites of Normandy. But I think that those visits will have to be a story for another day!

Perhaps surprisingly, many of the Beechwood children had never been into the countryside before and never seen farm animals. I am still astonished at this as there really are plenty of farms just a mile or so outside the Leeds outer ring road. But the look of elated surprise on the faces of the children as they encountered first-hand the glorious beauty of the natural world was even more memorable.

A few months before the first Lake Coniston trip with Beechwood School, I telephoned a mail order company at Hawkshead in the Lake District to order by post some walking boots ready for the holiday. A very helpful chap talked me through what kind of boots I would need and enquired about the reason for my visit. “When are you coming to the Lake District, Sir?” he then said. “In the late autumn”, I replied. That's wonderful, he said, “it's the best time of the year to come here”. And he was right, autumn in the countryside, when the colours of nature are a rich variety of both greens and many shades of brown, is indeed a wonderful time of the year. Yes, in so many ways, we realise that the world is indeed going deeper and deeper into slumber in readiness for the winter. But life continues on so many levels; and, in these days of autumn, the eternal and irresistible power of nature paints

the world with such a rich palette of colours.

When I was a small boy, it was not until the late autumn that preparations for Christmas began in earnest. As I recall, Christmas was not really in our thoughts until after Bonfire Night on the fifth of November. And, when I was small, the period from Bonfire Night to Christmas Day did seem to last an age! Nowadays, the summer is hardly over before the pressure and anxiety of preparing for Christmas begins to exercise many people's minds. And I find that, now that I am a “Senior Citizen”, the weeks and months and years seem to fly past with ever increasing acceleration.

Personally, I would be very sorry indeed if I ever lost a sense of wonder and joy at the changing of the seasons as the circle of life turns and turns again. And even more sorry if I ever ceased to have a sense of the power of love which is at the heart of all things.

**Tony Bundock**  
**Vicar of St. John's**



# Xmas services at St John's Church



## **November 29th**

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:00 am Parish Communion with Junior Church

6:00 pm Advent Carols & Lessons for Churches Together in Risborough

## **December 20th**

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:00 am Parish Communion with Junior Church

6:00 pm Carol Service of 9 Lessons and Carols

## **Dec 24th Christmas Eve**

3:30 pm Crib Service

11:30 pm Midnight Service

## **Dec 25th Christmas Day**

10:00 am Parish Communion

## **Dec 27th Feast of St John the Evangelist**

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:00 am Parish Communion followed by wine/soft drinks and mince pies

## **Jan 6th**

7:30 pm Service for Epiphany

## **Jan 10th**

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:00 am Parish Communion with Junior Church

6:00 pm Epiphany Carol Service

## **Regular Services at St. John's Church**

### **SUNDAY**

8.00am Holy Communion (1662) every Sunday from Nov 29

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.

### **WEDNESDAY**

10.30am 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 10.00 am at Speen.

We are looking for someone to revive the Toddler Praise session. If you would like to help (possibly with others) please speak to Pat Richards.

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

Please do come and experience the warm welcome in our lovely Church.

# Heavenly Bodies

Not everyone is a fan of these shorter days, but there are reasons to be! The darker skies mean we'll be able to see some early morning sights to set us up for the rest of the day. And there are plentiful meteor showers, and the prospect of a Christmas comet...

So brace yourselves for some sublime sights hosted by our 'Moon guide'. You may already have seen a bright morning 'star' rise in the east. That's Venus, who will be joined by other planets over the coming weeks. Firstly, on **7 November** at about 6 am, look for the very thin crescent Moon or the dazzling glow of Venus in the southeast - with Mars and Jupiter joining the scene. You'll see the brilliant white of Venus compared to the red-orange of Mars. Keep watching the southeast at about the same time each morning over the next three months, and the scene will gradually change as the clockwork motion of the Solar System unwinds.

The Moon is back in the same location on **7 December**, and this

time there will be Venus, Mars and Jupiter in slightly different positions due to them moving in their orbits around the Sun. Plus, there could be a brightening comet if predictions turn out to be true. This is comet Catalina which could be visible to the naked eye, slightly to the left of Venus and the Moon (in the same field of view if looking through binoculars). The whole scene should be unforgettable.

Continue watching that southeast patch of the sky, and by the **end of December**, the comet should have brightened and be right next to the bright star Arcturus. It doesn't stay there long but moves quickly from night to night. Nearer the horizon, you'll see the wonderful planet Saturn start to climb into our skies. Celestial happenings rarely get better than this! Keep watching this area of the sky over January, and see how Venus and Saturn seem to 'join' together, followed by Venus coasting below Saturn. Mars moves upwards, towards its closest approach to Earth in May.

As if all that wasn't enough, the Moon gets out of the way to give dark skies for some meteor showers. On **12 November**, there could be a 'storm' of the Northern Taurid shower with more than the usual number of shooting stars. A few days later on **17/18 November**, the Leonid shower peaks late at night. Then on **13/14 and 14/15 December**, the Geminids reach their maximum. Also, watch the skies on the preceding and following nights of these dates, as there should still be meteors to see.

There's another spectacle on **23 December**, when the Moon will start to blot out a very bright star (Aldebaran) from 6.05pm. Keep looking at the Moon and watch the star disappear - then reappear shortly after 7pm. And yes, the Moon actually moves from right to left as we see it.

And Christmas Day? The full Moon rises at the feet of Gemini. Festive wishes and a cosmic New Year.

**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. 8 pm	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. 7.45 pm	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 7.30 pm	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 2 pm	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		Graham Peart	01494 488327	graham_peart@wycombe.gov.uk
Bucks County Council		Carl Etholen	01494 564771	cetholenn@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](http://www.laceygreen.com), which also has breaking news and many additional articles & photos.

### **HALLMARK EDITOR**

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### **ADVERTISING MANAGER**

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(past the pond on the left) 01844 275442 Email [ckbakerland@gmail.com](mailto:ckbakerland@gmail.com)

### **VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS**

Clive or Karen on 01844 274254 (answering service)

#### **LACEY GREEN POST OFFICE**

Open Monday and Thursday 9.00 to 12.00

#### **LACEY GREEN STORES**

Village Hall 9.00 am - 12 Noon 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

#### **VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

##### **Clive Hodghton (Chair)**

Sue D'Arcy (Secretary),  
Yvonne Axe (Treasurer),  
Karen Hodghton (Booking Sec.),  
Chris Baker, Leigh Axe,  
Stella Boll, Jane Brown,  
Cathryn Davies,  
Ginnie Brudenell,  
Jill Gosling

### **LACEY GREEN WINDMILL is now closed for the winter**

In 2016, Lacey Green Windmill will be open from 2 pm to 5 pm on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from Easter Sunday 27th March to Sunday 25th September.

Bank Holiday Monday Open Days: 28th Mar, 2 May, 30 May, 29 Aug. (all 2pm - 5pm).

For National Mills Weekend: Open on Sat 14th May (2pm - 5pm) & Sun 15th May (11am - 5pm).

Admission Charges for 2016: Adult £2.50, Child (5 to 15) £1.00. All children must be accompanied.

For further details about visiting the mill, such as access, facilities, location, and travelling. See [www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk](http://www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk) or telephone Michael or Betty Hardy on 01844 275871.

Printed by PK Inprint Ltd 01494 452266

**CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE FEBRUARY EDITION**  
**January 14th 2016**