

# HALLMARK

The Lacey Green and Loosley Row Magazine



S. Boll

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# Welcome to the November edition of Hallmark

As well as the political chaos brought on by Brexit, it looks like we are going to have change in our UK political representation.

Firstly the boundaries commission are proposing to move our Westminster ward into the Chesham and Amersham constituency, so we will get a different MP.

Secondly the County Council is proposing to close down the District Councils and have a single Unitary Council for Bucks. This will bring major cost savings and simplify council business. Needless to say the District Councils are against it as their jobs will disappear. I suspect most people will be pleased to see (and pay for) fewer politicians - the issues are

explained on pages 6, 26, 29 and 31.

I was really pleased to see how well the ladies did organising the MacMillan Coffee Morning. To raise almost £2,000 is fantastic. Our best wishes go to Jill Baker who is currently unwell.

## Hallmark Helpers

Thank you to all the people who have volunteered to help out with Hallmark distribution, it's nice to know that people are prepared to contribute a bit to the community.

Can you help with the production of Hallmark? We need someone to manage the advertising, liaise with people who wish to advertise and remind existing advertisers to renew their agreement. Just a



few hours work now and then. You will need to have email.

We also need someone to help with photographs and provide an appropriate front page photo or artwork for each edition.

**Mike Piercy**  
**Editor**

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

It is Thursday, 29th September 8 o'clock in the morning and men are arriving at the Village Hall to put out the tables and chairs. It is a cheerless morning with a little drizzle but by 8.45 ladies are arriving with cakes, produce, crafts and 'baskets of delight' to fill the tables. Soon after concessionaires are arriving with their goods to display. The kettles are boiling and shortly before 9.30 our contribution to the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support is ready for the off.

Over the next two and a half hours we receive many visitors keen to support the event. Raffle tickets are selling well, whilst many attempt to win a tombola

prize. Others are keen to guess how many spots are on the cake. Plenty of coffee is drunk with biscuits and cakes going down well. Meanwhile our stall holders are having a success with their sales.

By midday, including earlier donations, we have raised £1,904 for Macmillan. A very big thank you to all who helped and supported us, your enthusiasm showed in the atmosphere in the hall, everyone enjoyed the occasion whilst supporting the needs of the Macmillan ethos. It brought a great sense of community - thank you all once again.

Jill and Joy have organised this event for five years and have

decided to pass the 'coffee cup' on to other ladies. Ann, Sandra and Daphne have kindly volunteered. We know you will give them your support as shall we.

Thank you once again for helping to raise such a fantastic amount.

**Joy Lawrence**  
**and Jill Baker**





# What's On

## LACEY GREEN PRODUCTIONS & COMMAND PERFORMERS

Present by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd and Stagescripts Ltd

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

an evening of three short plays in this amateur production of

*The Appointment* by Luigi Jannuzzi

*Three Tables* by Dan Remmes

*Stitched Up* by Robin Johnson



Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November (plays only) 8PM (doors open at 7:30PM),  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November (Dinner Theatre) 7:30PM (Doors open at 7PM)  
(Licenced Bar)

Lacey Green Village Hall, Main Road, Lacey Green

Tickets Thursday (show only) £8.00

Tickets Friday & Saturday (show plus dinner) £22.50

01844 347518 & 01844 347818 or email [info@laceygreenproductions.co.uk](mailto:info@laceygreenproductions.co.uk)

### ALL PROFITS TO CHARITY

(This year's main charities are the Oxford Transplant Foundation  
and St John's School Lacey Green Music Room Appeal)

## History

*Lacey Green Loosley Row*

*St John's Church,*

*Methodist and Baptist Chapels*



Lacey Green Primitive Methodist Church, 1900

### November

Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> 10 – 4pm

Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> 2 – 4pm

### St. John's Church

Admission free,  
Refreshments available.



*Come and see the History  
of our local places of worship*

NEW VENUE



**Saturday 12th November**  
11am - 4pm

**Lacey Green Village Hall**

Main Road, Lacey Green HP27 0QT

WONDERFUL GIFTS VINTAGE STALL CAKES  
CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS SILENT AUCTION  
FOOD AVAILABLE ALL DAY

Entrance fee £1



We support Florence Nightingale House • Helen & Douglas House  
Rennie Grove Hospice Care • The South Bucks Day Hospice

## SPEEN HELPING HOSPICES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MARKET 2016

The SHH would like to invite you to join them at their 8th Annual Christmas Market.

With the closure of Speen's village pub, the venue for the Market in the past, we are delighted that this year it will be held in the spacious Lacey Green Village Hall.

Take the opportunity to choose unique gifts from the work of exciting local designers and artists. In addition there will be a Silent Auction and a Vintage Stall.

It will also be the last opportunity to buy a Raffle Ticket for the beautiful handmade Quilt that was very generously made for the SHH to help raise funds and took 455 hours to hand piece and hand quilt.

The SHH was founded in 2001 with the aim of raising funds for local hospices. With limited Government funding the Hospice Charities rely heavily on groups like the SHH to raise funds necessary to care for people with life limiting conditions and give support to their families.

Please come along for what is always a wonderful day. Browse for gifts, enjoy a drink and a bite to eat whilst helping to raise vitally needed funds for our local hospices.

# What's On



**LACEY GREEN SINGERS**  
with children from St John's School

## Carol Concert

MULLED WINE



MINCE PIES

**at 6pm**  
(doors open 5.40pm)  
**Sunday 4 December 2016**  
**Millennium Hall, Lacey Green**

**Adults £5**  
**Children (under 14) £1**

**Phone 07753 512414 or 01494 564512**  
**or email laceygreensingers@hotmail.com**

Sat Nov 5 10.30am in Village Hall - Windmill Artists exhibition and bistro

Sat Nov 12 Village Hall 11am to 4pm Annual Christmas Market

Nov 12 and 13 St John's Church - History Society exhibition of our local places of worship

Wed Nov 16 Horts Club Pumpkin Supper

Sat Nov 19 Nov 7pm for 7:30pm in St John's School Hall CEILIDH The Black Dog Band, dancing, fish & chips supper with puddings Tel: 01844 345452

Nov 24 - 26 8pm "Food for Thought" Dinner Theatre with Lacey Green Productions. 3 short plays and dinner

Sat 3 Dec 10:00am - 2:00pm in Village Hall Christmas Fayre Father Christmas, lots of stalls, tombola and raffle and refreshments including soup lunches, bacon rolls etc.

Sun 4 Dec 6pm in Village Hall - Carol service with Lacey Green Singers and St John's school choir.

Sun 18 Dec 6pm Church service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wed Jan 18 Horts Club "The travels of a horticultural student" talk by Billy Stott

## Windmill Artists Exhibition and Bistro Nov 5

This popular Art Exhibition and Bistro will once again be held in Lacey Green Village Hall on Saturday November 5th from 10.30 am to 4 pm. There will be light refreshments throughout the day and we look forward to seeing you all.

## Special Christmas services at St John's Church

See page 40 for a full schedule of activities in November and December

## STOP PRESS: The Annual Village Quiz

A very successful Village Quiz was held on October 19th. The winners again this year were the Lacey Green Singers but only by a narrow margin!

We were delighted that from the proceeds we were able to donate £60 to The Lighthouse Holiday Club, and the remainder of £236 to our Village Hall. Thank you very much to

everyone who attended and to everyone who helped on the night to make this such an enjoyable event.

**The Windmill WI**





We welcomed a new Councillor for Lacey Green in September. Elizabeth Patient lives in the village and has children at St John's school and Windmill Under 5s preschool. We wish her a long and happy relationship with the Council.

The Parish Council is still one Councillor short of the full complement, so if you feel you have some time to give back to the community, please give the Clerk your name for consideration.

Many householders in the area have applied for planning permission to fell or prune trees of all kinds. As we live in the Chilterns AONB, this is just a reminder if you are planning to have any similar work done. Autumn is the best time for this kind of work, so contact Wycombe District council before embarking on any project in case some of the trees on your property have Tree Preservation Orders on them. This does not preclude work being carried out, as maintaining a healthy tree by pruning helps to prolong its life and gives character to the garden.

The Boundary Commission has recently produced its findings and there are plans in 2018 to include Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens in the Amersham and Chesham Parliamentary constituency with Cheryl Gillan as MP. Currently we are in the Aylesbury constituency with David Lidington as MP.

Lacey Green Parish is right at the junction of three constituencies (High Wycombe being the third). If you have strong feelings that the plans to move our ward into Chesham and Amersham are a good or bad idea, do have a look at the Boundary Commission website

<https://www.bce2018.org.uk> where you can see the current and planned constituency boundaries and have your say.

A very big thank you to all the Chiltern Society and other volunteers (including Roger Craft) for all your hard work in helping clear the pond in Studridge Lane, Speen on the weekend of 7/8th October. The photo below shows the huge task which confronted them on their arrival at the pond. I hope the residents in the area appreciate the effort which was selflessly carried out.

Kop Hill Climb was once again a big success in the recent local calendar of events in spite of the weather on Saturday. Sunday's sunshine more than made up for it, and brought crowds in their hundreds to see the cars and motorbikes. There were 800+ altogether this year, with the soapbox challenge, stage events and other attractions. A wide range of foods was also available from sushi to curry, paella, the usual burgers, hotdogs, pies and pasties. The large number of visitors means that again there will be a huge sum of money raised for local charities, so it is a win-win situation for all!

Huge thanks go to all the volunteers without whom none of the organising, planning and success would be possible. Put a reminder in your diary for next year!

**Miv Hughes**



# Pink and Lily

## New Year's Knees – Up!

### Come and celebrate good times at The Pink and Lily!

The nights have definitely started drawing in, and up at The Pink there is winter magic in the air. The fires are roaring, the welcome is warming, the chef's specials are seasonal and the beer most definitely hits the spot! As Autumn makes way for Winter, we are celebrating all that is the best about a traditional English country pub!

The Pink is made for a party – and the winter season is kicking off in style on Halloween with the launch of our regular monthly quiz. The last Monday of the month sees teams of any size battling it out in friendly competition. And all for the glory – or for Halloween should that say 'gory'- of being that month's champion and a bottle or two of prosecco! With game pie for Halloween and Scottish delights on the menu for St Andrew's Day, why not make a proper evening of it and relax over dinner while giving those little grey cells a workout?

Christmas is coming and our Christmas party menu is already on sale and selling fast. Those geese – well, bronze Norfolk

turkeys anyway, had better be getting fat! If organizing the party is your responsibility, whether for work or family - make sure that you don't miss out. Menus are available from the pub, or we can email them straight to you. At £25 for two courses or £30 for three, fabulous festive fun is guaranteed. We even throw in the crackers – what more could you ask for!

Our glorious Christmas Day menu is also on sale, last year we were running a wait list from November, so I urge you to pick up the phone sooner rather than later. If you're dreading the annual seasonal invasion of the family – it can't be just me surely? – then why not relax on December 23rd with a little pre-Christmas chill out? Full menu will be available so treat yourself to a little bit of 'me' time before the hordes descend! Or if you need to, save yourself some effort, let Michael our chef take the strain and bring them all with you for dinner. The more the definite merrier!

It may seem a way off now but New Year's Eve will soon be

upon us and again we're getting the party started.

This year it's all about tradition – think a wintry walk to work up an appetite, kicking off those muddy boots in front of a roaring fire, enjoying a warming dram or three before tucking in to some spectacular seasonal fare; ringing in the New Year with a traditional singalong around the old johanna while counting down to the midnight toast with a free glass of bubbles thrown in for good measure!

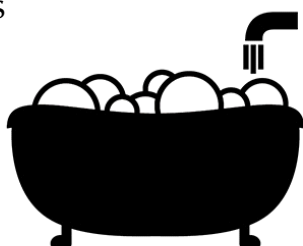
There's surely no better way to see in 2017 than to come and have a drink up at your friendly local, The Pink!

**Rodney Parker,  
Landlord**

01494 489857

## **BIRD'S BATHROOMS**

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# On The Farm

SURPRISE, SURPRISE! A farmer saying the weather was perfect.

A good yield of wheat, all brought in dry enough to store without further drying – almost unheard of! And such a saving in time and money.

Silage; food for the cows and youngstock throughout the winter. The grass kept growing; our usual three cuts were made, four on some land. The cows are still out grazing, it being fairly dry, so they are not poaching up the grass.

Lucerne, a new crop for us, was harvested. Allied to clover, it's a useful crop as it improves nitrogen in the soil. Maize was recently cut, the last to add to the clamps.

26th to 29th September: my annual trip with grassland farmers, 24 of us based at Exford. It was a packed itinerary, including shire horses and a bee farm with 1000 hives.

We learnt about the wild deer on Exmoor, with the annual cull. This is done to keep the numbers stable and in good health. The Hunt meets 3 times a week but the supporters just follow to watch at a distance. Only the huntsmen hunt, using a couple of hounds to bring the chosen animal within range. Next day we went to the meet, where at least 70 horses followed.

We spent a long time inspecting and discussing a fully automatic milking parlour, of which perhaps more another time.

We made a visit to Lynmouth Museum of the Flood of 1952. Returning from holiday at the

age of 13 we were one of first to cross the bailey bridge that the army had put in place to open the road. The whole wide valley was wrecked with torn down houses, uprooted trees, boats, cars, debris everywhere. An unforgettable sight. It looks so serene now.

One night Stanley Johnson resident expert on Exmoor was our guest speaker to round off the day. He was very entertaining and no mention of Boris (his son).

Picking up on 'bees'. At Quince Honey Farm at South Molton we all realised how little we knew. They have an excellent exhibition which absorbed us for ages. Late summer they move the hives onto Exmoor for the heather which provides lovely honey.

Back home a local bee keeper dropped in with some honey. He said it had been an unusual year as usually he is swamped out with honey from the rape crops. This is very hard, almost white and some people don't like it.

I explained that the rape crop had virtually FAILED. It was the first crop grown since an 'experimental' ban was put on the seed against Stem Flea Beetle before sowing. It was thought the dressing might be affecting the bees.

We inspected our crops after dark in September as they emerged. The beetle was present. We sprayed them at night when it is most active. The beetle will eat the young cotoledon, or if the plant survives will lay eggs on it, hatching into

larvae that live in the stem cutting off all nutrients.

The majority of oil seed rape crops, certainly around here, were ploughed back in. Many bee keepers think the ban has made no difference but it has not been lifted. If the other EU countries heed the ban too there could be a shortage of rape oil next year. Perhaps you should stock up.

We did harvest a little off one field and it is a crop we would like to keep growing being an alternative to continually growing cereals. Rape was always prone to slug and pigeon damage, both able to decimate it and now with Stem Flea Beetle it really is a challenge.

Back to the good news. We are now clear of the TB restrictions imposed after two inconclusive animals were slaughtered several months ago.

On 1st October we hosted The Chiltern Hills Ploughing Match at Walters Ash. Competitors are judged on how well the stubble is buried, how straight the furrows are, and how neat the start and finish are. Winners can go forward to national matches. Ploughing has been out of fashion but could well come back in order to bury black grass seeds, a pest. But you can't do it the next year as you bring them up again. Sometimes it is just difficult to win.

**Joan West**

P.S. Charlotte West, has just started at Harper Adams Agricultural University.



# Horticultural Society



The annual show has come and gone, and it was one of the best we have ever had. The standard of the exhibits was very high and the benches with vegetable entries were absolutely full to bursting. Geoff Nash from Princes Risborough was a very deserving winner of four trophies: the Plowman Cup, the Hughenden Cup, the Marshall Cup, and the Bill Cleaver Memorial Award for the best exhibit in the produce section for his five tomatoes.

The Connie Baker Cup for the best rose exhibit was won by Judith Woods Ballard. I won the Floral Cup. The Domestic Salver was fiercely fought and went to Joy Lawrence. The Jubilee Cup for members with most points who have not previously won an award went to Simon Bolton.



Congratulations to all the winners, also to everyone who entered, helping to make this the liveliest show in years. More details and pictures can be found on the village website. Special thanks to all the young people who entered, a record number of under 16s, who we hope to encourage with a special section in a new Spring show to be announced before Christmas.



A small group of interested members visited Grown-Up Hydroponics in Aylesbury. We were treated to a very informative talk about growing hydroponically, basically growing vegetables in aerated or atomised water, with added nutrients. It is the way that many commercial growers produce food crops now. The advantage for domestic growing is that using the systems and special lighting you can give your crops a head start, leading

to prolonged growing seasons and earlier crops. The company trade mainly through mail order, but do welcome customers too. Here you can buy coir growing medium, felt pots which will eventually compost, special mineral supplements for your crops and very interestingly, a range of chilli starter kits which we were very generously presented with on leaving.

If you have any questions about growing chillies this is the place to visit! Proprietors Mark and Emma will help set you up with everything you need and answer any problems you have with growing. I look forward to growing my Chinese Space Chillies - HJ9 Big Bang next spring!

The Pumpkin Supper is the next event for the society on November 16th, sponsored by K&B Family Butchers in Princes Risborough. On January 18th, local horticulturalist Billy Stott will tell us about his travels as a horticultural student and provide an insight into the life of professional growers. Our AGM in March will be followed by a talk on the wild flowers of the Canadian Rockies.

Now is the time to plan your growing for next year and get your seeds and planting planned. There is plenty to do in the garden, with tidying, making compost and sowing autumn crops like onions, garlic and broad beans. There is never a quiet time for gardeners, so enjoy the last of the autumn sun before the frost really sets in.

**Alison Shreeve**



# Lacey Green Productions

"Food for Thought" - Thursday  
24 November to Saturday 26  
November

This November Lacey Green Productions and Command Performers are joining together to welcome people from near and far to come with friends and family to the Millennium Hall for an entertaining evening of dinner, drink and drama - all to raise money for a number of local charities.

This year's performances will feature a trio of interesting one act plays.

In Luigi Jannuzzi's light hearted comedy *The Appointment* Mr Toemeali isn't happy: he's got an appointment with God, but will the big guy show up?



*The Appointment rehearsal*

In Dan Remmes' *Three Tables* the audience gets a funny and fascinating look at modern life as three separate couples in different stages of their relationships sit, eat and argue at the same restaurant, providing a romantic comedy of heart, hurt and laughter.

Finally in Robin Johnson's *Stitched Up* we know that Doctor Frankenstein created a monster. The monster escaped, but then what? Was there a bride? An angry mob? There



*3 Tables in rehearsal*

were certainly some interesting foreign accents. There have been so many different versions of the Frankenstein story, even the original characters don't know what's real any more. Will you?

With a mixture of old and new faces on our local stage, an all-new catering team, and a cracking trio of plays, this is the local event you won't want to miss. Rehearsals are going well as you can see from the photos. LGP shows always sell out, so get your tickets now!

Performances are on Thursday 24 November (no food but bar open), Friday 25 November (Dinner Theatre) and Saturday 26 November (Dinner Theatre).

Tickets are available now by calling Helen on 01844 347518 or Anne on 01844 347818 or through our website at [www.laceygreenproductions.co.uk](http://www.laceygreenproductions.co.uk)

In March 2017 LGP will be taking a Murder Mystery entertainment to Great Hampden and Winslow and also to Whiteleaf Golf Club for the local Rotary organisation. All these performances will help to raise further money for charity. LGP's total raised so far now stands at over £60,000.

Interested in acting or any of the peripheral activities? We always welcome new faces to come and join Lacey Green Productions. To find out more about the group you can visit our fledgling Facebook page @LaceyGreenProductions and Twitter.

A lot of new ideas are being discussed at the moment to keep LGP buzzing, so watch this space and keep your eye on our social media sites.

**John Titchen**



*Stitched Up in rehearsal*

# FAMOUS LOCAL INCIDENT IN 1925



Wikipedia describes what happened at the Kop Hill Climb in 1925 as a 'minor incident'. This is far from the truth as it had far reaching consequences. Hill climbs were competitive and held all over the country. At Kop Hill in 1925 a car ran into the crowd. Though nobody was killed, the RAC then banned all motorsports on public roads. It was as a result of this that Grand Prix Racing was developed. The Climb was revived in 1999 but is now run as a charitable non-competitive event.

Why is your Local History Group mentioning an event that took place in Princes Risborough when this is going to focus on the lives of two much loved women, one from Loosley Row and one who lived in Lacey Green?

Elsie Rixon lived at Green Hailey Farm at the top of Kop Hill. Aged 18 she was a Red Cross first aider and gave first aid at the accident in 1925. As a child she had attended Lacey Green School. It was a long walk and in order for her to walk with her

one year younger sister, she was permitted to start and leave school one year later than was usual.

It was also in 1925 that she married Frank Chilton and came to Lacey Green, living at no. 2 Belle Vue, Main Road. About 1950 she started work delivering the post for Mr Harvey of Harvey's Stores and P.O. Loosley Row, together with Mrs Dormer. Their rounds at that time are still to be researched. The Post Office moved to Mr. Lawrence at the top of Loosley Hill in 1952. She retired in 1977. The G.P.O. issued a uniform, including shoes, expecting her to walk her round, but she used her own bicycle. She started at 7.30am at the P.O. She was expected to finish at 10.45am after delivering down the south side of the Main Road, including the side roads as they were built. After the Black Horse she turned into Church Lane, back onto the Main Road to the 'old' vicarage, now Lacey House, and Grymsdyke. Then off to Smalldean Farm (a steep hill on that stretch) Holly Bush Farm, since demolished for the Air Force and a final call over at Speen Farm which should, one would think, have been part of Hilda Gomme's round.

Hilda Gomme, born 1896 started working for Mr. Allen in Lower Road, Loosley Row at the first P.O. here when she was 24. The P.O. briefly moved to Harvey's Stores, Lower Road then up Loosley Hill to Mr. Lawrence's. Hilda had had a very major operation for stomach cancer, but being the person she

was, she duly recovered, retiring in 1970, aged 74 after clocking up 50 years' service. The GPO expected them to walk, but she too used her bicycle to start with. However by the late 1950s she was only on foot. Her route was along the Pink Road to Widmer Farm then back to the Lacey Green Main Road. Only one house at the bottom of Goodacres Lane then. Keeping to the north side of the main road then down Kiln Lane, along Highwood Bottom, up through Flowers Bottom. Next, Turnip end and Slad Lane back to the Main Road. She then delivered along the north side of the Main Road as far as Kiln Lane. She also crossed to the opposite side which Mrs Chilton had missed as she went round the back of Church Lane.

Hilda's hours were 7.30am to 10.15am, half an hour less than Mrs Chilton. She had one week's holiday a year. Mrs Chilton had two weeks holiday. Speen Farm was logically on Hilda's route and she would have gladly done it, but it might have taken her over her hours, in which case she too would have had two weeks holiday, also a full uniform. She had a cap and jacket but was not issued with shoes!!! They both had a day off on the Queen's birthday. From the 18th December to Christmas they did two delivery rounds a day. The GPO vans took over after them.

For more information on the families, the places and businesses of Loosley Row and Lacey Green go to [www.laceygreen.com/Sections/History](http://www.laceygreen.com/Sections/History).



# St John's School



Here at St Johns C of E (VA) Combined School we have had a quiet start to the school year with our new pupils settling in very well.

We have been busy with preparations for our Harvest Festival and the School has been full of the sound of harvest songs. The School is currently decorated with scarecrows made by the children which each class used as inspiration for our whole school write (see below).

We have used Harvest as our focus for National Poetry Day and the children all learnt a poem for the Church Service. We collected food donations which have been given to Saunderton Lodge and Icknield Court as part of our Harvest Celebration.

Our Remembrance Service will take place on 11th November at 10.45am.

On the 18th of November we will be raising money for Children In Need when everyone will be encouraged to wear something spotty.

We are looking forward to the Festive period and have a variety of events taking place:

- Christmas Fayre - Friday 2nd December from 2.30pm
- Key Stage 1 Performance – Wednesday 7th December 2pm
- Key Stage 1 Performance – Thursday 8th December 6pm
- Key Stage 2 Cast A Performance –Tuesday 13th December 2pm and 7pm
- Key Stage 2 Cast B Performance –Thursday 15th December 2pm and 7pm
- End of Term Service Tuesday 20th December 1.45pm

Please contact the school for availability nearer the time.

**St John's School Office**



# Youth Club News

Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen YC to give it its full title continues to thrive thanks to volunteers, although it was touch and go for a while.

Jenny Stothard and Karen Lowes left us this year after several years as leaders. A big thank you to them for their dedication and efforts during that time. This would have left us with just two of the original leaders had we not first found some new ones. We would have had to close the club had parents not stepped forward. Thanks to Cathy Tyrell and Mary Joseph whose supportive emails to get volunteers did far better than mine ever do.

It is always difficult to get helpers, those that do help know only too well it is often the same few public spirited people that do so. Some people are genuinely unable but others are just simply takers – I hope they feel guilty. Just take a turn, give something back and the world is a better

place and you will feel good about yourself.

The youth club needs six people every session to be safe and at least one of them is required to know some first aid, fortunately rarely needed. Things have to be organised, some behind the scenes – we have a treasurer, and the tuck-shop has to be supplied.

One parent makes sure we have enough people every session. We get apparatus out and put it away and then just keep one eye on the kids whilst socialising with our peers. The kids have a powerful sense of self preservation at this age but they don't always see the risk to others or to property as they scoot and tear about. They also get up to mischief - we need eyes everywhere. They do seem to have lots of fun without any help from us although we do organise a game here and there, with cooking and crafts, all for variety.



Sometimes we get specialists in for something really different or we go down to the field.

Some youngsters who have left come back to do the community part of their Duke of Edinburgh, so all in all the club provides a lot of opportunities for a hour and a half every two weeks.

One final request: although the club is plodding along it needs a dedicated leader. As a grumpy old fart I am too far removed by age for them to relate to me. Especially if I have to get down on the floor as they have to help me up again.

**Leigh Axe**

## Short Mat Bowls

Every Monday afternoon 2pm  
Lacey Green Village Hall.

The Club, still flourishing, started in July 2010, more by luck than anything because new mats cost at least £800. That would be a large outlay even for several people and a big risk should it not be successful. Anyway we had the good fortune to have invited a member of the Chinnor Club and to cut a long story short he was able to get us two second hand mats for £100. The £20 we all put in is now the one off membership fee for any new member. That, a couple of grants from the local authority and £1 a week only when you attend has kept us with

the ability to buy a new mat whenever we need. We now have two new mats and one of the old ones.

Thanks to the skills of Les Hazell we also have some wheeled 'coffins' to keep the mats in. At a push (pun intended) one person can get the mats out although it is easier with two. Compare that with the use of a wooden pole through the middle and four of us trying to carry it out, although that was funny to watch.

We maintain thirty members with an average attendance over the year of half that number. It is more social than competitive although it is good to win. It is also healthy –

you walk, you bend and you lift, albeit gently, oh and you can sit and get up a lot too.

New members are welcome and in fact the comment often made is just that – 'You made me feel welcome'. Don't worry about your skill level, beginners often do better than most of us.

**Leigh Axe**





# Community Planning Group

You didn't have anything from the Group in the previous Hallmark, and I wouldn't like you to think that we have evaporated.

## Lacey Green Stores

The stores continues to thrive, although it would be nice to have more customers. I was looking at some old papers the other day - results of one of the many surveys that we used to carry out. One of these was very revealing - 65 residents said that they would use the stores and would spend £12 each every week. I can confidently tell you that we do not have takings of this order!

We do see some interesting features. When St John's school is open, quite a number of mums park their cars in the Millennium Hall car park. Over several years, the number of these mums that have even entered the stores can be counted on the fingers of my right hand. I haven't actually asked any of them whether there is a reason, yet!

The time credits scheme is functioning, although it seems

that not much use is being made of it. It is quite possible that our volunteers simply don't have the time to make use of the various things on which credits can be spent.

As usual, we are always on the lookout for volunteers to help in the Stores, so if you fancy your chances in the retail business, do give us a shout.

## Princes Risborough

We mentioned the town plan in the last but one issue, but didn't mention a possible comprehensive ban on parking on most of the residential roads in the town. I haven't seen anything else about this recently, but I suspect that it is not going to disappear. It would be quite catastrophic for anyone with a car wanting to visit someone in Risborough who didn't have spare space on their drive (assuming that they had a drive). What it is going to be like if and when the town plan does go ahead I shudder to think.

## Welcome packs

Three of these were delivered over one weekend in July, but nothing since. I do hope that we

haven't missed anybody. Appeal to residents - tell me if you know of anyone moving into a property near you.

## Pubs and grubs

We are very fortunate in having our three pubs. Hopefully they will continue to function well into the future. So many have been closed elsewhere, and even changed into houses. Makes a small dent in the housing statistics, but it's always a loss to the community.

## Planning Group organisation and activities

The group started in 2002. It can be a quite powerful body to tackle community problems that are outside the jurisdiction of the local authorities. I am very conscious that as chairman of its steering group since foundation, it is high time for someone else to take over and introduce fresh ideas and action. I would welcome feedback from the residents.

**Tony Molesworth**

01844 344975

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## Duncan Collet-Fenson – European and UK Audiologist of the Year

Aston Hearing has been providing quality independent private hearing care for nearly thirty years, and now is proud to announce that Aston Hearing's Director and long-standing audiologist, Duncan Collet-Fenson, has been named European and UK Audiologist of the Year 2016.

Aston is a very local company that started life in West Wycombe and had many happy years based in Loosley Row, now working from two successful practices in Amersham and Thame. Employing 14 people – 7 of which live in Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Naphill!

The award is European wide, and recognizes 'outstanding care' by a hearing care professional. The Audiologist of the Year title is awarded on the basis of commitment, exceptional knowledge and making a tangible difference to their patient's lifestyle.

**Kate Collet-Fenson**

# Tennis Club

The 7th and 8th October were a great tennis weekend for the club. On the Saturday, despite the weather's best efforts, we held an autumn junior competition. Nine juniors ranging from 11-15 came along to play doubles followed by singles. There was some brilliant tennis played and in the end Toby Burton and Anthony Joseph won the U14s and U16s respectively. We were really pleased with how the afternoon went and there will definitely be another one in March. Hopefully we can get a few girls to come along too?

The black clouds and rain had cleared on the Sunday and our afternoon BBQ was held in lovely autumnal sunshine. Suitably fuelled by sausages and burgers cooked alongside the court, members enjoyed an afternoon of friendly mixed doubles. The format worked well and we shall be replicating this for future events.

## Men's Trip

A few weeks earlier we had our annual 3 night tennis break to Murcia, South East Spain. Six members were originally going, but unfortunately one member had to pull out at the last minute. We didn't like the idea of being just five, so in the end we hastily bought a small soft toy in the terminal as a tour mascot. We made sure he came to all our activities from being chair umpire at the clay courts in the

morning to dancing in the Piano Bar in the evening.

It was a great weekend break and the clay courts were fantastic to play on. I don't think our canine mascot really appreciated the heat and perhaps it was a case of mad dogs and Englishmen. There was one Scotsman, but I think he was just pleased to see the sun, full stop!

## Competition Cups

Compared to other clubs, we have never had any trophy cups to present. People love competition and there is nothing better than achieving that down-the-line winning topspin to be crowned champion! So we now have three cups which are associated with the history of the club and will be named the "Bradley", "Ebbles" and "West" cups.

The Bradley cup is named after Wyndham and Dianne Bradley. Wyndham was chair for 8 years during the 1960s and 70s and Dianne was secretary for many years. The Bradley cup will be presented to the men's champion.

Mike and Maureen Ebbles were heavily involved with the club during the 1980s and early 1990s. Mike was chair of the club for some 10 years and was instrumental in building the 3rd court in 1985. Maureen was ladies' captain, she also helped with the social side and raising funds for the club. The Ebbles'



cup will be for the winning ladies' champion.

Each year we will be having a Sunday tournament for mixed doubles and the winners will be presented with the "West Cups" after John and Joan West. Many of you will not know that the West family kindly donated, on a free long-term lease, the strip of land which incorporates the playground, football training ground and our second and third tennis courts. In addition, they assisted the club in 1999 when we badly need funds to refurbish court 3, not to mention numerous other areas over the years.

I am aware that there are many other people who have also had a major role in the development of the club. Hopefully this is just the start, and as we move forward there will be further cups which will recognise others.

For details see our website: [Clubspark.lta.org.uk/LaceyGreenTennisClub](http://Clubspark.lta.org.uk/LaceyGreenTennisClub). Our Facebook page (link on website) contains all the latest pictures including the autumn tournaments.

**Nigel Glenister**





# Windmill Under 5s



The autumn term at Windmills is now well under way and after a relatively quiet start to the term, the preschool is once again buzzing with happy children who are enthusiastic and keen to learn.

This term the children have been climbing beanstalks, blowing down houses and tasting porridge as part of our "Fairy Stories" theme.

They have learnt all about the autumn, and enjoyed collecting falling leaves, conkers and other "treasures" on some autumn walks. They have also been making the most of the good weather whilst it lasts, spending lots of time outside in the garden and doing sports on the field.

At the end of last term we said an emotional goodbye to our school leavers who have moved up to "big school". Their departure was marked in traditional Windmills style with a royal tea party.

The children all looked fantastic in their finery and crowns, and loved the entertainment provided by Wayne Wonder.

The staff and remaining children are very grateful for the fantastic selection of new outdoor toys and equipment donated by those leaving. They are brilliant and the great weather this autumn has meant that they have already had lots of use. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

In September we welcomed 5 new children to the preschool who have quickly settled into their new environment, and are enjoying all that Windmills has to offer. It is no surprise that the waiting list is also filling up again fast. This is testament to the fabulous job that the staff; Angela, Louisa, Lucy, Annie, Keely, 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 brought change in the committee of Windmills. At the AGM last week we said goodbye to Nell Rigg and Kristina Black, who have both been fantastic members of the committee and will be sorely missed. Thank you both for your efforts, enthusiasm and commitment to the preschool.

Next week will see us host our first fundraising event of the year - the annual Halloween party. This has been a great success in recent years, and Natasha Kann's efforts will ensure that this year's event will be no different!

After the half term break, the staff will start to plan for our Christmas activities, and I am sure that it won't be long before the children start practising for the Christmas play. Renditions of Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer will be 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. You can also look at our new website for more information about the preschool (<http://www.windmillunder5s.co.uk/>).

**Victoria Geenes  
Chair**



# ChildCare

## MALAWI

All of us see pictures of poor African children in dire need; mostly we feel a quick burst of sympathy then move on.

But 5 years ago when Clare Clements from Loosley Row saw a picture of a young Malawian boy unable to walk due to club feet, she decided that she had to do something to help. She had never been to Malawi, and had no experience of running a charity. However she did have a friend Joyce Maunde who lives in Malawi so Clare asked Joyce if she could track down the boy in the picture.

Joyce located the boy - named Fredson, in a village called Zombe. Fredson was unable to walk and was having to be carried to school, so Clare set out to provide him with a wheelchair.

Malawian roads are really rough and European wheelchairs would be too flimsy. Clare found a hospital workshop that was willing to make a rugged wheelchair for Fredson and raised the money to pay for it. Fredson's life was transformed as his friends could now push him to school. (See picture).

Joyce told Clare how successful the wheelchair had been but pointed out that his whole family was living from hand to mouth in deep poverty and needed help with the basics of life. Together they created a simple support

package that includes a cooking stove, solar lighting to read by, a basic mobile phone to keep in touch and a tiny amount of money to buy essentials. £3 per child each term is enough to make a great difference in Malawi.

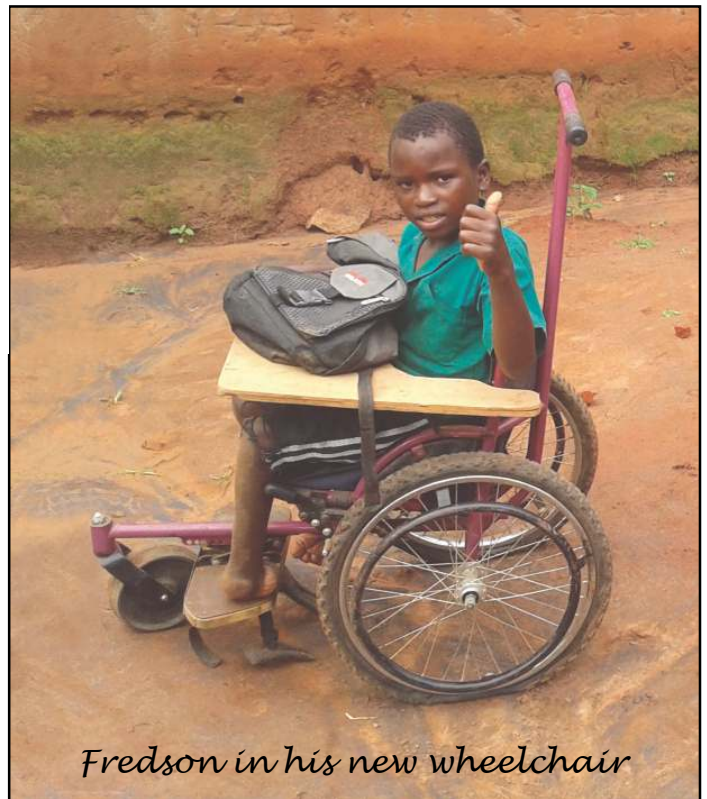
Clare's operation has slowly grown over the past 5 years. She has had to replace Fredson's wheelchair as he has grown. She has also provided a second wheelchair for another family with a daughter who has cerebral palsy. Clare and Joyce now provide ongoing support to five families with disabled or especially vulnerable children.

### Can you help?

Clare runs ChildCare Malawi all on her own. She takes no salary or expenses and all money raised is spent in Malawi.

Small sums of money go an incredibly long way in Malawi. Just £18 will provide a primary school child with uniform, shoes and extra tuition fees for a year.

Clare also collects used children's clothing, toys and games and sends these out to Zombe village. She would be delighted if you have any suitable items that you can give her.



*Fredson in his new wheelchair*

She is also keen to provide Joyce with a laptop to keep in communication; if you have an old one then she can reuse it. The battery needs to be still working as the electricity supply in Malawi is most unreliable.

Joyce is supplementing her income by hiring out wedding dresses, which are unaffordable for most brides in Malawi. If you have an unwanted wedding dress or any bridal accessories please give them a new lease of life by donating them to Joyce.

Clare has created a website at [www.childcaremalawi.org.uk](http://www.childcaremalawi.org.uk) This contains many beautiful, uplifting pictures of Malawian children. The website gives more details on how to donate and how any contributions you make can be used.

Clare lives at Beechurst on Woodway, 01844 343602 email [clare@childcaremalawi.org.uk](mailto:clare@childcaremalawi.org.uk)

**Mike Piercy**



# Lacey Green Singers

## New MD for Lacey Green Singers

In our last report, we said goodbye to our musical director James Woodhall. He left us to become director of music at a large public school on the south coast. Our loss was certainly their gain and we understand he has settled in quickly and is doing very well.

Happily, it wasn't too long before we were fortunate to find a local replacement, Lucy Twaite.

She writes: "I have been living in Lacey Green since I was seven, and it was during my music lessons at St John's Primary School that I developed my love of music and decided to make it

my career. Last year, I graduated with a degree in music from Cardiff University where I enjoyed singing and playing in a variety of choirs and orchestras, as well as having fun in a fantastic city.

"I am absolutely loving conducting the choir so far! We are currently rehearsing for the annual LGS Christmas concert in the Millennium Hall on Sunday 4 December and I look forward to meeting you all there. As always, the choir will be reinforced by children from St John's, so come along and share with us an evening of celebration as we start the festive period. I should add that since I joined we have already recruited some



additional singers – including men! – so if you would like to sing a wide range of music and meet new people, now's the time to join! We meet every Thursday evening in the school at 7.45pm."

**Alan Lewis**

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## Black Horse

It does not seem possible that it is that time of year again when the clocks go back and the leaves on the trees are turning brown and falling. Also it is Christmas menu time once again; it only seems yesterday when we were doing Christmas lunches and parties. We have had one of the busiest summers for many years, thank you to all my customers who have supported us and to all my hard working staff.

Well what has happened since I last put pen to paper. New arrival to the village, Harrison, a new addition to the proud parents Emma and Barry. Congratulations to you both, he is gorgeous. Also the addition to Lisa and Ian's home, a new puppy called Oscar, who the

Black Horse will have the pleasure of baby sitting in the near future. Congratulations to Tim and Leanne on their wedding it was a wonderful day.

We did the yearly quiz for the Wycombe Lions charity; we raised a fair amount of money which was good. And a Black Horse team got through to the final at Booker community centre. Roger and Wendy Whip, Cheffie, Ian and Lisa Saxton and you are not going to believe this, me. I answered three questions correctly, so chuffed. Well done to the team.

It will soon be time to start the darts winter league. It is a shame but due to not enough players we have had to lose a team.

Thank you Rob for all your hard work last season running the team, you did a good job. Thank you. Well done to Lisa and Ian for running the Aunt Sally league this summer, it was great fun as usual, next year please?

We have got back into the Good Beer Guide 2017, which is great news. Also we now have a new web site [www.blackhorse-pub.co.uk](http://www.blackhorse-pub.co.uk). Please keep your eyes out for new things happening on our notice boards. A reminder that we do not do breakfasts in December.

Happy Christmas to you all

**Lynne**

# District Council News

There is a lot of activity within the Town Hall. Work continues on the evaluation of the several thousand responses by residents to the District Local Plan to update the plan before it is submitted to the Government in March 2017. The release of some of the larger sites in Wycombe for housing has required the recruitment of additional staff within the Planning team to handle the planning applications.

## Unitary Authority

Bucks County Council has recently published a lengthy report that proposes the creation of a new single unitary council in Bucks to replace the existing County Council and four District Councils.

The District Councils of Wycombe, Aylesbury Vale, South Bucks and Chiltern responded by uniting to produce another lengthy independently prepared report. This advocates that a reorganisation into two or three unitary authorities has clear benefits over a single authority. The cost savings achieved by reducing administration costs are less than with a single authority but still significant. However the report argues that residents will receive better service levels as decisions will by definition be more local.

Buckinghamshire is a county of two distinct parts, the rural area north of Aylesbury and the more densely populated southern areas. A 'one size fits all' approach will not achieve the necessary improvements in service. Cost saving is one of the key issues but only good value if

service levels are maintained or improved.

The key benefit of a unitary authority is that it is a 'one stop' authority that will deal with all local government. In the current system County deals with roads, transport, adult social care etc. and District handles waste collection, leisure facilities, food licensing and planning matters. After reorganisation, in all of the proposals, each unitary will be responsible for all local government matters.

Your thoughts on this subject do matter and the reports have been published for consultation. Go to [www.wycombe.gov.uk/mlg](http://www.wycombe.gov.uk/mlg)

## Parliament

To add to the changes, the Boundary Commission has proposed that the Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens ward be moved to Cheryl Gillan's Amersham and Chesham parliamentary constituency.

The rules for the review state that every constituency should contain no fewer than 71,031 electors and no more than 78,507. This is a significant change to the old rules under which there was no statutory fixed permissible range. Existing English constituencies currently range from 54,232 to 105,448 electors, based on data contained in the electoral registers for 2000.

The proposed changes advocate moving our ward and the Greater Hughenden ward into the Chesham and Amersham constituency. The wards of Bledlow & Bradenham and Stokenchurch & Radnage are

proposed to move into the Wycombe ward.

This proposal would mean that the Wycombe constituency would have an electorate of 77,998. The Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens ward is actually the smallest of the 28 wards within the WDC area with an electorate of just 2,043. Greater Hughenden has 6,486, Bledlow and Bradenham 2,149 and Stokenchurch & Radnage has 4,137.

I give you these numbers as it is really a matter of moving pieces around a chess board to achieve the best result. My thoughts are that we are probably best served where we are or a move to Steve Baker's Wycombe constituency would also be fine. However most residents have no affinity with Amersham and Chesham and it is seen by many as a most unwelcome change. Hazlemere North (3,717) and Hazlemere South (3,439) are much closer to Amersham but are proposed to remain within the Wycombe constituency. Perhaps a logical alternative strategy or do you have an alternative?

It will happen unless there is a considerable volume of objections. If you have any comments to make to the Boundary Commission, you can go to the website [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk) to give your views before the deadline on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

## Graham Peart

Councillor for Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens  
01494 488327  
[graham.peart@wycombe.gov.uk](mailto:graham.peart@wycombe.gov.uk)





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Kindergym and Melody Minors are announcing expansion in several areas! A new reception – year 2 class is starting at Monks Risborough on a Wednesday, 3.30pm – 4.30pm. New baby music classes are opening in Haddenham, Bicester and Great Haseley, and a new Wild Rumpus class at Bicester.

If you believe your child has benefited from our classes please spare the time to give us a review on netmums, or share us on Facebook or comment.

Imagination station sessions had lots of excitement this half term when we invited some firefighters to join us for our “People who help us” workshop, They dressed Heather up as a firefighter which the children found very amusing! I think Heather secretly enjoyed it too!

Our next special guest will be a photographer who is joining us for

our “Watch the Birdie” workshops. He will show the children how to take photos of our wildlife, (fluffy tweeting birds on Kindergym trestles) and also take a few informal photos of the children for the parents at a very low cost.

We are taking bookings now for our Advent craft party – it will be nice to start the season in style! Saturday 3 December 10am – 12pm £9 per child . Age 1–7 yrs (3 yrs and above can be left with us)

The children will be able to take lots of decorations home with them, and there will be lots of messy play options for the younger ones. There will be no shortage of glitter or festive treats, but booking is essential.

Come and visit us at any of our classes at Lacey Green on a Friday – it is always nice to meet and make new friends.

**Jenny Stothard**



# MP's Update



Normally, the last thing constituents have on their minds is the structure of local government. But just now it's important to think about just that issue, because a very big decision is looming about local government here in Bucks.

Our County and District Councils all believe that the current system cannot carry on. I agree. Whoever is in government, money will be tight. In this context, it isn't sensible to continue with five separate councils, each with back office structures and management teams.

Often, the division of responsibilities is confusing. Wycombe District Council is responsible for housing and planning, while Buckinghamshire County Council is responsible for the infrastructure that supports those developments and is the lead authority for managing flood risks.

Wycombe collects our rubbish but Bucks is responsible for disposing of it. We pay our council tax bill to the District, but the biggest slice goes to the County, which has to fund expensive services like social care.

Perhaps in the 1970s, when the present system was set up, this all made sense, but now we need reform. Fewer, larger councils would provide economies of scale.

So I welcome Bucks County Council's plan to abolish itself and the four District Councils in favour of a single, unitary council for the whole of Buckinghamshire. They reckon £18 million a year could be saved.

The number of councillors would drop from 238 to 98. There'd be just one phone number and email address for "the council". We wouldn't need to puzzle out which council does what.

I was pleased that the plan recognised the need to devolve power within Bucks, and it contains interesting ideas about delivering services through community boards where Unitary Council members would sit with parish and other local community representatives. The idea that some services and assets like buildings could be devolved to town and parish councils like Lacey Green is welcome.

Our District Councils have now just published their alternative plan. They too want a unitary system but prefer two or three councils to just one.

We need to look at the small print of the different plans and decide which outcome we prefer. For me, there are three key questions:

- which option will cost local taxpayers least;
- which will provide the best services,
- how to ensure a local council is big enough to plan services strategically but which also respects village and town identities.

**David Lidington MP**

## Princes Centre Update

There is still much to do to get the Centre up to scratch. There are plans to refurbish the clients' toilet facilities in the upper hall area early next year, although this is dependent on funding becoming available.

Our main project in the lower hall area is rather complex and expensive, and involves moving the kiln so as to enable

the provision of a wheelchair lift between the varying floor levels, and restructuring and reroofing the lower hall area.

As you can imagine this is more long term due to getting the details correct, sorting the planning, and last but not least, getting the necessary funding.

**Maggie Wooster**



# 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.

In my article in the July edition, I reported that even without Brexit, and with decreasing funding from Central Government to Local Authorities it has been agreed that there must be some form of modernization of local government in Bucks.

Over the summer months, officers from Bucks County Council have worked on a business case looking at all the options from one single unitary, 2 unitaries, or 3 unitaries with a Combined Authority. The Council debated and voted in September for a single unitary with savings of £45m over 5 years. There would be 19 Community Boards set up under these proposals and 5 Area Planning Hubs for more Local issues. This business case has

been submitted to the DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government.)

However the 4 District Councils have engaged Deloittes to develop a business case for some other form of a Unitary Council and although there are greater savings to be made from having a single unitary, their recommendation is for 3 unitary Councils as it is considered that there would be more localism.

As this is going to press, the Leader of Bucks County Council and the 4 Leaders of the District Councils are due to meet to work through a solution that will benefit all the residents of Buckinghamshire. The District Councils recommendation will also be submitted to DCLG.

The DCLG will then assess both bids and make a decision in January 2017. Currently the plans are for a unitary or unitaries to be set up by April 2019 with elections of Members in May 2019. (I would add that there will still be the County Council Elections taking place in May 2017).

Once a decision has been taken regarding the way forward, there will be consultations for residents, businesses and stakeholders to have input into how this or these new councils will operate.

Locally, there were plans for Studridge Lane in Speen to have micro surfacing works carried out by September this year.

It was the top priority road that I recommended as the Local Member earlier in the year as part of the Capital Maintenance Programme. All notices were posted that these works would be carried out from June over a 15 week period ending on 26th September. However Transport for Buckinghamshire, upon inspection, have stated that micro surfacing will not be sufficient with the Lane requiring an alternative more robust option. I have been given assurances that these works will be completed by early 2017. However, I am endeavouring to get a programme of works released as soon as possible.

So that is about it for now!

To end, I know that we have another month before the Festive season commences, but can I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017.

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**

County Councillor for the  
Ridgeway West Division

Chairman of the North West  
Chilterns Local Area Forum

Buckinghamshire County Council



# Windmill WI

The July meeting was very interesting, our speaker was Alistair Borland MBE who is Chairman of Service Emergency Rider Volunteers (SERV). SERV is a volunteer run charity which exists to provide the facilities and resources to allow their members to deliver vital rapid response services. SERV transports urgently needed medical items to hospitals. The charity is run entirely by volunteers who receive no compensation for their time or costs.

Also in July some of our members went to a Tea Party at Marlow Rowing Club. It was a very pleasant afternoon with tea, cakes and a talk by a WI Advisor.

In August our speaker was Lucy Allen telling us about the highs and lows of a Stunt Woman's Life. Lucy is a professional stunt woman and a qualified stunt co-ordinator. She has over 20 years experience in the film and TV industries. Lucy told us about her own personal journey into stunts and shared her experiences, both scary and hilarious at times, doing the job she loves.

In August we also had our Summer Lunch at Pat's house. The weather was kind to us and we all sat in the garden and enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the committee. It was an excellent afternoon and we all enjoyed the social side of this event.

Six of our members had a very enjoyable day at Denman which is our WI College at Marcham near Abingdon. We were greeted with coffee and biscuits, then there was a very good cookery demonstration by a WI Tutor. After an excellent lunch we had a tour and history of the college, finishing the day with a lovely cream tea before we travelled home.

At the beginning of September it was our 29th birthday meeting. We celebrated with a birthday cake, made by our President Pat, and wine. Our speaker was Karen Elliott who is a freelance florist. She showed us how to make several beautiful flower arrangements which she later kindly raffled for some of our members. At the end of September it was The Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.



Several of our members helped serving tea, coffee and homemade cakes, also running the Tombola and other stalls. This was very much a village event and we were all pleased to help and even more pleased with the amount raised.

This month we had our AGM where we listened to the Financial Statement, the Committee's Annual Report and the President's Address and Adoption of the Annual Report. After all this business we were pleased to enjoy coffee, cakes and a quiz.

Our Jumble Sale was a huge success we had loads of jumble and lots of customers. We all worked very hard setting up stalls, selling cakes and doing Tombola.

**Ann Bartlett**

## Where have all the kites gone?

For the early part of this summer we had kites nesting in the cedar tree in Loosley House garden. In spite of various assaults on their nesting site by crows and other opportunists, they produced a very vociferous chick who, as soon as he could fly, spent his time sitting in the top of the ash tree yelling to be fed from 4am to 9pm which wasn't bad going!

His poor parents were worn ragged! Eventually he set off to begin foraging himself and is still living in our trees and we see him

most days. However, over recent years there have been many kites in the valley. Whenever we looked out of the window there would be four or five gliding over the fields below in search of heaven knows what.

Now ours are the only ones, no other kites appear to be sharing their space. This is not all, there seems to be very few in Lacey Green, Saunderton and Risborough, the odd one certainly, but not the numbers from a year or so ago.

I don't really miss them as I have long been of the opinion that there were too many for the area to sustain without unnatural feeding by local people. The original aim was that they should spread across the country in twos and threes to enhance the bird population. However, the sudden reduction in the population has intrigued me and I wonder whether anyone has an explanation?

**Ginnie Brudenell**



# Happy Wanderers

## Lane End

A very large turnout of members of the Happy Wanderers Club assembled in the Lane End village car park on a wonderfully warm and sunny morning. Having endured some cold and wet conditions during earlier walks everyone was determined to make the most of the benign summer weather.

The leaders of our walk were Peter and Jo Clee, who live in Lane End, and who were very familiar with the various options to suit our members.

Initially 26 walkers plus several canine companions, under the supervision of Badger, leader of the dog section, set off over Ditchfield Common. We went past the village church and through a wooded area towards Bolter End. The route had been chosen carefully to avoid stiles or steep climbs.

After about a mile the shorter route walkers, led by Jo, branched off to return to Lane

End via Moor Common and to enjoy a morning coffee at the Grouse and Ale.

The main group of 19 walkers continued along a farm track running from Bolter End towards Little Frieth which commanded some beautiful views towards the Hambleden Valley. The wheat fields were still awaiting harvest so some of the fields had restricted paths around the edges and at one point we were walking through a head-height maize crop.

Our route meandered towards Frieth and the walkers were able to admire several quaint village houses along a country lane. After Frieth it was decided



to cut the walk a little short so we returned via Moorend Common to join the others at the Grouse and Ale where we were served with some very appetising lunches.

**Peter Clee**

## Cookham Moor

Our walk on Sunday 28th August started from the National Trust car park on Cookham Moor. We had a gentle climb up and across the John Lewis golf course on Winter Hill from where we enjoyed fine views of the countryside and the River Thames. Our return to the car park was along the tow path past the Bounty public house which interestingly can only be reached by either the river or on foot via the tow path!

A most enjoyable walk of about 4.25 miles which was not marred despite some light showers. Lunch was enjoyed by a number of members at The Crown on Cookham Moor.

**Ron Collins**



# Obituary for John Mortham

John Mortham had lived in the village for 23 years. He was born in 1930 in Oxford near the Thames, and he soon became proficient at all water sports, including swimming, diving, rowing, canoeing and even ice skating. He did well at junior school, and gained a scholarship to Magdalen College School.

He excelled at maths and sciences though the arts were never his strong subjects. He enjoyed many sports, including rugby and boxing. The family was not able to support him through university, so he began work in the Public Health Laboratory at Oxford, where he could train on the job. He was soon called for National Service, and served two years in the labs at Woolwich Hospital, where he was able to continue his training.

After returning to Oxford, he achieved qualifications in Bacteriology, Haematology and Parasitology. He moved to Aylesbury, where he became a Senior Technician at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, mainly in Bacteriology, but he was expected to deal with all departments when he was On Call at night.

The extra income allowed him to marry his first wife, Margaret. They had two children, Angela and Anthony. John continued his sporting interests, and completed the Devizes to Westminster canoe race (an overnight marathon). He was running the local scout troupe, and later began to run the Rover Scouts in Princes Risborough.

Throughout his life, John was always keen to encourage young

people, and it was his great boast that no one in his department had ever failed an exam, until the training was taken over by Universities.

When Sir Ludwig Guttman built the Stadium for the Disabled at the back of the hospital, John was asked to help found a Lifesaving Club, which provided all the lifeguards for disabled events for many years. A junior section was begun and in order to retain the interest of the teenagers, he bought a boat, and began lifeguard patrols on the Thames. Their activities included providing a Safety Boat at Henley Regatta and looking after the pool at the Boat Show. John gained a Distinction in lifesaving and became a Royal Lifesaving Society Instructor and Examiner. He also became a Royal Yachting Association Examiner for power boats.

During the cold war, John was involved with emergency planning at the County Offices. He finished his career in the laboratory as Senior Chief Medical Laboratory Scientific Officer.

In 1969, Quanton Railway Society was formed. John was able to pursue his great passion in life, and became one of their first members. Railways were in his blood. Many family members had worked on the railways, including his grandfather, another John Mortham, but known as Hellfire Jack. In 1972, John was able to purchase his own locomotive, a Peckett, number 2105, which he named Rokeby, after the Mortham family estates in Northumberland.



In 1993, John married his second wife, Rosemary, and moved to Lacey Green. For many years, as part of his job, he had been overseeing Pest Control at the Hospital. When the opportunity came to take early retirement, he decided to set up a business on his own. He thoroughly enjoyed this, as it gave him the opportunity to meet many people, who were always glad to see him.

Things started to go wrong when he fell from a locomotive and broke his neck. He made a good recovery, surprising the doctors, but shortly after this he was found to have a heart problem, and was given a replacement valve. He was now retired, and was able to spend much more time at Quanton with his engine.

In 2013, he began to show signs of Parkinsonism and dementia, but he and Rosemary were still able to enjoy life. Both conditions worsened, so that by 2016 he was confined to a wheelchair. It was no life for such an active man, but he had many good friends who came to help him, and to whom Rosemary is very grateful.

He died in the early hours of 21st July 2016, at the age of 85 years. His was truly a full and active life of which his family is very proud.

**Rosemary Mortham**



# Golden Joinery



I have recently heard about the about the Japanese art of *Kintsugi*, which means “golden joinery”; also known as *Kintsukuroi* meaning “golden repair”. This is the art, or perhaps we should say philosophy, of repairing pottery with lacquer dusted or mixed with gold, silver or platinum.

I read that *Kintsugi philosophy*, which has its origins in ideas from Zen Buddhism by the way, treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object.

In other words, having been broken and repaired, and having a history, makes an object more beautiful - not less so as we in the Western world might be conditioned to think. Japanese aesthetics values the beauty of something which is flawed and imperfect by reason of the marks of wear and tear of having been used.

This can be seen as a rationale for keeping an object around even after it has broken and as a justification of *Kintsugi* itself. That is by way of highlighting the cracks and repairs as simply an event in the life of an object rather than allowing its service to come to an end at the time of its damage or breakage.

*Kintsugi* evidently stems from elements of Japanese philosophy

which encompass the concepts of non-attachment, acceptance of change, and fate, as aspects of human life which are to be celebrated rather than rejected.

I came across these quotes from a book on the subject of *Kintsugi* by the writer Christy Bartlett: “Not only is there no attempt to hide the damage, but the repair is literally illuminated” .... and “the vicissitudes of existence over time, to which all humans are susceptible, could not be clearer than in the breaks, the knocks, and the shattering to which ceramic ware too is subject.

And so this truly means that the older and more well-worn we become, the more valuable we become. In the western world under the pressures of consumerism, we are prone to discard those things which are worn and regarded as no longer useful. And our contemporary culture can treat people this way too. The art and philosophy of *Kintsugi* calls us to think again and look for increasing value in that which the world can be so quick to write off and dismiss.

*Kintsugi* is about seeing that, instead of having lost a past glory, the things which are truly of value do indeed have a glory which magnifies with the passing of time instead of being diminished.

For me, all of this resonates with the biblical imagery we have from Jeremiah Chapter 18 of a creator God who functions as a potter, and of ourselves, his people, as the clay which he moulds and shapes, and re-moulds and re-shapes over the course of our lives. The

philosophical idea from *Kintsugi* that the broken pot can be re-made with golden joinery, a golden repair, in order to be even more valuable than it was before certainly rings true for me.

Christians believe the essence of the Christian faith to be primarily and essentially about salvation and the opportunity to begin a new life with a clean slate in the sense that the regrets and remorse of the past, the past mistakes for which we repent, are not forgotten but redeemed so that we are set free to continue our life’s journey.

In these Autumn days we are reminded by the beauty of the world around us that life is precious, more precious than any inanimate object. So that, according to the principles of “golden joinery”, just as we rightly celebrate the glories of the natural world, so too we can celebrate the glories of our own achievements; and rather than be crushed by the times when we have got it wrong, we can rejoice in the times when we have got it gloriously right!

This is indeed intrinsic to the celebration of the great festival of Christmas which, at this season of the year, seems to be drawing ever closer and closer; and through which we celebrate once more the song of the angels of peace and goodwill, of joy to the world. This is a timeless message which echoes down the aeons and which we hear once more each Christmas as if it were gold dust trickling through our fingers.

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

# Heavenly Bodies

Aren't eyes amazing! When looking at the night sky, they act as our very own on-board space capsules transporting us vast distances across the Galaxy and beyond. It's instantaneous eco-space travel.

One of the treats in store for our peepers takes places on the evening of Monday **14th November**. They will see the "Supermoon". It will be the biggest, closest and brightest Full Moon of the year. In fact, it's the closest to Earth the Moon will have come so far this century, and it won't be as near again for another 18 years. How close is 'close'? It'll be about 222,500 miles away (or 356,000km) which is 20,000 miles nearer than average.

The Moon will appear even bigger if you can catch it while it is low in the sky near the horizon, housetops or hilltops. This is due to the so-called 'Moon Illusion' which happens when your brain and eyes try to make sense of the Moon near the Earthly surroundings, making it seem huge. Look out for the Moon in the east between 5pm and 7pm on the night (clouds permitting) to experience this phenomenon for yourself.

On **22nd December**, you may be able to spot some 'shooting stars' fizzing across the sky in the Ursid Meteor Shower. The flashes of light will be dust particles left by the trail of Comet 8P/Tuttle, which comes around just under every 20 years. The Ursids are not the most intense meteor display of them all, but are worth watching as anything could happen!

Fabulous Saturn is now leaving our skies, but has been replaced by Venus – in about the same area of the sky. Look south-west at around sunset, and locate the big, bright beacon of white light near the horizon. Venus will steadily climb higher over coming weeks and months, and initially will appear to get closer to Mars to its left. At the start of December, the crescent Moon will point out the planets of 'War' and 'Love' (see diagram). And the same scene will be repeated from New Year's Eve for a few evenings to help welcome in 2017!

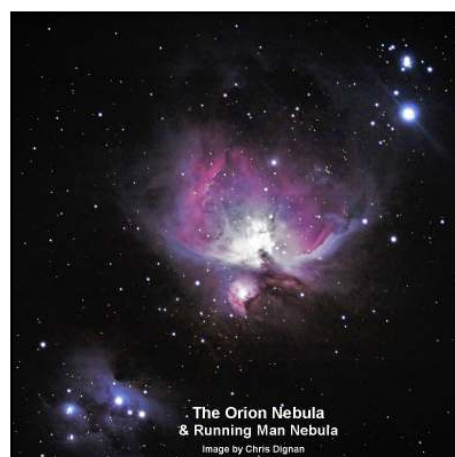
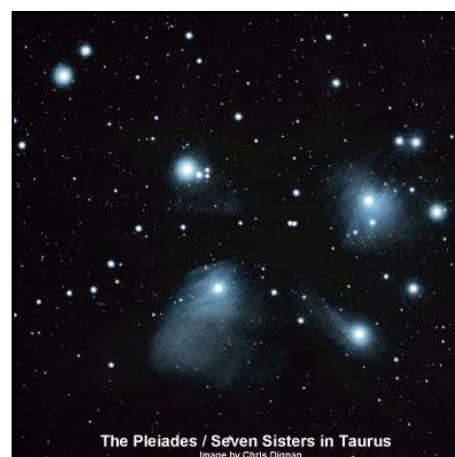
Don't forget to ask your 'on-board space capsules' to find the distinctive shape of Orion (see [www.laceygreen.com](http://www.laceygreen.com) – [Hallmark - November 2014](#)). Below the three-star 'belt' of Orion is the famous Orion Nebula, a vast cloud of gas and dust giving birth to new stars. It can be seen as a mysterious fuzzy patch with the naked eye, and as a bright glowing 'ghost' with binoculars. A telescope and DSLR camera can really tease out details of the cloud which is being lit up by the new stars within (see image).

Following the three stars of the belt to where they point from left to right brings you to the celebrated "Seven Sisters" star cluster in Taurus (see same online Hallmark issue as above). This is formally known as the Pleiades, and contains young, hot stars which were born about 20 million years ago. They can be easily seen with the naked eye, and are gorgeous through binoculars. A telescope and camera show even more stars,

plus blue nebulosity swirling around the cluster (see image). 'Seven' refers to how many stars the ancient Greeks thought could be seen with the naked eye, but most sharp-eyed observers can make out 14-20.

While you're marvelling at Orion and the Pleiades, thank your lucky eyes, because they have beamed you 1,500 and 440 light-years respectively without having to leave your garden.

**Chris Dignan**





# St John's Church

## Special Christmas services at St John's Church

- 13th Nov Remembrance Service at 10:00am  
20th Nov Bereavement Service at 3:00pm  
27th Nov Advent Carol Service at 4:pm  
4th Dec Christingle Service at 10:00am  
11th Dec Parish All Age Worship and Toy Service or the Salvation Army at 10:00am  
18th Dec Nine Lessons & Carols at 6:00pm  
24th Dec Crib Service at 3:30pm  
24th Dec 'Midnight' Holy Communion at 11:15pm  
25th Dec Usual Services at 8am and 10am  
27th Dec St John's Anniversary service at 11:30am followed by wine & cake

## Regular Services at St. John's Church

### SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion (1662) every Sunday

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 in Lady Chapel at St. John's.

### 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 10.00 am at Speen.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

We had a lovely Harvest Service on the 2nd October in the Church, which was beautifully decorated with flower arrangements and vegetables. Following the service, the congregation and others went to the School Hall where our choir had prepared an excellent Harvest Lunch, which was enjoyed by all.

£561.80 was raised from the lunch together with £254.10 raised from the auction of produce. Our grateful thanks to all the choir for providing an excellent celebration!

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.



*Harvest Festival Auction*

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		laceygreensingers@hotmail.com
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	Theresa Hehir	01494 881170	hehirt@hotmail.com
Youth Club	Alternate Fridays - see laceygreen.com web site for details 7.30 pm	Jenny Stothard	344441	jennystothard@btinternet.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	richardsp44@btinternet.com
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 April 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**

Mike Piercy, Malmsmead, Kiln Lane, Lacey Green, Bucks HP27 0PU  
( just before the pond on the right) 01844 344021 Email [editor@laceygreen.com](mailto:editor@laceygreen.com)

### **ADVERTISING MANAGER**

Chris Baker, "Woodpeckers", Kiln Lane, Lacey Green, Bucks HP27 OPT  
(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

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

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

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

#### **LACEY GREEN WINDMILL**

The windmill is closed during the Winter.

The mill will be open from 2 pm to 5 pm on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from the beginning of April 2017.

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.

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**January 17th 2017**

