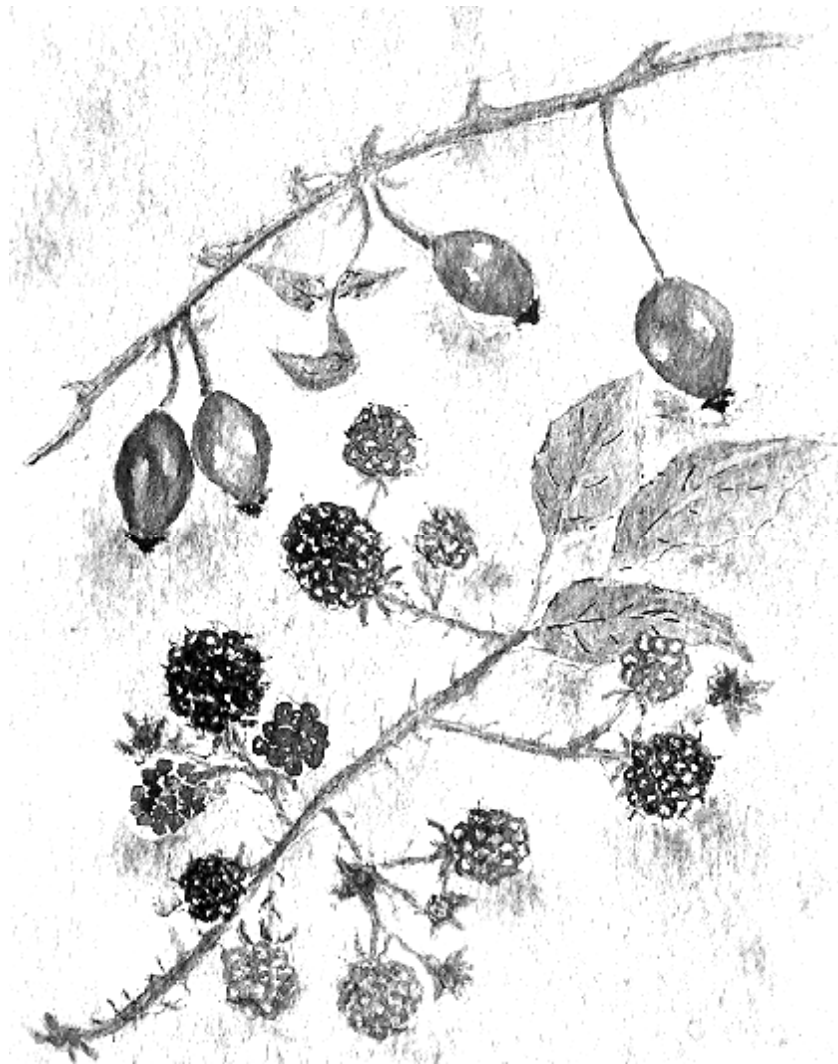


HALLMARK

THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE



**"Autumn fruits"
by Stella Boll**

AUGUST 2006

NUMBER 199

ESTABLISHED 1970

HALLMARK

THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 2006

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),
Jo Tope (Secretary), Karen Hodgton, Betty Tyler, Norman Tyler

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

☎ CLIVE OR KAREN on 01844 274254 (Answering service)

EDITOR

✉ Norman Tyler (assisted by Mike Piercy), 5 Woodfield, Lacey Green,
✉ Bucks HP27 OQQ (2/3rds down Woodfield, on the left)
☎ 01844 344606 (with answering service & fax)
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

August 2006



All I can say about the weather is "Phew, What a scorcher!" You can always tell when it's a hot summer as they are digging lots of holes in the road!

I would like to start by thanking all of you who attended and helped at the Strawberry Tea in June this year. Even though we were contesting with the football, we had a great turn out and what a lovely setting at Lane Farm. Thank you go to the

Tillotson's all your efforts were very much appreciated by us all.

As always the day to day running of the hall continues to thrive thanks to the continuing efforts of all the team. Bookings are still exceeding availability and a waiting list for prime time slots is now firmly in place. We must say however that we do have some dates still available for parties, so it is always worth a call if you need a great venue for a get together.

Speaking of parties, it is with great regret that due to some recent damage, we have taken the decision not to allow any 18th or 21st celebrations to take place in the hall, unless it is for an actual resident of Lacey Green or Loosley Row. We have not taken this decision lightly and feel this is by far the best policy to adopt.

The library is still available and very 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 10a.m. to noon and would welcome any villagers to join them.

Our new village website www.laceygreen.com is now in place and is ready for your help! I assure you it will

be for both Lacey Green & Loosley Row. We need articles and lots of information on historical memories for the site. We will also be including local based information for other areas of the villages, so if you're a member of a village based club, association or business and you have a site, we would be glad to have a reciprocal link with you. Call me on 01844 343113 for details or email your articles to me at clive@laceygreen.com.

Have what's left of a great summer - sit back, relax and enjoy it. Very soon the cooler weather will be here again, promise.

Clive Hodghton, Chairman, Village Hall

From the Editor(s)



We have some excellent news regarding the future editorship of Hallmark! Following my appeal in the last edition for anyone interested in helping

and eventually replacing me, I received a very positive reply from Mike Piercy. He has been thinking for some time he would like to get re-involved in the village. Ten years or so ago he was very involved as a school governor at St John's, Chairman of Village Day a couple of times and active in LGP and Twinning. However, as the children grew up and pressures of work increased, he dropped out of these roles. He has strong IT skills and possesses the necessary computer, printers, scanner etc. He clearly has the necessary relevant competence, experience and equipment. People who know him feel he would be an ideal person to take on the work. As a result, Mike has already helped me with some of the various kinds of job involved. The end result is that both Mike and I are very enthusiastic about the prospect of my handing the editor's job to him at a rate that takes into account both my health progress and his availability.

Letters to the Editor, on pages 24 to 26, are amongst the most important pages you should read. One from Ted Janes, who founded Hallmark, and two about the school of which I had previously only heard compliments.

Hallmark is read more widely than we appreciate – apparently. One copy is passed on by a villager to someone in Wormwood Scrubs prison who really enjoys reading of the atmosphere of our village life. It then gets passed on to other inmates. In this way, they can read of worthwhile village life available outside their present environment. Touching?

Does anyone know anyone who would give, or where we as a village could possibly get, free legal advice on local planning problems?

We have a short reminder from our oldest villager, Con Baker, of some of the games – costing no money – she and her friends enjoyed playing when children

Plenty going on in and near the village, to read about.

Plus all our interesting regulars. Hope you enjoy it!



Two men are talking about how highly their wives think of them. "Mine thinks so much of me that she won't let me lift a finger around the house" says the first. "That's nothing" says the second. "My wife thinks I'm God". "What makes you say that?" asks the first. "Well, every night she places a burnt offering before me".

On the Farm

Mid July and we're having a heat wave. I have escaped the sun into the shade wondering where to pitch my article. This weekend on "Any Questions" it was stated that the average temperature rise was only 0.2% in 50 years. It was said so quickly that I may not be accurate but it was something like that. You don't want to open up a can of worms about climate change but for those who are new here, here are a few facts from the 1960s – deduce what you will.

Every year the council erected fences in the fields parallel to the roads to slow up the driving snow so that it dropped over these fences in the fields. They haven't needed to do it for years now. Prior to that, the New Road to Walters Ash and Pink Road were regularly blocked with snow. Gerald, who lived at Naphill then, would go home on a tractor and dig a way through in the morning, helping any stuck cars as they came to work on the farm. Lanes like Slad Lane could be totally blocked with snow. Thawing pipes to cattle troughs could take all day, then a freezing night and back to square one in the morning. These things haven't happened for years.

There has been major change in the traffic. We had a flock of sheep then and would bring them from Walters Ash up the New Road. We would tell drivers they could divert round Slad Lane if the flock was filling the road, but most chose to watch the sheepdog bring the sheep past. I suspect it would not be so now. We used to take the cows across the field and down Kiln Lane to graze in the fields either side of the lane. That was a daily routine.

Recently we had to collect some steel from the midlands from an industrial estate. They sent us directions using satellite navigation sending us up Smalldean Lane at this end – totally unsuitable. Another local lane used as a through road is Highwood Bottom. This lane is not adopted by the council – the land owners have to keep it in repair. However, big lorries are being sent along it from Lacey Green to Speen as well as cars. The Chilterns is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, such misdirection is ruinous. Maybe you have heard of other instances. SAT NAV needs to get its act together, then I'm sure it could be really useful.

So much has changed. An estate agent had a couple who entered his office recently looking for a house in a country village. Their only criteria was that there was not a farm. One could feel quite unloved.

Joan West

Loosley Row Village Life as a Girl in the 1920s

- MORE MEMORIES OF CON BAKER
- THE OLDEST PERSON IN OUR VILLAGE

GAMES WE PLAYED



Hoops, spinning tops, skipping, marbles, we had fun with our wooden hoops (boys had iron hoops). We played with these hoops in our field sometimes. The hoops were our horses! We had bricks for jumps.

Spinning tops not so popular but skipping was great. Two people turned the rope. Some games we played called all in together. Salt, mustard, vinegar and pepper. Of course all in the road. And marbles you would think a nice quiet game. Oh dear no. We drew a chalk ring, a small one, in the road and if you played for good you kept the marble you knocked out of the ring. You had a large marble, a pretty one if you could get it, which was called, I believe, a trolley. This was used to knock marbles out of the ring. And then the shouting would start: "Knible". "knickel", "fen nover", "fen unoved" (OR "You never, you never!") What these meant I can't remember. Great fun. All in the road of course.

Would be a job to play in the roads now!!!

We also played kick tin, a sort of hide-and-seek, which was great. You had to get out from your hiding place and kick the tin. It was really great fun. Sorry the children do not have these games now, but guess they have fun with the TV.

Happy days all gone!!



Lacey Green Productions together with The Command Performers



Dinner Theatre

"Good Moaning" to all our readers. Yes - LGP's pre Christmas dinner theatre this year will be the sell-out West End show of the BBC comedy series "Allo Allo".

2 for the price of 1 - LGP are delighted that The Command Performers will be joining them for this production of "Allo Allo". The Command Performers are the long-established drama group from the RAF base at Walters Ash, who are temporarily without a theatre. Their loss of a home is definitely LGP's gain.

"Allo Allo" is the story of the hapless café proprietor, René, in wartime France. It tells of his desperate attempts to fend off the resistance, the occupying Germans and Italians, the Gestapo, his wife and, with less conviction, all his female employees. René is surrounded by adoring women and idiots, including escaping English airmen and Crabtree. Followers of "Allo Allo" will remember Crabtree as the English spy, disguised as a gendarme, who believes he spooks prefect Frunch.

So for two evenings at the end of November, the Village Hall will be converted into René's café. Join us for the full French feeling – food, wine and entertainment. What better way to start your Christmas festivities?

Performances are at Lacey Green Village Hall on Friday and Saturday, November 24th and 25th at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Tickets (including 2 course dinner), are available by telephoning 07899 797968 or 01844 344207.

Theatre at Home

In the coming months LGP, along with The Command Performers, will be reviving its Theatre at Home, with performances of interesting plays and sketches at the home of one of our members. Performances are likely to be in early 2007 – more details later.

Plays for Theatre at Home are chosen with different criteria to those performed in the Village Hall. In the Village Hall, we unashamedly, wine, dine and entertain you. In the smaller setting of Theatre at Home, with the audience almost treading on our toes, we attempt to unbalance a few sacred cows or ask you to suspend disbelief entirely. Either way, we hope that you will take away with you a different slant on life.

We are auditioning now for the Theatre at Home, so if you are interested in joining us for this or any other performances, please call 01844 344207.

Val Brookhouse

YOGA WITH ANNIE

At the "perfect for Yoga" Lacey Green Village Hall

9.30 - 11am (in term time only)

Annie is a highly qualified and experienced Yoga teacher. She has been studying Yoga for over 20 years - and teaching for the past 8 years. Annie completed her Intensive Yoga Training Course with Mary Stewart and Chloe Freemantle, both of whom worked with Vanda Scavarelli in Italy.

Annie takes regular Yoga Workshops and teaches Yoga teachers. She is a member of the *Associates of Independent Yoga Practitioners*. Her Yoga is simple, subtle and sensory with emphasis on breathing and relaxing deeply.

CONTACT ANNIE SILVERMAN 01494 676090 or 07816045624. Email: annies_yoga@hotmail.com

THE WINDMILL WI



Our WI has been making the most of the recent lovely summer weather with an evening ramble, a trip to Kew Gardens and a summer supper. The ramble, ably led by Margaret Gray, started in Princes Risborough and took us through Saunderton and Horsenden. The weather was perfect, the company entertaining and not a hill in sight! All the ingredients for an enjoyable evening and Jay Kay waved to us as he swept out of Horsenden Manor!

At the beginning of July, fifteen of our members thoroughly enjoyed a great day out to Kew Gardens. We visited Kew Palace, which is now open to the public after a major restoration project by Historic Royal Palaces and gives a fascinating insight into the lives and times of King George III, his wife Queen Charlotte and their family. After lunch, our members split up – some, the not so energetic ones, caught the ‘Kew Explorer’ which took them round the entire 300 acre site, others, the slightly more energetic, went for a walk visiting the glasshouses and gardens, and two members, the extremely energetic ones, climbed the 253 steps to the top of the Pagoda where they assured us they had outstanding views across London. It was a good day, once again well organised by our President, Pat Richards.

On a lovely July evening members enjoyed our annual Summer Supper, again held at the Sports Club and again, as last year, we were able to eat outside. The food, prepared by the Committee, was delicious and it was altogether a very pleasant evening.

At our May monthly meeting Members discussed the resolutions to be voted on at the NFWI Annual General Meeting. Elizabeth Bartlett had attended the Briefing meetings where the experts explained the finer details of the resolutions and she passed on this information to us prior to the members casting their votes. This was followed by a fascinating talk on “The Mercy Ships” by Ken and June Brazier.

In June we had a flower demonstration entitled ‘The Language of Flowers’ by Pat Trunkfield – a very clever lady, so artistic and at the same time she was able to chat away and keep us amused with her stories. Our speaker for June was Martin Sirot-Smith and his subject was The Tudor Lifestyle which he presented in full costume taking on the role of Lawrence Washington, a Tudor Lord of the Manor of Sulgrave and Stuchbury. Mr Sirot-Smith is a former director of Sulgrave Manor and a long-standing house guide. It was a fascinating talk which was brought alive by the speaker.

We have several events to look forward to – our August meeting (2nd) when the speaker will be Mrs Ann Leaver with her talk on Queen Charlotte and Victoria at Frogmore House; a trip to Ardington House, near Wantage, and then our 19th Birthday Meeting in September (6th) when we are going to be entertained by Tina and her Egyptian Belly Dancing – should be fun. Why don’t you come and join us – we will make you very welcome.

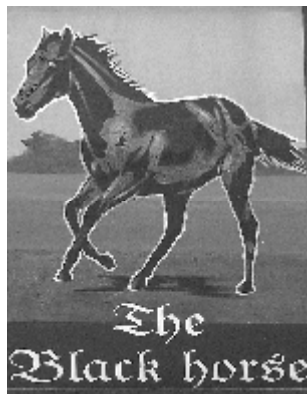
Looking further ahead, please make a note of our next Jumble Sale – **SATURDAY, 7th OCTOBER.** If you have any jumble you wish to donate please bring it along to the Village Hall between 10am and 12 noon

and then come back again at 2pm – you may find something for your wardrobe or a treasure on the white elephant stall!

Daphne Williams



Around Our Local Pubs



As I have missed a couple of Hallmarks, I realised that it was about time to have the pub section back in. So many people have commented about its absence. So here we go. What has been happening in the last six months? Dominos and crib have finished for

another season. Well done to the Whip for winning the League and well done to both Black Horse teams for doing really well. Congratulations are awarded to Ian Wilson on winning the Landlords Cup. Tony Comley and Alan Walker for winning the double dominoes and Black Horse A team for holding on to the Knock Out final.

Aunt Sally is now well into the season that is held on a Friday night. If you have never seen it being played, why don't you call in and have a bite to eat and watch the game? Our Quiz Night is still being held on the last Sunday of the month. We could really do with some more teams. Why not pop down and have a go? 8pm start and no charge!!

As I am writing this, I was going back to the time I came here eleven years ago. I came to save the pub and 11 years later I am still doing the same thing. It would be so nice if more of the local residents of the area used their local pubs. Many of the country pubs are closing down. Rents are high, beer costs are high, etc, etc. The only thing that keeps them going is people using them. Why not just pop in and have a meal or sit in the garden and have a drink while your children play? You don't know what we are like until you come and join us. We have lost a shop and a Methodist Church through falling numbers of people. We don't want that to happen to the village pubs. If you don't use us, we will close like all the rest.

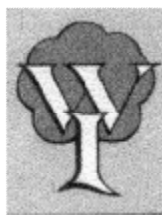
The Horse's Head Soup Music Day went really well. Thank you John Jones for putting the music in the garden. Everyone had a great time. Lisa and Ian Saxton have had a new arrival to their family and a brother to Barney. Welcome to Rubble. Congratulations to Phil on his 50th, Dean, Mark and Giles on their 40th.

If you require any functions catered for, drinks or food, eg weddings, birthdays, funerals, etc why don't you give us a ring for a quote. We will be very happy to help you. We also do outside bars in the local area.

Hope you all have a nice summer

Lynne, Tony and Ian

Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI



Second Thursdays (except August) 2.00pm Village Hall

Sadly, Barbara Hobdell has finally moved from the village and will be missed greatly by us all. We are now in the process of filling all the jobs which she used to do and it has fallen to me to do this report – a hard act to follow.

Our quiz team in the "3 Counties Quiz" tied for first place with a team from Hertfordshire and so 2 more questions were set as a tie breaker. Unfortunately, we lost by ½ point. Never mind, we'll try again next year.

At the Resolutions Meeting in May, we discussed resolutions about Renewable Energy and Sport for a

Healthy Population. After a great deal of discussion, both were passed and our delegate to the AGM in Cardiff was instructed to vote in favour of them.

In July, Mrs Brewster talked about Lancelot Andrews, one of the translators of the King James Bible. None of us had even heard of Lancelot Andrews but at the end of the talk we knew a great deal about him. What an interesting and fascinating life he had.

July was entitled "Members Meeting" with no speaker booked. What to do? Several members gave brief accounts of events, experiences and amusing anecdotes, which went down rather well - and Kath Turner sang "The Lambton Worm" in a strong Geordie accent to round off the entertainment.

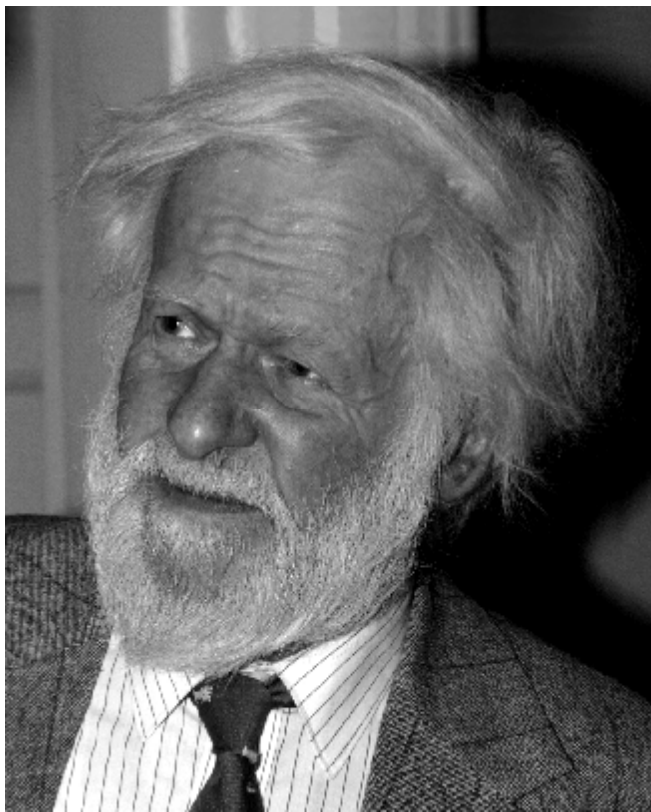
We all enjoy our Thursday afternoons so much. Why not come along and find out for yourselves? You will be most welcome.

Doreen de Grey

Obituary

CHRISTOPHER WALLIS

Many of you will have met Christopher Wallis, who lived at Little Marlow. He died on the 10th of May 2006 at the age of 71. You may not regard him as a local person, but he spent a lot of his life here over the last 35 years. Without Christopher Wallis, Lacey Green windmill would never have been restored, and would have collapsed and probably disappeared by now. He was born in 1935, the youngest son of Sir Barnes Wallis. Christopher had a life-long interest in timber and gained qualifications in the subjects of Wood Science and Carpentry. He also became a civil engineer, working for different companies including British Railways.



In 1969 he read that the Chiltern Society was interested in Lacey Green Windmill, but mill experts had declared it impossible to restore, as it was starting to collapse. Such a statement became a challenge to Christopher. He visited the windmill, and using his engineering skills, he devised a method of straightening the windmill, and then encasing it in plywood to hold it fast as a solid structure. He wrote a report, drew diagrams, and built a model showing how he thought the windmill could be pulled upright and saved. His natural enthusiasm helped him persuade others that his solutions were possible, and agreement was made to start the work.

He had then committed himself to working on the windmill every Sunday for the next 15 years. The work was started in 1971, and Christopher was responsible for finding volunteers to assist with the work all year round. Some would have the required skills, others would be taught by each other and by Christopher, who ran the whole project as Chief Engineer. Many recycled materials were used, and machinery was borrowed when required. Christopher was able to develop his restoration theories of replacing as little material as possible, and always finding the most appropriate substitutes for parts that did need replacing.

After a few years, Christopher realised that he should not devote just his weekends to preserving historic buildings, but also his working life as well. He started a new career in which he restored windmills, watermills, barns, cottages and all manner of smaller historic structures. He has promoted and worked on all forms of alternative technology (long before the subject became fashionable). He also had a great interest in sustainable transport, and gave his time to helping various projects across the country to keep railway lines open, and to help Sustrans open cycle tracks on disused railways.

He was a very determined character, like his father. Whoever met him, would probably always remember him, and the appreciation of the work he did, his skills, and his friendships were self evident at a memorial service on 21st July, when around 300 people crowded into Little Marlow church to hear people's recollections from all Christopher's life. He was devoted to his wife, Barbara, their son and daughter, and their four grandchildren.

I have written a much more complete obituary to Christopher Wallis, which is on the Windmill web site. It includes details about his family life, and some of the restoration projects which he tackled. Please see www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk

Michael G Hardy

FOOTNOTE FROM THE EDITOR: I personally have the only colour live-sound movie of Chris and the volunteers working on the repair of our unique windmill. If you have a relation or friend who worked on the windmill in those days and would like to see my sound movie, please contact me.

81st Over-60s Club

First Tuesdays 2pm at Village Hall

CELEBRATING OUR 48th YEAR!



More men needed

We had a celebration lunch today, cooked by our committee

All photos by Pat Brookes



A young estate agent trying to sell a house to an old codger ended his hard-sell with "Remember, Mr Brown, this is an investment for the future". "Listen, young man" said Mr Brown wearily, "at my time of life I don't even buy green bananas".



Doris Oliver cuts the cake
- made by Pat Brookes

Happy Wanderers Walking Club

Wednesday April 12

The mid month walk went a little further away than usual, to the village of Ford, where 11 "Wanderers" went for a gentle stroll to the top of the relatively new 90 acre wood. Here on a clear day you get an all round view of the Chiltern countryside and seven of the local churches. At the end of the walk we adjourned to the Dinton Hermit Inn for coffee and biscuits.

Sunday April 30

After early morning rain, 22 Happy Wanderers and 6 assorted dogs met at Great Missenden for the end of the month walk. We were treated to some spectacular blackthorn and wild cherry blossom and the woods were showing their fresh spring green leaves and the first bluebells.

At the last part of the walk behind Missenden Abbey it was sad to see the Misborn completely dry. A consequence of abstraction and a few years of below average rainfall. Our thanks to Rita Probert and Phil Bloomfield for an interesting Spring walk.

Sunday May 28

20 Happy Wanderers met on a fine spring-like morning at the market car park in Tring for our last Sunday in the month walk.

Leaving the town behind us, we crossed over the bypass into Tring Park. We followed the avenue of mature Lime trees up a gentle slope to Bishop's Wood, where the slope became steeper, leading to the Ridgeway Path. Following this path, we skirted the village of Wiggington and, shortly after, we were treated to spectacular views towards Ivinghoe Beacon and beyond. Continuing down through Pendley estate, we joined the Grand Union canal, which, at this point, runs through a deep cutting for over a mile. Quite a feat of engineering before the days of mechanical diggers.

We came to a substantial brick built bridge over the canal, where we turned along Marshcroft Lane, which led us back to Tring. Thanks to Rita and Thornley for leading an interesting walk of about six miles.



In Tring Park



Along the Ridgeway Path

Photos by Ron Goodearl

Sunday June 25

The walk started from Ballinger Common on a fine morning with just a little breeze, just comfortable for the walk. We set off under the guidance of Frances and Geoff Miller on a five mile circular route which took over fields and through Chiltern woodlands. At the start, our leader said the walk was fairly flat with just a couple of hills. Not to worry. Geoff had thoughtfully brought along a rope to rope us together if the going got too steep! He also had a sharp stick to keep the back markers from lagging too far behind. 18 of us had an enjoyable walk, thanks to Frances and Geoff.



Photo by Ron Goodearl

Above summaries by Ron Goodearl

Midsummer Evening Stroll and Supper, June 15

When we produce our annual programme for walks, it means that at some stage during the year items will clash with other events. Little did we realise our evening stroll would coincide with not only England playing Trinidad and Tobago in the World Cup, but also it would be choir practice evening for the Lacey Green Singers!

Nevertheless, 30 Happy Wanderers met at the Cock and Rabbit at The Lee, north of Great Missenden, on a glorious evening for a 4 mile trek through fields and woods, working up an appetite for supper.

As walk leader on this occasion, I had Ginnie to act as the back marker to ensure that no-one became either a stretcher case or got lost after taking in the views at every turn. On a previous walk, one of our members (who is over 80) was so overcome with excitement that he vaulted a gate and we did not know whether to reach for our cameras or the first aid kit! He went rather quiet for a while and we had no repeat performance on this occasion.

Two of our members who were unable to walk with us, stayed in the pub until we returned and so joined us for supper.

Our membership has stayed steady over the years at about 55, but we are always ready to welcome new members to our friendly group – try the 'phone number given at the back of Hallmark!



Where will you find more genuine smiles than these – no wonder we're called *The Happy Wanderers* !

Photo by Ronnie Lewin

Summary by Roger Brudenell



"I like idling when I ought not to be idling, not when it is the only thing I have to do"

Jerome K Jerome, quoted in *The Independent*

Lacey Green Singers

Our choir has recently been successful in obtaining a small grant from the Buckinghamshire County Council Community Leaders Fund to help with the staging of public performances. We are most grateful to Mr Paul Rogerson, who suggested that we might be eligible for this funding. It will enable us to use a few instrumentalists or soloists in forthcoming concerts. We hope that our success may encourage other local organisations to apply for help.

Our last concert was a selection of Gilbert and Sullivan pieces, using soloists from within the choir, with the very talented Cher Mole as accompanist. This was held in the barn at Piggott's on Saturday 13th May. It provided an excellent opportunity to showcase some of the regular choir members, performing solos, duets and singing in small groups. Highlights must have been the men singing "Three Little Maids from School". They looked really sweet in their kimonos! A very professional performance was staged by our conductor, Cathie Kaye, singing a duet with James Moorcroft.

Both the choir and the audience seemed to enjoy the entertainment and the excellent refreshments served afterwards. We have a very loyal audience and we do thank them for their support. We are also also very grateful to Mr Wheeler Robinson for again allowing us to use such a lovely venue.

We are now planning a Mozart Concert on Saturday 11th November, to coincide with the 250th anniversary of his death this year. This will provide a special opportunity to show off the almost unique 1792 Samuel Green organ at St. John's Church, which would have been built when Mozart was alive. The church is currently undertaking a major fund raising campaign for the complete restoration of this historic instrument. We shall be performing the Mozart Requiem, and a few smaller pieces, which will be very appropriate for Remembrance Day, and we thank Rev. Denise

Critchell for welcoming us into her church. The usual Remembrance Service will be held in the church on the following day. This is always a very moving occasion, and Rev Denise has asked me to say that anyone from the village will be most welcome at the 10.00am service.

Our usual Christmas Concert will be on Sun 10th Dec.

The choir is improving all the time under the leadership of our very talented Choir Director, Cathie Kaye. However, at the moment, we are seriously concerned by the lack of men, especially tenors, coming to sing with us. Our very faithful Colin Hobdell will be leaving the village soon. We do thank him, and his wife Barbara for all they have done for the choir over many years. Another tenor is currently in hospital, so I am urgently appealing for any men who would be willing to help us out, even if it is only for the autumn Mozart Concert.

We would also welcome men with no previous experience, who would like to have a try at singing. We have a special training day on Saturday Sept 30th from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Rehearsals are from 8.00pm to 10.00pm on Thursday evenings in St. John's School Hall during term time. We would be happy to spend extra time helping any volunteers. This would be a good opportunity for younger men to have a go. Without them to provide continuity, many small choirs, such as ours will find it impossible to perform the varied repertoire of music, which we enjoy, in the future. Singing is very satisfying, and great fun. It would be very sad if we had to make the decision to become an all ladies choir.

Rosemary S. Mortham (01844 345863)
Chairman, Lacey Green Singers

So the speed restrictions through the village have finally arrived, much to the satisfaction of the Parish Council who have been pressing for these changes for many many years.

Some questions have arisen as to the positioning of the new signs, particularly as to the "de-restriction signs". To follow the reasoning behind the location of these signs you should go to the other side of the signs and look back. Where a speed limit of 30, 40 or 50 m.p.h. has been introduced, it cannot continue indefinitely. Therefore although it seems inconsistent to remove a speed restriction where a road develops into a country lane it has to be so to get the benefit of the speed restriction when entering a built up area.

Also, there has developed a tendency over the passed few years for drivers to travel up to the speed limit. To paraphrase the Highway Code, one should drive at a speed consistent with the prevailing road conditions, but not faster than the limit. The so called "de-restriction signs" have for many years now indicated the national speed limit of 70 m.p.h. subject to the same provisions about road conditions.

A review of the new speed limits is carried out six months after their introduction. If you feel that there are anomalies that need looking at please bring these to the notice of the Parish Council.

One problem which has become apparent from the introduction of the new speed limits is that the Tranquil Lanes project, which should have been introduced at the same time, is still awaiting Central Government to decide on the signage. One envisages "Don't feed the yokels or beware of haywains etc." This has meant that some areas, for example Loosley Row, have not been adequately signed for speed limits. Hopefully the six month review will deal with this problem.

The next step is the more difficult one – how to enforce the speed limits through the village. One development in this direction is the introduction of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) which are usually positioned at the start of a speed limit or at a danger spot. Vehicles automatically activate the sign which displays their speed or a message as they approach. Two sets of VAS are on trial in High Wycombe and provision for the Parish Council to hire this type of equipment or to purchase their own is expected shortly.

Still on the question of roads, there is a disturbing rumour from the County Council for the need to reduce expenditure dramatically on road improvement schemes. Culverton Crossroads may once again become a feature on the "never never list".

The Kiln Lane situation continues to be handled by the County Council. The Parish Council is fully aware of the village's wishes for complete restoration of the Lane and will continue to make any representation necessary to achieve this outcome.

A report in the national papers this week indicates that MPs are calling for a crack down on speculative land banks. It referred to a scheme where 26 acres have been divided into 306 plots for speculative sale without planning permission. The land in the Thames Valley has been made subject to a Town & Country Planning Act article 4 directive which, " prevents even a fence being built on it."

Readers of Hallmark will be interested to learn that a similar Town & Country Planning Act article 4 directive was issued to become effective on the 12th June 2006, "on the piece of land to the north of Well End Cottage, Church Lane, Lacey Green". The problem remains, however, as to who will be responsible for keeping the land maintained and tidy now in view of its multiple ownership.

Peter Pilkington

Lacey Green Parish Community Plan

Much concern is focussed on the proposed redevelopment of the Methodist Chapel site. As many readers will know, there is a current planning application for a single house. Some people think that this is a good idea, but the Village Design Statement and the Community Plan would prefer that this site be kept for community use. Whilst there is no objection as such to another house in the village, we really do not want this built on the last remaining piece of land suitable for community use. Or is there perhaps an existing landowner who would like to donate an alternative site?

We have a long-term aim to revitalise the village and ensure that it does not simply become a commuter residence zone. We believe that most residents support this. One important item in the plan is to convert the Chapel site into a composite facility with a shop, meeting room (or more) plus some social housing. If we can add other items of value to the community we will do so, but good innovative design will be needed. It will be based on the Speen model, and we believe that it can be successful despite the pessimistic views of some residents. The existing burial ground has now been taken over by the Parish Council, and will be available for future burials.

The first welcome packs have just been issued to new Parish residents. It is early days and the pack contents will be improved as we learn more about the things that new residents want to know about quickly. We are dependent largely on word of mouth to know when a new resident has actually moved in. When this has happened or is imminent, please let us know just in case we have missed it.

Good news is that the post office is to remain in Lacey Green for the foreseeable future. Don't forget – it is open in the Millennium Hall on Mondays and Thursdays between 09.00 and 12.00. Thursdays is also the day when you can have a cup of coffee and a chat in the small meeting room of the hall, courtesy of the WI.

As part of the Parish Plan programme we will soon be distributing another questionnaire to those parts of the Parish not previously reached, notably the properties located mainly in Walters Ash and in other far-flung outposts. We don't expect many surprises, but you never know...

We are aware of the unfortunate developments in Kiln Lane. The Community Plan supports the views expressed in the Village Design Statement, and will try to ensure that any development does not destroy the inherent rural nature of the lane.

The Lacey Green Parish Community Plan Steering Group has been around since 2002. It investigates what issues are important to the community and tries to implement improvements where these are necessary. It is connected loosely to the Parish Council and works closely with it whilst still retaining a degree of independence. We are currently working on a formal Parish Plan, which will define how we want the Parish to develop over the next ten years and more. If you are interested and would like to help in some way, you would be very welcome to join us. Contact Tony Molesworth on 01844 344975 or e-mail to: molechem@yahoo.co.uk

Tony Molesworth

Fitness, Food and Fun at the School

Staff at St John's planned something slightly different for the end of term. Starting on Monday 10 July the children's work for the last eight days of term was planned around the theme of Fitness, Food and Fun for all. Teachers arranged for the children to experience a variety of activities which focus on promoting healthier lifestyles through nutrition and exercise. As you know, there is a national initiative promoting healthier lifestyles for children and we do feel this intensive focus will undoubtedly 'sow the seeds' for all our children's future development.



Many outside providers came into school to work with the children and they also had a non-uniform day on Monday 17 July with an afternoon of whole school activities from reception to year six.



Photos by Paul de Wolf

Paul de Wolf, Acting Head Teacher

Loosley Row and Lacey Green Horticultural Society

Over the Garden Fence

This year's competition for Classes 4 and 5 at St John's School asked the children to produce a pressed flower picture. They responded with some beautiful pieces, some of which we hope to display at the Annual Show on Saturday 2 September. We had difficulty deciding the winners, come along to the Show and judge for yourself.



Our panel standing behind the contestants and, below, the winners
Photos by Paul de Wolf, Acting Headteacher



We finally decided to award first prize to Bryony Roberts, second to Ella Thompson and third to Laura Blundell. Ryan Woodward was highly commended and we congratulated all of the entrants.

At the Annual Show we have two Classes especially for those aged 16 or younger. One is to construct an animal from vegetables and the other to bake flapjacks. Entrants do not have to be members of the Society, but must live in Lacey Green or Loosley Row.

To celebrate our 25th Anniversary we have a Class, "Bake an Anniversary Fruit Cake". not age restricted! and you do not have to be a member, but you must live in one of the villages. Full details of these 3 Classes appear in the Show Schedules which have been widely circulated, there was a copy with the last edition of Hallmark, but further copies are available if required. You have to be a member to enter any of the usual Classes, but you can join at the Village Hall door on the day, (£2), and many do. Entry fee per item is 20p and you have between 1.30 and 2.30pm to set out your exhibits. Do not be put off by difficult growing conditions, they are the same for everyone, and if the very hot weather at the time of writing continues we may have special Classes for sun dried tomatoes and beans baked in the pod! This year we have a new trophy for the entrant gaining the most points overall who has not previously won a Trophy at the Show. We hope that this will encourage first timers and those who have been unsuccessful in other years.

Since the last Edition we have enjoyed two garden visits. In June, we were shown Mr Doug Donaldson's amazing collection of Cacti, at Naphill. I was not aware that there were so many varieties, different shapes and sizes. Many of them were in flower and it was a jolly good evening rounded off with refreshments provided by Mrs Donaldson.

On a scorching hot afternoon in July a large group visited Mary Berry's beautiful garden at Penn. In the shade of a large Willow tree by the pond Mary outlined the interesting history of the house and garden and we were then left to explore the garden before retiring to the welcome shade for tea and cakes and a chat.

Mr Mason spoke to our bi-monthly meeting in May on Vegetable Growing. It was an interesting talk from a man who never has to buy vegetables and whose success stems from liberal use of blood and bone meal and no doubt a lot of hard work.

In July, we had a well researched talk by Michael Hardy about Ely Cathedral, the craft of the medieval stone masons illustrated by his beautiful photography.

The next talk will be on Wednesday 20 September at 8.00pm in the Village Hall "Colour with Climbers". Non members are welcome.

How are your pumpkins doing? I am told you should restrict each runner to about two feet and each plant to two fruits when they appear.

Terry Fendom, Chairman

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations on the current edition of Hallmark that I know you produced with great difficulty and dedication though your health problems.

The success of Hallmark has always been through great dedication. I burnt the midnight oil on many occasions.

In 1976, knowing the popularity of the Archers, I asked Joan West if she could write a farming article for the magazine – a sort of Lacey Green Ambridge, and for 30 years she has never missed a copy date, a very dedicated and proud achievement. Some of her early articles actually prompted the story like for the radio soap.

In her last edition, she wrote “Farmers, unlike popular belief, very rarely complain”. I’m not sure about that, but I am sure that farmers’ wives complain – year in and year out she has moaned, grumbled, complained and spelt doom for the industry. But we love you for it, Joan; a very dedicated record and achievement.

Ted Janes
Ex editor

ALL THAT GLISTERS IS NOT GOLD

As we now find ourselves at the end of another School year, in our small village community, my mind wonders to what faces our children as they move on, as my son will do this year, to secondary school. We all read the headlines, what faces our young offspring? Have we prepared them well enough? Will they be able to cope with the big bad world outside of our safe and secure community? :-

Disruptive influences

Bullying

Children’s work trashed or damaged by rivals

Pupils ganged up on and beaten with Cricket bats

Children having their clothes put into toilets and defecated on

Children being beaten up in class, during lessons

Smoking at School

Pupils carrying knives

Threats to children’s wellbeing, if they dare to attend class

Pupils being overlooked, in favour of the more high profile, or troublesome student.

Are our children heading for a deprived inner city education? Will any of these things face our young warriors as they march forth into their new academic careers and their teenage years? If your children are just entering St Johns junior School you may think that you have a few years to get your head around these concerns. But be assured and be prepared because the list above, that you have just read, is not what faces our eleven year old children leaving St Johns School but what may well face your five year old children as they enter. For this is just a small example of the things that our eleven year old children have had to learn to cope with, and hopefully leave behind, in their last few years at St Johns. It may be shocking but all of the above have occurred, and some on more than one occasion, within there last few school years. It is not my brave young warrior marching forth that I have concerns for, because I know that myself and my partner have equipped him well enough to fight off any more demons he may face on his crusade for academia, but it is all the small people entering, and stepping into my warrior’s shoes, will they have to put up with all this heartache at such an early age? Will they be as strong as mine?

My young Warrior has always enjoyed going to school, despite the hurdles he has had to face, and has always found something positive to say each day. He will be sad to leave the school but is looking forward to his new adventure. I do see that the school is not all bad and there are some very good aspects to the school. Mrs McGinty, the reception teacher, is probably one of the best teachers that I have ever come across and works wonders with the children as they enter the schooling environment. Mr Colman, Headmaster, who has been working away on secondment for the last couple of years, is leaving at the end of term and his understanding and rapport with the children will be greatly missed by everyone associated with the school – he will be a tough act to follow. The children always enjoy the school productions, and the Christmas play is always great fun and very well supported and looked forward to.

“All that glisters is not gold”,

So if you are a parent with a child at, or going to, St Johns, I say to you please always listen very carefully

to what your children may tell you, because sometimes tales told out of school can be a cry for help, and they need to be addressed sooner rather than later.

MC

Name and address supplied

REPLY TO ABOVE LETTER ON BEHALF OF SCHOOL

Dear Readers

I am sure you are as surprised as the rest of our community to read MC's views on his son's experiences as he leaves St John's Combined School. The school is well aware of MC's concerns and he declined the opportunity to utilise the school's complaints procedure, which we feel is the appropriate forum for discussing personal issues. However, he raises some general points about the school and we would ask that you consider the following facts about St John's before making your judgment.

Last year there was a comprehensive inspection of the school by an independent OFSTED team, an experienced cohort of professionals, whose overall judgments about our school were:

Pupils' very good attitudes to school and learning, and their very good behaviour, make a significant contribution to the ethos of the school and to pupils' achievements.

Relationships are very good and there is a high level of mutual respect.

Spiritual development is excellent.

The inspection team spent the equivalent of 12 days in school. They spoke at length with the children about what it was like to be a pupil at St John's. Ofsted made the following statements in their report:

Pupils show a real enjoyment for school and being part of a friendly and inclusive community in which they feel welcomed and valued.

Behaviour is very good in class and around the school with no exclusions.

Pupils show very good levels of maturity and concern for others.

Incidents of violent, oppressive or racist behaviour are extremely rare.

When incidents of bullying are brought to the staff's attention they deal with them effectively.

Pupils clearly understand the difference between right and wrong and are expected to show a high degree of respect for the difference between people and for

their values and beliefs.

Most parents feel that pupils are well cared for and the school's efforts contribute to a contented and confident pupil population.

Pupils who show signs of any emotional distress are supported well. The very good and trusting relationships enable teachers to respond to any problems or concerns.

Parents have good opportunities to discuss their children's progress and well-being through parents' meetings, informative annual progress reports and one-to-one discussions with teachers. Based on school records, direct observation and discussions with pupils, any concerns about bullying are not justified. Whilst there are occasional disagreements between pupils, there is an overall absence of bullying.

Should you wish to read the full report, copies are available in school or can be accessed on the Ofsted's website (www.ofsted.gov.uk).

More recently (March 2006), we carried out a parental survey and ask you to consider the responses to 4 of the 10 questions posed which may help you in your judgement:

	AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE	DISAGREE OR STRONGLY DISAGREE
MY CHILD ENJOYS SCHOOL	96%	4%
I FEEL MY CHILD IS SAFE AND WELL CARED FOR AT SCHOOL	98%	2%
BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOL IS GOOD	92%	6% (2% ANSWERED DO NOT KNOW)
PUPILS ARE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW CHRISTIAN BELIEFS	97%	3%

As you can see from our parent's survey, the overwhelming majority of pupils thoroughly enjoy school life at St Johns. It is extremely reassuring that the "Young Warrior" mentioned also felt positive and was sad to leave. This reflects well and means a great deal to our school community.

No other parent has made a written complaint to the school concerning any of the allegations MC has made.

St John's is very proud of the wonderful reputation it enjoys, particularly within the local community. This popular school is completely full with many more parents keen to get their children into such a successful community. The school continually seeks to enhance the excellent relationship it has with all parents and our reputation is founded on hard work and the commitment of all concerned. We rightly pride ourselves on being a highly professional and caring establishment whose fundamental interests lie in nurturing each individual pupil and supporting all our families in what has always been a true Christian community.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely

**Paul De Wolf, Acting Headteacher
St John's Church of England Combined
School**

Chernobyl Children Lifeline

Our raffle gets better and better each year. The total proceeds this year are a magnificent £1695.00. The first prize of the quilt was won by Mrs. Wicks of York. Other winners came from Aylesbury, Bledlow, Didcot, Gerrards Cross, Princes Risborough and Wooburn Green, quite a wide area. A cheque for £695 has been sent to a fund for the Belarussian Childrens' Hospices. The remaining £1000 has not yet been allocated. However, as this is the twentieth anniversary of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, we are using this money to help individual children with particular medical needs.

Very many thanks to those who helped us with the splendid raffle prizes and to all those who very kindly supported us and helped us raise this wonderful sum.

Ann Smith, Chairman - Risborough Link 173

The Value of Composting

A typical household's total waste is made up of 20% of garden products and 17% of kitchen remnants. Encouraging recycling through home composting is essential to help minimise the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill as the UK has a legal target of reducing this by 75% between 1995 and 2010.

It is estimated that for every household that composts their garden waste and fruit and vegetable peeling at home, over 220Kg (484 lb or 4.3 hundredweight) per year of waste is prevented from being thrown away. It currently costs about £100 per household per year to collect and dispose of our waste. These are likely to increase dramatically if European targets are not met. Composting at home therefore helps to save council tax payers' money that could be spent on other vital services.

Buckinghamshire Master Composters provide friendly, free composting advice to local people. This includes home visits, local compost workshops and writing articles for local newsletters. They are staffed mainly by trained volunteers, of whom they are looking for more – interested? Once the training has been completed, Master Composter volunteers are expected to spend 20 hours over the following year promoting the benefits of home composting. To find out more, you can visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/waste_strategy/composting/index.htm or 'phone Ruth Malleson, Home Compost Development Officer, Bucks Local Authorities on 01296 387797, fax her on 01296 387156, write to her at County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury HP20 1UY or Email her at rmalleson@buckscc.gov.uk

Footnote from the editor: This and some other leads for possible publishing are provided to me by Councillor Paul Rogerson.



Before addressing his after-dinner audience, a guest speaker got drunk. After his slurred speech, he asked the man next to him what he thought of his speech. The man replied "I thought it was a *Rolls Royce* - first, it was so silent I could hardly hear it, secondly it was extremely well-oiled and, finally, I thought it would last for ever!"

This month's news raises some concerns for all of us.

For the **County Council** there is some good news and some not so good. The good news is that the **Speed Limit Review** has been completed and the new limits are now in place. As far as I can ascertain, the new limits are generally welcomed but where the new limits end in side lanes such as Kiln Lane and Wardrobes Lane the positioning de-restriction signs have caused some concern. Both David Lidington and myself have acted upon these concerns. David has tabled several questions to the Minister responsible pointing out that in side lanes the positioning of signs will serve to confuse motorists on the safe speed for the lane and in these circumstances they should not be used. I have asked Val Letheren, Cabinet Member for Transport at the County Council, for support in this matter and she has agreed to give it. These points have been taken up with the County Council officers, whose advice is that they are necessary in order to comply with speed regulations and without them the new limits, such as the 30 mph for Main Road, could be successfully challenged when enforcement action is taken.

There is a possible set back to the **A4010 Woodway / Culverton Junction**, come about by an enforced reduction in the road works programme by the withdrawal of Government assistance for capital funding. Borrowing support has been withdrawn, leaving the Council with the decision either to cut other service delivery to fund capital works or to cut spending on the works themselves. The choice has been taken to cut spending on the works themselves and to only fund on schemes that have the highest 'safety' priority. I have asked that the Woodway / Culverton scheme be considered as a high priority as clearly the safety at this junction is important.

For the **District Council** it is a similar situation, good news and not so good. The good news is that the Tranquil Project, which has been funded for the initial phase by the District Council, is starting to deliver on the ground. For Lacey Green and Loosley Row new entrance features are scheduled to be erected at the entrance to each village. These are of the new Oak Feature type and will incorporate the village name and the AONB logo. The first feature will be erected in Marsh so that the parishes may have an opportunity to see the actual feature prior to erection elsewhere. The not so good news is that for the

second phase, due to be carried out by the County Council, final regulations governing the signage for the proposed Quiet Lanes is some two years late in arriving. This means that, until the regulations are issued, no further implementation work will be undertaken. Again questions have been raised by David Lidington to highlight our concerns with the relevant government department. It is hoped that sufficient District funding will be available to proceed with new local direction signage. The proposal is to replace the board type signs in rural locations, such as Main Road / Loosley Hill / Pink Road, with the traditional design "finger" type carrying only local direction information.

Progress with the **Village Design Statement** has seen the District Council publish the consultation for sustainability. This final piece of work, required by changes to legislation, is the last hurdle to adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance. As most of you will be aware the statement contains recommendations that will affect the way the village and its surroundings are developed. Challenges to these recommendations have come from proposals for the Methodist Chapel site and the make up of Kiln lane; both have been resisted by the Parish Council and the Community Planning Group. The position with Kiln lane is that the developer has been advised that lane is to be returned to its original state. The position with the Methodist Chapel is that an outline application, supported by a Needs Appraisal carried out by the applicant, seeking permission to erect a replacement dwelling has been lodged with the District Council. The Parish Council and the Community Planning Group who support the VDS recommendation that the land should be retained for community use have opposed this application.

If you do have a view on any of these important issues it would be helpful to know what you feel so that I can bring pressure to bear on the council for action to be taken. If you would like further information on these or any other subject then please do contact me and I shall try to help.

Paul Rogerson
County Councillor
01494 488315

A policewoman stopped a car that was swaying irregularly and told the driver to get out of the car. "You're staggering", she said. "You're not so bad yourself", he replied.



Windmill Under 5s



By the time you read this we

will all be on our summer holidays and after such a busy summer term the children and Mums were certainly ready for it!

Our new supervisor Rachel has introduced lots of new and exciting things for the children and the summer term saw the outside play shed turned into a beach café. The excellent weather has enabled the children to get lots of fresh air and enjoy the various themes for each week. These included, sun safety, fun at the seaside, gardening and bug hunting and of course we couldn't forget the world cup! Lots of flags were made and this also encouraged the children to appreciate other cultures and how we all have different flags. For Father's day the dad's all received handmade cards and paper weights in various shapes and colours.

We are very lucky at Windmill Under 5s to have a fantastic team of parent's and carers who have worked so hard over the last term to raise funds and generally join in with the day to day running of the Pre-School. The outside play area now has a mural painted on it thanks to a team of talented mums who worked over several weekends to create a bright and cheery scene. We have had two clothes sales and a grand draw

raising a total of £2,170.10. This would not be possible without so much help – Thank you! After all that we had a mum's night out at the Black Horse and managed to finish our conversations (all children were safely tucked up in bed).

We have had two out of school events this term. The first took place at the sports field on a hot Sunday afternoon when 91 of us enjoyed a family Barbecue. There were lots of games, music and face painting. The atmosphere was lovely and the children and parents were able to relax and enjoy the day. Then our summer trip took us to Meade Open Farm and the children were able to milk a cow, feed the sheep and play in the park. It is lovely to see the children all socializing together and watching as they make new friends.

Our Sports Day will take place on the last day of term, after the copy deadline but I'm sure lots of fun will be had by everyone!

The summer holidays are long and so that the children and mums can meet up we have arranged to make Wednesday's our picnic days.

Finally, good luck to our four girls who are leaving to go to 'big school'. For those returning and our new starters we look forward to the autumn term with great excitement as there will be lots of new topics to keep everyone occupied.

Karen Hodgton, Chair

Letters to the Editor – continued

KILN LANE (CHAPTER 3)

I am pleased to report that, on a blisteringly hot July day, a site meeting was held in the hope of finally resolving the long-running 'battle of the concrete'. Despite the short notice that we were given, the meeting was well-attended by village residents, who left the two representatives from Buckinghamshire County Council in absolutely no doubt that the existing concrete was wholly unacceptable. After what politicians like to refer to as 'a full and frank discussion', Mr. Putnam has offered to carry out a two-stage scheme which might provide a way forward. The first stage would be the removal of the concrete to which so many of us have objected; the second stage would be the laying of a foot (300mm) of crushed concrete and six inches (150mm) of road planings. These would then be sealed with a layer of tar and coated with crushed flint chips to give the surface a more natural appearance. For a better

idea of what the surface would look like, there is a similar one at the Speen end of the lane, beside Omar Lodge.

The next step, it seems to me, is for anyone with a view on how they would wish the lane to look in the future to consider the proposal and to decide whether they would find it acceptable. If so then the Parish Council can then convey our collective views to the County Council in order for them to draw up detailed specifications. If not, then we will continue to search for a solution that satisfies the majority of village residents, rather than just the planners in Aylesbury. If you would like to see the proposal in full, copies are available either from me (tel. 01844 344606; e-mail johnclarketyler@gmail.com) or from Joanne Taylor at the County Council (tel. 01296 383410; email jtaylor@buckscc.gov.uk).

John Tyler

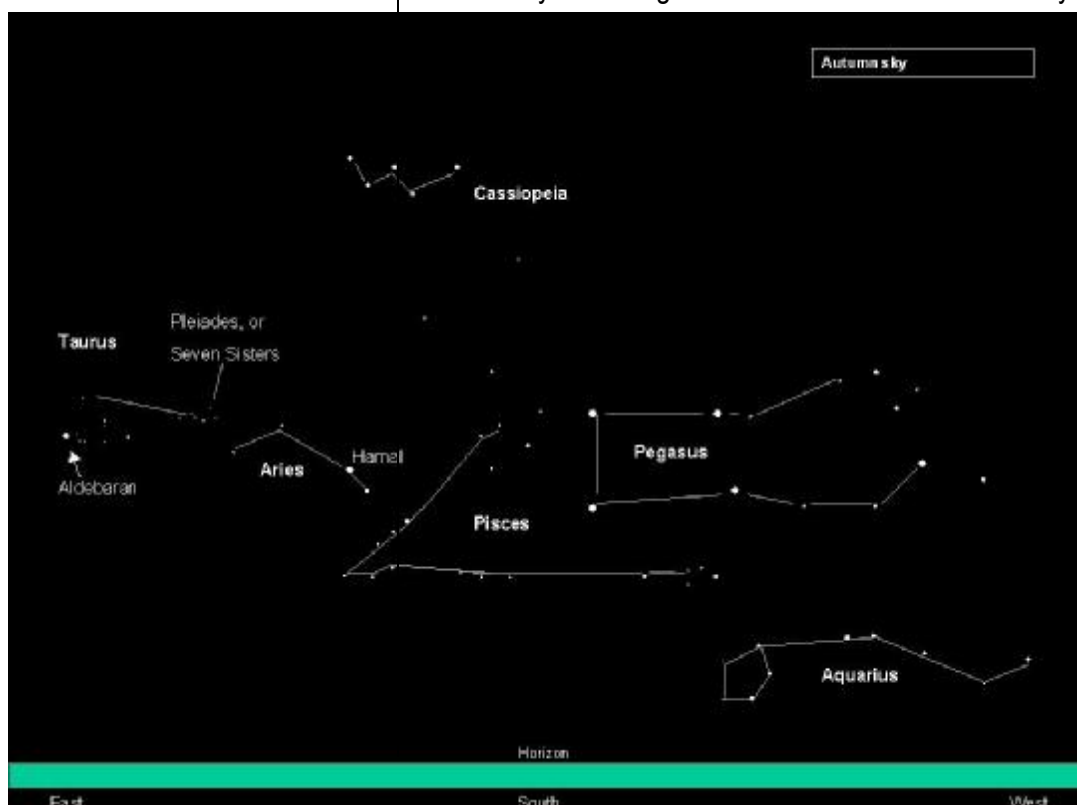
As the Earth continues its lap around the Sun, giving new views around the corner of our galaxy and space beyond, we welcome the varied star patterns and sky jewels of autumn. On a dark evening, the Zodiac constellations of Aquarius, the V-form of Pisces, and little Aries, with Taurus following in late evening dominate the skies. Above them lie the flying horse of Pegasus and the 'W' shaped Cassiopeia (a mythical Queen of Ethiopia).

The Zodiac constellations are 12 of the 88 constellations to be seen from Earth and are picked out (by astrologers especially!) as they lie on the same line which the Sun appears to follow through the sky (known as the Ecliptic). The names and shapes of the constellations were only agreed in 1930, ending the previous chaos when anyone could make up their own names and publish them. As you can imagine, this did not help anyone find their way around the sky or help scientific research – it was like having different published maps of Lacey Green, each with different names for the streets. The autumn Zodiac patterns have some of the larger but fainter constellations. From the right, as you look at the southern sky in the early to late evening, is Aquarius. This is meant to depict the Water Carrier pouring water from a jar (though

constellations rarely resemble their iconic characters!).

To the left of Aquarius is the large V-shape of Pisces – two fishes supposedly tied together at their tails. You need nice dark skies (and Lacey Green is famously free of light pollution) to make out the V, as it does not contain very bright stars. Aries the Ram follows next, with its brightest star Hamal shining from a fairly close 66 light years away (so you are seeing it as it was 66 years ago).

As Autumn progresses, Taurus the Bull to the left of Aries, rises from the horizon to higher in the sky in the evenings, with the easy-to-see bright orange star of Aldebaran marking the eye of the beast – this is about the same distance from us as Hamal. Also in Taurus is the open star cluster of about 100 suns known as the Pleiades, sometimes called the Seven Sisters, which is a dazzling sight in binoculars. If you can recognise and remember two or three of these constellations, people will think you're a genius – so it's well worth a try!



Lacey Green & Loosley Row Sports & Social Club

TENNIS SECTION

The club has continued to attract new members over the last twelve months and retain the hardy Lacey Green faithfuls. This is despite a general lack of communication to members regarding club activities. Having been re-elected as Chairman I shall endeavour to be more diligent in keeping everyone more informed.

The club teams have seen some changes this year. The Men's team is in a state of redevelopment, bringing in youth and energy to complement the cunning "life begins at 40 year olds". (Does it heck!!!). Unfortunately we had to lose the Women's II and Mixed II teams. So far this year we have had mixed results from all the team - this happens to be the same every year I gather!

Club nights have changed to Thursday nights from 6pm onwards. This happens to coincide with cricket practise so there is an opportunity to socialise with other sporting sections. The cricketers also usually open the bar - an added incentive to turn up and practise your tennis skills. I look forward to seeing more of you at the courts in the near future. As usual we will have an Autumn tournament in early September. Details will be published later. For membership details please contact our club secretary at Rose Cottage, Main Road, Lacey Green, HP27 0QU.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our new coach, Steve Bell, for stepping in and coaching club members in recent months. He has been a real hit with ladies, and I gather the kids think he is great too!! In addition we will be losing Ian Ward to pastures greener and wetter. He has been relocated to Scotland to follow his RAF duties. On behalf of the club, I must convey our gratitude for all the hard work he has put in, attending meetings, playing matches and maintaining the courts. We wish him well for the future.

G Biswas
Club Chairman

CRICKET SECTION

I'm disappointed. With both our teams. It takes them so long to begin to play to their full potential, which I can only put down to lack of early practice. In the last two weeks (early July) they have just begun to show a real desire to battle to win matches.

Unfortunately, after ten matches other teams who do practice and play sometimes twice, sometimes three times a week, have gone so far ahead on points that they cannot be caught. Having said that, the 1st XI have just posted excellent wins over Holmer Green and Widmer End - the latter a nail-biting finish. Widmer End scored 167-9. The Green in reply lost some quick wickets but good knocks from Bob Dell and Duncan Palmer helped move the score along but when they were out the bowlers came to the rescue. Martin Fewell, who handles a bat better than some batsmen I know, joined by a determined Luke Weston knocked off the last forty or so runs as though it was something they did every day. A great finish.

The 1st XI has so far won three, lost four, and three matches were rained off. So, come on lads, let's have some pre-season friendlies - even if they are evening matches - to get you playing at your best early on. I'm sure you have the ability and with practice, especially in the bowling department, could build a very good team.

The 2nd XI are not faring at all well - in the league, at least. They have so far lost six matches out of ten, winning only two, with two games washed out. It is, of course, never easy for the 2nds. The demands of the first team (often at the last minute) and the fact that several of their opponents are 1st XI teams stacks the odds against them. They have a good mix of senior and junior players, which should help to keep them from the relegation zone. Where they have excelled is in the K.O. cup. Their semi-final match against Hughenden Valley was a cracker! Some good early bowling from Dave Sanders and John Dell (much improved of late) kept H.V. down to 116 off their 16 eight ball overs with the fielders backing them all the way. And, by the way, the Green played throughout with only ten men - Robbie Brown being unavoidably detained at a heath fire. When they batted the whole team played their part heroes all!

The final of the K.O. competition will be played on August 20th at Hawridge against Ley Hill. If the lads play anything like they did against Hughenden Valley there will be at least one trophy coming to Lacey Green this year. Good luck, you Stiffs!

I've noticed that quite a few of the K.O. finals seem to be played at Hawridge. At Lacey Green we have a much better ground with more room to park and our facilities are as good if not better. So, next year, lads?

In my last report I had only just learned that our President had decided to retire. When I say 'our President', I mean both John and Joan West because they acted together - albeit, John quietly in the background. It would be impossible to calculate all the time, effort - and, yes - money they have put in to this club over the last twenty or so years. Joan has acted as organizer, treasurer, committee member, fund-raiser, as well as President. She has given her time to attend meetings in the dark, bitterly cold evenings of winter when less committed souls have failed to turn up. One of the instigators - if not the instigator - of bringing the pre-school group back to Lacey Green to enjoy the delightful setting which is our ground. No praise can be high enough for John and Joan for their efforts on behalf of this club over so many years. I'm not going to give a list of all they have done and given through the years - it would be far too long for this magazine anyway!

We have come to the end of an era. We are now without a President. Whether we can ever find anyone to match them, I seriously doubt. I don't blame them - Joan in particular for wanting to follow other pursuits. I

hope we shall see them on the ground from time to time - just to see how things are going. So, it's farewell in one sense and a heartfelt thank you for all you have done for us and Lacey Green Sports Club. Just a thought: I bet all Joan's relatives, friends and many others in the area will think their pockets are safe now! But will they be?

Robert Dell, Esq. has taken over from Joan as treasurer - he was already treasurer of the Cricket Section. Bob has plenty of innovative ideas for raising money and I'm sure the job is safe in his very capable hands. I understand a Horse Race night has been organized to take place shortly. These are always popular and very good fund-raisers. The club needs all the funds it can raise as it costs so much to run a club like ours nowadays - especially as the present members have much higher aspirations than we did years ago. A little bird has whispered in my ear that it is time for the sections to get together, work together for the club, and for more of the younger members to become involved.

Geoff Gomme

Exercise to Dance Music in our Village Hall!



Jazzercise

The original dance exercise phenomenon!

Each 60-minute workout is a fusion of dance and muscle toning movements choreographed to today's hottest music, including Top 40, jazz, country, funk, and classics. Our instructors make all the routines fun and easy-to-follow. Every class includes a gentle warm up, an aerobic workout, muscle toning and strengthening segment with weights, and a stretch finale.

Jazzercise

When you love your workout, results come easy. Jazzercise combines elements of jazz dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga, kickboxing and more to create truly effective programs of movements into fun dance routines set to fresh new music.

Every Tuesday at Lacey Green & Loosley Row Millennium Hall 7.00 – 8.00pm

For further information on all classes available please contact

Sue

01494 813968 / 07752 448026

info@jazzsue.co.uk

www.jazzsue.co.uk

Financial Planning

HIPs are coming

If you are considering moving home, you should be aware that Home Information Packs (HIPs) are looming on the horizon.

As most people would agree, the current home buying process has its problems. Some homebuyers (outside of Scotland, where the rules are different) may on some occasions have been gazumped (where the vendor accepts a higher price from someone else after the deal has been agreed) or had last minute difficulties with the process.

This is frustrating since the purchaser has already committed substantial time and money in the purchase: if it falls through, the money is lost.

To counter the government decided that vendors should be responsible for the cost of surveying the property, through the new Home Information Pack. In this way, if they accept a higher offer elsewhere the unsuccessful buyer will not have laid out so much money. On the other hand, if the purchaser suddenly decides to withdraw, the vendor is left with a large bill unless he or she can find another purchaser before the HIP becomes out of date; as it inevitably will, sooner or later.

However this does not appear to have occurred to Mr Prescott, who crested HIPs as part of the Housing Act 2004. Also many lenders have inferred that they will not accept a copy of a survey provide by the vendor of the property – they want there own one, paid for by the purchaser.

The precise content of the HIP has yet to be decided but it is likely to include a Home Condition Report (HCR) which will be similar in content to a current structural survey, plus proof of ownership, local authority searches, sale particulars and copies of any guarantees and warranties applying to the property.

There is a dispute about the cost of creating a HIP – which is unlikely to be resolved before the full content is known – but the government disputes estimates that this could be as much as £1,000 on average, citing £650 as a more likely level.

This will not just apply to those selling freehold properties: leasehold property will also be affected with additional information likely to be required. This

may include a copy of the lease, details of service charges, etc, etc.

We can expect a national “dry run” during this year, with an expected roll-out in June 2007. Hopefully there will be sufficient Home Inspectors to satisfy demand or the whole housing market could grind to a halt, with HIPs attracting a premium for those wishing to move quickly.

Unfortunately, while the government says 7,500 Inspectors are required, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors has indicated that only about 1,800 are currently in training or have qualified.

There has been a huge amount of discussion and comment about HIPs from lenders, solicitors, estate agents and surveyors and at the moment HIPs are not receiving a favourable reaction. The consensus of opinion is that HIPs will hold up the house buying process and will result in a much lower supply of property for sale in the market which in turn will increase house price.

The Conservatives are stated that if they return to government, they will cancel HIPs so it remains to be seen if they will actually be launched next year and if they are, maybe in a diluted form.

Also from a purely financial matter, the HIP cost will attract VAT – what a truly excellent way of the government raising some extra cash and think about it, it won't be a few thousand pounds raised.

Some financial journalists are already calling for, wait for it, “HIP replacements.”

STOP PRESS

Since this article was produced there has been a change for the requirement of the Home Condition Report (HCR). Although Home Information Packs will still be a requirement from June 2007, the HCR will not now be a requirement.

Watch this space if Home Information Packs will be diluted even further!

Steve Wilkinson



Seed Time and Harvest at

St. John The Evangelist, Lacey Green

(Rector – The Reverend Denise Critchell)

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

Hi all,

It's that time of year again – and don't we just give thanks for all the good things that surround us, sent from heaven above!

HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEKEND this year falls on Saturday 31st September and then Sunday 1st October at 10.00a.m. We will be having a harvest supper this year – so keep a watch on the notice-board for details of the Supper. We would love to have as many as possible join us for this traditional event. Also, come and see the Church traditionally decorated for Harvest, looking beautiful and giving God His glory! Also, in these difficult times we focus our prayers on all who work the land in increasingly difficult circumstances. They are a blessing to us.

Of course, August is a time of holiday for all – the Choir have a well-earned break, there are no Evensongs, no 11.30a.m. Family worship on the third Sunday (just for August). Our 10.00 a.m. Services each Sunday will be ALL-AGE FAMILY COMMUNION and will be about 55 minutes long to enable families to feel comfortable with little ones, easy songs as well as good hymns and interactive talks. So taste/try and see.

The Church will be having a few baptisms over the next few months including another adult baptism on the 17th September, which we are all looking forward to. It is great to see adult members being baptized and confirmed because they want to express their faith in Jesus for themselves. We saw 12 confirmed from this Church, with an additional five others from other Team Churches, by Bishop Alan on June 19th. The Church

looked wonderful, the service was fabulous and filled with the presence of our loving God. The Bishop commented on how God was especially present with us here. (If you want to know what that feels like then pay us a visit!). The church team members here at Lacey Green decorated the church and it looked stunning. We are so lucky to have our own church servicing our villages of Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen. We need to preserve it for the future generations by using it regularly. So, I leave you with our regular services:

August:

8.00am HC (BCP) 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays

10.00am All Age Family Communion each week.

September:

8.00am HC (BCP) 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays

10.00am 1st Sunday All-Age HC

10.00am 2nd Sunday Sung Holy Communion (with Sunday School)

10.00a.m. 3rd Sunday Sung Holy Communion (with Sunday School)

Followed by 11.30 Family worship for toddlers and family

10.00am 4th & 5th Sundays with Sunday school.

Sunday school is for children over five. Come and see!!

ALPHA COURSE STARTS IN SEPTEMBER – See Notice-board

Hope that you are all well and happy. Give me a ring if you wish to see me - on 01844-347741. With my love,

Denise Critchell xx
Vicar of St. John the Evangelist

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 Silverman (nee Cahill)	01844 343643

Village Diary Aug 15 – Nov15

All events at Lacey Green Village Hall unless otherwise specified. Includes some at Speen and North Dean

The Maize Maze will be open during the whole School Summer Holidays

Aug 27	Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
Sep 2	Horticultural Society Annual Show (see loose insert)	4pm
Sep 5	81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month)	2pm
Sep 6	Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Sep 9	Speen Ball at Willotts Farm Marquee	
Sep 11	Parish Council Meeting at Lacey Green Village Hall *	7.30pm
Sep 13	Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30 am
Sep 14	Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
Sep 20	Horticultural Society (3rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)	8pm
Sep 25		
- 27	Happy Wanderers' midweek away	
Oct 3	81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month)	2pm
Oct 3	Parish Council Meeting at Speen Village Hall *	7.30pm
Oct 4	Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Oct 7	Windmill WI Jumble Sale	2pm start of sale
Oct 11	Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Oct 12	Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
Oct 29	Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
Nov 1	Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Nov 7	81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month)	2pm
Nov 8	Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Nov 9	Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
Nov 11	Windmill Artists Bistro & Arts Exhibition	10.30am – 4pm
Nov 11	Lacey Green Singers Concert	TBA
Nov 13	Parish Council Meeting at Lacey Green Village Hall *	7.30pm
Nov 15	Horticultural Society (3rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)	8pm



* 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 including in Speen & North Dean

Nov 24		
& 25	LG Productions & The Command Performers "Allo Allo"	7.30 for 8pm
Dec 10	Lacey Green Singers Christmas Concert	TBA
Dec 12	Parish Council meeting at Speen Village Hall *	7.30pm

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**CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE WINTER EDITION**  
**October 17th 2006**  
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