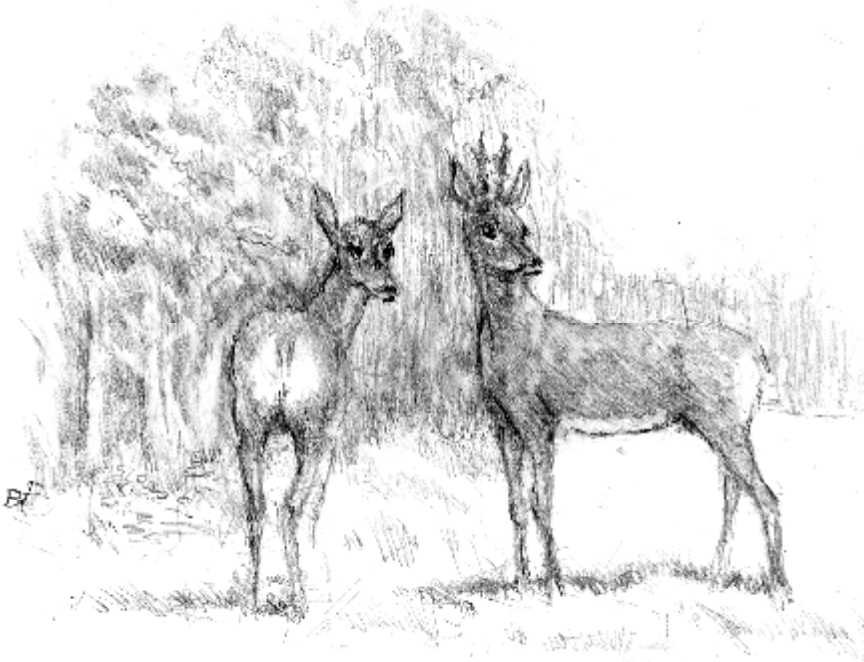


HALLMARK

THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE



*From the sketchbook
by Brian Panter*

MAY 2005

NUMBER 194

ESTABLISHED 1970

HALLMARK

THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2005

Hallmark is published quarterly by the Lacey Green & Loosley Row Millennium Hall Management Committee, although opinions expressed in comment or contribution do not necessarily represent the collective view of that committee.

Our aim is to mirror the mark that the Village Hall makes upon our community, to publish the activities of all Village organisations, and to provide a forum so that the rights, the wrongs, the well-being of village life can be aired.

News from all the Village clubs, societies, churches and school, stories of local interest and entries for the Village Diary are always welcome. In addition, any suggestions for improving Hallmark.

VILLAGE HALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Clive Hodgton (Chair), Lee Harte (Treasurer), Rachel Panter (Vice-Chair), Chris Agate (Secretary), Karen Hodgton, Betty Tyler, Norman Tyler

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

☎ CLIVE OR KAREN on 01844 274254 (Answering service)

EDITOR

✉ Norman Tyler, 5 Woodfield, Lacey Green, Bucks HP27 OQQ (2/3rds down Woodfield, on the left)
☎ 01844 344606 (with answering service)
Email norman@tyler333.fsnet.co.uk

ADVERTISING MANAGER

✉ Chris Baker, "Woodpeckers", Kiln Lane, Lacey Green, Bucks HP27 OPT (past the pond on the left)
☎ 01844 275442

The Autumn Hallmark will be published in August – closing date for copy is July 10th (7 days earlier than usual, this time)

Chairman's Report

Summer 2005



Long, lazy summer days are heading our way. Although, as I write this, it's rather a wet and still quite chilly time! Hopefully only sunshine can follow and we all look forward to that.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Village Hall A.G.M. in March and, as I mentioned in my last report. one of our main concerns was finding space for extra storage. The proposal put forward was greeted by all who attended as a positive move and, subject to raising the necessary funds, planning permission and a suitable builder, this will remain as our key goal for the future.

The day to day running of the hall continues to thrive, thanks to the efforts of all the volunteers who give their time. Bookings are now exceeding availability and a waiting list for prime time slots is in place - a position that we know the original 'team' who managed the project for the new hall are proud of.

The library is now available and well stocked with all sorts of books. It is accessible from the Post Office area on Mondays and Thursdays. The W.I. continue to offer a coffee morning on Thursdays from 10am to noon and would welcome any villagers to join them. I know we harp on about offering support to these services but this really is the only way that we will be able to keep them!

Have a great summer - sit back, relax and enjoy. Keep an eye out for the posters advertising the up and coming events, I know they all need your support too!

Clive Hodgton, Chairman, Village Hall

From the Editor



This is the time our voluntary deliverers of Hallmark will invite your donations to it's costs - currently about £5 per annum for each household. These volunteers usually have problems finding some people in when they call, sometimes repeatedly. If you find your Hallmark already delivered, it would be very helpful if you were to drop your voluntary donation into their letterbox in an old envelope with your name on it.

Hope you enjoyed Brian Panter's *From the sketchbook* illustrations on the front cover. We're lucky to have so many talented artists in our village.

It struck me some people may like to have colour-photo versions of some article(s) from Hallmark, particularly if they know someone in the photos. With profits to Village Hall funds, I am offering to print for any village organisation any quantity of their colour-illustrated pages for £2 per print on coated paper or £2.50 on glossy photographic paper. A representative of the organisation can send me (or drop through my home letterbox) the money in an envelope with a note referring to the relevant issue and page number.

Facing page 4 is an advert listing some new design features of our Maize Maze, opening 22nd July - a nearby place with easy parking to take family and/or visiting friends. Also facilities for children's parties and evening events. Yet more going on in our village!

Unusually, we have four obituaries in this one issue, all for much respected members of our community. We also have an associated appeal for voluntary drivers to take patients to and from the Florence Nightingale Day Hospice in Stoke Mandeville, totalling 2 hours one day a week. Iain Rennie have an exciting variety of events to celebrate their 20 years of caring for terminally ill patients & their families. All on pages 22-24.

Our village Post Office is on trial and may disappear if we don't support it enough. See pages 7 and 8 for what services it can provide you. While you're there, why not have a chat with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit for 30p, provided by WI?

Always welcome are your contributions, with or without illustrations, which could interest us or make us smile!

Enjoy your summer - there's plenty going on in and around our little village!

Norman Tyler, Editor

On the Farm

Cleopatra was one of the most beautiful women in the world, ever. Her reputation has stood the test of time since the days of the Roman Empire. Therefore she must have been extremely attractive. She moved in very high flying circles with a position to maintain, so she needed to impress. So what was her secret beauty therapy? No secret any more of course - she bathed in milk. You all knew that, didn't you? Even John came up with that when I asked him what he knew about her. Milk is the most amazing stuff. T'is true that her's was asses' milk but there was probably more access to asses' milk, cows' being a bit thin on the ground in those days.

I was reminded of this when a report from The Milk Development Council fell on my desk. Actually, it fell on the kitchen table to which I had retreated to grab a coffee so there was the opportunity to look at it closely. I was interested to know what they had been doing as we were beginning to wonder if they were doing anything at all. Every producer is charged a levy for promoting milk and milk products. We will have paid nearly fourteen hundred pounds this year. Apparently nothing will sell these days unless it is advertised and promoted. I would like to think this was not so, but companies would not spend all that money unless it paid off, so I suppose it is. There had been a campaign which recommended "3-a-day" of milk, yogurt or cheese. A good one had been "Have you got the bottle?". I loved the one where the milk bottles danced along behind the milkman promoting door step deliveries, but that is an uphill struggle as life styles change. Still a wonderful service for some though. They had "Are you made of the white stuff?" for strong bones, which was a good point but didn't pack a punch for me. Then the MDC had put together a promotion aimed a sportsmen and women and, in particular, teenage lads. It was done in cartoon form and featured four footballers. It looked promising. Then George Best, who had just made a come back, had been on *This is your Life* and was one of the men used, fell apart and so did the promotion. If you saw anything of it. then it's more than we did.

Now a new campaign is to be launched. Extensive research has been done on how best to communicate with teenagers in general, girls in particular. They have been asked to help develop a marketing strategy, and the concept that constantly appealed was a desire to look good involving 'a bit of science'. Well good for them, what a sensible approach, not just to accept things at face value. The campaign will be called

Naturally Beautiful. If they want science, milk is a complete form of protein, contains necessary amino acids, and lovely skin, shiny hair, strong nails, teeth and bones come from the calcium, vitamins and minerals in milk. But it is presented with a light hearted twist —

"Yogurt is great for covering your blemishes
Try eating it - you won't have so many to hide
Don't slap it on your face, put a spoon in it.
Shower with milk for beautiful hair and skin?
Better drink it rather than bathe in it.

I wonder if Cleopatra knew that. I bet she did - just sounded more exotic saying she bathed in it. After all, she was keeping up appearances for a Roman and they were very keen on their steam baths. I guess she was not just a pretty face and asses' milk was a bit of one-upmanship.

As an exception to the advertising theory, I have not seen a big promotion for flavoured milk, but sales have increased enormously. We found this to be so at our maze the last two years, so we will see if it continues this year, and the supermarkets and service stations are giving it more and more shelf space. Perhaps the public are wiser than they are given credit for.

A couple of mysteries with which to finish. If milk has gone up to the consumer 2p or 3p a pint, why has our return only gone up 0.3p per litre (!.75 pints)? Standard milk is sold 96.5% fat free. Semi-skimmed is 98.5% fat free. Skimmed milk is virtually fat free but to me it's an insult to call that 'milk'. The cream is taken off to achieve these standards and is sold in various thicknesses, usually for weekend treats and as something special to offer to guests. I suppose if one has gone without all the week then a treat is in order.
. Perhaps in the next campaign they can concentrate on the 'feel-good-factor' of such a 'good-for-you' food.

Joan West

**VOLUNTARY DONATIONS TO
HALLMARK
are being collected with THIS issue**

**As a guide, printing & associated costs total
about £5 per annum for each household.**

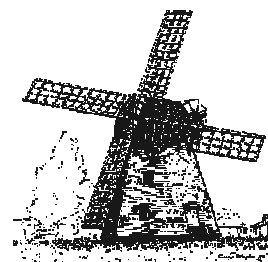
The Windmill WI

First Wednesdays 7.45pm Village Hall

Our first meeting for 2005 was in February when our speaker was Mr Jonathon Arnold talking about Frederick Parker and the Parker Knoll collection of antique chairs. Mr Arnold is a direct descendant of Frederick Parker, who founded Parker Knoll Furniture Co in the mid 19th century and is grandson of Tom Parker, who was responsible for taking up Willy Knoll's invention of tension springing and establishing Parker Knoll. Following his retirement as Main Board Director with Parker Knoll, Mr Arnold spent some time touring the country giving talks about the Parker Knoll collection of antique chairs, which had been collected by his grandfather, as inspiration for the Parker Knoll designers. Lately he has been involved with the charitable body - The Frederick Parker Foundation - which purchased and maintains the cream of the collection when it had to be sold because there was nowhere for it to be kept. It was a most interesting and informative talk.

In March the weather once again dogged our WI - we unfortunately had to cancel our meeting due to snow and ice. It only snows about once a year but you can guarantee it happens when the Windmill WI has something arranged!

We were delighted that our biennial Jumble Sale was once again a great success and we would like to thank everyone who supported us by bringing jumble or by coming to buy and a big thank to all our members who helped.



The speaker at our April meeting was Mr Brian Clews with his talk entitled 'Red Kites in the Chilterns'. Mr Clews has observed birds in our region for 30 years, organised local RSPB members groups, carried out numerous surveys and written three books on local bird topics. Mr Clews certainly knew his subject and we found out a great deal about these magnificent birds that grace the Chiltern skies. Once again I am pleased to report that we have welcomed several new members over the last few months, but we always have room for more! We are looking forward to the summer months with speakers on Graphology, Gardening - how to prune and propagate, and how to be Creative with Colours. A ramble and a summer supper are also planned. So don't forget, we meet on the first Wednesday in the month, in the Millennium Village Hall, at 7.45pm.

Daphne Williams

Towards a Finger Buffet

CHICKEN & PIMENTO BASKETS

2 sheets fillo pastry

40g butter, melted

FILLING

200g can pimentos, drained, chopped

1/2 cup chopped cooked chicken

1 tablespoon cornflour

1/2 cup cream

1 teaspoon French mustard

1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

Cut each sheet of pastry into 8 strips lengthways. Cut each strip into 6 pieces; cover with plastic wrap. Brush 4 rectangles with butter, layer together at angles, place in 1 hole of a mini muffin pan (1 tablespoon capacity). Repeat with remaining rectangles and butter. Bake in moderate oven for about 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove pastry baskets from pan, place onto oven tray.

Just before serving, spoon filling into pastry baskets, bake in moderate oven for about 5 minutes or until heated through

Filling: Combine pimentos and chicken in pan, stir in blended cornflour and cream. Stir over heat until mixture boils and thickens, stir in mustard and parsley; cool to room temperature. Makes 24.

- ▶ Baskets can be baked 2 days ahead. Filling can be prepared 3 hours ahead
- ▶ Storage: Unfilled baskets, in airtight container. Filling, covered, in refrigerator
- ▶ Freeze: Not suitable
- ▶ Microwave: Filling suitable



Lacey Green Community Plan

The previous issue of Hallmark included a questionnaire. We are still analysing the responses received to date - quite a job, as you can probably imagine! Many thanks to those who have replied. There is no specific deadline, and if you haven't yet completed your copy of the questionnaire, please do it now and return it to one of the delivery points. We will of course be using the data to formulate our future plans. Thanks also to those who volunteered their services in various ways. We will be getting in touch. One of our successes last year was the opening of the part-time Post Office in Lacey Green, and it is important that you use this Post Office as much as possible. See the latest details below.

Tony Molesworth



Why not combine a visit to our Village Hall's Post Office with a drink and a chat provided by the WI on Thursdays from 10am until noon?

The Post Office at our Village Hall

OPEN MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM 10am TO 1pm

TRAVEL - If you are travelling abroad, the Post Office® can meet your travel needs.

Foreign Currency - delivered next operational day, free of charge at your local Post Office® branch. 0% commission on all foreign currency purchases. The Post Office® also buys back your unused foreign currency, free of charge.

Travel Insurance - that can be 50% cheaper than other sources, and kids go free.

BANKING SERVICES - if you have a current account with selected partner banks:

Barclays
Smile

The Co-Operative Bank
Cahoot

Alliance & Leicester
Lloyds TSB

Continued overleaf

Cash Withdrawal. Your local Post Office® branch offers a free, easy and safe service to withdraw cash from your current account. Depending on which bank, all you need is either your card and personal identification number (PIN), or card and cheque book. Unlike cash machines, you won't be limited to multiples of £10 so you can withdraw just the amount of money you need.

Cash or Cheque Deposit. You can also make cash or cheque deposits into your account free of charge, using a personalised paying in slip from your bank (card for Alliance & Leicester).

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Post Office® Car Insurance and Post Office® Home Insurance – more great value products, call freephone 0800 1696500 or go on-line at www.postoffice.co.uk to see how much you could save. Remember to give the FAD code no: **1241028**.

More great products and services available at your local Post Office® branch are;

Personal Loans

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Post Office® Flowers

Phone Cards

Savings

E Top ups

Savings Stamps

Gift Postal Orders

and, of course. Mail Services

Lacey Green Productions

LGP's first "Theatre at Home" has just given its inaugural performance. Watching an all female cast and seated in a superb home setting, our audiences managed to raise over £500 for the charity "Mind". This brings the LGP total raised so far for charities, both local and national, to £27,000.

Our next exploit is to present Tom Stoppard's mysterious comedy "The Real Inspector Hound" at our Super, Summer Supper Theatre. This will be at the Village Hall on Friday, May 20th and Saturday, May 21st. The food will be delicious, the company will be outstanding, the play will be entertaining and there may even be a prize if you reckon you know who dunnit.

Tickets for the supper theatre are available from either of the telephone numbers shown below.

For those of you who really like to get that 2005 diary filling up, our pre Christmas dinner theatre will be in the Village Hall on Friday, November 25th and Saturday, November 26th.

LGP welcomes new members at any time. Young, old, acting, technical, experienced or not - all are welcome.

Information about LGP can be obtained by phoning one of the following: **01844 345956** or **344207**.

A North Bucks Boyhood - conclusion

1931: I was seven years old and aware that the grown ups were anxious with good reason. Collapse of world trade caused a massive run on the banks. Our employers were bankers. Wages were cut. Half the country was taking cuts, including judges, civil servants, police and the armed services. The sailors of the Home Fleet mutinied. Unemployment in the depressed areas began to manifest itself in the countryside in the forms of the many men who took to the road to look for work. We lived on the main road from Buckingham to Northampton. Almost daily, a man would knock on the door to beg some hot water to make tea in a tea can. He would always be given something to eat as well. They did a daily walk between workhouses. Every town had one, where they got a bed in the "casual" ward. This daily procession went on for several years and they were not always welcomed in villages. There was considerable hostility but only once in our case was there theft - a joint of meat left by the butchers was stolen by a sad and hungry young man who was caught by the local policeman. Happily he was dealt with leniently in the court.

I was eight when I had my first seaside holiday, a week at Ramsgate with my mother, who had to make elaborate arrangements for someone to do the dairy work. My father could not get away. Not until the late thirties did my mother and father manage a holiday together: By this time the dairy herd had been sold.

Holidays were unpaid and no one else in the village took them; but there were day trips to the sea by excursion trains or by the increasingly popular coach trips. There were also trips to nearer places of interest. Whipsnade Zoo was a big attraction when it opened in the mid-thirties. Our nearest big town was Northampton, which because easily accessible by bus. The Chandos Cinema opened in Buckingham, previously films being shown in the Town Hall. I became a cowboy film addict and the addiction has endured.

Aged eleven, I sat the "Scholarship Exam" for the Latin School in Buckingham and passed, the first pupil from the village school to do so. Although my parents would not have the burden of fees, the provision of school uniform and games kit for a fast growing lad meant a considerable financial strain. There was also a new bicycle and wet weather kit for we were not expected to be absent, whatever the weather.

I set off on the first day of the Autumn Term to bike the five miles to Buckingham and to enter this brave new world. It is painful to relate that I did not make the most of my opportunities. The war came in my last years at school. Boyhood ended, manhood began in earnest.

B.T.J.P.

Andy's 'ints

Having any work carried out on your home can be a trying experience. At the outset you will need to decide whether to ask for an estimate/quotation, or arrange for the work to be done on a time and materials basis. An estimate is your contractor's best guess of the approximate cost of undertaking certain work. A quotation should include exact information of the estimate of the cost of undertaking certain work. Here your contractor should give detailed information and costs.

Which ever way you decide it is important to detail exactly what you want done and if necessary what materials should be used. Lets say you have wooden windows fitted in your home and would like them painted, ask for a price for "painting your wood windows" and that is what you will get. Do you mean paint the inside or outside. What about clearing the plants growing around the windows, preparation or repair of defective woodwork, how many coats of paint do you want put on, what type and make of paint, are the windows to be painted open or closed. Many of these queries can be discussed with your contractor but should be agreed before work starts. As another example suppose you have leaking flat roof and it needs replacing. This should be carried out in dry weather, the faults with the sub structure of the roof should be rectified, insulation levels should be upgraded and polyester felt should be used to form the new roof with a topping of chippings. "Replace my roof" may not include any of these works and will result in a life of less than 10 years, include these works and the roof should be good for 30 years.

Whatever work you have carried out in your home assume that it is likely that extra work will be found, I would recommend that you confirm to your contractor that you will be willing to pay for agreed extras. If you do not, problems may be concealed which will surface some time later and will then be considerably more expensive to rectify.

Finally keep an eye on what your contractor is doing and especially the materials being used. It is human nature to economise and it is in your contractor's own financial interest to minimise the cost of materials used, thereby maximising the profit from a job. This is especially true where sub-contractors are used.

Some examples: treated timber for building looks green and is protected against rot and insect infestation it costs more than untreated timber, using the latter can save money but longer term it can be exceptionally expensive to replace. Doors from the DIY supermarkets are cheap but the quality does not match those from the mainstream building suppliers, look for names like Premdoor or Jeld-wen. Electrical fittings from MK are about 3x more expensive than unbranded fittings; make sure your estimate includes the make to be used.

If your contractor is able to offer a guarantee for the work carried out ask to see a sample before any commitment is made. A guarantee written in Italian may well be valid but will you understand the cover and the claims procedure?

Finally, if you are having work done which could cause problems at the weekend (which is when most occur) e.g. plumbing, roof works, electrical installation, do try calling your contractor, before awarding the contract, on a Sunday afternoon to see if they can be contacted.

Andrew Stone



**The world's cheapest barometer
- a piece of string**

If string is swaying it's windy
If string is sideways it's very windy
If string is wet it's raining
If string is dry it's not raining
If string is stiff it's freezing
If string is invisible it's night
If string casts a shadow it's sunny
If string casts no shadow it's cloudy
If string is smoking it's on fire
If string is missing check the old man's

boots

Back to School

- news from St. John's CE Combined School and Parents' Association

Ofsted Inspection praises "good quality of education" and "happy faces"

The national education inspection system – Ofsted - conducted a comprehensive study of all aspects of school life at St. John's school in February. The full report has just been published and staff, pupils and parents are very pleased about what the inspectors have to say.

Inspectors praised the school's "good leadership and management, the good quality of education, pupils' very strong desire to learn and very strong support and contribution from parents, the church and wider community".

"Good leadership and management and the good teaching helps all pupils to achieve very well", they said. "The acting head teacher (Mr De Wolf) is continuing to lead and manage the school well".

They were highly complimentary about pupils' academic and personal standards – stating that by age 11, pupils' attainment in all subjects is above national expectations. In 2004, results in English were in the top five per cent of schools nationally.

Summarising pupils' views, the reports says "Pupils have very positive views and love coming to school. They say they are really happy, enjoy learning and being with their friends. Pupils like and trust their teachers and the support staff". The inspectors stated that "All pupils at the school behave very well and have very good attitudes to learning".

Commenting on the school ethos, the inspectors said: "The school is a happy and friendly environment in which everyone is valued." The report praises the "very good links with the parents, the church and the wider community" adding "Parents and neighbours regard the school as a friendly place" and comments on "the happy faces found everywhere in the school".

Sponsored fitness trail



Following the installation of the new fitness trail last term, pupils recently held a sponsored event to help raise additional funds. Children from reception (age 4) up to Year 6 (age 11) had to complete a range of activities in a specified time

and were sponsored per lap by family and friends. Everyone had great fun!

Treading the (new) boards

The school invested in new staging last term as the 20 year old equipment had become unserviceable. The new staging was well and truly inaugurated with an impressive talent show put on by the pupils at the end of April.

Church links

Our Summer Term started with the customary beginning of term service –this time conducted by Norman Critchell. Preparations are underway to present all the Year 6 leavers with bibles.

May Fayre

Saturday 14th May 12 noon – 4pm

**Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Bisham Concert Band
Circus Skills Workshops, children's entertainer
Maypole Dancing and Tug o' War**



**Plant stall, tombola, bouncy castle, raffle, hoopla
teas & cakes, ice creams, BBQ, bar, Pimms tent**

Admission is only 50p at the school gate.

Windmill Under 5s

Life at Windmill Under 5's is as hectic and fun filled as usual. The playgroup is thriving and everyone is enjoying being located at the Sports and Social Club. I can't believe it is almost a year since we moved back to the village. The children thoroughly enjoyed all the activities on offer for them last term. They were all very interested by a wormery brought in by one of the children, and they were very excited by a visit from some very cute little newly hatched chicks. Having worked through a variety of activities about 'Me' (i.e. themselves) they moved onto the theme of 'Texture' and particularly enjoyed touching, examining, smelling and squashing a variety of different types of fruit and vegetables. Another activity they particularly enjoyed – although not specifically laid on by pre-school – was playing in the snow. Thankfully the cold months are now behind us and



hopefully we can enjoy some spring weather. Unfortunately the elements were not so kind when we had our end of term Easter celebrations. Cold and rain meant that the Easter Egg Hunt could not take place outdoors. Nevertheless the children had fun finding their eggs indoors. I guess location is less important for them than the actual booty! The morning began with an Easter Bonnet parade, followed by the children performing songs for a very appreciative audience of parents, grandparents and friends. The staff and children all worked very hard to put on such an impressive and charming display!



In February we held a very successful Indoor Car Boot Sale at the Village Hall. This has become a regular fundraiser for us and we would like to thank everyone for their support. Our next sale will be on Saturday 5th November – so please make a note in your diaries!

This term the children will be studying frogs – with the kind donation of some frog spawn from one of the parents garden ponds. They will then work on the theme 'Sky and Outer Space' which will provide plenty of opportunities for making hot air balloons, models airplanes and of course scary space monsters!

The children all love playing in the park and we will be optimistically looking forward to the days when the lunch club can picnic outdoors.

We will be holding an open morning on Thursday 16th June from 9.45am to 10.45am and would love to meet any parents / carers who are interested in their children starting at Windmills in the future.

We are now fully staffed but are very interested in hearing from anybody who might like to put their name down as a relief worker. There are times when due to staff illness we need to call on extra help. If this is something that you would be interested in please give me a call.

Kay Bambrick (01844) 347275

Lacey Green Singers excel with West Wycombe Brass Band



I have to say, to be truthful, that I felt proud to be from the little village of Lacey Green when I heard the quality of singing at our Singers' joint concert with the West Wycombe Brass Band on Saturday 2nd April. Audience and singers are clearly pleased and grateful for the influences of Cathie Kaye since she became the Singers' conductor. The atmosphere I sensed in the audience was most enthusiastically appreciative.

The Band is presumably more acquainted than our Singers with the "church with the gold ball" on the top of the hill at West Wycombe. There had been no rehearsal at the Church, so our Singers had their first experiences there on the night. It was also somewhat unfair, I felt, that the Singers were further away from the audience than were the Brass Band. One would normally have expected the louder band to be behind, wouldn't one? Despite this, we heard the singing very well. Unfortunately, I understand our Singers did not hear the band or speaking from the adjoining room at the back. As a consolation, the audience didn't hear the mumbling much either, although it did improve after the interval. These deficiencies certainly did not spoil the enthusiastic enjoyment of the music. Our Singers and their hosts, West Wycombe Brass Band, all amateurs after all, can be proud of their performance. If you weren't there, you missed a heart-warming musical experience.



Cathy Kaye conducted the Band and Singers' first joint rendition, Verdi's *Slaves Chorus* from *Nabucco*. Here she is, left-most of the Singers, singing under the baton of the Band's Ian Graves.

Loosley Row & Lacey Green Horticultural Society

3rd Wed of May, July, Sep, Nov, Jan &
March. Annual Show 3rd Saturday of Aug

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Last year we had the April gales instead of the breezes. This year I felt I just needed to leave this place for the warmth of the tropics. Snow, rain, hail & a sunny afternoon all in one day, that was Friday March 4th. Not the start to the gardening season I had hoped for so my catalogues looked definitely like hot beaches and not seeds.

However, that all seems far behind us now as we settle down to the roar of the Sunday morning mowing frenzy and the seed merchants never-ending supply of junk mail offering us what plants to buy from their sales campaigns.

Easter certainly got us off to a great start, with fantastic weather to get those lawns in shape and start those seeds. Getting the bedding plants started seems easy every year but getting ready for the Annual show - well that's another thing. I still have to plan my entries (actually its what I have on the day) for its not too long to Saturday September 3rd. - that is the target day this year.

There's a slight change to the classes for 2005 to give more opportunity for individual vegetables to be recognised in their own right. For many years we have grouped together a number of vegetables which has made judging a little difficult some years. So, after a proposal from the Judges last year for this year we have more separate classes. This we hope will encourage more entries and the expectation is to change a few of these classes each year to allow a wider choice of entry. Fruit & Flowers sections remain unchanged.

Domestic was so well supported in 2004 that we are engaging two judges for 2005, so I hope that the support is even greater for 2005.

So the hall is booked, the judges assembled and the stage set. All we need now is the back drop and that's your entries. You'll find enclosed in this issue of

Hallmark a copy of the full schedule for the show, so even if you have just that one fantastic Fuchsia or Geranium, bring it along and I look forward to seeing you there.

We hope to attend the St John's School May Fayre on 14th May and the Strawberry Tea at Woodbyne Farm on 26th June with our plant stall and it would be very helpful if you could donate some plants or cuttings - bring them along on the day. We would also be glad of some help on the stall for an hour. Many hands, or even a few, make light work! And it is all in a good cause.

If you had more success than expected with your seedlings, bring the excess along to the meetings where we will have a plant table.

Finally, we hope to see you for what will be a very interesting talk by John Crick, a noted local beekeeper, on Wednesday 25th May at 8.00 in the Village Hall. All are welcome - you do not have to be a member of the Society.

David Fitt, Show Secretary

Tom loved growing vegetables so much he filled his front garden with cabbages amongst the flowers.



One day his neighbour leaned over the gate and said "You've got so many caterpillars on your cabbages, Tom, that I can almost hear them munching. You'll have to put salt on them".

"Nay, lad" replied Tom. "If they don't like them as they are, they can do without".

Tip

Sprinkle sawdust around shrubs or seedlings to protect from snails - snails can't crawl over sawdust because it sticks to them.

I am pleased to present my Annual Report for 2005.

The Design Statement and Community Plan for Lacey Green and Looslev Row has now been completed and is being published by the Wycombe District Council. I should like to record the grateful thanks of our council to Councillors Molesworth and Wall and their colleagues on the Committee for the hard work put in towards the publication spread over several years.

The Traffic Calming measures previously outlined have been approved but not yet been implemented. We have been promised that work will start in the Spring of this year.

I am pleased to say that the new Post Office in Lacey Green is now open for two mornings a week. I would urge all the residents to transact as much business as possible to ensure its survival. This would mean all pensions and allowances being drawn, utility bills paid, income tax and banking transactions can all be done at your local Post Office.

Our Council could be nominated to be a Quality Parish Council but this nomination can only proceed where the Parish Council has been elected. It has been some years since a Parish Council election has been held. All our members have either been returned unopposed or appointed to a vacancy.

The bus shelters have not needed much maintenance, mainly because the new metal shelters have been a success and maintenance free. We continue to ensure proper maintenance of the public footpaths and the playground, including cutting the grass in the Parish churchyard. We keep the Lacey Green playground in good order, but we have suffered from dog fouling, although dogs are not permitted at all in that area. We have provided one new litter bin near Goodacres Lane in Lacey Green and one at the corner of Abbotswood in Speen. The public seats have been cleaned and treated with preservative.

We were notified of the change of Licensee of the King William IV in Speen. This has been taken over as a Bangladeshi restaurant but we are assured that the usual public house facilities will continue.

The Village Magazines for Lacey Green and Speen continue to be published four times a year.

We have made a loan of £2500 to the Speen Playing Fields Association towards the purchase of a replacement mower. We made a grant of £500 towards the refurbishment of the waiting room at Saunderton Station and £100 towards the Wycombe Dial A Ride Facility.

There is a proposal to replace the Mobile Library which calls at Lacey Green with a permanent library housed at the Post Office, to be open at their usual hours. Books will be provided and regularly changed as for the mobile van.

We are in consultation with the Rural Housing Trust and are at present in the process of locating possible future development sites following the Housing Needs Survey. Details will be published after consultation with the Trust. I am sorry to say that Councillor Clive Wall resigned from the Council last year on his move to Somerset. I would pay tribute to the excellent work he has put in to the Design Statement and Community Plan. We are currently seeking to replace the vacancy,

We have been asked by the Trustees of the Methodist Chapel in Lacey Green if we would take over the burial ground when they dispose of the Chapel building site. We are currently negotiating terms for the acquisition as we consider the alternative of closure would not be in the community interest.

I am very pleased to report that our precept for the coming year has again been reduced, quite unusual for a Local Authority, and we had included a figure for financing the Design Statement but this has not been completely used and we have sufficient in hand to meet the cost of the forthcoming Community Plan for Speen.

Our Council has been represented on the Association of Local Councils, Bucks County Council Road Safety Advisory Committee, Princes Risborough Charities, Bucks County Council Environmental Services Committee, Lacey Green Village Hall Committee, Speen Shop Charity Committee, and the Governing Body of Speen and Lacey Green Schools. The Parish also maintains Tree Wardens who liaise with Bucks County Council.

My Council and I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Clerk to the Parish Council for his invaluable work in dealing with the day to day affairs of the Parish and particularly in dealing with the financial records and statements now required to be kept by Local Authorities. My thanks also go to my Vice-Chairman, Councillor Claydon, and all of my fellow Councillors for their support and hard work on behalf of the community. Our thanks also go to our District Councillor, Mr P Rogerson, for his assistance during the year in District and Planning matters.

Obituaries

KATHLEEN ELLEN CHURCH

Lacey Green mourns the passing of Kathleen Ellen Church, one of the fast declining number of people born in the village and remaining resident here for the whole of their lives. Kathleen was the oldest member of Lacey Green Methodist Church before its closure in 2001, and her life was devoted to children and activities within the Church.

Born Kathleen Ellen Brown, her early home was at 'The Crown' (where Crown Cottages now stand) in Church Lane. Attending Lacey Green School, her day school teacher also taught her to play the piano and the organ. Her love of music and singing led to her appointment as organist at Lacey Green Methodist Church, at the tender age of eleven. This was an appointment she continued to fulfil for eighty-two years, until the Church closed in 2001. As the years progressed this was a commitment to three services every Sunday, playing for the Sunday School in the morning, followed by afternoon and evening worship.

In 1919 Kathleen was awarded a scholarship to High Wycombe Girls High School. On leaving the High School and completing teacher training, she took a post at Downley (Chapel Street) School, teaching there until her retirement.

In 1937 Kathleen married Harry Church at Lacey Green Methodist Church. They set up home in the Bitfield, now Westlands Road, where they remained all their married life.

Her love of teaching children in the week also extended to Sundays, with work as a teacher in the Methodist Sunday School. An ability to make every child, either in School or Sunday School, feel very important was the secret of her success. In 1976 Kathleen was presented with a silver rose bowl, in appreciation of fifty years service to the Sunday School. However, her work was to continue for another twenty-five years, making seventy-five years in all.

Condolences are extended to sister Nancy, nephews and their families.



JOHN DELNEVO

John was born in High Wycombe, in June 1926, the only child of Jessie and John Albert Delnevo. His grandfather had immigrated from Italy, and sold ice creams on Frogmoor.

He had violin lessons at school when about 9 and played in the school orchestra. When he left school at 15, he tried various jobs, but finished up in the family printing firm in Desborough Road. The family lived above the shop.

He learnt the double bass and joined the all-ladies "Josie Alwyn's Band". This helped to supplement his income. He then learnt clarinet and saxophone.

In 1944, he was called up into the Gordon Highlanders and was sent to train at Annan in Scotland - he joined the military band there. He was interviewed with "Stars in Battledress" and his group toured India and Malaysia. One of their number was Billy Dainty. On his return from abroad, he still had six months to do in the army, so he joined the Oxford and Bucks military band.

Discharged in 1948, he returned to the family business. He played with the Archie Goddard Dance Band at functions all over the local area. This was a useful supplement to his income, sometimes doubling what he earned from printing.

At one stage, the band was invited to play at Windsor Castle, but had a prior engagement at Tylers Green. It must have been fate, because there he met Joyce, who had been crowned Miss Tylers Green. They were engaged on Valentine's Day 1949 and married in the Parish Church, High Wycombe on 22nd. September 1951.

Meanwhile, John had joined the well known Ken Madeline's band, playing saxophone in the big band (Glenn Miller) style. Ballroom dancing was very popular then, and most people learned to dance.

They found that Jack Dell had a plot of land in Kiln Lane. Shona was built (named after the Scottish Island), and they moved in September 1958. In 1961, their daughter Louise came along.

He played tennis with Wycombe Tennis Club at Bassetsbury Manor. He later took up bowls - he had always enjoyed sports, and had played for the school cricket team.

Following his father's death; John took a partner, and continued to run the printing firm. Their work was

mainly for local furniture-making firms and for West Wycombe Estate.

John gave up work in 1996, and enjoyed a quiet retirement until his recent illness. He died in Florence Nightingale Hospice, Aylesbury on 9th February 2005. Joyce and John had been married for 54 years.

STANLEY WILLIAMS

The recent death of Stan Williams (aged 93) means the loss of one more of the remaining villagers who have lived all their lives in this area, first in Great Hampden and then Lacey Green.

He spent his working life in the furniture industry, but his passion was gardening, particularly vegetable gardening. By today's standards, he cultivated a vast garden. I remember when he opened it to the public on Village Day many years ago, thinking "how does he manage it?"

In his retirement years, he helped several local widows struggling to keep their gardens tidy after the death of their husbands.

He ran the Wednesday afternoon mini Whist Drives in the Village Hall for a number of years, much appreciated by the senior citizens. At the Annual Horticultural Society Show, few could match the size of his onions.

I had many conversations with him on local and national issues. He liked to keep abreast of events, so to spend the last few years of his life in hospital, unable to communicate, must have been frustrating.

A softly spoken, unflappable serene person, in fact a gentle gentleman.

Our condolences to his wife Eddie and sons Raymond and Brian.

T.J.

(LILIAN) MARGERY WEST

In 1 Corinthians St Paul giving us the teaching on the resurrection and we know that it applies to all Christians and thus to Margery.

Margery was born on September 16, 1911. Her early church-going experiences included the Mission Hall and Speen Baptist Church.

In 1932 she married Edward Smith. This took place at the Registry Office in Hertford as a way of evading the opposition of Edward's mother! But once the marriage had taken place it was accepted. Three children came along, starting with Bernard (1933), Annette and Laurence. Life for Ted and Margery really blossomed through golf. Margery loved her golf and introduced Ted to the sport and he turned out to be a natural! So there were all kinds of tournaments and at one point Margery was Ladies Captain of Whiteleaf Golf Club.

Ted sadly died in 1979 and this in a way marked the beginning of Margery's association with St John's. In 1981 Margery married Richard West. They shared and indulged a great love of travel during the two short years of their married life together. Richard died suddenly in October 1983. Peter Pereira was Margery's companion from 1987 until his death in May 2003. They, too, enjoyed travel, often to Malta in the winter and the Black Forest in their caravan in the summer.

Margery was a great lover of family. The three children have led to ten grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Her passing, just five months after her 93rd birthday was most peaceful and lovely.

Florence Nightingale House

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR TWO HOURS OF YOUR TIME EACH WEEK

The Day Hospice at Florence Nightingale House in Stoke Mandeville can accommodate up to 50 patients each week, some of whom need transport. They are collected from home by a volunteer driver and brought into the hospice at Stoke Mandeville around 9.30 am. The driver collects them around 3.30 pm and takes them home. During their day the patients are offered a variety of therapies, activities and events and make friends with others who have similar needs and it makes a huge difference to their week.

Patients are collected by an individual volunteer driver making the journey time as short as possible and a pleasurable experience from the time they are collected to the time they arrive home again.

Volunteers at Florence Nightingale House are an integral part of the workforce and their time and skills are highly valued. Time is a very precious commodity

Continued overleaf...

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these days and what we are looking for is people in your area to give a couple of hours one day a week to make a difference to a Day Hospice patient. A friendly smile and a big hello can be just as special to you as the patient and the relationship that grows between you both so rewarding.

Are you the person that will help Mr. P and Mrs. A enjoy a day at the Day Hospice by giving a maximum of two hours once a week ? **If so please phone Gloria Davis on 01296 394710 and join the caring team.**

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## **Iain Rennie HOSPICE AT HOME celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a variety of events – concerts, dances, knock-out challenges, fun run, lunches & dinners, a horse show & a parachute jump!**

In this 20 years they have cared for more than 6000 terminally ill patients and their families across the Chilterns.

During May and June, nearly 40 gardens will be open across the Chilterns (**phone 01442 890222 or visit [www.irhh.org](http://www.irhh.org) for a list**).

The pinnacle event is a Gala Picnic and Prom in the Drill Hall at RAF Halton on Sat 9 July. Picnic from 5pm with jazz by George Brown & “Anything Goes”, then concert starts at 7.30pm. Includes favourite “Proms” music with The Ealing Symphony Orchestra, High Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir, St Augustine’s Church Choir, Gateway School Choir and soloists.

**In Lacey Green – Tea at Three:** Liz Lewin of Chiltern Cottage, 5 Hambye Close is holding a tea party at her home on Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, tickets £5 in aid of the Hospice – everyone welcome. Phone her on 01844 274961 for further information.

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District and County Council News

FROM PRESS RELEASES

Because of legal restrictions applying to candidates in the Elections at the time of writing for this edition, Paul Rogerson has been unable to

submit his usual article on District and County Council News. He, or his successor, will be free to resume entering articles in time for the August edition.

However, he has been kind enough to inform local editors of some press releases by Bucks CC - I summarise below.

Recycle for Buckinghamshire goes Door-knocking!

From mid-April for three months, the Recycle for Buckinghamshire door-knocking team will be knocking on more than 50,000 doors in the County and will speak directly to at least 18,000 residents.

The County-wide door-knocking campaign being delivered by the Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire, aims to get more residents to recycle more things more often.

The contact is David Sutherland, Waste Reduction Officer, Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire (01296 383003).

Standing Out Against Domestic Violence

A survey in Buckinghamshire in November 2002 found that 1 in 4 women had experienced domestic violence. This replicated national research. In England and Wales, 1 in 20 women will be raped and 3 will die each week at the hands of a current or former partner. It is a sad fact that, in the UK, women and girls are more at risk from the men they know than from strangers

Wycombe District and Bucks County Councils are amongst those who have produced a credit card sized list of numbers of organisations and helplines to contact if anyone ever wants help – small enough to keep handy in purses.

Helpful ‘phone numbers (other than 999 for police in crisis situations) are:

Women’s Aid 24-hour helpline	08457 023 468
Aylesbury Women’s Aid	01296 436827
Wycombe Women;s Aid (via the Samaritans)	01494 432000
Victim Support	0845 30 30 900

Wycombe District Council

The speed limit review has been passed and advertising of speed limits will appear in the Bucks Free Press in June-July.

Would you like to see **Children's Karate Classes** at the Millennium Hall?

Twenty years ago I began training in the martial art of Seido Juku Karate. Since then I have discovered many benefits to the training, including fitness, self-confidence and awareness of my own strengths and weaknesses. In 2001 I established classes in Lacey Green to share what I had learned with others. In order to establish a base I focused purely on teaching adults and we have built a small, but strong group of committed students who train twice a week at the Millennium Hall on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Karate, as taught in Seido Juku, is not concerned with who is the strongest, or who is the best fighter, but rather aims to make each student a little better day by day. We aim to make karate accessible to all irrespective of age, gender or ability. Our founder hopes that through doing this, the human face of karate, everyone can make society a better place through the

small steps we take inside the dojo. We teach self-discipline, self-respect and self-confidence.

With this in mind I am looking at the possibility of beginning some classes for children. In order to structure a programme I would like to understand a little more about the demand for such classes in the local area. If you are a parent and are interested in helping me with my research then I would be grateful if you could call me on **07768 896078** (after 4:30pm) or email on Richard.peace@choosekarate.com. Our website is www.choosekarate.com.

We also have a few places left within our adult programme and have a 16-week beginner course ready to run. If you are interested in this course please contact me as soon as possible. Private tuition is available by arrangement.

Richard Peace
Aylesbury Vale Seido Karate

Financial Planning

Every so often there is an "investment opportunity" that might better be filed under "S" for scam. Many of these come through the internet and you may have been the lucky recipient of an email from the Lottery Coordinator at the International Promotions/Prize Award department of Protea Games South Africa announcing that you have emerged a winner and have been awarded a lump sum of \$2,500,000 in cash. This is apparently part of a total prize pot of \$12,500,000 shared between 5 international winners. All you have to do is contact your claims agent immediately supplying your bank details at the same time. Interesting "any breach of confidentiality on the part of the winners will result to disqualification". In other words, please don't tell anyone. This seems strange, surely a Lottery like our National Lottery craves to create maximum impact for its good causes but this Lottery wishes to do its good work away from the glare of publicity. Or is it another scam to seek bank details leading to the emptying of honest people's coffers?

Another "offer" doing the rounds originates from Nigeria, offering a percentage of a massive "hidden cache" of money as long as you are prepared to allow it to be passed through your bank account, breaking a large number of laws including currency dealing regulations in several countries.

More worrying are the so-called "Phishing" expeditions carried out by criminals who can replicate very convincing looking Bank websites and then email you, asking you to log on with your personal information so that you can update it. You may not have a bank account with the bank concerned but the originators of the scam only need a few people to give their bank details in order to empty the account.

Other deals are more difficult to spot - "hot" penny shares where current investors try to talk up the price so that they can off load their holding before they finally collapse. Another is to watch out for cheap software where you buy on line giving your credit card details of course, and then finding nothing ever arrives other than a multitude of unexplained items on your account.

The key point is that only investments offered by companies and individuals registered and regulated in the UK are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Any investment offered by a non-regulated person is illegal and exposes you to risk of loss without compensation. The old saying "if a deal looks too good to be true, then it probably is" has good sense in it. There is no such thing in life as a free lunch.

Steve Wilkinson
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Around the Local Pubs

PINK AND LILY

Well it seems a few editions ago since I managed to get myself organised enough to get something in the Hallmark but this is the start of many new things to come. There are to be a few changes at the Pink in the next few months ('Oh no' I can almost hear you say, but I hope you will all agree they are for the best). The first is that Duncan and I took over the lease on the Pink & Lily on the 12th April. We have a new menu with the usual pub favourites and some more unusual dishes. You may notice in the coming months that the colour of the pub itself will be changing. No prizes for guessing what colour. The census of opinion seems to be that most Pink's customers would like to see the pub pink again. So, much to Duncan's distress at living in a pink pub, pink it shall be. One thing that is going to remain the same is that the Pink will continue to be a pub's pub. I want to emphasise that we are a pub that serves food rather than some kind of gastro pub where people who just want a pint or a nice glass of wine are discouraged. And Tup's stunning beer will remain the same!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people. Firstly, all of the fantastic staff who make the Pink such a welcoming place. Tup, with his incredible beer as I've already said, and of course his jokes and card tricks. Richard with his quick tongue, insults and dry sense of humour. Zoë for driving quickly to make sure she gets to work on time and for making me laugh soooo much. Ben for leaving lots of little reminders of himself around the place for me. Louise, Charlie, Rosie and Amy for always coming in with huge smiles on their faces to charm the customers with and David who many of you will never see for looking after the plates so well and finally Mike for putting up with Duncan - how you do it I will never know. You are all unbelievable. And secondly, all of our customers who make the Pink such a fantastic pub - without any of you it wouldn't be the pub it is. Duncan and I would like to say how much we look forward to looking after the pub for you all in the years to come.

Finally, congratulations to The Black Horse who, by narrowly beating the Pink, won the dominos championships. We'll beat you next year! Thanks again to you all and we look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Shakira & Duncan

THE WHIP INN

Julie and I have survived our first year at the Whip and are well into the second. Some of it has been hard work but the majority has been good fun. Now that spring has arrived, we are both looking forward to the year ahead.

I should point out in this edition that we are holding another BEER FESTIVAL on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th of May, where we will have 20 beers and ciders from around the country available in a marquee in the garden. This will also incorporate lunchtime jazz and no doubt an occasional rendition of "Smoke goes up the chimney" from Nick and Roger (known throughout Bucks as The Midnight Crooners). The last one was a great success and this one should be even better.

We have had a couple of additions to our family this year, namely Sam & Smeagol, the two Jack Russell puppies, who may be small. but can still devour a complete set of dining room chairs in one afternoon. Even as puppies they are quite capable of taking us for a 6 to 8 mile walk twice a day so I am either going to be fit or hospitalized by the end of the summer.

Our congratulations go to several people. Lauren and Duncan on their recent marriage, when Lauren looked radiant and Duncan looked terrified. Toby & Beth on their new addition, interestingly named Mazda. Ian & Lyndsey for having the most well behaved baby on the planet. Nigel & Wendy on the birth of Moss and Steve James for remembering to go home on time one Tuesday in February.

Cheers. See you in the pub . **Nick & Julie**

THE BLACK HORSE

Well, have you missed the pub section in the Hallmark? If you have, don't worry - it's back.

First things first: Congratulations go to Christopher Dell and Victoria on their wedding. It was a fantastic day. Also the same congratulations go to Robert and Christine Dell on their wedding - another day to remember (so was the Hen Night). Well done to Ian, Mark, Graham and Alan for getting into the next round of The Publican Golf Tournament. Good luck at Magnolia Park in May. Our Black Horse A Team won the Dominoes and Crib League - well done to you all.

Our B team came middle table, which was really good for us as we usually hold up all the teams! Bar Billiards is still going but I don't think there will be any big trophies this year, but never mind there is always next year. Thanks to all the teams at the Black Horse for all the commitment they give to the Pub. I really appreciate the time and effort they all put in.

Aunt Sally season is nearly upon us, Friday evenings in the garden. Come along and watch an old Oxfordshire game in full swing. The garden has now been altered slightly. We have a fenced play area now, with swings, playhouse, toys and a large connect four. Also we must not forget the rabbits and guinea pigs in their own private playhouse.

Now to some more serious news. About 6 weeks ago I was unlucky enough to be burgled. The pub was open and it was about 6.30pm. Someone came through my backyard into the kitchen and found my office. When they got into my office they stole my computer, safe, cigarettes, camera, printer and photo deck. As they were leaving, they left my files out in the car park. The police were called and they think it was someone who knew my office and they think it is very probable that they were local, but who knows. I wonder if these people realise how long it takes to save up for all these items. Maybe they think that they all grow on trees. If any one has any information that could help us catch the person or persons responsible, there will be a small reward. We now have had to install CCTV in and outside of the pub to stop this happening again.

Well, I hope to see you sometime in the Black Horse - if it's just only for a drink and not a meal - you will still be very welcome. Our evening hours have altered slightly for meals. The times are now Tuesday to Thursday 12 till 2pm, 6.30 till 9pm. Friday 12 till 2pm, 6.30 till 9.30pm (last order 9.15). Saturdays 12 till 2.30pm, 6.30 till 9.30pm (last orders 9.15). Sundays 12 till 2.30pm, no food evenings. We are open all day Saturdays and Sundays and we are closed Mondays till 5pm except Bank Holidays when we are open all day.

DONT FORGET QUIZ NIGHT THE LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Lynne

Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI

Second Thursdays (except August) 2pm
Village Hall



Those of you who joined us on Pancake Day will know what a great time we had but for those of you who were unable to be with us - this was a really good event. We were joined by the top year from St. John's School and we do thank the Head for allowing the young people to take part. And take part they certainly do, with all the enthusiasm that only boys and girls can muster. The young people were divided into groups and partnered, one tossing, one counting. And those not taking part cheering the participants on. (We did have to check that the Village Hall roof was still in place – as they really did try to raise it.)



The young people and



parents, friends and toddlers alike
all entered into the spirit of the occasion.



THE WINNERS received their awards and when it was all over the President, who greets the visitors, presents prizes etc. takes up the broom and gets on with the cleaning up!



Who said the President gets all the best jobs?

Another event which went extremely well was our 81st Birthday Party. Not a 'special' year but a birthday nonetheless, so the committee provided afternoon tea for the members, after which we were entertained by Laura Stephen telling us about her 50 years on the Fiddle. Laura is now blind and had to give up teaching the violin but now gives this really entertaining talk on how she managed to cope with her present situation. We had a lovely time singing along with the various pieces she played from all our favourite shows. It was a very Happy Birthday.

We have also had some very interesting talks on the Woodland Trust, The Pendon Museum and St. Georges Chapel, and coming up we will hear about the life and times of Queen Victoria and Wendover Waterways.

You must all know by now that we meet the second Thursday each month – 2.00 p.m. and that we are waiting for you to join us!

Barbara Hobdell

Heavenly Bodies

More than 30 would-be sky-gazers of all ages went along to the second *Astro Talk* at the village hall to see the Sun and Moon appear on the big screen.

Those who came along (in April) heard amateur astronomer Chris Dignan explain all you need to know about our star the Sun, and the Moon – why the Moon has phases, how it was formed, what it's like close-up, what causes the Northern Lights, why eclipses happen and what they look like. Images, many taken by Chris, were projected on to the hall's silver screen and included a video clip of the 1999 solar eclipse.

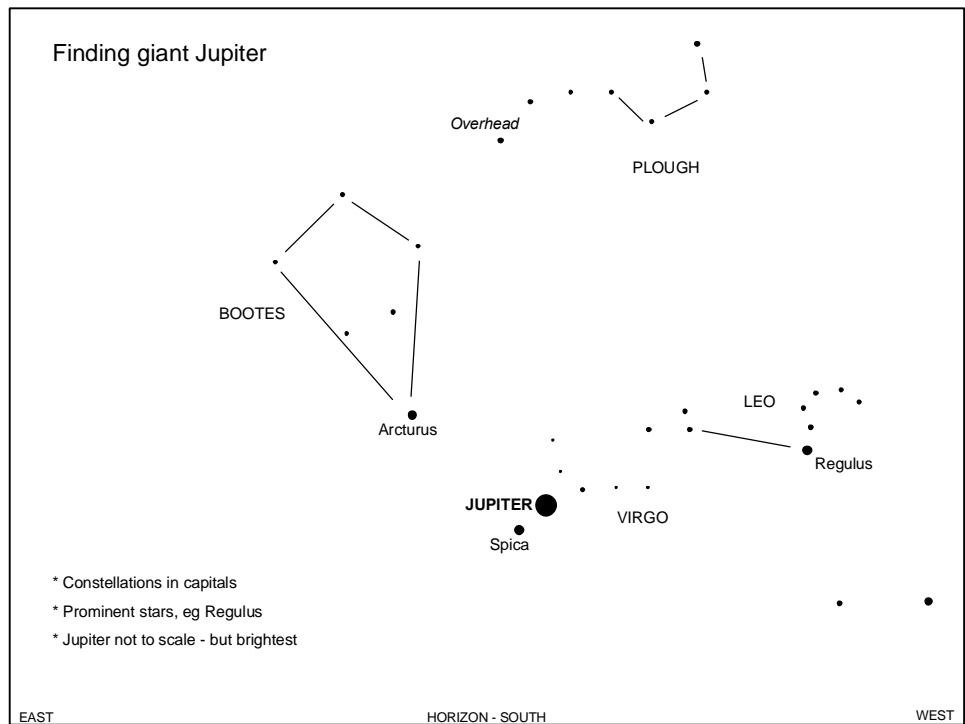
Thanks go to Valerie and Peter Brookhouse for organising the tickets, tea and wine and to everyone who has been attending. After a summer break, it is hoped that a third *Astro Talk - The Planets, Comets and Asteroids* - will take place in the autumn.

The talks have been wonderfully supported, and many can take full advantage of our dark skies which have been spared the rampant light pollution afflicting elsewhere.

And summer is a great time for sky-watching – as it's much warmer in the evening! There's the King of the Solar System big and bright in the sky right now. Jupiter is much nearer to us – approx. 600,000 miles away - than it will be later this year and is in a good position of the sky for viewing.

A seething ball of gas, it could fit 1,500 Earths inside it! It spins much faster than the Earth too – taking under 10 hours to revolve once – and this dizzying centrifugal force causes the planet to bulge in the centre and flatten at the poles. It also boasts the Great Red Spot – a 300-year-old storm which is two-three times the size of the Earth.

All planets, including Jupiter, arc across the sky as the Sun does. So Jupiter will rise in the East, climb,



and then set in the West. Jupiter is readily seen with the naked eye – it's the brightest object in the night sky, second only to the Moon. It looks like a very large star shining like a single headlamp! To find the gas giant, find a vantage point sheltered from artificial light and look south when it starts to get dark at about 9-9.30pm (or earlier before June). Look up to about a third between the horizon and directly overhead and you'll see a bright white light – that's Jupiter. You can check with the sky map on this page (printed as a 'negative' of the sky), using the reference stars and constellation patterns.

Chris Dignan

IG & IR Sports & Social Club

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 21st May

Afternoon Tea at the Club

Come and see the facilities we have to offer.
Tennis, Cricket, Pre-School and the Pavilion

From 2.30pm
Bar

Teas, Cakes and
Bar

Friday 1st July

'An Acoustic Evening' in the company of JUMP

at the Sports Club

Playing material from 10 Albums across
15 years in a special end of tour event.
Don't miss this unique chance to see a
band who have worked at the highest
level in an intimate setting.

Doors open 8pm
(limited)

Tickets £8.00

Available from Black Horse or
www.jumprock.co.uk

Friday 17th June

Race Night

Doors Open from 7.30pm
For more details see posters
or contact 01844 346295

Sunday 3rd July

Family Sports Day

Come and join in the fun.
Lots of activities for all ages.

From 12 noon at the Sports Club.

Sunday 14th August

Sponsored Bike Ride

Look out for details of this
challenging event

Cricket Section

Our Cricketers have started their toughest season for some years (weather permitting). The 1st XI are now in the Premier Division of the 'Mid-Bucks League and so will have to be at their very best if they are to finish near the top of the table. The batting, I'm sure, will be fine but we lack a consistent wicket-taker, someone who can deliver four balls out of six that will hit the wickets if the batsman misses. If there's someone out there who can do that please apply immediately. Robert Dell has again taken on the job of Captain with Duncan Palmer as Vice-captain.

The Seconds too face even tougher competition with teams like newcomers Wendover to play this season. But if they play to their full ability I'm sure they can hold their own. Dave Sanders will be leading them again with, if we can find him some new legs, Nigel Kelloway. Come on, Nige, you can do it!

We have umpires, Les, Derek, Jim, and, in reserve, Martin but we do need scorers for both teams. If you fancy the job and you're over 12 and under 90 contact any member. There's a free tea and £5 in it for you and a nice day our Practice nights will be Thursdays starting 6.30pm - 7.00pm.

Saturday 30th of April (gone now) the 1st XI are receiving their runners-up medals from the league and there will be a special presentation to Robbie Brown (Seconds) for the best individual bowling performance of last season. Well done!

There has been a change to the subscriptions. Instead of the £30 signing-on fee it has been decided to charge £10 per match. This was deemed to be fairer as, if you only play one match, you will not be £40 out of pocket. Which brings me to finances. Sigh! We have a big hole, I'm afraid. Despite the tremendous efforts of club members we owe a great deal of money. Most of this is by way of loans and we are not being pressed but it has to be paid back eventually. Few people realise how much it costs to run a club like ours with all the facilities we enjoy. Machinery wears out despite the efforts of Nigel, Brian, Dave and others to keep it going. We have bought a second-hand roller and tractor, a new pitch-mower, plus other equipment - the money goes out so fast!

This season the three sections of the club will be working together to try to reduce the debt. By my calculation, we have to raise around ten thousand pounds to clear the debt. We can do it, given time, but if anyone has any bright ideas or can help in anyway please contact Robert Dell on 01844 342442. I have just heard that any donations given at the funeral of Mrs Kathleen Church, the well-loved school and Sunday school teacher, will be given to the Sports Club. A lovely gesture! Thank-you.

I'm told that the practice sessions at the Royal Grammar School were well attended and went well. It's good to see that the lads are keen to 'limber' up and let's hope it stands them in good stead for the new season.

While we have, at present, willing, hard-working volunteers who keep the ground and equipment in top-notch condition, there is another side to running the Sports Club. Someone has to make the decisions about the direction the club is heading. This is done by the club committee - it's quite a responsibility and over the years the members undertaking the task have grown fewer and fewer. There are various reasons for this - other commitments, distance traveled to attend meetings, etc. There must be a few people in the village who are interested in preserving and expanding the facilities at the ground for future generations and who can afford an hour or so a month to help in that decision-making process.

Step forward out of the shadows and make yourself known to any member and help to forge the Club of the future.

Geoff Gomme



News from St John's Parish Church

(Rector – The Reverend Denise Critchell)

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

The New Year started off sadly with the terrible devastation caused by the tsunami but villagers and churchgoers alike pulled together and raised over £5,000 with events held at the end of January. A disco in the school on Saturday evening and 'cream teas' at Grymsdyke Farm on the Sunday afternoon, brought about a wonderful community spirit as every one worked together and monies raised went towards the Ragalla Aid Project in Sri Lanka.

The 'Women's World Day of Prayer' on the 4th March at St John's was lovely and The Christian Women of Poland invited us to join them in prayer on the theme of 'Let Our Light Shine'.

The first Sunday in March was Mothering Sunday and Lizzie Thomas-Davies preached her first sermon at the All Age Worship Service. It was a brilliant service and the children were given little presents to give to their mothers.

Also in March we welcomed Bishop Alan on Passion Sunday. He gave a most encouraging and thought provoking sermon on 'renewal' and urged us to look at Jacob Epstein's 'Lazarus' sculpture, which is at New College Chapel in Oxford. I looked it up on the web at www.cherwell.org then 'images', to see it for myself.

The traditional Lenten services – Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and Easter Sunday were all well attended and figures were up on last year. A large simple wooden cross was placed across the road from the church and then decorated with daffodils on Sunday - a witness to everyone passing by. The 'stripping' of the church at

the 8.00pm service on Maundy Thursday was a solemn and moving service and in such a contrast to the Easter Sunday morning service which was joyful and upbeat as we celebrated the Risen Lord – the whole point of our faith. I was saddened to read in a newspaper the following week, the results of a poll that over 52% of British people did not know the meaning of Easter and thought it was about having time off work and giving and receiving chocolate.

The APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) took place on the 20th March and showed that in the last year we had a record number of baptisms, 21 prepared, 16 baptised and have married 6 couples. Our Finances are ably looked after by Barry and James – we have met most of our budgets. We are still pushing ahead for much needed kitchen and toilet facilities at the church and all contributions to the Restoration Fund will be gratefully received.

The Alpha Course, which ended in January, has proved to be very successful and has encouraged new friendships. The group are in the main, attending church and have formed a Home group which meets regularly. The permanent Prayer Meeting in the parish, which meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, is continuing.

Bereavement: Lastly, as a village we have said fond farewells to many people, some of whom are listed below: Jan Ronianski, John Delnevo, Stanley Williams, Margery West, Kathleen Church and Alice Pettit. We remember at this time their families and friends in prayer.

Forthcoming Events

June

Sunday 5th

Team Sunday – Changing Pulpits

An 'exchange' day where our team ministers will administer in a different church within the team

Saturday 11th

Wedding between Rebecca Gosling and Keith Matthews

Monday 20th Confirmation Service at 7.30pm at St Mary's church PR

July

Thursday 21st End of School Year Services
9.15 Speen School Leavers Service at St John's church
2.00pm St John's school Leavers Service.
52 leavers, all of whom will be presented with Rainbow Editions of the Bible

Monday 25th Lighthouse Week

Regular Services

The times and format of weekly services at St John's are listed below for reference:

Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)	1 st , 2 nd & 4 th Sunday
10.00am	All Age Family Eucharist	1 st Sunday of the month
10.00am	Parish Communion	2 nd , 3 rd 4 th (&5 th) Sundays
11.30am	Family Worship	3 rd Sunday of the month
6.00pm	Choral Evensong	1 st Sunday of the month

Tuesday

9.30am Communion Service in the Lady Chapel at St John's
2.00pm Pram Service – each Tuesday afternoon during term time

Wednesday Group Communion Service at St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough

1st Sunday - Family orientated service, 3rd Sunday – Family Worship, Sunday

Schools open on 2nd and 4th Sundays. For details of Sunday school please contact Jenny King 01844 343810.

We are looking to provide a crèche soon – watch this space!

Full details of all services, articles and detailed information about St John's Church is published in the Parish Magazine 'Viewpoint' which is published monthly and also on the notice board outside the church.

Be blessed by your Parish Church – we look forward to meeting you at our lovely, lively and more importantly 'growing' church, you are always welcome and will be made welcome!

Andrea Bennett ☎ 01844 274550 ✉ a.bennett57@btinternet.com

HALLMARK DELIVERERS
URGENTLY WANTED

**Only 4 times a year – a chance to meet people as well as
admire other people's gardens!**

**My grateful thanks to the volunteers who deliver Hallmark
and have done so for many years.**

Bette Tyler 01844 344606 (with Answerphone)

Village Directory



Is unchanged – see same page in last edition

Happy Wanderers Walking Club

Walk 20th March – from village of Sarrat in Hertfordshire

Led by Carole and John Hanna

With Spring in our steps, 25 members ventured across the boundary into Hertfordshire. Walking from the delightful village of Sarrat, we headed off through “rolling” countryside along the Chess valley, towards the picturesque village of Belsize. On to Chipperfield, where the first signs of Summer became apparent, as the Village Cricket Pitch was being prepared for its first overs. We walked on through well-tended woodland to the Apostles’ pond, where some of the trees are around 750 years old; a peaceful oasis.

The *Cart and Horse Inn* at Commonwood looked very inviting but we resisted and carried on to Sarrat Green, completing a stunning “Hertfordshire Village Tour”.

From the Editor: Several of us commented that the scenery was very well worth the motoring and similar to our own in some ways. Sarrat village people were very friendly. They also offered several alternative country pubs to lunch at. Thanks, John & Carole for introducing us to this area!



We're a lively, happy, interesting group of friends



We gradually straggle out into chatting groups



A combination of healthy walking and most enjoyable company can last until 3pm-ish if you reward yourself with a pub lunch to follow!

Why not join us?

Photos by Ron Goodearl

Village Diary

May 15 – Aug 15 All events at Village Hall unless otherwise specified



May 15 Beer Festival in marquee at Whip Inn, with lunchtime jazz	12 noon (also 14 th)
May 20 Lacey Green Productions' Summer Supper Theatre – Tom & 21 Stoppards comedy <i>The Real Inspector Hound</i>	7.30 for 8pm
May 21 Sports Club Afternoon Tea at Sports Club	2.30pm
May 22 Happy Wanderers' normal local walk #	10.30am
May 24 Sports Club AGM at Sports Club	8pm
May 25 Horticultural Society - "Bee Keeping" (non-members welcome)	8pm
Jun 1 Windmill WI	7.45pm
Jun 7 81st Over 60's Club (first Tuesday of each month)	2pm
Jun 8 Happy Wanderers' short walk	10.30 am
Jun 9 Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI	2pm
Jun 13 Parish Council Meeting at Speen Village Hall*	7.30pm
Jun 17 Iain Rennie <i>Tea at Three</i> at 5 Hambye Close (see page 24)	3pm
Jun 17 Sports Club Race Night at Sports Club	7.30pm
Jun 26 Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
Jun 26 Strawberry Tea at Woodbyne Farm, Main Road, Lacey Green	3pm
Jul 1 <i>Jump</i> perform at Sports Club	8pm
July 3 Family Sports Day at Sports Club	12 noon
Jul 5 81st Over 60's Club (first Tuesday of each month)	2pm
Jul 6 Windmill WI	7.45pm
Jul 11 Parish Council Meeting *	7.30pm
Jul 14 Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI	2pm
Jul 13 Happy Wanderers' short walk	10.30am
Jul 20 Horticultural Society – "Growing & Showing Sweet Peas"	8pm
Jul 22 Quiz Night at Sports Club	7.30pm
Jul 22 Maize Maze open every day until Sep 4	10.30am – 6pm
Jul 31 Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
Aug 2 81st Over 60's Club (first Tuesday of each month)	2pm
Aug 3 Windmill WI	7.45pm
Aug 10 Happy Wanderers' short walk	10.30am
Aug 14 Sports Club Sponsored Bike Ride	9.30am

* Members of the public are always welcome to attend these meetings

Starting place informed on previous walk - usually within 1/2 hour's motoring of village

SOME LATER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sep 3 Annual Show of Horticultural Society	
Sep 10 End of Season Disco at Sports Club	TBA
Nov 25	
& 26 Lacey Green Productions' pre-Christmas dinner theatre	TBA
Nov Sports Club Ladies Night	TBA

**CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE AUTUMN EDITION
JULY 10th (not 17th this time !!!!!) 2005**

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