

HALLMARK

The Lacey Green and Loosley Row Magazine



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Welcome to the November edition

We've got a bumper 44 page issue this month filled with a myriad of things that are going on in the village. I hope that you find plenty of articles that are of interest to you.

I have been experimenting with the layout of photographs and article titles in this issue, let me know if you like it or not.

Thanks once again to Barry Crignell who supplied this month's cover picture (and who

told us about his foray into bee keeping.)

I hope you all have a splendid Christmas and New Year.

Mike Piercy
Editor



Letters to the Editor

Lacey Green – Loosley Row – Speen – Hambye twinning association

If you are someone who has moved into the area since 2003 you might want to know why the Lacey Green and one of the Speen village signs say "Twinning with Hambye, France"?

There used to be a very active twinning association with Hambye that is located in Normandy fairly close to the sea. Families from Lacey Green Parish would go to Hambye for a weekend event, or younger members of the community would visit for several days. The French would then visit our villages in the same way particularly in the summer months.

Hambye Close in Lacey Green was named after its twin across the Channel and of course there are still other signs of the twinning time in Lacey Green Village Hall.

In 2003 the final meeting of the committee took place and apparently the bank account closed and any money left in it was split between Lacey Green and Speen village halls.

Approximately a year ago the village sign near the Baptist Chapel in Speen was modified by one of the local community who removed the words "Twinning with Hambye, France"

Suggestions were made via Lacey Green Parish Council to Bucks County Council that when this damaged sign was replaced, the "twinning" wording be replaced with something along the lines of *please drive carefully through our village*. Bucks County Council said the replacement would be on "a like for like" basis and in Mid-September a very smart new sign was erected.

A suggestion has been made by a Speen resident, why not try and get the twinning association up and running again. There must be so many new people who have moved into the three villages of the Parish in the last fourteen years and maybe some of them might consider contacting the office of the Mayor in Hambye <http://hambye.fr/> to see if the twinning could be started once again for a new generation of residents from both sides of the channel.

From a personal point of view I know my two sons thoroughly enjoyed going on a twinning trip and staying with a family or two at Hambye.

Philip Suter

What's On

Wed 15 Nov 7pm

Horts Club Pumpkin Supper

Sat 18 Nov

Church Christmas Fayre

Thurs to Sat 23-25 Nov

LGP Dinner Theatre

Sat 25 Nov

Princes Risborough Christmas Lights

Sun 3 Dec 6pm

LGS Christmas Concert with the school choir
Millennium Hall

Wed 17 Jan 8pm

Horts Soc Cheese and wine event
See page 34

Fri 26 Jan 6.30pm

Princes Centre: Quiz and Curry

See page 36 for full details of Advent and
Christmas services at St John's Church

Happy Wanderers

We would welcome you to join us on one
of our walks:

Sunday November 26th, 4-5 mile walk
starting at 10.30am

Phone Liz Lewin on 01844 274961



LGP Dinner Theatre

The show is called #Ooops! A comedy program with (deliberate?) mistakes. It includes plays by Michael Frayn, John Mortimer and Nick Warburton. Of course there's a fine meal too.

Thursday 23rd November. Play Only. £8.00

Friday 24th and Saturday 25th November.
Dinner Theatre. £25.00

email: tickets@laceygreenproductions.co.uk

Charity Black Tie

Burns Supper

With a touch of tartan

Scottish Entertainment & Dancing

Traditional three course meal

With welcome drink and whisky toast

Tea & coffee

Saturday 20th January 2018

at Millenium Hall, Lacey Green

7.00pm - carriages at midnight

tickets £40 per person

In aid of Chiltern MS Centre

Raffle for World Challenge

contact Sarah on 01844 343251 or sarah@shgd.co.uk

Recent Events

Village Quiz Night

Seventeen teams took part in the recent Quiz Night held in the Village Hall. Jamie Carter was once again the Quiz Master. This year the winners were a team from the Whiteleaf Bowmen, with Woodbyne Fitness Clinic second, and the Horticultural Society in third place.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the teams, the Quizmaster, scorers and all of our members (and their husbands!) who helped to make it such a successful evening.

We were very pleased that we were able to make a 'thank you'

donation to Jamie's charity, Lighthouse and send £211 to the Village Hall to go towards the purchase of some new tables.

Daphne Williams

MacMillan Coffee Morning

We had an excellent result for our MacMillan Coffee Morning held at the Village Hall on Thursday 28th September.

A big Thank You to everyone who came to support us and all

the many helpers setting up tables, working in the kitchen and serving on stalls. We were able to send £1,577.80 to MacMillan Cancer Support. Thanks to everyone who came and special thanks to Lynne at

The Black Horse, The Buckmoorend Farm Shop and Garry the butcher in Princes Risborough for their contributions to our raffle prizes.

Ann Bartlett

Princes Risborough Cricket Club

calls out for votes to bag a share of bag fund

Princes Risborough Cricket Club is bidding to bag a massive cash boost from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative.

Tesco teamed up with Groundwork to launch its community funding scheme, which sees grants of £4,000, £2,000 and £1,000 – raised from carrier bag sales in Tesco stores – being awarded to local community projects.

Three groups in every Tesco region have been shortlisted to receive the cash award and shoppers are being invited to head along to Tesco stores to vote for who they think should take away the top grant.

Renovation of cricket nets and surrounding area

With links back to 1774, Princes Risborough Cricket Club has always been a key part of the community. Today it is a thriving club supporting players from the age of 7 all the way through adult life; laying a platform for not only an interest in cricket, but also creating a welcoming atmosphere to meet new people, and learning essential skills such as team work. Amongst other strengths our club is inclusive and encourages participants of all abilities endorsed by qualified coaches.

To continue offering high quality facilities we believe that this funding would make a real difference towards our club and we would appreciate your vote.

Lacey Green Singers

We have had a busy summer at LGS. First we were invited to sing at the St John's School Sunday. Our repertoire included the Mamma Mia! soundtrack by Abba and Make You Feel My Love by Bob Dylan, famously covered by Adele.

Then came our annual summer concert, Summer Medley, held at St John's School. The programme was varied and included many well known songs, such as May It Be from Lord of the Rings, God Only Knows by the Beach Boys, The Sound of Music soundtrack by Rodgers and Hammerstein, all sung by the choir. We also had solo, duet and small group pieces; Summertime by G and I Gershwin, Yesterday Once More by The Carpenters, It's a Good Day by Lee and Barbour to name

a few. Well done to all of our soloists, duetists and group performers! The concert was rounded off by a spectacular tea with tables burgeoning under the weight of delicious cakes. As usual, it was a really good village event. Lacey Green at its best!

And now to the next few months. We are preparing for our Christmas Concert, which will be held in the Millennium Hall on Sunday 3rd December at 6pm. We will again be singing with the very talented children from St John's School, bringing you some great new Christmas pieces and many old favourites. Tickets will be available from laceygreensingers@hotmail.com and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Book early to avoid disappointment.

We also have another festive date in our calendar. We will be singing, again with children from the school, at the Princes Risborough Christmas Lights Switch On on Saturday 25th November. So come along and look out for us on the stage.

If you'd like to join us, please come along to one of our rehearsals. We welcome everyone, from 11-111, whatever your ability! We meet at St John's School every Thursday evening at 7:45pm. Come along and give us a try.

From everyone at LGS, we wish you all a peaceful and fun filled autumn!

Billie Stott

Princes Centre

The new toilets, wet room (pictured below) and quiet room are now fully operational.

Our contractor is now working on upgrading the clients' facilities and it is envisaged that they will be completed in early to mid November. We are very grateful to the Kop Hill Climb and all the other donors who have made this work possible.

Due to an ever-increasing workload in the department, and



to bring everything 'in-house', we have recruited a Finance Officer to take over our finances. These have been handled by the Town Council on our behalf for the last 5 years.

A big thank you to all those who supported our recent Quiz and Bingo evening and our next one is being held on January 26th [not December 8th] at 6.30 pm. The cost will be £10 per person for the quiz, including a curry meal, and if you wish to join in with the bingo this costs a little extra.

The Dementia Cafe is restarting with children from the top school coming to socialise with the elderly clients. The pottery sessions, which are enjoyed by so many of the clients, are

continuing. A grant for the cost of employing the potters for a further year was received from Bucks County Council through the North West Local Area Forum, for which we are very grateful.

A further grant application has been made to Tesco and if anyone shopping in Tesco can please ask for a disc and use it to vote for the Princes Centre, it would be much appreciated.

If we are successful, we would like to resurface the front paths to make them safer and more attractive for the clients. The voting in Tesco is running to the end of October.

Maggie Wooster Keyte

Happy Wanderers Walks

April 30 Walk: Tony Molesworth

We started in Ickford, at the Rising Sun going south, near to the church, and continued down to the River Thames. Just before the bridge, we turned east to go across open fields to Franklin's Farm. We were slightly concerned because during the recce, the local farmer had placed a temporary wire barrier across the footpath, and introduced a herd of cows plus calves. The co-leader with dog, was so concerned that she even wanted to turn back. However, there was no problem and during the actual walk, the wire barrier had been removed, so we had no difficulties. We cut out the bit of Shabbington in the north east corner and went along the road for a short distance before turning off left to go across an open field. We missed a path back to the village and returned via the road from the church. We don't think anyone noticed!

July 30 Walk: Peter Clee

Fifteen members of the Happy Wanderers Walking Club, together with a few non-walking social attendees, met in the former garden centre car park at West Wycombe. Although the weather forecast was for rain showers the group set off in dry conditions.

The leaders of our walk were Peter and Jo Clee, who explained that the route consisted of two moderate uphill sections interspersed with mainly level or downhill going. Anyone who wanted to shorten their walk could leave at the halfway point before the second climb.

The whole group set off up the wooded path below the Dashwood Mausoleum towards Bradenham. It had rained quite heavily overnight so the going was soft with large pools of water across some parts of the track. However, after reaching level ground the walk was along pleasant leafy countryside. Just before the descent towards Bradenham village we paused at Noble Farm where some of the walkers bought garden produce. The track led down towards the railway and after passing under a bridge we emerged on to the A4010 and crossed over to Bradenham village at the Red Lion pub.

Here three members decided to forego a second climb and took a shorter and more level route back to West Wycombe. The remaining twelve intrepid walkers set off up the track, past Bradenham Manor House and into the woods following a narrow track, again in leafy woods. At this point the threatened rain materialised and a few less prudently attired members got rather wet. Fortunately the rain was short-lived and we were soon back in sunny conditions. After the second descent the track ran parallel to the railway line before reaching a further underpass. We then traversed a gloriously ripe cornfield on a clearly defined path and were soon back in sight of the Dashwood Mausoleum. The walk was completed with a final section through West Wycombe village before returning to the car park. Two and half hours steady walking left us with sharpened appetites ready for a Sunday roast at either the George and Dragon or the Dashwood Arms.

August 27 Walk: Tony Molesworth

We started at Christmas Common. We hadn't been there for several years but decided to give it another go, knowing that the Fox and Hounds pub now had new tenants. Instead of going down the hill towards Watlington, we went south into partly wooded and partly open farmland.

There was a good turnout, but just after the start, Sue Phillips was unfortunate to trip over a large tree root, which caused her to fall and break her wrist. Liz and her family group were kind enough to take Sue off to hospital, where she was eventually treated.

The walk continued with two more of our group taking a short cut back to Christmas Common. We encountered several other walkers, and indeed wondered whether we had actually absorbed some of them into our group.

Because the recce took less than 2 hours, the walk leader did contemplate extending the distance slightly. However, not having previously looked at the possible extension, and knowing his penchant for taking the wrong turn, it was thought inadvisable to enter unknown territory. We don't think that a complete group had ever vanished, but there is always that thought in mind.

We reached the far point and turned east, crossing a rough pasture to reach a farm from which we returned via fields and woods to get back to Christmas Common and a pleasant lunch.

County Council News



Since my last article, I am delighted to say that I was re-elected on 4th May to serve as your Conservative County Councillor for the Ridgeway West Division for the next 4 years. For those of you who voted for me, thank you for your support. For those who are

interested, I polled 1,913 votes which was 69.5% of the total votes cast.

As previously reported, Modernising Local Government in Buckinghamshire is still very much top of the agenda. Bucks County Council submitted a business case to the Department of Communities and Local Government for one single unitary with 19 local Community Boards and 5 planning areas last year in the Autumn. The 4 District Councils also submitted a business case for 2 unitary Councils, with a Northern and a Southern Unitary in January this year.

A decision was to have been made by the Secretary State Sajid Javed by the end of March, but this was deferred until May due the Government triggering Article 50 for the UK to leave the EU and then we had the local

elections. We then had the Government deciding to hold the General Election in June which caused a further delay. At the time of going to press, a decision is still to be taken so watch this space! Any changes would not take effect now until at least May 2021.

If you have any matters relating to the County Council such as Roads, Adult Social Care, Child Services, Education and Libraries for example with which you need some assistance, please don't hesitate to either email me cetholen@buckscc.gov.uk or telephone 01494 564771.

It only remains for me to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2018.

Carl Etholen

Buckinghamshire County Council



Princes Risborough Plan Consultation

Wycombe District Council have published a new version of the Wycombe District Local Plan, which of course includes massive changes to Princes Risborough, including 2,000 new houses over the next 15 years.

Whilst some NIMBYs are objecting to the new plan on principle, it seems certain to me that there will be lots of new building in Princes Risborough over the next few years.

It will be better for all of us if these are done within an overall development framework, rather than just random developments by opportunist builders with no thoughts for the impact on the social infrastructure and amenities.

The Council have invited comments on the latest version of the plan; these comments must be sent in by November 27.

So go to the District Council web site, read the plan and then send in your comments.

There is also a session on Nov 16 from 2pm to 8pm in the Risborough Community Centre to explain to people how to make their comments.

Mike Piercy



Jean Gabbitas

Jean was born on 11th June 1939 to James and Alice Russell. She died on 11th May 2017.

After spending her early life in the Birmingham area, where she qualified as a teacher specialising in Religious Education, she moved to Walters Ash with her husband John in 1967. In the next nine years, her life was taken up, in the main, in producing and caring for her four children. In 1976, when a larger home was required, the family moved to Lacey Green.

After moving to Bucks, Jean had started teaching at what was then Hatters Lane School for Girls. Once the children were growing up, she continued her teaching career in various local schools, at Tylers Green and Stone.

On a separate trajectory, Jean's political career, first as a Liberal, and then as a Liberal Democrat took off. In 1985, after a very close fight, she was elected as Councillor to Wycombe District Council. Her ward included

Lacey Green, Loosley Row and the Hampdens. She held this position until 1999. During the year 1995 / 1996, she served as Chairman of Wycombe District Council.

One of her main interests as a Councillor was to promote the voice of the farming community in Local Government. Largely as a result of her efforts, the Council formed a Farming Forum, which still exists today. She was also active as a member of the Planning Committee, and amongst her achievements were the establishment of the Village Shop in Speen (which still thrives), and the surgery and pharmacy in Hughenden Valley. She also participated in the working party for the building of the Swan Theatre in High Wycombe.

In order to progress her musical career she became a member of Princes Risborough Music Society, and was very grateful to have the fellowship and

stimulation of belonging to such a friendly choir, with a distinguished record of conductors and performances of interesting music. She also supported a number of local music festivals.

She was particularly proud to be a member of St John's Church Choir, and was involved in the significant achievements of the choir under the leaderships of Julia Beaumont, Fiona Putnam, Rosemary Mortham and Cher Mole.

The contribution she has made, over a lifetime of service, is difficult to overestimate. She will certainly be missed by those people in the village, who were touched by her. For many years she was a member of the Afternoon Women's Institute, and was its last President, until it closed in 2011. After that, she supported the Tea at Three, which was held monthly for older people in the community. She was also an active member of the "Sewing Group", and even arranged an outing for the group to her son Tom's restaurant in the Cotswolds only a short time before she died.

She insisted on making her 50th wedding anniversary an "event", despite some misgivings from her husband John, and this was a great joy to everyone. Family and friends who attended the day will remember, with gratitude, a very special day.

Above all, she will be remembered as a loving and caring wife, mother and grandmother. Her devotion to her family and her Christian principles were her guiding lights. May she rest in peace.

John Gabbitas



A Beekeeping Journey

Lacey Green is perfect for beekeeping. It has clean air and an abundance of open spaces filled with a wide variety of wild flowers and fauna.

I've always been interested in beekeeping but never had the time or space to keep any hives.

After a number of long conversations over many pints and lots of research, my neighbour Rob and I decided to invest in two hives in May.

Our initial plan was to carry on researching apiculture before sourcing our first swarm of bees. This didn't go quite as expected as very shortly after purchasing the hives we were offered our first bees which had been rescued from a nearby garden.

Since then we have watched this swarm grow significantly and a second swarm take up residence in the second hive. We check the hives and bees to ensure they're in good shape and free of disease and also that the bees have enough food.

After only 3 months (and 3 stings!) we've been able to

extract enough honey to fill over 30 jars. This came as a great surprise as we were only expecting enough honey to fill about 6 jars! All the honey has already been purchased by friends and family, the proceeds will be reinvested for next year. Even the honeycomb was quickly reserved by someone who spreads it on toast or mixes it with yoghurt!

Our plan is to purchase more hives and source land to place them on. With such lovely countryside surrounding Lacey Green we're hoping it shouldn't be a problem to find willing volunteers to allow us to use their land for our hives. In return they get their gardens pollinated and some free honey.

Next year we should have much more honey. It is our aim that we will be able to sell it through local outlets and already have offers from some, which is great!

The whole beekeeping process has been captivating and fascinating. Learning how the bees behave, what to watch out for and ending up with jars of



pure honey has been very rewarding.

We've met some great people who are very knowledgeable and we didn't realise just how popular beekeeping was in the Chilterns. If you're interested in beekeeping or would just like to know more then please do get in touch. Alternatively, there are many clubs nearby such as Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association.

If you'd like to be kept informed of next year's batch of honey, including when you can get your hands on some, or would like to follow our progress our web address is rb-honey.com or you can follow us on Instagram @RB._honey.

Barry Chignell



On The Farm

I am bound to mention the weather, so to get it out of the way here is a quick retrospect of this summer on the farm. It was certainly a year for 'making hay while the sun shines'. Snatching days when we could. July had been fairly dry for a long time so there was not a lot of grass to make hay anyway and most didn't bother. We had 2-3 weeks of damp, dull weather just as the wheat was ready to harvest. The quality was downgraded from bread making to animal feed standard, for which we do not have a contract. Unlike last year our grain drier had to dry nearly every ton. Some people tried to make some hay at the end of September. It probably still lies on the ground.

Now on the flip side of all that, forage crops have had a great year. Often the grass dries up in August so that we have to supplement the grazing cattle. This year there was a constant supply of good grass. The maize grown to feed as silage in the winter has had a fantastic year. Some of the best we have ever grown. Maybe you noticed 'Soldier's Field', beside the Sport's Field, named after the searchlight battery there in WW2. This had great cobs and

was over nine feet tall. It won the Chiltern Hills forage maize competition for us this year. Maize silage will make up 50% of the cows' winter diet. No doubt it has dawned on anyone who tried to cook some of these cobs that they are not the same variety as the sweet corn grown in our gardens!

We have had about 50 cows calving each month since the beginning of August. The calves are all hand-reared for about a month, adding considerably to our workload, then we sell some to other farmers to rear on. The heifer (female) calves that we keep for our herd replacements will all be born by the end of October. They are on milk for eight weeks so will be weaned by the end of the year.

At the end of September I went with a group of 30 farmers looking at farming in the Peak District. It was an intensive few days. Farming there is much tougher than the Chilterns!

Richard and Maxine went to Devon with the European Dairy Organisation, this year in England, looking at milk production. One visit was to a farm making 'Farmhouse Cheddar'. It is sold to other

outlets than the supermarkets. Cheese making is very labour intensive. Stood on stacks of shelving, the cheeses have to be turned monthly for about a year. The farm has developed their cows and their feed to produce the best milk for cheese production. It has taken years to perfect. This farming business is of very long standing, possibly established around 1500.

Some years ago the Whiteleaf Bowman rented some land from us, having lost their site at Saunderton. It is along the road to Walters Ash. Catching up with them recently I thought I might pass on their progress. In 2013 they replaced their small hut with a new clubhouse having received a grant from Sport England. It looks like a small barn and blends into the countryside beautifully. It was officially opened in June 2013 by Group Captain Clifford, Station Commander, RAF High Wycombe with two club members, Jonathan Shales, 9 times World Field Archery Champion and Sam Fowler, who represented England Ladies. It's great to pass on good news!

The yield of fruit from hedgerow and trees has been exceptional, branches almost snapping from the weight of apples and plums. The hedges have been thick with blackberries, sloes and hips and it won't be hard to find holly with berries at Christmas. Is it a sign of a hard winter? I believe it is the product of the favourable season we have had.

Talking about Christmas I suppose I'd better start thinking about it, so I'll start by wishing everyone a really great one. "Happy Christmas"

Joan West



Full Parish Council meetings now take place every two months, the venue alternating between the Millennium Hall and the Speen Village Hall. A planning-only meeting is held in the month when there is no full meeting. Before each meeting is started, 10 minutes are made available for members of the public to speak on any topic of concern to them. Visitors are also entitled to stay for the rest of the meeting, but are not then allowed to speak. They would be asked to leave the meeting if some matter of particular confidentiality is under discussion. In general we don't have many visitors, but they are always welcome.

We are hoping that a new councillor will be appointed in the near future, to fill the outstanding vacancy. Although we have only had six councillors for many months we have always been able to provide a quorum at full council meetings.

Parking on Main Road still remains a problem particularly in the morning around 08.45 and afternoon around 16.00 near to St John's school. I have to say that most drivers seem to be pretty reasonable about this, and do pull in where appropriate to keep the traffic flowing in both directions. Parking is also becoming a minor problem in Loosley Row where many cars are now parked along Lower Road. There does seem to be an increase in the volume of traffic through all the roads in Loosley Row, and an increase in the

number of times that you now meet a vehicle coming the other way. There is no proof, but it does suggest that there are more drivers using sat navs, and that the roads through Loosley Row are becoming rat runs.

The notice boards in the village are looking a little bit tattered and will shortly be replaced by new and better models, and we would here make a plea for their responsible use. From time to time a notice of some kind has been stuck on to the outside of a notice board. This looks untidy, sometimes causes damage, and we would ask people to avoid doing it. If you want to put up a notice, ask the key holder (whose name is displayed). Notices should be relevant to the village and its residents, and we do not allow commercial advertisements.

New grave plaques are being installed in the Garden of Rest, to enable each grave to be properly identified.

The new seats that have been installed in the Parish are functional, maintenance free and comparatively inexpensive. They are not objets d'art, and whilst we would like to have satisfied that description as well, something had to give. It just goes to show that you simply can't win all the time.

Earlier this year our Parish Council clerk applied to the Tesco Bags of Help offer, using the Lacey Green Playground as

our chosen improvement project. We are very pleased to say that we came first following the vote by Tesco customers between July and August, and have been awarded £4,000.

A recent comment in the national press regarding the shortage of housing caught my eye. It made the point that housing developments all too often do not blend well with existing properties, and this is one reason why there is often local opposition to such developments. As readers are aware, the Parish Council is a statutory consultee for planning applications within the parish and we do comment, not necessarily successfully, whether we favour or oppose a development.

A dislike of the appearance of any given development is not usually a reason for the application to be rejected by the planning authority. We have relied on the Village Design Statement to try and prevent the worst excesses from occurring, although I suspect that this document may be having less and less impact. Another quirk of the system is that neighbours are also asked to comment, and usually do so. However, neighbour means the property to either side of the proposed development, but not any properties on the opposite side of the road.

Cllr Tony Molesworth

Windmill Under 5s

The autumn term is upon us at Windmills, and the children have settled back in nicely after the summer break. We have been celebrating the seasons, with the children bringing pockets full of autumnal treasures (with conkers being a favourite!) They enjoyed talking about harvest; watching the local farmer, livestock and farm machinery, and helping make (and eat!) autumn vegetable soup (see photo).



As well as being guided by the seasons, and the creativity of our very inventive teaching staff, the children themselves are a great source of topic inspiration. This half-term they chose to find out more about rainbows, which gave us the opportunity to look at light, colour and weather.

They also read the classic story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', culminating in a 'bear hunt' (teddy, not grizzly!) around the sports field. We have been making the most of the sports field, using our moveable fences to create a larger play area. Joel, of Risborough Rangers fame, has been putting the children through their sporting paces and the children have had ample opportunity to expend their energy outdoors.

In the last part of the term, we will be celebrating Halloween with a fundraising children's party, with plenty of spooky crafts, games and tasty treats. We will then be gearing up for Christmas...

This term is always a time of great change at a pre-school. We bade a sad farewell to our eldest children, as they headed off to 'big school'. We celebrated their last day with a 'tropical beach party' and lots of laughs courtesy of Wayne Wonder. The school leavers traditionally present the pre-school with play resources; this year magnetic building shapes and some quality pens; which the remaining children have thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you so much to the leavers' parents for their generosity.

We have also been welcoming lots of new faces to our preschool. As well as the new children, who have settled in really well, we are pleased to be joined by two new members of staff. Rosie, an experienced early years professional, has joined our teaching staff and will also take on the role of Special Educational Needs Coordinator. And Natalie, who many of you will know from Natalie Jane Dance School, brings her super-efficiency to the role of Windmills Administrator. Welcome both!

The autumn term also brings about Committee changes, with some parents resigning their positions as their children head off to school. A huge thank you to all our Committee members, who work hard behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the preschool. The hugest thank you of all must be

extended to Victoria Geenes, our outgoing Chair, who has put a great amount of time, effort and enthusiasm into the role for the last three years.

We are very much a community pre-school and, as a charitable organisation, rely greatly on the goodwill of our parents, Committee, staff team and the wider community, many of whom go above and beyond to make the preschool the wonderful environment it is. We would love to involve the local community further. If you have a hobby, skill or interest the children might be interested to learn about, please let us know. We are also on the lookout for donations of age-appropriate, non-fiction books with themes such as animals, space, the world or maths. Craft materials (glue, glitter etc.) are always welcome, as are large pieces of material we could use for dressing up. We are also on the hunt for a 'click clack track' if anybody could donate one.

To contact us, find out more about the preschool or to join Windmills, please contact Natalie on 07502 198 405 admin@windmillunder5s.co.uk

Laura Chapman





Your Local Playgroup

Following a busy summer of ferrying toys to-and-fro, we're delighted to be in our new home at Chapel Hall Speen Church. It's a beautiful space and we're so happy that the timing worked out to join with Speen Church and keep our little playgroup going.

Already our numbers have trebled (!) and we seem to be welcoming new faces every week. It's a lovely, relaxed morning (albeit with the odd altercation over wanting to ride on the same

buggy / eat the same biscuit) and we welcome our new members to join us and continue the happy vibe about the place. The children have enjoyed a great new range of toys (though the train set and trampoline remain firm favourites) and messy play activities with dried pasta, autumnal leaves, porridge oats and cornflakes.

Mostly we're thrilled that Rev. Heather and her wonderful team of volunteers – Janis, Sandy, Jenny and Alison – are so giving with

their time and energy to come each week and help set up, make tea, natter and play with the little ones. Thank you ladies – we're all very grateful!

So, if you and your little one/s are at a loose end on Tuesday mornings, do feel free to come along. The children have access to play together with a wide range of toys and undertake crafts and messy play to build their confidence, independence and communication skills. We're volunteer-led so all we ask is that you muck in with the tidying/tea making/snack bringing every now and then, and pop £2 in the tin towards costs. We meet Tuesday mornings (9.30-11.30am) during term time, and hope to see you there.

If you'd like to know more, please get in touch at spennorthdeantoddlers@gmail.com

Rachael McComish





Windmill WI

Our speaker for August was Keith Jansz, a Mouth and Foot Artist. Keith took up painting when he became a tetraplegic after a car accident in 1995. He spent 6 months in the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville. When he returned home he was introduced to mouth and foot painting. With much perseverance, in 2000 he was accepted as a full member of the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists. Keith was an excellent speaker describing how he used his mouth to hold the brush and then paint. He had several of his paintings with him which were beautiful. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed his talk and we could have listened to him all night.

The following week we had our Summer Lunch at The Black Horse and Lynn did us proud with an incredible buffet and delicious sweets. This was voted a huge success. At the end of August several of our members spent a pleasant morning rambling round Great Kimble. Margaret and Bunny organised the walk. It was a lovely morning and they even met a friendly herd of Alpacas. The morning finished at The Swan for a delicious lunch.

September's meeting was our 30th Birthday Meeting. The speaker was Stewart Linford who told us the story of 'The Windsor Chair'. Stewart studied furniture making at High Wycombe College in the early 1970s. In 2003 he was awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise. He was an excellent speaker and had some of his incredible Windsor Chairs with him. He also amused us with his impression of Winston Churchill. After this most interesting talk we all enjoyed a glass of wine, nibbles and birthday cake. Another lovely evening with our WI Ladies.

The majority of our WI helped at The MacMillan Coffee Morning - well done ladies and a big thank you.

At the end of September five of our members went to High Wycombe Town Hall and had a Sparkling Afternoon with John Benjamin - BBC TV's Antiques Roadshow's Jewellery Expert. John talked about his life and career with anecdotes and stories. John was a very entertaining speaker with stories of beautiful jewels and slides of incredible jewels that we would never see.



In October we had our AGM where we listened to the Financial Statement, the Committee's Annual Report, the President's Address and the Adoption of the Annual Report. The committee is staying the same and Pat will continue as President. After all the business we enjoyed delicious puddings that some members had made, with our tea and coffee.

By the time you read this we will have had our Jumble Sale on the 14th October, hosted the Village Quiz on the 18th October and attended a Group Meeting at Sands on 20th October.

Our WI is very active and friendly, we meet every first Wednesday of the month at Lacey Green Village Hall at 7.45 pm. You would be very welcome to join us.

Anne Bartlett



Tennis Club

It seems like only yesterday when we first organised a trip to La Manga in South East Spain. That was two and a half years ago, and at the end of September we were on our third trip!

The name La Manga translates to “the sleeve” and refers to a nearby 14 mile sand-spit occupied by so many high-rise hotels that from a distance it resembles a giant bar chart from my daughter’s maths book! Fortunately we were some way back surrounded by low hills and distant views to the Mediterranean.

The resort has 28 manicured clay courts which are a joy. Surrounded by giant cacti, we played for 3 hours each morning and our tennis certainly improved over the 3 night stay. Indeed, many coaches believe that it is the best surface to train on because the slow bounce

allows players more time to adjust and decide on shot selection.

Back on our own courts we’ve had a busy autumn. Justin our head coach is now providing after school coaching to St John’s outside of the summer term. Junior coaching for members continues on Sunday mornings: 9am for under elevens and 9.45am for elevens and over.

The adults too have enjoyed plenty of tennis and on Sunday 15th October, 15 members came along for a friendly afternoon tournament. Congratulations to our eventual winners: Sieam Mays and Rob Harris who both played brilliantly. At the end, we had tea and homemade cakes in glorious sunshine by the courts and thanks must go to Sue, Angela, Caroline and Jenny for providing such lovely refreshments.

Our first ever finals’ day was also played that morning. In the ladies championship, Angela Gibbings eventually beat Sue Ashton and in the men’s Paddy Woods-Ballard came out on top against Steve Ashton. Congratulations to both Angela and Paddy who were presented with silver cups.

Looking forward we have plenty going on. The winter league matches have commenced and on 17th December we will be holding our annual Christmas fancy dress competition with mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Outside of the courts, the chaps have a curry night on Saturday 18th November and our club Christmas dinner is in early December. So plenty to look forward to!

Nigel Glenister



Lacey Green Productions

Do we learn from our mistakes? Do you ever cringe when you think about the blunders you have made? What sort of a mess have your faux pas landed you in?

Lacey Green Productions dinner theatre performances at the end of November may not provide you with all the answers to these questions, but they should make you laugh! Performances are in the village hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday November 23rd, 24th and 25th.

The title of our show is #Ooops and it's a comedy programme about gaffes and disasters. There will be one act plays and sketches by well-known authors, such as Michael Frayn, John Mortimer and Nick Warburton. There are also some songs! The photo shown here was taken at one of our rehearsals, which we have been enjoying since September.

As well as the plays, there is, of course, the event that we know



you all really come for: the all-important dinner on the Friday and Saturday evenings! On the Thursday, we shall be presenting the plays, without the dinner, but with nibbles. For all performances there will be our usual licensed bar with an excellent selection of wines, beers, lagers and soft drinks.

We are pleased to say that our membership drive over the past summer has resulted in some new members and we wish them well with their first performances with LGP – no pressure there then.

Even more new members would always be welcome and we

would love to hear your ideas and suggestions for future performances and dramatic events. Contact us through www.laceygreenproductions.co.uk

As usual, LGP will be donating a share of their profits to charities. This year we shall be supporting the Lacey Green Tennis Club, with a donation towards their floodlighting, the Oxford Hospitals transplant centre and the St Mary's church, Aylesbury, free Christmas lunch. The total of our charitable donations is now over £62,000 and we are hoping to go well above this figure with #Ooops.

Tickets can be obtained from tickets@laceygreenproductions.co.uk or phone 01844 347518.

Go on – it would be a mistake/error/gaffe/disaster/blunder/faux pas not to.

Peter Brookhouse

Affordable Warmth

The Affordable Warmth Network is a longstanding service working to reduce the number of people in fuel poverty; and so improve health and wellbeing. It is coordinated by National Energy Foundation (registered charity number 298591), but involves many other organisations across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, with a cross-referral mechanism in place to maximise the benefit to residents of each organisation's field of expertise. It is kindly funded by

Oxford County Council and the five local authority districts.

The Affordable Warmth Network operates across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (excluding Milton Keynes). There are no eligibility criteria for residents to access this service, although it is targeted towards vulnerable residents. It encourages residents to look out for their neighbours and those more vulnerable than themselves, particularly when the temperature drops, and risk of adverse health effects are increased.



**Better Housing
Better Health**

The network provides a central Affordable Warmth Helpline, 0800 107 0044, able to give impartial expert advice on all issues surrounding fuel poverty and affordable warmth. This may include:

Energy saving tips; heating systems; financial assistance for upgrades or replacements; loft, cavity wall and solid wall insulation; fuel debt advice; and switching energy suppliers.

News from Westminster

A few weeks ago, I spent Saturday afternoon at an event in Aylesbury organised by Prison Hope, a group that brings together people from different churches to try to change the lives of prisoners and support them after release.

All but a tiny handful of prisoners will be freed one day. We cannot be satisfied with a situation where nearly half of them reoffend within a year. In the end, the cost of reoffending is borne by the victims of those crimes.

Of course those who commit crimes are responsible for their actions. Rehabilitation does not mean that we ignore the need for punishment and deterrence. It means using the time that we have people inside to maximise the chance that they will change their attitudes when they get out.

Successful rehabilitation has to start with the prisoner wanting to make it work. There are some who, no matter what support is offered, will show no remorse

and no desire to change. Others, and I met some at the Aylesbury event, have turned their lives around, helped by prison officers, chaplains, volunteer visitors and others.

Nothing can excuse crime. But we have to recognise that the problems in our prisons don't start at the gates.

A quarter of prisoners have spent time in care. Many come from homes that were at best chaotic, at worst violent and abusive. And the cycle perpetuates: nearly two thirds of prisoners' sons go on to commit crime. Most prisoners assessed on arrival have the reading skills of an 11-year-old, and half have no qualifications at all.

When these prisoners return to society I want to see them able to get a job and to keep it. In prison, they should spend as much time as possible in classrooms and workshops, not banged up in cells. I want them willing and able to take responsibility for themselves and



their families, keeping on the straight and narrow rather than falling back into old ways.

And I want more intensive rehabilitation to take place in the community, particularly to tackle offenders with substance misuse and mental health needs. We also need probation to work better, so we have tough community sentences that command the confidence of the courts and the public.

All this will take time. There is no quick fix. But the success stories I've seen, locally and around the country, show it can be done.

Sir David Lidington MP

From: Peter Hoade

Sent: Sunday, October 1, 2017 9:32 AM

To: Lynne Comley

Subject: 1997 remembered from Swan Supping Number 1 front page

Threatened Pub Saved!

The Black Horse at Lacey Green, which had been under threat of closure has been sold to Wiltshire brewer, Gibbs Mew. Discovery Inns who owned the pub had applied for planning permission to convert the pub

into a private residence and build another house on the car park. Permission was rejected by Wycombe District Council. Discovery Inns appealed against the decision.

Local campaigners wrote to the brewery explaining the situation fearing that their offer to buy might be withdrawn unless a decision is made quickly.

More than 300 households opposed Discovery Inn's planning application. As well as the threat to the community pub, the village has lost its post office and the village shop, Hickman's Stores, is also closing.

The current Landlord and landlady will be continuing at the pub when Gibbs Mew take over on May 9th.



Black Horse

What a Beer Festival! It was the best one ever. We had dancing, music, good food and beer, what else do you need?

The bands all did us proud: Lauren Gore, Against All Odds, The Wedge, Double Tone and The Clive Burton String Quintet; they are all booked for next year.

A big thank you for Howe's Fish and Chip Van who covered for me for two days and came back on the Saturday evening after a phone call.

It was so nice to see so many faces old and new and so many people dancing and singing well into the night.

A big thank you to all my great staff who worked their socks off. Roll on next year. Thank you to Sam for doing all the face painting once again.

Bookings are now coming in for our Christmas Menu. We are serving this from November to January. Look at our advert on page 8 to see what is being served.

We are not doing breakfasts during December, but will start again in January.

If anybody would like to join our Dominoes and Crib teams please pop in or give us a call.



Lynne



Research Surprises

As many people in the village will know, I am trying to research and write the history of Church Lane. I have discovered that research can be full of surprises and I certainly found one when I was investigating the ownership of the land and properties surrounding Church Lane in the early 19th century.

Prior to the 1823 Princes Risborough Enclosures Act, the Rt. Hon. Lord George Henry Cavendish had a survey carried out of the 1,560 acres of land that he had purchased in Culverton, Loosley Row, Lacey Green, Small Dean, Darvals Hill, Walters Ash and Speen.

Three plans were prepared for Lord Cavendish by a Robert Hoddle – Surveyor – all dated June 1818.

Who was Robert Hoddle?



Robert Hoddle (1794-1881), surveyor, was born in Westminster, London, a son of a clerk of the Bank of England. In 1809 to 1812 he was a cadet Royal Military Surveyor and Draftsman in the Corps of the Royal Engineers whose headquarters were the Drawing Room of the Tower of London.

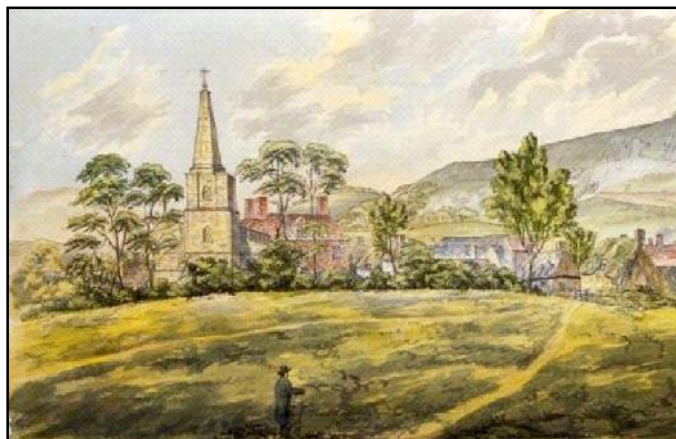
In 1812 he was posted to Plymouth where he was largely engaged in copying maps of fortifications critical for the country's defence.

With the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1817, England, deep in economic depression reduced its armed forces to peace time levels and Robert Hoddle was only one of many placed on half pay. In spite of this, in November 1818 Hoddle married Mary Staton from Surrey, by whom he had one daughter.

Unable to find adequate civilian employment he decided to emigrate to the colonies leaving his wife and child in England for 7 years before they were able to join him. In 1822 he left for Cape Colony (now South Africa), where he worked as assistant engineer on military surveys. He did not stay long because he did not enjoy the harsh life and the inhuman traffic in slaves.

In 1823 he sailed in the *William Penn* to New South Wales. It was here that he started a long career as a Government Surveyor and where, in 1851, he was appointed Victoria's first Surveyor General. Amongst many projects, he is reputed to have been responsible for the outstanding design and layout of Melbourne.

In addition to his work as a surveyor he also appears to have been an avid artist and many of his paintings are now held by the State Library of Victoria in Australia.



Interestingly, the subject of one of his many paintings is Princes Risborough (shown above) and is dated 1818.

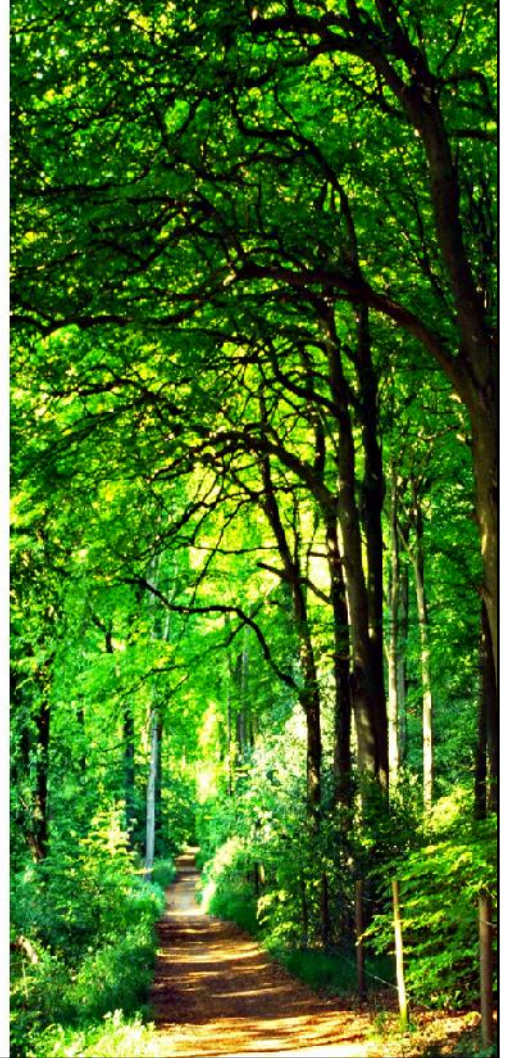
It is reasonable to assume that this was painted whilst he was surveying Lacey Green and Loosley Row for Lord Cavendish and it clearly shows St Mary's Church, the Manor House and the Whiteleaf Cross carved out of the escarpment.

There is little doubt that the man who must have spent many months tramping through the lanes and fields of Lacey Green and Loosley Row surveying the village and the surrounding area in 1818, then went on to become one of the most famous surveyors in Australia, a prolific painter and an even more prolific father!

I wish I could have known him!

My research project on Church Lane should be finished sometime in 2018. In the meantime if anyone in the village has access to old documents relating to properties or land in Church Lane that they would allow me to read then I would be delighted. You never know we may find another surprise!

Laurence Rostron



Nature Notes

It's hard to wander far from the village without passing under the beech trees whose towering trunks and coppery autumn colours give the Chilterns so much of their character (in fact it is thought that the names beech and Buckinghamshire may stem from the same Anglo-Saxon root). Beechwoods are so familiar to us that it is easy to imagine that they have always been there, timeless and unchanging. But actually the story of the beech is closely tied to our own and has gone through numerous twists and turns over centuries and millennia.

If you had been here about eight thousand years ago, long before the original Brexit when rising sea levels flooded the English Channel and released us from Europe, you would have seen plenty of beech trees but these would have been just one

ingredient of the 'wildwood' that covered much of the Chilterns, in which a mixture of trees such as oak, ash, elm, hornbeam, whitebeam, hazel and cherry all grew side by side. And there would have been people in the forest too, small groups of semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers. At first they were too few and too widely spaced to have any real impact on the forest, but that changed about six thousand years ago when the first Stone Age farmers, armed with flint axes, began to fell the trees in order to clear space for their crops and livestock. This whittling away of the original forest cover has gone on more or less relentlessly ever since.

Even those woods which survived the axe have changed enormously since the times of that first forest. For hundreds, possibly thousands of years they were coppiced, their trees being

cut back to the base during the winter and then left to regenerate for a decade or more to provide a regular harvest of firewood. This constant cropping benefited wildlife too by letting in sunlight to feed ground plants such as primroses and heather, which in places would have formed large splashes of purple on the woodland floor.

The next big change to our local woods came towards the end of the 18th century and into the 19th when many of them were converted from being communally-managed to being privately-owned. This in turn allowed the new landowners to grub out thousands of acres of coppiced woodland, with its gnarly old trees and its rich diversity of wildlife, and to replace it with relatively monotonous plantations of tall, straight beeches to feed the burgeoning chair industry in

Cozy Christmas at the Pink

Up at The Pink there's already winter magic in the air. Think toasty fires and warming drinks and you'll understand that we're all about tradition this festive season. With the nights drawing in already and a definite nip in the air, the menu has changed from autumn to winter. The chef's specials are seasonal and we've already got bookings flooding in for – dare I mention the C-word?!

Whether we like it or not, someone is thinking of 'making a list and checking it twice' and if that someone is you this year, we've got everything you need to get your party started up at The Pink! Fancy Christmas Day with the family but without the washing up? Book in for

Christmas Day now! Our menu is traditional enough to keep Granny happy but luxurious enough to be a real tempting treat! As usual our Christmas party menu has been on sale since early September and spaces are filling up fast, so don't delay and get your Christmas 'do' sorted soonest. £30 for three courses with mouthwatering choices for all of your guests to pre-order from, so pop in to pick up a menu or we can always email one out to you.

Before we know it, it'll be New Year and in keeping with our traditional Christmas theme, this year we're all about snowy walks, roaring fires, cozy blankets and a proper good old knees-up! Why not take a

bracing winter walk before joining us for a brilliant winter warmer! Kick off your muddy boots, - even I'm not relying on snow – take the weight off in front of a roaring fire and see in the New Year with a sparkling celebration with family and friends. We'll even throw in a glass of free fizz for those still standing at midnight for good measure! Literally, who could ask for anything more?

So *Think Pink* for all of your Christmas conundrums!

Call 01494 489857 or email Hannah@pink-lily.com

Rodney Parker

Nature Notes continued

High Wycombe. It is these 'furniture beeches' that we see all around us today, and they have had a huge impact on our local wildlife. Primroses are now largely confined to the woodland edges and rides, while heather has all but disappeared and few butterflies will stray far into the dark woods.

But we are now at the start of another chapter in the beech's story, again influenced by people. Wycombe's shrinking furniture industry no longer needs all those beeches that were planted a hundred or more years ago, and this has forced landowners to search for new ways to make their woods commercially viable. So for instance some of the Hampden Estate's woods, which were once criss-crossed by a web of

permissive paths where you could wander freely, are now being parcelled up, fenced off and sold to people attracted by the thought of owning their own little piece of woodland. This is obviously much better than losing the woods altogether, but in other areas of the Chilterns, in woods managed by conservation bodies like the National Trust or the Forestry Commission, they are looking at another alternative. When beeches are lost, perhaps through old age or storm damage, why not replace them not just with more beeches but with a mixture of species, thus turning back the clock to the older, richer wildwood? Of course this isn't an either/or situation; there is plenty of room for both types of woodland, between them supporting a

much greater diversity of plants and animals.

Finally, superimposed on all these changes is the question of how the beech will fare in our changing climate. Although it is too soon to know the answer, beech is a very shallow-rooted tree, which may make it vulnerable to the increasingly frequent and severe summer droughts and winter storms that are predicted. Although we probably won't see the effects during our own lifetimes, in the more distant future they could find themselves more restricted, for instance to shadier northern slopes or sheltered valleys. So the story of the beech still has a long way to go and it will be interesting to see what Hallmark has to report in 2117.



Horticultural Society

for everyone, but Marcia Fendom has been doing this for years! She has handed this role over to Denise Cottis so we would like to thank Marcia for all her hard work and input into arranging speakers for us. If you are interested in any of the topics listed in Hallmark or on the website and you are not a member you are very welcome to join us, just turn up on the night!

The growing year culminated in our annual show on September 2nd. We had record entries and the standard of the show was exceptional. One of the judges thought it was the best local show he had seen. In an age when many local horticultural organisations are closing down this is a testament to the vitality of our members who demonstrate their expertise in growing flowers, fruit and vegetables, as well as baking, preserving and taking photographs in their spare time! Well done everyone.

As you will see from the photographs (thanks to Stan McCabe) the hall was groaning under the weight of produce. (There are more photos available on the village web site). All ages entered and it is reassuring to know that new and younger members are keen to engage in growing and showing. It is great fun and we hope that our visitors enjoy it as much as we do.

This year we have had a variety of speakers. The most recent one gave us an illustrated history of

Kew Gardens bringing us up to date with the changes taking place there and the important scientific work they undertake. This was an excellent talk, conveying knowledge and familiarity with the subject which was most informative. Unfortunately not all speakers are as good and we seldom know how they will be when they are invited. But on the whole we have been very pleased with the range of topics. It is hard to provide something of interest

Our next event, after the pumpkin supper in November, will be a new and interesting venture for us. Members will be bringing in collections relating to horticulture, including tools, toys and bookmarks. This is an informal event with opportunities to chat and enjoy a glass of wine with cheese and biscuits. Do join us for what should be a memorable occasion.

Alison Shreeve



Advent and Christmas at St John's

Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday

10.00am All Age Christingle Service

3.00pm Advent Carol Service

(6.00pm Ecumenical Service at St. Teresa's)

Sunday 10th December Advent 2

10.00am Toy Service with Holy Communion
(Salvation Army speaker)

Sunday 17th December Advent 3

6.00pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 24th December Advent 4 (Christmas Eve)

3.30pm Crib Service

11.15pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Communion with Carols

Tuesday 27th December Saint John the Evangelist

9.30am Holy Communion (said) - Drinks and cake to follow

Sunday 31st December

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Communion

2018

Saturday 6th January The Epiphany

9.30am Celtic Morning Prayer of the Epiphany (said)

Sunday 7th January

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am All Age Service of the Epiphany

Sunday 14th January Epiphany 2

4.00pm Epiphany Carol Service

Sunday 21st January Epiphany 3

(3.00pm Christian Unity Week Service at Speen Baptist Church)

Lacey Green Stores

The above is the official name but does it give out the right message? Should we rename it The Lacey Green Village Shop? And if we do, will it make any difference?

Generally we try to provide everyday household goods (well actually those on the small side, because we don't go in for anything larger than 575 mm; that's just under 23 inches for those who weren't taught both measurement systems). We will consider giving an award to anyone who knows what the object in question is.

The stores is of course also available for anyone that is slightly bored and wants to have a friendly chat, which of course you can do with an excellent mug of coffee in your hand. We have various types of coffee available every morning except after 10.00 on Thursday, when we give way to the WI.

There is also the book exchange which is located at the entrance to the Stores. For anyone that hasn't seen this it is simply a bookcase to which you can add books or from which you can borrow books.

It has a good turnover and you may occasionally find a gem that you have been trying to find for ages.

We were lucky to have a new volunteer working in the Stores during September. She had completed her first year as an engineering student, but has now gained some retail experience which we hope will serve her in good stead. Anyone taking up engineering gets an extra plus from me.

Tony Molesworth

St John's Church

St John's hosted the Deanery Confirmation Service on Sunday 24th September at which four young people from St John's and four from St Dunstan's were confirmed by the Bishop of Buckingham.



It was a very enjoyable event with a large choir and the music was amazing. Refreshments followed the service and the Bishop was happy to join in with the congregation. A very memorable evening!



Harvest Thanksgiving was celebrated on Sunday 1st October with a lovely service in the morning followed by a Harvest Lunch in the School Hall.

The food was prepared by the Choir and once again they provided an excellent meal. The lunch was well attended and was rounded off with singing accompanied by Gavin Mole. Our thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make an enjoyable meal.



REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (1662) every Sunday

10 am 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.

We will be having our annual Bereavement Service on the 26th November at 3pm to which everyone is invited.

A list of our Christmas services appears opposite. We look forward to seeing you over the festive period!

Pat Rushmere





Heavenly Bodies

It's darker in the early evening, but that makes it easier to see some of the night sky's most famous celebrities strutting their stuff on the black velvet carpet. And we'll discover that there is such a thing as a 'blue Moon'.

November is a good time to spot the planets as we won't be seeing most of them for a while as the Sun gets in the way. Early-risers can already see the amazingly bright Venus low in the east just before dawn. If the morning skies are clear on 13th November at about 6.40am, you'll see Venus and Jupiter right next to each other (Venus is the brightest of the two) which should be a fantastic spectacle. Though they'll appear so close in the sky, Jupiter will be about half a billion miles further away from us than Venus. On the following few mornings, the two planets will seem to drift apart as they continue their own orbits. In the evening twilight on 20th November, look out for a delicately thin crescent Moon low in the south-east, with a bright 'star' to the left of it, which is in fact Saturn!

In between these events, the Leonid meteor shower peaks on the night of 17th November. This should be a good 'shooting star'

event as the Moon is out of the way. Of course, they are not 'stars' but sand-sized particles left over by comets which thump into the Earth's atmosphere at speeds of 100,000mph about 50 miles above us. These are called the 'Leonids' because they appear to come from the constellation of Leo.

Winter is the season for the most striking night skies, featuring the dramatic constellations of Orion, Taurus and Gemini. Taurus is home to the 'Seven Sisters' open star cluster and the bright orange 'eye of the bull' star Aldebaran. They are a superb sight, even better with binoculars, and then in the spotlight when the Moon forms a triangle with them on 2nd December. Orion is always my 'wow!' constellation, hosting the famous Orion Nebula where new stars are being born, and its main stars varying in colour from intense orange to cool blue (Betelgeuse and Rigel). The star Sirius to the lower left is the brightest star visible from the northern hemisphere.

To the left of Orion is a faint nebula centred on a cluster of stars. This is the Rosette Nebula (pictured above) in the constellation of Monoceros. I

took this image (in fact a combination of 20 images) using a DSLR camera attached to a telescope. Strange to think it is 4,900 light-years away and 30 light-years wide. This vast cloud of dust and gas produced the star cluster at its centre, and is still forming new stars. The black tendril-like lines are denser parts of the cloud which block the light from behind.

The longest night is on 21st December, as usual. The New Year is heralded by a 'supermoon' on New Year's Day evening. This will be the largest and brightest Moon of 2018 when it will be at its closest to Earth. Then there's a 'blue Moon' on 31st January. This is another full Moon, and because it is the second full Moon within a calendar month, it is known as a 'blue Moon'. These are pretty rare, around seven times every 19 years. An *actual* blue Moon is even rarer, when dust from volcanoes or forest fires makes the Moon appear blue.

Enjoy your festivities and star-gazing – and Happy new orbital cycle around the Sun!

Chris Dignan

New Orleans: The Birth of the Blues (2)



The use of the word “blues” as a description of a state of melancholy dates from Elizabethan times but it is through the development of African-American music forms that “the blues” has become descriptive of the distinctive art-form which is a synthesis of the tonality of African music traditions together with folk music and hymnody from European music traditions. Essential to the character of blues music are the so-called “blue notes” which can be described as a slurring of the third and seventh notes of the scale (“mi” and “ti” in the “do-re-mi” solfège scale). This is fairly easy to achieve with the human voice as well as on wind instruments and stringed instruments by bending the notes (in the case of fretted instruments literally by bending the strings or by use of a slide as in Hawaiian, Blues and Country music styles). It is done by pitching somewhere between the major and minor notes. But the fixed notes of a piano require the pianist to effectively play as if in a minor scale by playing the “mi” and the “ti” as flattened notes.

What we call “the blues” does, of course, play a key role in jazz music but just as much so do the complex rhythms and syncopation derived for the polyphony of African drumming and percussion; and the element

of free expression. As I said in my part 1 article, the origins of jazz music remain a tantalising mystery. However, in New Orleans and its surrounding area people enjoy a spicy stew called “gumbo” into which go whatever ingredients are available, be it shrimp, crabmeat, chicken, andouille sausage, and certainly lots of peppers. And so I think of the historic music of New Orleans is a kind of spicy “gumbo” of cultural influences from France and Spain, from Africa, and from the Caribbean.

In 1895 Buddy Bolden is said to have created the first true “Jazz Band” to perform at a dance pavilion in New Orleans. And it was in 1900 that Louis Armstrong was born into a poor family, the grandson of slaves, and promptly baptised as a Roman Catholic, though his faith as a Christian seems to have been something of a “gumbo” of influences including at least some elements of African and Caribbean voodoo.

In 1915 some white New Orleans jazz musicians were brought north to Chicago to play in the city’s clubs and dance halls; this was the beginning of the spreading of the jazz diaspora. Ironically it was white jazz musicians who were the first to be recorded when the Original Dixieland Jazz Band were brought from Chicago to New York for the first ever jazz recordings. In 1922, King Oliver brought Louis Armstrong to Chicago as second cornetist in his band. King Oliver’s influence was such that Armstrong claimed, “if it had not been for Joe Oliver, jazz would not be what it is today.”

Probably the outstanding white jazz musician of that era was Leon Bismark “Bix” Beiderbecke, the self-taught cornetist, pianist and composer. It was said in the local press of Bix Beiderbecke at the age of 7 that “little Bicke Beiderbecke” could play by ear on the piano any “selection” he had heard. After several attempts, Paul Whiteman, who led the most successful jazz orchestra of the time, recruited Bix Beiderbecke to his ensemble in 1927 and gave him licence to play his cornet by ear rather than strictly from a written score.

And so I bring this article to a conclusion with a quote from the Oxford Companion to Jazz: “Where Armstrong’s playing was bravura, regularly optimistic, and openly emotional, Beiderbecke’s conveyed a range of intellectual alternatives. Where Armstrong, at the head of an ensemble, played it hard, straight, and true, Beiderbecke, like a shadow boxer, invented his own way of phrasing “around the lead.” Where Armstrong’s superior strength delighted in the sheer power of what a cornet could produce, Beiderbecke’s cool approach invited rather than commanded you to listen”.

Actually, if there is sufficient interest, I would be happy in the future to write a further piece taking the story of jazz music through the heyday of the big band era into the innovative Be Bop modern jazz period, and on into the “free jazz” movement of the 1950’s and 1960’s. It is both a journey of musical development and evolution as well as a spiritual quest for divine inspiration.

Tony Bundock

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
Speen & North Dean Toddlers	Tuesday 9.30 Chapel Hall, Speen Church in term time	Rachael McComish		Speennorthdeantoddlers@gmail.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	Natalie Jane	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	Leigh Axe	345216	leigh@laceygreen.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 and evenings	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		Jayne Mylchreest		clerk@laceygreen-pc.org
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, which also has breaking news and many additional articles & photos.

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VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Clive or Karen on 01844 274254 (answering service)

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Village Hall 9.00 am - 12 Noon every week day
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Friendly chatting with tea or coffee & biscuit

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

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