

HALLMARK

THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE



**"Yule log"
by Brian Panter**

NOVEMBER 2005

NUMBER 196

ESTABLISHED 1970

HALLMARK

THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE

WINTER 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 Winter Hallmark will be published in November
– closing date for copy is October 17th**

Chairman's Report

Winter 2005



Welcome to the latest edition of Hallmark. Summer seems so long ago and the cold dark winter nights are ahead. But don't despair there is plenty to keep you occupied at The Millennium Hall this winter. Please check out the new notice board by the bus stop for all the activities available. Don't be afraid to go along to any of the talks - I know that all the associations are keen for new members and guests to attend - it beats sitting at home watching the TV or going on the internet! We are also very lucky to have three great local pubs all offering excellent food and good company.

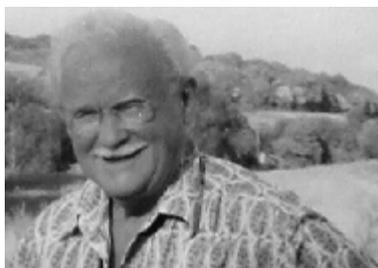
The day to day running of the hall continues to thrive and the Post Office is now open on Saturday mornings from 10am to noon. This is for a trial period - so once again, use it or loose it! The Library is still open when the Post Office is, so grab yourself a book and snuggle down in the evening for a good read. The WI Thursday coffee morning is also proving to be very popular and they now have many regular visitors and customers, so why not pop along for a chat if you get the chance. A few weeks ago they even had a local author in for book signing! Watch out for the posters to keep up to date, you never know what could happen next.

The New Year is looking promising as we are still in the very early planning stages of a new village publication. Due about mid/late summer it should be a great read and an asset to the village. But no, I won't spill the beans just yet but needless to say, watch this space!

Finally, as Christmas is fast approaching, on behalf of the Village Hall committee, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a healthy, peaceful and most of all happy New Year.

Clive Hodghton, Chairman, Village Hall

From the Editor



We proudly present Hallmark's first ever full-colour photos to celebrate the recent Diamond Wedding Anniversary of the couple who started this magazine

35 years ago. They devoted much inspired thought and more than half a century of their lives towards improving the quality of life of Lacey Green and Loosley Row residents. See the centre pages, 22 and 23, for all the local facilities and organisations we owe largely to their initiatives and time. And to learn more of how they met, their lives, then and now.

As Editor, I sometimes have problems deciding how much space I should allocate to each subject. I'd very much like to know your views as to which articles you read regularly and which you never do. Please do let me know (my contact details are on page 1).

Under a "guess who it is" pseudonym, we have on page 4 an interesting story by a retired professional actor who lives and is very active in our village.

We also have the usual articles with photos of people you can try to recognise. I hope these photos will help villagers to meet others of similar interests.

On page 11 is an introduction to the Whiteleaf Bowmen, bowmen who meet regularly at our village hall.

There's lots of news about the various activities of our

local councils. See page 12 regarding the latest on Culverton crossroads. Page 25 has a news release announcing David Lidington's new website – with an opportunity to vote on some issues!

More letters to the editor regarding the new houses in Kiln Lane – including one from their owners – page 19.

I don't normally mention the weather – I enjoy all four seasons. When you feel like complaining, remember the words of a young Spanish hotel chambermaid we met when we first came to Buckinghamshire 38 years ago. I asked her how long she had been in England and how long she would like to stay. "I'd like to stay in England as my home", she replied. "I love your changing seasons – in my part of Spain we are always fighting too much heat"! And we've been getting warmer since then.

STOP PRESS

Too late for an obituary in this edition, we learnt of the sad death of Sir Nigel Mobbs, Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, recently remembered locally for opening our own new Millennium Village Hall. We will include an obituary in our next edition. Our sympathies go to his family and friends.

Norman Tyler, Editor

On the Farm

Mid October. How many shopping days to Christmas? Not many, time you get this and another year has flown by.

Because so many crops overlap the farming year never totally ends. You could say it is after the cereal crops are harvested. At that time it is all systems go to cultivate the fields in order to plant next year's crops. I know we had to get married then so we could go away on honeymoon. Even then, John had a letter from his dad saying how the drilling was getting on.

New crops have come on the scene since then and the seasons are getting earlier. Oil seed rape is the earliest, together with barley, followed by oats and wheat – all in the summer. But earlier, in May, the grass is harvested for silage, in June the hay, then in October the maize is made into silage. In between we are always ploughing, cultivating or planting. So there is never truly an end to the farming year.

Many changes are coming in farming regulations. We are totally confused but a few chinks of light are making things more clear. For some years, arable fields had to be arable, likewise grass fields had to be grass. Someone has realised that this made good rotational practice impossible. It has been abolished. Management of hedges has been constantly changing. The latest is that they should be cut at 1.5m. It can't be simply for the birds. They have more hedges, trees and shrubs than ever before. Perhaps it is to stop farmers keeping an eye on their neighbours whilst driving along! And certainly, if you enjoy looking at the countryside you won't be able to see much of it either.

Just a word on the countryside in general, "Beautiful". We are so busy in the summer, then in September and October we tidy the fields and when we go out are always surprised that everyone else has been busy doing the same, and how neat and tidy and cared for everywhere looks. Only one thing is getting out of hand, mostly on verges but encroaching into some unfarmed fields as well, - ragwort. This is a very noxious notifyable weed. It has a yellow daisy-like head and the councils are not getting rid of it. It seems especially bad down the motorways. It has to be pulled up individually so mowing it off just will not do.

Once again, the maize maze was blessed with nice weather and lots of visitors, some of whom have been

every year. We much appreciate your support for this enterprise. 99.9% of the people are so nice. Of the 0.1% who spoil things, it is some consolation when others come and tell us if damage is being done and point out the offenders to us – so we can look out for them. If when you read this and if the cap fits, remember "we have that little list". Luckily it is only a little list, for which we are grateful.

How many shopping days left to Christmas? Now that is not a little list, but isn't Christmas shopping enjoyable. Such a lovely time for giving, at such a lovely time of year. Merry Christmas.

Joan West

DO YOU STILL HAVE YOUR MILK DELIVERED?



We do, for several reasons. Our local milkman tips off a neighbour if he notices anything worrying, such as milk not taken in from the day before. No supermarket offers that caring service – nor do they deliver your milk to your door to save you carrying it! In addition, milk bottles are used up to 20 times before recycling, unlike plastic bottles and cartons. Additional information can be found on www.wasteonline.org.uk. As applied to our old village shop, if we don't use the Post Office in our village hall and the milkman enough we'll lose them as well!

Editor

~~~~~  
"What is the good of having a nice house without a decent planet to put it on?"

Henry David Thoreaux  
~~~~~

Flying a kilo of apples to Britain from New Zealand in the spring will produce 1000 grams of planet-polluting CO². The same weight of well-stored English apples bought locally produces only 50mg, a twentieth of one gram! Why not buy fully ripened (tastier and healthier) English fruit and vegetables – not only apples - instead?

Banquo's Ghost

by Walter W Plinge

Many years ago I was in a Shakespeare touring company. We were young and ambitious and, unlike me, some of the cast are big names now, but at that time our fortunes were precarious. We were in the final week of the tour in a northern town and a very old and shabby theatre, shortly to be demolished.

We began the week with *Twelfth Night*, which had been surprisingly well received and we were following it with *Macbeth*, in which I played Banquo. Most people know the play has a reputation for misfortune but nothing untoward had happened in our performances so far and this was our last presentation of the play.

That evening, before the show, I was alone in the dressing room I shared with Macbeth himself and another actor. I am usually early in the theatre: I like to have plenty of time to prepare and get in tune with my part. The theatre was utterly silent. There was not any sound of the stage management from the stage. I sat before the dressing table mirror with its surround of naked light bulbs and began to put on my makeup. We used more makeup for the stage lighting of those days than actors do today. As I rubbed the grease paint over my face I became aware, gradually at first, of another presence in the dressing room. The theatre was empty and no-one had entered this room but the presence persisted, the feeling grew and was soon overpowering. The room had grown cold and so persuaded was I that someone stood behind me that I expected to see another face in the mirror but I could see only my own. The feeling remained as strong as ever and I tried to turn around and look. I could not move. I was fixed. The sensation went on and on, until at last I heard voices. Stage management were now in and preparing for the show. At this the paralysis gradually left me and I came back to normal but I was badly shaken. I said nothing to the others when they came in but sought relief in talk of everyday matters.

The play went well, playing to a moderately full house and after Banquo's murder I came back to the dressing room to change my appearance before returning to the stage as his ghost in the banquet scene. I sat down before the mirror and began to put liberal amounts of stage blood around the head and throat. Immediately the sensation I had felt earlier

gripped me. Fast and firm it held me, again unable to move. I began to tremble with fear and the cold that had again descended on the room. My thoughts raced in panic at the approach of my next entrance but there was nothing I could do. Then I saw it in the mirror, another face ghastly and streaming with blood and as I sat transfixed it faded and disappeared.

I felt sure an agitated stage manager would burst into the room because I must by now be close to missing my entrance but nobody came. I did not appear to be missed. I was stuck fast and the play was going on without me. How on earth were they coping without the ghost? At last I heard the distant sound of applause as the scene ended and the curtain came down for the interval. My limbs were relaxing now and I sat quietly, bracing myself for a blast from Macbeth and wondering what I would say by way of excuse for being off

The door crashed open and Macbeth lurched into the room, his face wild and angry. In the mirror I could see reflected other members of the cast. A mighty and unbearable pause seemed to go on for ever. "What the hell!" he said at last. "What the hell happened to you?". What could I say, how on earth could I explain? As it was I said nothing, hoping my silence would not translate as sullenness when I was so clearly in the wrong. "My God!" Macbeth said in a voice thick with intensity.

"God you were terrifying". I've never been so frightened in my life!"



Donald Rumsfeld is giving the president his daily foreign policy briefing.

"I'm afraid the news isn't good, Mr President", he says. "Three Brazilian soldiers were killed yesterday". "Oh No" cries Bush. "That is too terrible".

His staff look on bemused as he sits, head in hands. Finally, he looks up and asks "How many exactly is a brazillion?"

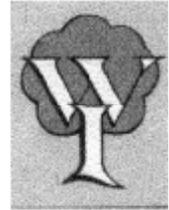
Anti-Bush joke, quoted in The Guardian

Ring a bell?



Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI

Second Thursdays (except August) 2 pm Village Hall.



Space didn't permit us to share our delight with you in the last report, so here they are now –

OUR VICTORIOUS QUIZ TEAM



Kathleen Turner, Doreen de Grey, and Renee Mann won the WI Three Counties Quiz. This is the third time they have achieved this. Well done Ladies.

We have enjoyed some very good speakers at our meetings. We were fascinated to learn about Lace Making in Lacey Green and our speaker also gained some information to add to her knowledge from some of our members whose parents and grandparents excelled in this craft.

We also had a very enjoyable afternoon with Mrs. Pam Harman with her Odd Odes - A light hearted look at life. An amazingly funny look it was too.

Our sewing group have eventually finished our latest project, a Lenten banner for the Church This took longer than expected to complete but it will be on display in the Church during lent next year. We all enjoyed the challenge of quite a difficult task which, at times, stretched us to the limit but quite an achievement when completed.



Our committee are nearing the end of their term and to celebrate!! we took ourselves off to Aylesbury for Lunch at the William Harding Restaurant. For those of you who are not familiar with this venue, it is a Training Restaurant, providing opportunities for students to prepare, cook and serve top-quality three course meals to customers, they say "at very modest prices" a statement we heartily agree with. Our meal, 3 courses, cost just £6.00 - and we could have been at The Dorchester, such was the attention of the young waiters who could not do enough to make sure our every need was catered for. Obviously they still have a long way to go but the young people showed great commitment and proved that they are capable of being top class chefs, waiters, or Hotel Managers or even Jamie Olivers of the future. If you want a good meal out in pleasant surroundings we can recommend it.

We are pleased that we have a good entry for our Village Quiz and arrangements are well in hand for another successful evening. This report has to be in before the Quiz but it may be that the Editor can hold publication to let you know the winners.

Our Annual Meeting is nearly upon us and our President and Secretary will be retiring. So - the search is on for members to take on these tasks – perhaps that is not the right word – not exactly a task but an enjoyable if sometimes time consuming occupation. Our thanks to all those who have worked so hard this year to keep our WI running at such an enjoyable level and we hope that replacements will be forthcoming to enable it to continue and grow.

If you can join us, please do – many hands make light work and the more members on the committee the fewer tasks each person has to do. And we still make exceedingly good cakes!!

Barbara Hobdell

STOP PRESS –

Our Annual Village Quiz

On 19th October, our competent Quiz Master was Jamie Carter, who donated his fee to Lighthouse, the children's charity. The winners were High Wycombe branch of the U3A (University of Third Age), which has its meetings in our Village Hall.



The picture on the left shows Jean Gabbitas presenting the winner's cup to Ted Chapman of U3A, with Quiz Master Jamie Carter in the centre.

In the U3A team were Ted Chapman, Margaret Easom, Pat and George Gatum.

Our WI profits are going to the village hall to help fund the hall's planned storage extension at the rear.

All in all, it was a memorable, challenging and most enjoyable evening! Well worth the hard work put into it.



There were 16 teams, each of four maximum, competing



An old couple were lying in bed reading late one night. Sheila turned to Bob and said softly "When we were courting you told me you were my Knight in shining armour and would slay dragons to protect me. Do you still feel like that?"

"Absolutely, my darling. I'd risk any danger to protect you", replied Bob.

"And you always said you'd climb the highest mountain, sail uncharted oceans and do anything for me. Would you still do anything for me?"

"Yes, of course, my dear. I would do anything for you". "Anything?". "Anything!".

"Well be my hero. Learn where the tea bags are and make me a cup of tea."

~~~~~

"... there are three signs of aging. The first is that you tend to forget things rather easily - and for the life of me, I don't know what the other two things are".

"Two fraternity brothers were attending their class reunion, the first time they'd seen one another for thirty years. One asked "Is your wife still as pretty as she was when we were all in school together?"

"Yeah, she is ... but it takes her an hour longer"

From *A Treasury of Senior Humour*"

~~~~~

"Play is the beginning of knowledge".

George A. Dorsey, American anthropologist



~~~~~

"The earth laughs in flowers"

Ralph Waldo Emerson

~~~~~

"Everybody hates the way they look, but no one complains about their brain".

Old Jewish saying, quoted in *The Observer*

Whiteleaf Bowmen

You will probably have noticed the archery activity during the summer as you have driven past the Archery Field opposite Strike Command. The Archery Field is officially in Lacey Green so we thought it appropriate to give the village an insight as to what is happening at Whiteleaf Bowmen.

The biggest event in the club's calendar is the annual 'Olympics' head-to-head competition, which was held on the 11th September. This year the event also served to mark the 40th anniversary of the club. The idea for the competition was muted last year by our secretary, Dave Evans, and it proved to be such a success that we decided to repeat the day every year. For anyone who watched the 'real' Olympics they will know the excitement this can evoke. The fact that the contest is only inter-club does nothing to lessen the tension.

Other outside events have included :-

- A birthday party have-a-go for 12 teenagers in June.
- "Fun shoots" for Thame Round Table and for Naphill Scouts also in June.
- Wycombe Round Table and Holmer Green Boys Brigade in July.
- An all day event for our landlords at the Stocken Farm Maize Maze at the end of July.
- The annual Children of Chernobyl visit, this time on Wednesday 10th August.

We have now reached the end of our summer season, when we can shoot outside. As most of our members are working people, a lot of the shoots take place in the evenings after work. With the evenings drawing in, we have moved our evening venue to Lacy Green Village Hall where we shoot indoors. Not that the outdoor shooting stops completely for the winter. The clubs in the South of Britain compete in what is called the Frostbite tournament. This, as you can imagine, takes place over the winter months, when each club shoots a specific round and the scores are compared. We have been doing rather well recently, and we were very pleased to learn that Whiteleaf Bowmen have risen to number seventeen in the league. Meanwhile, indoors a similar tournament takes place and once again we are going up in the rankings. We have several members of the club who shoot for Buckinghamshire County. The most recent tournament being a tri-county match set in the beautiful grounds at Windsor.

We have seen a huge increase in interest in archery. This has been reflected in our beginners courses being fully subscribed well in advance and a record number of new

members. In a few years we should be able to boast a really good club team.

In summer we shoot at the Archery Field on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. In winter the evening meetings are held in the Village Hall.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the Whiteleaf Bowmen or archery in general, we are always pleased to welcome visitors at our meetings.

Peter King
Chairman - Whiteleaf Bowmen

Jingle Tots – Newsflash!!!

Please note that Jingle Tots is still here at the village hall on Friday mornings during term-time. I have now taken over from Fiona and am continuing in the same format, and Fiona and Cher are kindly allowing me to use their large collection of instruments.

My thanks to all those in the group who are helping me learn the children's favourite songs and for making my Friday mornings such fun!

Places still available. Please me, Jenny, on 01844 344441 if you are interested in trying us out.

**DISPLAYED AT TATE GALLERY,
ST IVES:**



On handwritten statement of account

Please find cheque enclosed, being your share of profits

PS Cost of cheque, stamps etc may be paid in drink, thank you.

Autumn Conquest

Newly fallen, bronze bright horse chestnuts lie
Among discarded husks.

The great tree's store of hope

Is bare and bright and beautiful –

So beautiful that breath is caught.

Too soon the sheen of beauty fades

And now the greedy boys are at the store

Pouncing with eager hands and cries

To scabble up the hopes of future trees,

Transforming hope to ammunition,

A means of Autumn conquest,

One conquering conker over all the rest,

The silly Autumn hope of domination.

B.T.J.P.

Andy's 'ints

In 2004, an MP's daughter was electrocuted because she became part of a circuit between her dishwasher and a metal utensil rack, which had been fixed to the wall and one of the fixing screws had pierced an electric cable in the wall. This highlights the need for care when fixing anything to a wall. Electric cables probably represent the most lethal immediate danger but gas pipes can have more serious consequences and water pipes can lead to a lot of mess.

When fixing items to a wall, look for electrical items, gas outlets, exposed pipes etc, either above or below, to the left or right, of the proposed fixing position. Testers are available which will sense whether there are metal objects or electric fields within a wall, but these are not very accurate and may not trace metal objects buried more than 1 centimetre deep. When used in an old house where damp walls are present, it is not unusual for the electrical sensing mode to show the whole wall is live. Plastic pipes cannot be detected and if your house is modern, or has had plumbing work carried out in the past 5 years, check which material has been used for the plumbing.

Whether your house has conventional masonry or board on timber walls, if cables or pipes have been buried in the wall it may possible to see the channelling and repair if the wall is painted. Whatever

your house walls are made of, take care in selecting the position for fixings. If there is any doubt about using one location, use two fixings so that they are placed either side of any suspect area.

How you fix an item to a wall will depend on how heavy it is and what the wall is made of. I suggest trying the following:

- Light object board wall – nail or screw directly into the board
- Light object masonry wall – masonry nail direct into the wall
- Heavy object board wall – screw into metal easi-driver (looks a corkscrew)
- Heavy object masonry wall – screw into masonry fixing (drill wall and use wall plugs)

Sometimes fixing to a wall can be very difficult. Older houses where flints and lime plaster have been used will present a challenge to even an experienced DIY person. Do be careful, in the past boards and plaster may have been used which contain asbestos, so use a mask if dust is created and don't forget the eye protection and ear defenders. Use these under all circumstances.

Andrew Stone

Culverton Crossroads

Did you miss the consultation-exhibition at the Village Hall on 10th September?

If so, you can get a leaflet showing the proposed plan, with illustrations and texts, by phoning Bucks CC "Highways on call" on 0845-230-2882. Alternatively, you can visit the Bucks County Council website at www.buckscouncil.gov.uk/lss and then click on the link for Culverton Crossroads.

The published timescale if the proposal is supported by the public who completed the questionnaire and returned it by 29th October 2005:

Dec 2005 Report on Consultation Responses to
Cabinet Member for Transportation

Jan - Jun 2006 Detailed Design

Aug 2006 – Mar 2007 Scheme Construction.



Windmill

Under 5's started the new school year in September with our new Supervisor Cherry DeWet. Cherry has worked at Windmills for 2½ years and had been

the Deputy Supervisor for the previous 18 months. She is an enthusiastic, cheerful and very experienced child-care professional. We are very lucky to have her heading up the team. Our new Deputy is called Denia Si Larbi and comes from France. The children are thoroughly enjoying learning some French songs and games.

The children visited St Johns Church during the second week of term to see the lovely Harvest Festival display. They each took over a sheaf of wheat to add to the tableau. Many thanks to Margaret Gray for taking the time to show the children around.

The children have been enjoying the autumn sunshine and have been able to play outdoors every day, either in the park or in our own outdoor play area. Craft activities have been inspired by the topic 'Senses' with the making of eye masks, funny ears and feely bags. The children are all busy this week making costumes for our Halloween Party. A big thank you to all the people who have popped in with donations of spare paper and card. Our budding young artists get through it very quickly and are grateful that the supply never runs dry.

The Lunch Club has gained in popularity and each day we run a different activity. Monday: Art Work, Tuesday: P.E, Wednesday: French Club, Thursday: P.E. and Friday: Computer Fun.

Next half term will no doubt be dominated by the preparations for Christmas. Our Christmas play will be performed on Monday 5th December at The Village Hall and we would love to see as many parents, grand parents and visitors as possible. Refreshments will be served after the performance.

Other dates for the diary are Wednesday 11th January when we will be holding a coffee morning for parents and carers (and younger siblings) at The Village Hall. Also there will be another of our very successful Indoor Car Boot Sales On Saturday 18th February.

This is my last entry to Hallmark as Chair of Windmills as my youngest son will be starting at St Johns School in January. All 3 of my children have been to Windmills

so over the past 8 years I have been to the old village hall, Hampden Village Hall and The Millennium Hall and now The Sports and Social Club. Whatever the location, Windmills has provided a warm and nurturing environment for my children to play and learn. The pre-school is thriving in its current location at The Sports Club and the Village is very lucky to have such a lovely pre-school. I would therefore just like to finish off by saying a BIG thank you to our wonderful staff and all of the people who have helped support the pre-school this year. The pre-school is run by a committee of volunteers who have given up their own time to help keep Windmills going - now into its 42nd year!

KAY BAMBRICK

81st Over-60s Club

First Tuesdays 2pm at Village Hall

Hugh Greig celebrated his 90th birthday on 10th July. Hugh and his wife, Minnie, have been 81st Club members for over a decade and lived in Princes Risborough for 53 years.



At the August meeting, Hugh and Minnie's grandson, Jamie Carter, gave a most amusing and enlightening talk on Queen Victoria.

In September, Mr Vince entertained us with a talk on 'Rubbish' (his title)! In other words, a look at old household implements and kitchen gadgets.

Carole Knight

LACEY GREEN PRODUCTIONS

DINNER THEATRE

LGP's pre-Christmas dinner theatre this year is an adaptation of Terry Pratchett's Discworld novel *Wyrdsisters*. A comedy which features witches (6 in total), romance, a court jester, murder and a duke with guiltily itchy hands is not to be missed.

Even if you know nothing about Terry Pratchett's Discworld or Ankh Morpork or even occasional references to the plots of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, *The Tempest* and *Richard III*, this evening's entertainment will keep you amused and intrigued.

And on this occasion, don't worry about sitting at the "back of the auditorium". There is no "back of the auditorium" since *Wyrdsisters* is being performed in the round and the whole audience will be very much in the thick of the action. But don't get too close, you may end up in the witch's cauldron.

Talking of cauldrons, we shall, of course, keep you well fed. And, unusually for LGP's dinner theatre evenings, you will be allowed to eat first and then watch the play. A licensed bar will also be available to help you to launch your Yuletide season in style.

Performances are at Lacey Green Village Hall on Friday and Saturday, November 25th and 26th at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Tickets, priced £17 (includes 2 course dinner), are available by telephoning 01844 345956 or 344207.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

After the success of LGP's recent *Trafalgar evening* (in aid of the RNLI), LGP would like to invite you to our next themed evening's entertainment on Saturday, February 11th 2006 (not too long after Burns' night). Appropriate dress is optional and all the profits from this evening will be given to charity.

The subject for the evening will be "Scotland" and, as well as a Scottish menu for the dinner, the evening will probably address important issues such as:

- Haggis hunting – will Tony Blair introduce new legislation to ban it?
- What to wear under a kilt
- Grouse shooting – should grumpy old men be included?
- How large was Robert the Bruce's spider?

- Midge rearing and repelling
- Bannockburn – did the Scots really win?
- How to recite Burns' poetry
- Tossing the caber
- Tracing your Scottish ancestry
- Was Hadrian correct with the basic principle of his wall building?
- Flodden – did the English really win?
- Do the Chinese like Burns?
- Highland clearances – could they come to Lacey Green?

Put this date in your diary now and posters, with full details, will be displayed early in the New Year.



"And now a sketch featuring Ronnie Corbett, whose wife thinks he's the salt of the earth. That's why she keeps him in the cellar."

Ronnie Barker, quoted in *The Sun*

"Money - the one thing that keeps us in touch with our children"

Gyles Brandreth, quoted in *the Daily Mail*

"When a man tells you that he got rich through hard work, ask him: 'Whose?'"

Don Marquis, quoted in *The New York Times*

"Only one man in a thousand is a leader of men. The other 999 follow women."

Groucho Marx, quoted in *The Times*

Letters to the Editor

NEW HOUSES IN KILN LANE

Dear Norman,

Following the letter in the last Hallmark regarding the new houses in Kiln Lane.

Whilst in principle we do not consider an anonymous letter worth the paper it is written on, this did give rise to a question which we would have gladly answered, about which others may perhaps have wondered.

Personally, panels of flint-work do not appeal to us and we wanted to build one whole wall in flint to match the houses around. An objection was raised to this by a councillor, so the whole idea was dropped.

However, in fairness we should say that, although we may criticize the planners and feel frustrated by them, they do have strict guidelines. They are aware that the Chilterns villages are special and insist on the correct proportions for roofs, windows and walls, even inspecting samples of all materials. We may not always like what they say but they do consider our villages. We only see our side of the picture. Perhaps an article showing theirs would be good.

Our thanks to the many people who have come forward to say that they like what we have done. It is very gratifying and, believe us, we did do the best we could.

Yours sincerely,
John & Joan West (address provided)

Dear Sir,

The anonymous handwritten letter in the August edition is, sadly, not very welcoming to the people who have just moved into the new houses in Kiln Lane. However, the writer of the letter is probably correct in his or her assessment of the style of the buildings.

When we built our house extension four years ago, we were led to believe that by not conforming to the brick and flint style, local planning permission would not be granted, so we went to the trouble and effort to ensure that this criterion was met. It is indeed sad that the architect of the new 'cheap and not-so-

cheerful' houses on Kiln Lane, and indeed also the 'posh' house backing onto them in Main Road, has made no effort to keep the buildings in tune with local tradition. I can only deduce that the planning system is seriously flawed.

I have no issue with the houses being erected. The bungalow they replaced was hardly an architectural gem, and the new residents are most welcome to Kiln Lane but indeed, what a wasted opportunity and lack of imagination to construct such mediocre looking houses in a straight line right in the centre of the village. Kiln Lane has become Kiln Street.

Yours faithfully,
Stuart King (address provided)

POISON IN PROMISED LAND LANE

Dear Sir

On Monday 15th August, while walking my dog at the top of Promised Land Lane, she discovered a rat trap at the side of the road containing two blocks of the rodenticide Warfarin. The trap was a small length of grey guttering pipe with a tent peg pushed through two drilled holes in the sides upon which were threaded the two blue Warfarin tablets. This is now in the possession (unless they have disposed of it) of the Sprinz & Nash veterinary surgery in Princes Risborough, who fortunately were able to empty my dog's stomach in time.

Rat traps such as this should be made of a length of guttering sufficient to ensure that no dog can reach the tablets. Furthermore, the tablets should be secured properly. The trap I removed from the scene to show for poison identification at the veterinary surgery could have had its tent peg shaken loose, thus emptying the poison blocks, by even the smallest dog to get at the "treat" inside. Traps containing poison should also only be placed on private land, not in an area of public access.

Please could all dog owners take great care to watch out for such traps in future.

Yours faithfully,
Dr J W Titchen (address provided)

Lacey Green Singers



The Singers, with Cathie Kaye at the extreme left

Photos by Cathie's father, Terry Kaye

Lacey Green Singers' *Classical Choruses* concert on 8th October was a great success. Members of the choir enjoyed themselves, the near capacity audience was very complimentary and, most importantly from our point of view, our Musical Director, Cathie, declared that we had acquitted ourselves well! We



Cathie

were lucky enough again to have Rachael Courtney and Matt James accompanying us on keyboard and percussion respectively for renditions of Zadok the Priest, excerpts from Carmina Burana and Beethoven's 9th Symphony, amongst others. Fiona Insley accompanied the sopranos for the Flower Duet (think British Airways commercials). The altos performed a piece from the Tales of Hoffman and solo contributions by James Moorcroft and Alan Gibson added variety to the evening. Singing such a selection of "greatest hits" in

one evening is pretty challenging and we were all more than usually glad of the drinks afterwards and a chance to chat with friends. Many thanks to all who supported us on the evening.

Rehearsals have already begun for our traditional Christmas concert, which we hope will as usual feature music from pupils of St John's School. Please make a note of the date – Sunday 11th December – at the Village Hall.

The choir is always glad to welcome new members, so if you enjoy singing why not come along and give us a try. We rehearse in St John's School Hall at 8pm every Thursday in term-time. Don't worry if you can't read music – we do plenty of note-bashing – and we won't put you through any auditions. All you need is enthusiasm and a voice!

You can find out more about Lacey Green Singers and contact us through our new website www.laceygreensingers.co.uk Alternatively you can call Rosemary Mortham on (01844 345863) or Jane Brown (01844 346071).

Jane Brown

The Windmill WI

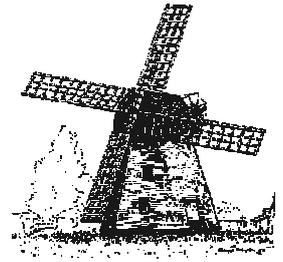
First Wednesdays 7.45pm Village Hall

It seems quite unbelievable that autumn is here again - whatever happened to summer? Members of the Windmill WI had a very enjoyable August, starting with our monthly meeting, when the speaker was Mrs Dunsterville who gave a visual and hands-on talk about interior design.

Later in the month, several members went on an excellent trip, organised once again by our President, Pat Richards, to Frogmore House, Windsor. We had an exclusive tour about the house - we even got to use the Queen's loo - well that's what they told us! Frogmore House lies in the tranquil setting of the private Home Park of Windsor Castle. It was the country residence of various monarchs since the 17th century, and is especially linked to Queen Victoria - it was one of her favourite retreats. After a walk round the grounds, our mini-bus took us into Windsor, where we had lunch at Browns, overlooking the river. We then walked over Eton Bridge to Eton College, where we had a very interesting conducted tour around the buildings. Thank you Pat for organising such an interesting and fascinating trip.

At the beginning of September we celebrated our 18th birthday, when we invited members from our Group to a cheese and wine supper. The speaker was Mrs Kay Bradford with her talk entitled *Memories of the 20th Century*. We travelled down Memory Lane with Mrs

Bradford, looking at both the funny and serious side of the last century. It was a bit frightening for some of us when we realised just how far back we could remember!



Two of our members (with husbands) visited Denman College at the end of September. The college was open for visitors to look round and see the exhibitions celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the National Federation of the Women's Institutes. I think the highlight for the husbands was the delicious WI tea!

Once again our Jumble Sale was a great success, with a profit of £330. Our grateful thanks goes to everyone who supported us by bringing jumble or by coming to buy and, of course, to all our members who helped on the day.

At our Annual General Meeting last month, our President, Secretary and Treasurer all reported on a very successful year, which again saw an increase in our membership. Our President, Pat Richards, and committee were all elected back in office for another year. We followed the serious side of the meeting tasting Members favourite puddings!

Don't forget, we are always pleased to welcome new members.

Daphne Williams



**The Gang at
Frogmore House,
Windsor**

Ted & Jean Janes Celebrate Their

The couple who has done more for our village and its quality of life than any other so far reached their 60th wedding anniversary on 1st November.

Sixty years of happy marriage is a wonderful achievement and yet, but for the exigencies of wartime, it is very unlikely that Ted and Jean, in common with many other married couples of their generation, would have met one another. When Ted, born and bred in Speen, was 18 years old he was, like the majority of his fellows conscripted, but unlike them it was not into the armed forces, but as one of a relatively small number who were drafted into the coal mining industry – Ted became a ‘Bevin Boy’. His training took him to Derbyshire and it was in the course of his subsequent brief mining career that those two young people, Ted and Jean, met.

Ted was one of the youngest councillors in the country when he joined Lacey Green Parish Council at the age of 20 almost 60 years ago! He remained a councillor for 34 years and chaired it for 27 years.

From 1966 he was a Justice of the Peace (Magistrate) for 25 years, often as Court Chairman. He appeared on TV when he resigned as a JP because he did not agree to imprison people who failed to pay their “poll tax”.

He, with Jean’s backing, devoted more than three decades of his younger and middle-aged life to a wide variety of ventures aimed at creating new facilities and organisations with which local people could improve their lives.

These included conceiving ideas to finance the extensions of our original village hall. The first hall was the officers’ mess, a First World War prefabricated hut, bought from RAF Halton and transported here by horse and cart in 1923. It formed the front left hand end of the hall, as seen from the road. It was extended in the 1950s with a kitchen and toilet facilities. The remainder was added in the 1970s.



Old village hall frontage as it was by 1999



and a reminder of its interior

Ted chaired and served on the village hall committee for 37 years (1957-1994). He started various organisations to use the extended hall while enhancing villagers’ lives. In 1988 it became joint winner of the “Best Run Village Hall award.”

Despite the years he had put into the village hall, which we all loved so much, Ted was generous in agreeing to present a framed “thank you” to each member of the Village Hall sub-committee who devoted so much of their lives in turn to winning the Millennium Commission grant towards replacing the hall when this became necessary.



Ted (far right) presenting awards to (L to R) Peter Green, Janet Carter, Tony Smart (then Chairman) and Pat Smart.

Ted helped start the Horticultural Society, Turkey Supper Strawberry Tea and Twinning Association. He also initiated Village Day. Ted and Jean ran the village youth club in the Village Hall for 8 years. He started the Happy Wanderers Walking Club in March 1991 and was the Co

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

ordinator (organiser, chaired AGMs) for the first 4 years.

Of Ted and Jean's happiest of all memories, none gives them more pleasure than of their trip to Hambye for the formal Twinning Association opening ceremony there.



Ted Janes, our then Parish Council Chairman (equivalent to Mayor), resplendent in the "Chain of Office", on his first international visit to Hambye in 1981, for the signing of the Twinning Charter, with Mayor Marcel Fernandez

Twinning with Hambye not only saw lasting friendships made, but also an emblem depicting landmarks in both our villages, the abbey in Hambye and the windmill in Lacey Green. They are to be seen in the Hambye Town Hall and our Village Hall, where they are permanent fixtures, constant reminders of our friendship between the two villages, so ably supported by Ted and Jean.



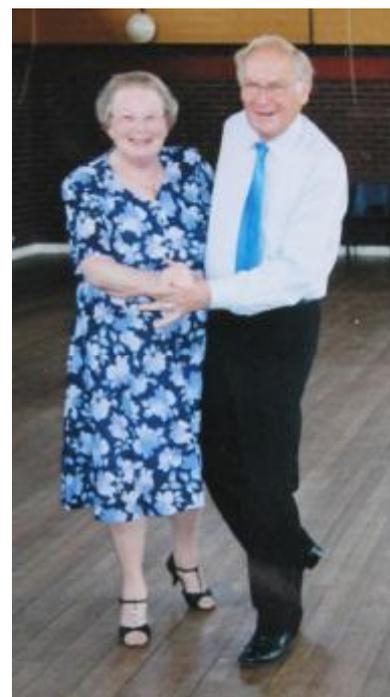
We had a village collection to thank Ted and Jean for their work on our behalf over the years. We deliberately gave them the choice of gift to Ted and Jean themselves – thus we knew they would enjoy it. As a result, we have 3 identical stylish shapely benches which were designed and handmade (at no profit to themselves) by our own master craftsmen, Gomme's Forge. They are positioned to provide resting places with views for anyone walking around the village. One is near the opening to the Home of Rest For Horses on the way to Speen (see photo). Another looks across the fields towards Princes Risborough, positioned near the stile at the junction of Woodway and Wardrobes Lane. The third is in Little Lane, between Foundry Lane and the A4010. This latter bench was stolen – today's world, regrettably – and had to be replaced.



All three benches are of this design and inscribed "In appreciation of Ted & Jean Janes' untiring efforts and initiatives on behalf of our local communities. May 1997"

You wouldn't now be reading Hallmark if Ted hadn't founded it in 1970. He managed it for its first 22 years. This included editing, selling advertising, arranging printing and delivering, etc. Jean also spent a lot of her life typing it on an old pre-electric typewriter. No word processors, computers or spell-checkers in those days!

Ted and Jean are now trying to catch up on the pleasures they didn't have time for in those earlier years. In particular, they still enjoy ballroom dancing two or three times a week, usually going on a coach operator's long weekend or full-week organised outing, staying at luxury hotels with good ballroom facilities. These are usually at some holiday resort, sometimes abroad.



Ted and Jean's favourite recent photo of them dancing together

We wish them many more years of this healthy social activity. They certainly deserve them!

Heavenly Bodies

Mars is back! The planet from *War of the Worlds* is with us for much of winter. You may remember there was a great deal of excitement a little over two years ago about the Red Planet being the closest to Earth for 60,000 years. This time it is not quite as close but is much higher in the sky and easier to see. Firstly, Mars looks much brighter than the surrounding stars and you can see its pale orange colour with the naked eye, especially compared to the surrounding stars. It is at its closest at the end of October and during November and then starts to become smaller through December as the Earth overtakes its orbit and races ahead.

It will be just 43 million miles from us at its closest approach, which sounds a lot until you realise that it is usually more than double that distance from us. And Jupiter and Saturn, for instance, are about half a billion and one billion miles from Earth respectively at their closest. Mars is getting close this time because the Earth is overtaking it on its 'inside lap' compared to Mars, which is on an outer lap to the Sun. About half the size of Earth, Mars orbits the Sun every 22.5 months and spins on its axis every 24 hours and 37 minutes – a shade longer than a day on Earth.

Finding Mars is easy as it is so bright now. And when you see it, spare a thought for the two NASA rovers still

scuttling across its surface and the various probes (including one from Europe) orbiting the planet. Mars rises in the north-east sky and by about 10pm will be high in the sky to the south. For those unsure, it will be bottom-left of the Moon on November 14. On other days, you can confirm you have found the planet by looking at the finder chart on this page. Mars is in the constellation Aries and to the right of the Pleiades, also known as the Seven Sisters, a faint group of stars which look spectacular through binoculars.

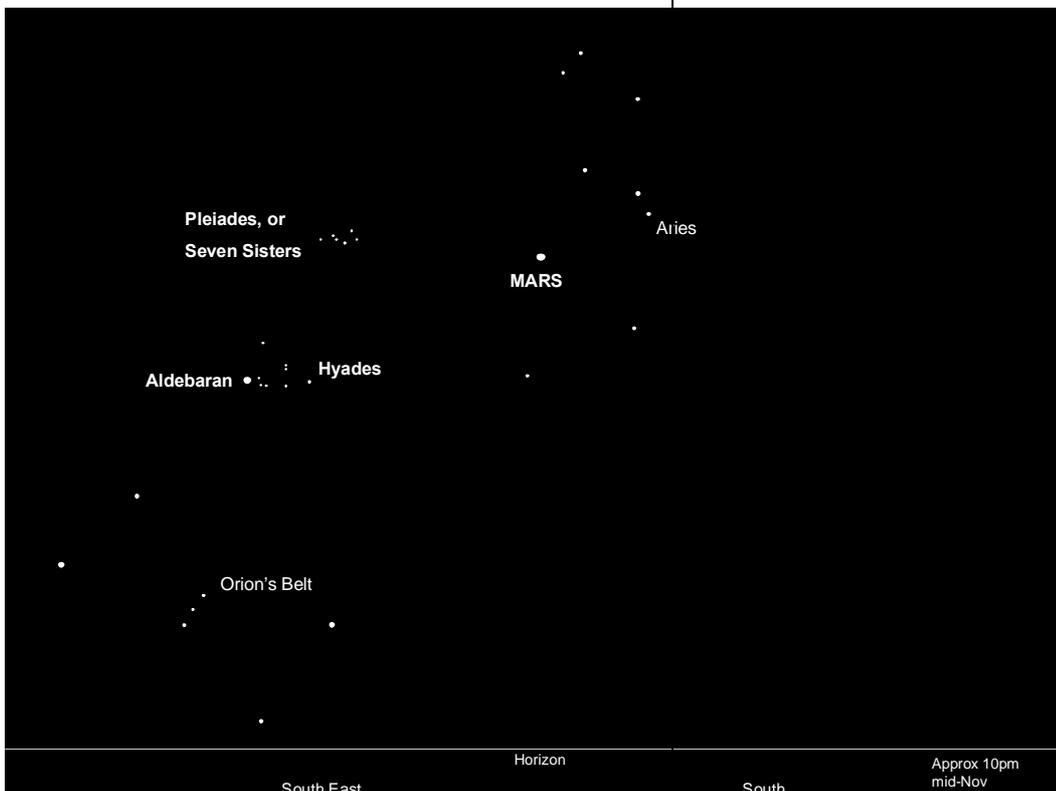
One of the finest star clusters in the night sky, the Pleiades lie about 380 light years away (roughly 2,280 trillion miles!!) and appear quite hazy to the naked eye. If you have dark skies, you can make out six stars (the seventh is usually elusive) but if you look through binoculars, you will see not only the seventh star but dozens more – in fact there are 100 stars.

Below and slightly to the left of the Pleiades, is a bright orange-coloured star called Aldebaran sitting alongside another beautiful looking, more scattered, star group known as the Hyades. This group looks like a 'V' shape on its side to the right of Aldebaran. This V-shape is the face of Taurus the bull, and Aldebaran is the bull's 'red' eye.

Don't be put off by the cold, but wrap up, have a warming drink and look to the heavens. You won't be disappointed!

Date for your diary
Bullets in the Sky - Shooting Stars, Comets, Meteors and Asteroids - an Astro Talk by Chris Dignan. Village Hall, Sunday, December 18th at 7 pm. Tickets are £5, to include tea or coffee at the start and a glass of wine at the end. Available from 01844 344207.

Chris Dignan



Parish Council Comments

The Parish Council has recently appointed Mrs Muriel (Miv) Hughes as a Parish Councillor. Mrs Hughes lives on the fringes of the parish in Upper Icknield Way and was previously a member of the Princes Risborough Town Council.

The ongoing saga of traffic through Lacey Green and parking along Main Road continues unabated. A revised traffic management plan was due to be implemented in November, but now there may be a public consultation with implementation scheduled for Spring 2006. Watch this space! Essentially the plan includes a speed limit of 30 mph through Lacey Green, replacing the present 40 mph limit, the starting points being further out from the village. Pink Road as far as Widmer Farm will be 40 mph. Loosley Row will have a 30 mph limit.

Although, in theory, this should reduce the speed of traffic, there is no guarantee. A major problem is the lack of any enforcement, and as readers will be aware, we don't often see a policeman in the village.

We are hoping that the police surgeries that operated from time to time during 2004 can be resumed. However, one factor that adds to the problem is the difficulty of actually making contact with the local police. The nearest station (Princes Risborough) is often not open during the morning because the staff are out on patrol (good) but then there is no one left to answer queries (not good).

On a related topic, have readers any thoughts on anti-social behaviour, or more particularly, have they experienced it personally, within the parish or elsewhere? A difficulty with anti-social behaviour is that there is no precise definition. Once I attempted to discuss this with a member of the police force, to be told that what the public considered to be anti-social behaviour would not necessarily be agreed by the police. Much is in the beholder's eye. Would you include any of the following? And what, if anything, would you like done about it?

- Making a noise outside the village hall, including shouting and banging on the windows.
- Putting up a building very close to your neighbour's property and obstructing the view.
- Deliberately destroying a fence or hedge at the bottom of your garden.
- Parking on the road outside someone else's house.

- Shining a laser light through the window into the eyes of people sitting in the village hall.
- Building a tall fence round your property.
- Throwing grass cuttings through the hedge between your property and the roadside verge.

Some of the above may be illegal, or covered by planning regulations – but in practice it may be difficult or impossible to obtain adequate evidence or proof. Are ASBOs a solution or do we need something else?

I had some difficulty in writing the above comments, since I was also required to say something about the community plan, which is on another page. Originally I had planned to say something about the same topic in each write-up, one being the complete opposite of the other – the idea was to test your readership skills and find out whether anyone noticed! But you haven't, have you?

Councillor Tony Molesworth

News Release from David Lidington

Lidington launches *tell david.com*

David Lidington, MP for Aylesbury, has launched a new website to help him keep in touch with local people. Constituents can express their opinions by completing the short polls and votes on *tell david.com*.

He commented "I am delighted that *tell david.com* is online. I hope residents will complete the polls on topical issues in our area. These will be updated regularly and will give me a better idea of local opinions. Likewise, I would also encourage people to log on and tell me your views on the issues that matter most to you."

"One of our current polls aims to discover the most popular curry house in the area, so that I can nominate it for the national Tiffin Cup competition. We have so many really good curry houses, it would be great to have the winner from the Aylesbury area. Visit www.tell david.com to have your say!"

Alternative Definitions



Do you have any suggestions for future editions?

Suffragette	Cramped seat on a trans-atlantic flight
Haywain	Essex greeting
Urdu	Liverpudlian hairstyle
Fragrant	Sweet smelling tramp
Abattoir	Three in a bed in a monastery
Fiasco	Unsuccessful wall painting
Hebrew	Jewish teabag
Rugger	Wig maker
Polygon	Missing parrot
Algebra	Bra made from seaweed
Bicycle	Icicle which swings both ways
Pre-Raphaelite	Someone who leaves before the raffle
Microbe	Tiny dressing gown
Hunky-dory	Butch fish
Dandelion	Big camp cat
Lupine	Toilet freshener
Dogma	A bitch
Bona fide	Good dog
Veneer	Dutch painter of floorboards
Insolent	Fell off the I.O.W. ferry
Hullabaloo	How to greet a bear
Stalactite	Drunken prisoner of war
Elemental	Educated village idiot
Vegetarian	Bad hunter
Harlequin	A set of five motorbikes
Follicle	A small castle on a small hill
Splint	Run fast with a broken leg
Plebiscite	Website for common people
Manoeuvre	Vacuum cleaner a male can use
Archery	Lying
Aromatic	Handy gadget used by Robin Hood
Telepathy	Too lazy to switch on TV
Derriere	Northern Irish budget airline
Snuffbox	Coffin
Gurgle	To steal a ventriloquist's dummy
Intercontinental	A person who wets himself all over the world
Hiding	A bell you can't reach
Antelope	Run off with your mother's sister
Vin ordinaire	Ford Transit
Granary	Old folks home

Lacey Green & Loosley Row Sports & Social Club

Cricket Section

Our 2005 season sparkled at the start but, unfortunately, fizzled out like a damp squib. The two teams, near the top of their respective divisions early on, faded as the season wore on. There were a number of reasons for this, I believe.

First of all, it seems increasingly difficult to turn out two sides every week, particularly during holiday times. In fact, the 2nd XI had to scratch their last two matches - something I can't remember ever happening before. Then there are the odd few who put other interests before cricket. And, of course, injuries can reduce the playing staff - for example, Dave Sanders' pulled hamstring kept him out for most of the season.

We badly need new blood. Where are all the 14 to 20 year old lads in the village? Our local school's headmaster has his boys keen and playing well but at eleven years old he loses them - and so do we. Where do they go? Are they whisked away in a flying saucer? Do they join the Armed Forces? Or do they, perhaps, follow some obscure sport like football, rugby, tennis or even golf? Where are you? Come out and play the greatest game in the world - if you think you are tough enough! Well, that should fetch a few rabbits out of the hutch!

I'll start with the 2nd XI record as I'm still waiting for the 1st XI 's. The good news first. They reached the final of the Mid Bucks K.O. Cup Competition (Reserve Section.) Some good batting saw them post a top-notch score of 150 for 8 - helped by a splendid knock from Man of the Match, Roger Whipp. Unfortunately, the bowling and fielding didn't match the batting and the 'Enders' were able to knock up 151 for 7 to squeeze a victory with just a few balls to go. Never mind, lads - next time.

In the league, early on things looked very promising. After ten games, the 2nds were second in their division but then, as mentioned earlier, holidays and injuries set in, several of their main players were called into the 1st XI and they slid from second top to finish third from bottom - a sad end to what had been a bright beginning.

Skipper Dave Sanders has given me some facts and figures:

I	R	n.o.	Av.	
5	111	2	37	D. Sanders
5	138	-	27.6	R. Whipp
5	69	2	23	J. Stevens
10	228	-	22.8	J. Dell
6	97	1	19.4	T. Harrison
12	208	1	18.9	N. Kelloway
9	118	2	16.8	D. Marshall
10	130	1	14.4	K. Kelloway

I should have said those were the top eight batting averages. The bowling now:

O	R	W	Av.	
42.3	174	16	10.8	D. Sanders
131	317	19	16.7	R. Brown
88	265	14	18.9	J. Stevens
88.4	335	13	25.8	J. Dell

I've included these figures because to students of cricket they have a story to tell. Look at the batting averages: they are much higher generally than they used to be twenty or thirty years ago. Then an average of 15 to 17 was excellent with the occasional twenty plus a first class performance over a season. And, of course, most teams' totals are generally higher now.

But now look at the bowling figures. Not only were the bowlers back then giving away only 5 to 8 or 9 runs per wicket, they were also taking 40 or 50 plus wickets per season. The main bowlers, that is. To me, this shows that our bowlers need to bowl much more accurately. And not only our bowlers. I believe this 'disease' runs right through into international cricket. Agree or disagree - but attack the wickets. I guarantee good results.

The 1st XI played 16 matches - two were rained off, five won, Lt Gaddesden scratched to give us 25 points, six were losing draws and four were lost. Not the greatest of records but at least we are not relegated, which often happens with newly-promoted teams.

I have no figures but, in the batting, 'Mr Reliable' Dave

Highgate, our ever-present opener, must head the list, having batted consistently all season. He was also our only player this year to make a century batting all through the innings to win a high-scoring match against The Lee (192 - 2) and finishing it off with a six. Other players made some good scores at times but, perhaps lacked consistency? Young Jack Hedgeland caught my eye - improving week-by-week. In the last hard-fought match against Holmer Green, he batted for ten or twelve overs before being joined by Skipper Bob and, together, they stayed another eighteen overs to deny the 'Green' a victory. An excellent performance - and against a very quick West Indian bowler!

In the bowling, Luke Weston showed improvement, bowling much straighter and reaping the reward. Tahir Mahmood also took wickets with his looping 'spinners?'.

Club members are still working hard to raise money to fund the club. Skipper Bob tells me that there will be a Grand Dance in The Village Hall on the 17th of December, organised by the cricketers. Don't miss it.

A Happy Xmas to all our supporters and friends.

Geoff Gomme

LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW SPORTS CLUB

PRESENTS A CHRISTMAS PARTY



With live music from
THE S. A. E. BAND
specialising in sounds from
the 60s and 70s

AT LACEY GREEN VILLAGE HALL
Saturday 17th December 2005
Licensed bar and small buffet
7.30pm till late Ticket price £10.00
Jane Oakford (01844) 346295

Obituary

LISE-BEATE TAGG



Lise, who died in July, came to England from Norway some 50 years ago, the bride of Wilf, an RAF officer who met her when serving at the NATO HQ in Oslo. They came to a tiny cottage in the Suffolk village of Ixworth and this is where we first met.

As so often happens with service families, our paths diverged and we did not meet again until we came to live here in 1973 and found Lise and Wilf had bought 'Chippins' a year or two earlier. By then they had two children, Tom (named after Lise's brother who disappeared during the war trying to cross to England to join the Norwegian forces) and Daphne. Lise's life revolved around her family and was devoted entirely to them and to her house and garden, but after Wilf died suddenly in 1986 and with Tom and Daphne pursuing their careers elsewhere, she did eventually take up outside interests. These included a small sewing group (she was an accomplished needlewoman and made most of her own clothes to highly professional standards) the Horticultural Society and the Walking Club, although her home and family, especially her grandchildren, continued to be her focus. Having been a keen cross country skier throughout her life in Norway, she loved the outdoors and the English countryside and delighted in the monthly outings with the walking group; always in the lead, her enthusiasm and energy belied her age.

A very private person, Lise did not find it easy to make friends, but behind the reserve with which she cloaked herself was a warm and humorous personality. Cancer dogged her for the past ten years or so, but she never let it reduce her activities for long or to increase her dependence on others. Her visits to hospital at Stoke Mandeville and Oxford were, for the most part, made alone on the bus, in spite of the offers of help she received, and similarly with her shopping until her last few weeks. Independent to a degree, this is how she preferred it because she did not want to be a nuisance or a burden, and this applied to her family as much as anyone else.

A passionate lover of most things English, Lise thought the NHS wonderful and found it 'amazing' that so much care was lavished on one of her advanced years. Quiet and reserved she may have been, but Lise will be greatly missed by those privileged to know her.

G&DC

Around 4pm on Friday, 29 September, the small market town of Shaftesbury in Dorset was being explored by recently arrived members of the Happy Wanderers. Some walked the local claim to fame, Gold Hill, which was the setting for the well-known Hovis advertisement (the one with the small boy pushing his bicycle up a steep and winding hill) whilst others enjoyed the cakes in a real old-fashioned teashop. There were marvellous views from the Abbey Garden Walk over towards the coast.



However, the views just got better and better for on Saturday morning all the walkers met at Larmer Tree Gardens for the all-day guided walk. As the car park was on the top of the ridge, our excellent guide, Malcolm Goodridge, could point out the various points of interest in the distance ranging from an ancient tower folly, the Purbeck Hills and an enormous apartment block on the skyline near Bournemouth. Our morning walk was punctuated with several interest stops as Malcolm was most knowledgeable about the local fauna, flora and history of the area. We walked through hot sunshine and squally showers to Tollard Royal Golf Club where a sandwich lunch was awaiting us.

After lunch the hardy walkers followed Malcolm on an interesting walk back to the cars through estate land, fields of sheep and paths through forests protected by wire fences and ladder stiles from the many deer who roam in the area. Later in the afternoon several members managed to watch the annual Shaftesbury Carnival and thoroughly enjoyed being part of the very friendly little town.

Saturday evening followed a similar pattern to Friday. Drinks before dinner when everyone gathered in the room set aside for our exclusive use, followed by an excellent three-course dinner and by the sound of the noise level in the room, everybody was having a really good time. On Sunday morning most people again took advantage of the complete fried breakfast on offer - eggs, bacon, black pudding, sausage, mushrooms, tomato and fried bread – (walking is very hungry work) in addition to cereals, croissants and lots of fresh fruit.

The rendezvous was at Stourhead Gardens, north of Shaftesbury, where once again we were lucky with our guide, who took us off the beaten track and told us all about how the estate came into existence besides pointing out and letting us know the history of some of the most magnificent old trees still growing in England. Even if you are not a member of the Walking Group, a visit to this National Trust treasure is worth a visit.



Several of us brought back goodies from the excellent Farm Shop and turned for home in the early afternoon. The general opinion was that everyone had enjoyed themselves with the combination of new walks, new shopping venues, good food, friendly hotel and the opportunity to get to know one another even better. Next year we will be in the Derbyshire area so we are all starting to plan now for the 2006 weekend.

Liz Southon and Sue Phillips



Lacey Green Community Planning Group

At the public meeting held on 19 September, the questionnaire results were presented in greater detail. Although the return percentage was low, we are generally satisfied that the results are valid. The results for Lacey Green/Loosley Row and Speen were considered separately, and were close to one another for most topics, although there were a few notable differences, which highlighted various distinct aspects of the two villages.

Speen wanted its own Parish Council, was more inclined to a local tax based on property, thought that communications were unsatisfactory, and was less inclined to support revival of the Twinning Association. Speen residents were keener to fund community facilities themselves, and would be three times more generous than Lacey Green.

Attendance at the meeting was relatively poor. This was disappointing but whether it reflects a general lack of interest, a dose of healthy cynicism, poor advertising or some other unknown factor, we do not know.

Sally Gordon, Waste Services Manager for Wycombe District Council gave a presentation about the GROW scheme which has now been started in Speen and most of Loosley Row. This scheme has proved somewhat controversial, largely because of the now fortnightly collection of the grey general waste bins, leading to a demand by some for a return to weekly collection. A particular objection was that fact that maggots are now present in some grey bins, although it is not entirely clear why this should happen. The GROW scheme is an outcome of the need to recycle more waste and to reduce the amount of material sent to landfill, since sites are becoming increasingly scarce and more expensive. It does involve an element of mutual co-operation, and the Council may have alienated some residents by being a little too rigorous in its enforcement of the rules governing waste collection.

A second presentation was made by Mark Lawrence of Post Office Ltd noting the extensive range of 'new' products available from the post office such as insurance, foreign currency and other travel requirements, and a telephone service. He emphasized the importance of supporting the local post office. Our postmaster George Crombie scores points for the number and type of transactions, and this includes requests for quotations on products such as insurance. It is essential to quote the FAD number that appears on

the leaflets recently distributed, even if the enquiry is made via a telephone call and not directly to George.

The Community Plan is controlled by a steering group that has been boosted recently by four new members and the return from overseas of another member. The group is now eleven strong, the members being:

- Lacey Green** - Lindsey Allardyce (Secretary), Sarah Cann, Jane Oakford, Barry Titchen
- Speen** - David Howarth, Jean Morris, Roger Newenham, Paul Rogerson (Treasurer)
- Loosley Row** - Angela Agate, Linda Fisher, Tony Molesworth (Chairman)

Whilst some important issues have been dealt with satisfactorily during the last three years, there are others in the pipeline requiring attention. The main ones on which the group will focus its attention are:

- Improving communications – a start will be made by including a page from the 'other village' in the respective village magazines
- Retaining the post office – very much up to you, the reader
- Establishing a shop and other community facilities on the Methodist Chapel site
- Producing a 'welcome pack' for new arrivals in the parish
- Restarting police surgeries in Lacey Green and Speen
- Traffic and parking
- Developing a parish plan to identify longer term intentions, say, for the next five years

Tony Molesworth

Girls – like a pen-friend in the Dordogne?

A great opportunity to learn to write and speak French. Two teenage girls (13 and 15) would like to exchange for 2 weeks with similar aged girls in school summer holidays, July/August 2006. Home is Bergerac in the Dordogne area. Please contact Bunty Cox (remember her and husband Dave when they lived in Loosley Row?) on 00 33 5 53 58 47 89 or you can Email her at bunty@domainedefumel.com. Alternatively, you can phone Liz Southon on 01844 343714 for more information.

Financial Planning

Must get that new plasma TV screen and book the Florida holiday. A new conservatory would be nice and I've always wanted an Aga cooker in the kitchen.

Personal borrowing is topping £50 billion and every day offers of new credit cards appear in our post, on the TV or in the newspaper. As we know, it is so easy - why use our hard earned cash when we can spread the cost of the item over many months? A few hundred pounds on this credit card and a thousand pounds on that credit card won't really matter. The trouble is many people are heavily in debt.

We're not talking about mortgages but credit card and personal loan debt of £15,000, £30,000 or £60,000. It could take over 20 years to repay and when the debt becomes so large you end up borrowing off one credit card to repay another. Threatening letters start arriving in the post and telephone calls aren't so pleasant anymore. So what can you do to reduce your debt?

For some people you could try to reschedule your debts informally possibly with the assistance of debt management specialists. This however may be difficult to administer if you have a lot of demanding creditors. Some banks and building societies do have their own debt counsellors and you could try speaking directly to them. Speak to your local Citizens Advice Bureau or Consumer Credit Counselling Service.

Or you could declare yourself bankrupt. The Court Service produces a booklet which explains bankruptcy and its implications. By taking the route of bankruptcy all your assets may be sold to pay your debts. Your debts will be cleared within an agreed period, interest will be frozen, creditors are likely to accept less than you owe but you cannot avoid selling your home. Furthermore with bankruptcy, it is not a confidential procedure. You do not retain control of the situation and you won't avoid the possible stigma of bankruptcy as your bankruptcy will be stated in the local paper.

A possible alternative therefore is an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA). An IVA is an agreement between you and your unsecured creditors whereby you pay an agreed and affordable sum of money each month, which is calculated from

your income and expenditure, usually for 5 years. The total is then divided up between your creditors, who accept this sum in full and final settlement of all that you owe. IVA's can only be administered by insolvency practitioners who usually are also chartered accountants or solicitors.

With an IVA, you won't have to sell your house, you will have control of the situation and the whole process is confidential. Apart from you and your creditors, no one else will hear about your IVA. Not all your creditors need to support your proposal so long as the requisite majority is reached, then all your unsecured creditors are legally bound and this means they can no longer pursue you for repayment. Having an IVA against you will affect your credit rating. But if all your creditors are going to slash all your payments, stop all the interest charges and legally write off a very high percentage of your debts, then they are not going to fall over themselves to lend you further money – it would make things worse.

What's right for you? If your number one priority is to protect your credit rating at all costs, then an IVA is not for you. If, however, you want to clear all your debts and become debt free after 5 years, maybe you should consider an IVA. But whatever you do, do not fall into the trap of borrowing more unsecured money.

Steve Wilkinson



"Success is going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm"

Winston Churchill, quoted in the Sunday Telegraph

"Under capitalism, man exploits man. Under communism, it's just the opposite."

John Kenneth Galbraith, quoted in the Daily Express



News from St John's Parish Church

(Rector – The Reverend Denise Critchell)

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

Dear All

A warm welcome back to all our readers (!). We hope that you have enjoyed the summer time and now look forward to the autumn season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.

Attendances at church were very good throughout August this summer and we are finding that the All Age Family Worship services are especially well attended, which is very encouraging. On Tuesday afternoons, Pam and Suzanne will welcome you to Toddler Praise, held in the Upper Room at St John's church, which is especially aimed at pre-school school children. For more details see the notice board outside the church.

The church was beautifully decorated again this year for the Harvest services and all the kindly donated goods were given to Icknield Court. We had more than 60 adults and children to the Fish 'n Chip Harvest Supper over at the cricket ground, where

Mike Withers was presented with a leaving present of a monetary gift as a thank you from the parish.

Meetings about the alterations to the facilities needed to the church are on going, and we are developing plans for major fund raising events next year, so watch this space!

We have heard that Sena and Jane, our link Mission Partners in Togo, now have a new baby, Johan (gift of God) Yendube (God is trustworthy in their local language Moba), who weighed in at 7lbs 11oz, a brother to Joshua and Eloise. We send our congratulations and best wishes to them all.

The busy season of Advent is fast approaching, and the time of preparations for Christmas and gift buying will soon be upon us. Remember to take some time out to reflect upon the greatest gift - God's gift of Jesus to us all. Why not come along to church and find out more, here are some dates for your diary:

Forthcoming Events

November

Sunday 20th Christ the King

Saturday 26th St John's Christmas Fair in the school hall

Sunday 27th Advent Sunday and Stewardship Service

Monday 28th Risborough Team Forum at St Dunstan's church meeting members of The Deanery Pastoral Group to talk about mission and staffing issues for the future.

December

Saturday 3rd Christingle making at the vicarage at 10.00am

Sunday 4th 8.00am (1662) 10.00am Christingle Service

6.00pm Advent Carol Service

Friday 16th & Saturday 17th St John's choir Carol Singing around the village

Sunday 18th 6.00pm Candlelit Christmas Carol Service

Tuesday 20th 9.15am Speen School Nativity Service at St John's church

2.30pm St John's school Carol Service at St John's church

Thursday 22nd Christmas home communion services

Saturday 24th 3.30pm Christmas Eve Crib Service
11.15pm Midnight Holy Communion Service
Sunday 25th 8.00am Holy Communion Service
10.00am Christmas Day Family Worship

January

Sunday 1st 10.00am Holy Communion Service
Sunday 8th Epiphany Sunday service
Sunday 15th Education Sunday – St John's school will be participating

Regular Services

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

Sunday

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

Sunday School 2nd and 4th Sundays, for more details please contact Jenny King on 01844 343910

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, so do come and join us, and a Merry CHRISTmas to you all.

Andrea Bennett ☎ 01844 274550

Village Directory



<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Contact's Name</u>	<u>Contact's 'phone no.</u>
81 st Over-60s Club	Carol Knight	01844 343093
Happy Wanderers Walking Club	Roger Brudenell	01844 346893
Horticultural Society	Terry Fendom, Chairman	01844 342636
Jingle Tots	Jenny Stothard	01844 344441
Karate Club	Richard Peace	07768 896078
Kinder Gym	Jenny Stothard	01844 344441
Lacey Green Parish Council	George Crombie (Sec)	01494 488240
Lacey Green Productions	Val Brookhouse	01844 344207
Lacey Green Singers	Jane Brown	01844 346071
Lacey Green Sports Club	Jane Oakford (Sec)	01844 346295
Lacey Green Twinning Assoc	Not currently active	
Lacey Green Village Hall (Bookings)	Karen Hodgton	01844 274254
Lacey Green Windmill	Michael Hardy	01844 343560
Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (afternoons)	Jill Baker	01844 275442
Pilates	Sue Keeling	01844 346656
Police (Area Beat Officer)	Moira McKinny	01296 396099
Residents Association	Not currently active (Laurence Rostron, Sec)	01844 343276
St. John's Church	Rev Denise Critchell	01844 347741
St John's School Parents Association	Sue Robinson	01844 342574
West Wycombe Decorative & Fine Arts Society	Ginnie Brudenell	01844 346893
Whiteleaf Bowmen	Dave Evans	01494 538235
Windmill Under 5's Playgroup	Karen Hodgton	01844 275009
Windmill WI (evenings)	Stella Boll	01844 347268
Yoga Group	Annie Cahill	01844 343643

Village Diary

Nov 15 – Feb 15 All events at Village Hall unless otherwise specified



Nov 16 Horticultural Society (3rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)	8pm
Nov 25	
& 26 Lacey Green Productions' pre-Christmas dinner theatre – an evening of comedy with stage adaptation of Terry Pratchett's novel <i>Wyrd Sisters</i> . Tickets on sale in September.	7.30 for 8pm
Nov 27 Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
Dec 5 Windmill Under 5s Christmas play	
Dec 5 Parish Council Meeting *	7.30pm
Dec 6 81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month)	2pm
Dec 7 Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Dec 8 Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
Dec 11 Lacey Green Singers Christmas Concert	TBA
Dec 14 Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30 am
Dec 17 LG & LR Sports Club Christmas Party with live music, bar, food	7.30pm
Dec 18 <i>Bullets in the Sky – Shooting Stars, Comets, Meteors & Asteroids</i> – an Astro talk by Chris Dignan	7pm
Jan 3 81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month)	2pm
Jan 4 Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Jan 11 Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Jan 12 Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
Jan 18 Horticultural Society (3rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)	8pm
Jan 29 Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
Feb 1 Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Feb 7 81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month)	2pm
Feb 8 Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Feb 9 Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
Feb 11 Lacey Green Productions' <i>Scotland</i> themed evening with dinner	TBA
Feb 18 Windmill Under 5s Indoor Car Boot Sales	

* 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

Mar 14 Village Hall AGM	8pm
-------------------------	-----

~~~~~

**CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE SPRING EDITION**  
**January 17th 2006**

~~~~~

Published quarterly by the Village Hall Management Committee.
 Printed by Risboro' Printers Ltd., Station Parade, Princes Risborough (01844 344827)