

HALLMARK

THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE



"Homeward Ploughman"
by Brian Panter

NOVEMBER 2006

NUMBER 200

ESTABLISHED 1970

HALLMARK

THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE

WINTER 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 Hodghton (Chair), Lee Harte (Treasurer), Rachel Panter (Vice-Chair),
Jo Tope (Secretary), Karen Hodghton, Betty Tyler, Norman Tyler

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The Spring Hallmark will be published in February - closing date for copy is January 17th

Chairman's Report



Welcome to the last edition of Hallmark for 2006. This is an extra special edition as it is actually the 200th. At 4 issues a year that is of course 25 years. Over the years many changes have been seen, some good and of course some not so

good! We are intending to mark the occasion in a special way but as yet, haven't finalized the details. Watch the Hall's boards and posters for details.

Unfortunately, the letters page in the last edition of Hallmark caused quite a stir. Many people believed that the letter relating to the school was in some way an opinion of mine or the editor's. So to hereby set the

November 2006

record straight, I personally had no prior knowledge of the letter being received or printed and it in no way echoes our (mine or the editor's) thoughts or feelings. Personally I felt this was wholly the wrong place to air such views but c'est la vie, we do of course live in a democratic society. You can read the responses on our letters page.

Moving swiftly on, everything is running smoothly at the Village Hall. All weekday evenings and most sessions during the week are full with lots for everyone to do. Please support as many of the local organizations as possible. They all work exceptionally hard to keep village life thriving and the coffee mornings are proving to be a great success.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2007.

Clive Hodgton, Chairman, Village Hall

From the Editor

OUR 200th EDITION



We are investigating several plans for celebrating this, our 200th edition. We will keep you informed when all our researches and consultations have

been concluded.

We are already backing Michael Hardy's major project of producing a book based largely on meticulously

researched articles by Miles Marshall and many others. He hopes to complete it by the spring of 2007. It will have a comprehensive index, which will enable you to look up a particular building or village service. It will deal with shops and pubs, how and when various services were brought to the villages and give a good picture of how life has changed over the last century.

I'm pleased to report that my chemotherapy & radiotherapy treatments have been completed. All subsequent tests found no remaining signs of cancer. I'm improving in strength and feel fully able to do the editing of Hallmark. Mike Piercy will be helping me from the next issue onward – but please continue to send anything to me, details as on page 1.

Season's greetings to everybody!

Letter from Hallmark's Founder, Ted Janes

As founder of Hallmark, the Editor has asked me to write a note to celebrate this 200th edition. Now, when you have passed 80, one doesn't feel like writing, but one can sit back and reflect over those 35 years of Hallmark's life. Is the village in such a good state of health? To me the answer is no.

Back in the 70s, we had a very old Village Hall with a very busy local social calendar centred around it. Today we have a nice new Hall but the home to more outside organisations and functions than locals.

We have lost a lot that was dear to us, Harvey's Shop at Loosley Row, the Post Office with Mary very much the centre hub of the community, Hickman's Stores, the happy days when May and Bert were always on hand to help the village. The crusty bread from Sydney at the bake-house delivered with his beloved horse and cart, The Crown public house where the cricket match was always verbally replayed on a Saturday night. Both the chapels have closed their doors, luckily the Church is still popular, so also is the School, in fact so much that it attracts many pupils from outside the village, with their parents only interested in the School and not with local organisations. The Residents Association is no longer active; likewise the Twinning Association is dormant. The

Sports Club often appeals for more support, despite its refurbished Club House. Luckily, both WIs are still going strong, but perhaps the ladies have more staying power.

Big, popular functions have died; the Fête, Village Day, The Turkey Supper and the bi-annual big show by Lacey Green Productions.

It seems to me we have become a tired village – can't be bothered any more, or is it just me? If I am right, it presents a challenge to all new residents. Let's put Lacey Green and Loosley Row back where it used to be – a very vigorous community.

Great that Hallmark is still going strong – congratulations for a 200th edition.

Ted Janes

Thank You From My Wife

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who were so supportive during Norman's recent illness. The messages and cards were much appreciated and it was a great comfort knowing that there were so many friends I could call upon if needed.

I would also like to thank the friends who volunteered to take Norman to the Churchill Hospital in Oxford for his daily radiotherapy treatments. It was wonderful being surrounded by such love and kindness.

Bette Tyler

On the Farm

I very much appreciated the letter from Ted Janes printed in the last edition. It doesn't seem thirty years ago that he suggested the idea to me. Knowing that farmers rarely find time to communicate with the public – ultimately their customers – it seemed an opportunity to redress this a little. That is what I'm trying to do and still will, until you say "enough", that is.

To prove Ted is absolutely correct saying that I keep writing of the demise of the dairy industry, here are a few figures so you can make your own judgement. There have been four dispersal sales of large herds in this area this autumn, and today I learned of one booked for the spring. I cannot think of any small herds that are left at all. Our nearest neighbours are at Bledlow and at North Dean, both large. It really is not surprising when you consider that in 1996 producers were getting 26.5p per litre (15p per pint) and ten years later we receive 17.6 pence per litre (10p per pint). In an attempt to counterbalance this, we have increased our cow numbers to spread our overheads further. Producing up to 6,000 litres a day, this is not an amount to sell at the farmers' market. We are in the hands of the dairies and they are in the hands of the supermarkets. This autumn the dairy announced that, due to their increased fuel costs, they would pay us 0.25p per litre less. Approximately £100 a week less. The fact that all our suppliers increased their charges to us and we had increased fuel costs of our own were just too bad. Is there anything else where increased costs are not passed on to the consumer?

Well, there might just well be. During the last 30 years, the price of wheat went down in a similar way until the amount grown was substantially reduced. There was a good store in the world reserves but now I understand there is only about enough for a few weeks supply. Not a lot. After going down and down, last year the price turned a corner and this year has gone back up some more. Since we sold ours, it has continued to rise but one is not to know that when a deal is done. There were a number of contributing factors. A lot of wheat land has been given over to crops for oil production, oil seed rape, soya in the USA, Brazil and Argentina, great exporting countries, sunflowers in Europe. Add to that the fact that this year Argentina had drought conditions, likewise Australia. The standard of living in many Asian countries is rising. India is now a net importer of grain and, if the consumption of meat increases, it is not just grazing but concentrated feed, ie cereal, that will be needed. The droughts may just be a one off, that we

cannot tell, but less saturated fats and more oils look here to stay.

One of the most important things that is happening is the change from producing crops for food to bio-fuels. It is already happening in a big way in some countries. As far as I can tell, we are way behind in this field. I have a load of information to get to grips with but I haven't had time to research it properly. I just know it is important. Next time, I hope.

Anyway, Ted, I couldn't resist another moan. I hope you still forgive me.

Joan West

Lady Bateman Celebrates her 100th Birthday

The editor has asked me to write an appreciation of Lady Bateman. I have written a certain amount knowing her to be a private benefactor in more ways than I know, and always a private person who refused publicity in her support of both Speen and Lacey Green schools in their development.

One thing that should be said is that she was the President of the Sports Club, without whom there would be no village sports ground, for she purchased the land specifically for that purpose.

Her son Robert and his wife Paddy moved into Grymsdyke after she and Sir Geoffrey moved to Sussex. Their children were with ours at Lacey Green School until they emigrated. Over thirty years later, we met up with them at Lady Bateman's when they were visiting her. She appeared extremely well then and we last heard that she still is.

She still gets her copy of Hallmark, so it is an opportune way to send from all who recall her with appreciation very special birthday good wishes, to add to the congratulations already sent to her by the Queen.

Joan West



Bigamy is having one wife too many.
Monogamy is the same.

Oscar Wilde

What's On at The Environment Centre

FOR THOSE OF US INTERESTED IN SAVING OUR PLANET

It's well worth getting on the postal or Email mailing list to receive **Ecobuzz**, the Centre's newsletter, to learn in advance of what is coming to interest all ages. Unfortunately, some of these interesting events don't get publicized until it's too late to include them in Hallmark.

For example, **The Nuclear Power Debate** was an exhibition which ran there from 16th September until November 5th. A section was devoted to Alternative Energies – Wind Power, Wave Power, Biomass, Solar Power. Did you ever hear of Gorlov's Helical Turbine, the DNA-like structure that can generate vast quantities of electricity? And we could have seen what one small school at Brill has done! Greenpeace's proposals for Decentralised Power were shown. Too great a percentage of electricity is lost en route to its destination.

And The Environment Centre proudly announced their new employee, a part time Energy Conservation Officer, who will be advising on energy conservation – or how to cut your electricity bills!

Some interesting thoughts and facts in the last issue of *Ecobuzz* included:

Use less energy is the easy solution and can be done in many ways, including turning it off or down (see www.savingenergy.co.uk)

Go green at home: recycle as much as you can, eat local foods to save transport fuel and costs, use rechargeable batteries, bio-degradable detergents and low-energy bulbs.

Invest in solutions: wind-generator, eco-kettle, solar panels.

Water: World Health Organization says we need 30 litres a day. Average UK use is 200 litres/day. Thames Water leaks over 100 litres/day for each of us.

Wind turbines: We have 40% of Europe's wind, yet it supplies only 0.5% of our needs. New triple-helix blades are quieter and more efficient.

On the road: Make your next car a hybrid with a petrol-electric engine. Drive 10mph slower to save 25% fuel – or drive less.

In flight: The world's 16,000 commercial jet planes produce over 700 million tons of CO2 per year – more than Africa's entire output. A single flight to the USA emits 2 tons.

And if we don't 150 million people in coastal zones face being displaced by rising sea levels in 50 years, the poorest countries being most effected (but parts of our islands will be included).

Some future events include:

18 Nov-21 Dec *Stir-up Sunday / Winter Festivals*

- Family fun & activities for children

9 Dec *The Holly & The Ivy*

- Decorative fun for Christmas, 2-4pm

2 Jan-25 Feb *Funges Meadow*

- exhibition of photography by David French

15 Jan *Beekeeper's Perspective*

- talk by beekeeper Clive Hill, 7.45pm

Opening hours are Tues & Thurs 11.30am-3.30pm, Sats 11am-3pm, Suns 2.30-4.30pm.

The Environment Centre is at Holywell Mead, Bassetsbury Lane, High Wycombe, HP11 1QX. Their phone number is 01494 511 585. Office hours are 9am - 4pm Tue to Sat.

Their Email address is manager@ecobuzz.org.uk.

Their website is www.ecobuzz.org.uk

Lacey Green Parish Community Plan

The main news is about the Methodist Chapel site.

As readers know, we were keen to redevelop this site to provide a shop (with post office), meeting room, library, and some social housing, but had met a significant obstacle. A private individual had bought the site, and submitted an outline application to build a house. This application was referred by the Planners to the District Council's Development Control Committee, for discussion on 18th October, with a recommendation that the application should be approved. Four village representatives spoke to oppose the application. There was considerable debate, with some support for the application, but more than one District Councillor spoke strongly in support of the concept of local village plans. Rather to our surprise, the committee on a vote overwhelmingly rejected the application. So, for the moment at least, we are back in business.

It was an interesting and encouraging example of democracy in action. Before the meeting, when I was preparing this note for Hallmark, I had penned a comment to the effect that decisions on many local issues are not made by the Parish Council or the residents, but largely by permanent officials. I even expressed doubts about the influence of elected representatives in the higher levels of local government. It was nice to be proved wrong. It would be much nicer if the same could be said about the developments in Kiln Lane.

Apart from the more mundane issues to be addressed such as parking, traffic, the Parish Plan will include a section on future trends and how they may affect the Parish. What kind of trends are we talking about? They include climate change, political strategies, sociological trends, water usage, energy requirements, ageing population, waste disposal and recycling, to name but a few. It is interesting to consider the effects of various developments in the recent past – e.g. commuting, supermarkets, the national health service, easier credit, town and country planning, anti-fraud prevention measures, television, computers, elf and safety (thanks Boris).

Lateral thinking is required. If you would like to give your views on what the future holds for us all, and in particular how the village might be affected, do tell us. Anything from notes on the back of an envelope, or a 30-page essay would be equally welcome.

Welcome packs seem to have been well received. What we do need on an on-going basis is a tip off from residents when someone new has just moved in. Everybody in the village can help by letting us know. Don't worry about repeat information!

The Lacey Green Parish Community Plan Steering Group has operated since 2002. It investigates what issues are important to the community and tries to implement improvements where these are necessary. 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



WDC notice in Church Lane dissuading speculators from buying plots of land

Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI

Now that we are well and truly into the season of autumn, we look back with pleasure to the long hot days of summer. As we have no meeting in August, it was arranged for us to go to the Waterfront Café at Benson to have a cream tea. A fleet of cars set off from the Village Hall on the afternoon of 10th August and ferried us all to Benson. The weather was a bit "iffy" on that day, so we ate inside – and very good it was too. After tea, we sat or walked by the river and generally had a



Bette helping herself to the cream



Enjoying the sun on the waterfront



It wasn't that cold!

sociable and relaxing time.

In September, Mrs DEAKIN came to tell us about her travels in the deep south of the USA. We learnt quite a lot about the troubles during the civil rights movement which, of course, took place in that region.

At the October meeting we had a traditional Magic Lantern Show given by Mr T BROWN and Mr G CASBEARD. The various slides were all very old, dating from the 1870s to 1900s and were very rare. Some were cartoon-like strips to which the gentlemen had written amusing verses. Others depicted scenes of the times – topical advertisements and the first moving images. Some black and white slides had been hand coloured and were real works of art. It was a very entertaining afternoon.

This year 14 teams took part in our Annual Village Quiz – slightly fewer than last year, but this continues to be a popular event in the village calendar. Jamie Carter was once again the quiz master and he provided us with some very challenging questions. Where does he get them from, one wonders! Loosley Row and Lacey Green WI came first with 170 points. Joint second were the Church Choir and High Wycombe U3A, each with 155 points. Well done, everybody.

Jamie donated his fee of £30 to the charity "Lighthouse" and the WI gave the profit of £120 to the Village Hall



Doreen de Grey



The children and staff have all returned to Pre-School after their summer holidays full of enthusiasm for the new term. The alterations to the Sports Club have given us lots more space and we are now able to enlarge the outside play area. This will enable the children to make better use of the ride-on toys as well as lots more room for everyone to enjoy 'messy' play with paint, sand and water. The lovely weather during October has meant that the children have played outside as much as possible.

The theme for the first half-term has been 'All about me'. The children have been encouraged to talk about themselves and their families as well as investigating the five senses. Lots of art work has been produced and some very tasty pizzas were made! This coincided with the children having their school photographs taken, just in time to make excellent Christmas presents.

The Mums and Dads were all kept busy with our Indoor Car Boot sale. We raised £586.50 and this money will go towards the work on the outside play area.

The second half-term will begin with a Halloween party in the Village Hall and then it will be all systems go for the Christmas festivities. Our Christmas Play will be on Monday December 11th in the Village Hall and all parents, grandparents and visitors are most welcome. On the last day of term our Christmas Party will of course have a special guest and plenty of party food!

This will be the last day for thirteen of our children as they will all be going to St. John's School in January. Sadly it will also be my last day. My own son will be moving on and I would like to take this opportunity to say 'THANK YOU' to everyone for their help and support over the past year. It has been a privilege to be the Chair of such a great Pre-School where the staff and parents dedicate so much time and energy into providing the best start in life for all the children in their care. If you are considering a Pre-School for your child, then please come along to our Open Day on December 6th or to arrange an alternative time call **Rachel Manning** on **07821-554343**. I feel confident that you will like what you see. Personally I look forward to returning with my next son in 2008.

Karen Hodgton (chair)

Introducing our new Police Officer

PC 3768 CHRIS ALLMAN

Hello, I am Pc Chris Allman and I'm the Thames Valley police officer dedicated to a number of villages including Lacey Green and Loosley Row. I have been a police officer for a number of years but have only recently taken on the role of Area Beat Officer for the villages, having transferred over from High Wycombe. I am now based at Princes Risborough police office, where I am contactable. However, I endeavour to get out into the villages at least twice a day. We are very fortunate to have a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Claire Philpott, who is also based at Princes Risborough. Claire is spread a bit thinly but gets out to the villages whenever she can. Like most police officers, we work a shift system and so are around a combination of evenings and daytime. When we are not on duty, you are covered by either our colleagues at Risborough or High Wycombe

This local region is at the forefront of the new Neighbourhood Policing system being introduced by the government. This will enable police, partners and the public to work closely together to solve crime and disorder problems, as well as improving conditions across the neighbourhood with a feeling of security. My role as your Area Beat Officer is to work directly with villagers in identifying problems most important to you, thus giving local people a say in how these issues are policed.

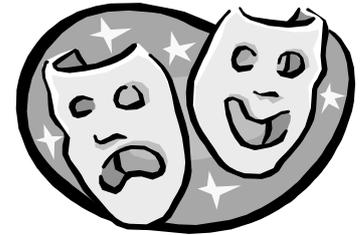
I aim to be there to assist villagers and to provide a police presence locally. I ask people to approach me with any issues they have and I will endeavour to assist, if appropriate.

As stated, we are available at Princes Risborough police office. If you wish to get a message to us, the main switchboard number is **08458 505505** – they will put you through so you may leave a voicemail message for us. If you feel in immediate threat, then don't hesitate to use **999**.

Regards,

PC 3768 Chris Allman

Lacey Green Productions together with The Command Performers



“Allo Allo” Dinner Theatre

We are delighted to tell you that, because of the incredible demand for tickets for “Allo Allo”, we are providing an extra chance to see the show.

“Allo Allo” will now be performed as a full dinner theatre on Friday and Saturday, November 24th and 25th in the Village Hall. At the time of writing, all the tickets for these two performances have been sold but we are operating a waiting list and will fit you in if we possibly can.

In order to try to accommodate all those who want to see “Allo Allo”, there will be an extra chance to see it on Thursday, November 23rd. We are billing this as a “preview” for which “invitations” are available. Unfortunately, we are unable to serve dinner with this preview but the bar will be open and nibbles will be on the tables. We shall not charge for this preview but our audience will be invited to make a donation. “Invitations” for the preview are also going very well, so please make sure you obtain yours as soon as possible.

All the profits from our shows are donated to charity and we hope to make a big donation this time. We have decided to support *Habitat for Humanity's* “Hopebuilders” campaign. *Habitat for Humanity* is a housing charity, working in over 100 countries, to eradicate poverty housing and homelessness. Since 1976, they have built 200,000 homes for 1 million people, all of whom invest up to 500 hours of their own labour in building their new homes and pay back the cost over time and at an affordable rate. We are hoping to raise at least £1235, which is enough to build one new home in the developing world.

Theatre at Home

Early next year LGP, along with The Command Performers, will be reviving its Theatre at Home, bringing you interesting plays, parts of plays and sketches at the home of one of our members.

This time there will be 9 different scenes to amuse you, to interest you, to annoy you, to confuse you and, possibly, to slightly shock you.

Admission is by invitation. For a stimulating evening with wine and good company, contact us now.

For ticket and invitation details for either “Allo Allo” or our Theatre at Home, please telephone either **07899 797968** or **01844 344207**.

Free Local Bus Travel in Bucks for Over-60s & Disabled

After 9am Mondays to Fridays or at any time at the weekend, anyone holding a new concessionary bus pass can use local buses completely free. This is available to people living in the county, as long as your journey starts or finishes in Buckinghamshire. Only long distance coach services are excluded from the scheme, which came into force from 1st April.

If you cannot use the bus but prefer the train, taxis or Dial-A-Ride, there may be an opportunity to get tokens entitling you to reduced price travel with these alternatives.

Apparently, from April 2008 the scheme will be extended to cover local buses throughout England, wherever you live!

Full details can be obtained from Wycombe District Council offices.



One of the most difficult things to give away is kindness, for it is usually returned

Mark Ortman

School's "Living History" days at Hughenden Manor

On Monday 2 October and Wednesday 4 October St Johns took 90 children and 8 adults to experience a wonderful 'Living History' day of activities at Hughenden Manor. As part of their study of war time Britain, the children came dressed as evacuees and were encouraged to bring an authentic war-time lunch. The children were very surprised to find they had to go without many items of what they considered to be basic food, such as chocolate, sweets, cakes, fresh fruit and fizzy drinks. Bread and dripping followed by small pieces of mouldy fruit and washed down with fresh cold water didn't sound very appealing!



Group photographs were taken in the delightful orchard on a glorious autumn morning, reminiscent of days gone by. This idyll was soon shattered by the bellowing voice of Corporal Wisdom. A short sharp application of military organisation soon saw the children standing in smart straight lines. The corporal then gave an excellent 'hands on' explanation to the children on the causes of the Second World War and demonstrated the events that led up to the miraculous evacuation of Dunkirk.



The children then undertook several different activities which they thoroughly enjoyed.



On returning to school, the children were asked to write an account of their day. The following four diary extracts are a small example of their recollections of a very enjoyable day which has, without doubt, been a real catalyst for further developing our children's knowledge in this important era of our country's history.

SOME EXTRACTS FROM CHILDRENS' DIARIES:

"... we tried a variety of different activities including making a bed, plane spotting, peeling potatoes and disposing of unexploded bombs... The bomb disposal activity was my favourite."

"... we went and had a typical World War Two lunch: plain bread, beef fat and an apple. It was horrible!"

"... Finally, my thoughts of the day were that I could not have had a more fantastic time and I feel I am lucky to live in the 21st century."

Andrew Quinn

"For the next activity we had to make a bed and lay out our kit as shown by Sergeant Wisdom which looked really hard. When I picked up the soap it stank horribly. I got 8 of 10 though."

"After we ate our 1940's lunch the group moved inside for a talk from Mrs Walton followed by six different activities. One of the activities was to visit the original air raid shelter that was used during the war. All I could see was a dark gloomy shelter that went on for ages. During the air raids up to 100 people managed to squeeze in it!"

"my final thoughts are – I have had a fantastic day at Hughenden Manor and I am sure I will never forget my day there as it gave me a good idea about what it was like to live at Hughenden Manor through the Second World War."

Harriet Watson

"I felt like a complete lemon in my outfit: cap, overcoat, grey trousers and a cotton shirt. When we arrived we met Corporal Wisdom who was very strict and shouted lots of instructions at us. "

"I liked disarming bombs the best as it was really exciting and we had to disarm them very quickly and carefully."

"My lunch was marmite sandwiches, a digestive biscuit, and two very plain cakes. Whilst we were eating Corporal Wisdom told us a story about some one who jumped out a plane with out his parachute and survived falling thousands of feet and didn't die. Oh my goodness!"

"I had a very good day and it was really good fun with all the different activities and I think I have learnt a great deal. It was excellent!"

Harry Reed

"It was hilarious watching other people dressed in 1940's costumes, but I soon realised everyone else found me funny too."

"I liked visiting the air raid shelter most and was shaped in a capital T but we weren't allowed in because it was unsafe and there was a rare species of bat inside."

"My final thoughts about the day were that it was the best school trip I have ever been on with lots of great activities that kept us busy all day. I would recommend this trip to everyone and enjoyed wearing the evacuees costume."

William Woodward



Letters to the Editor

ST JOHN'S COMBINED SCHOOL

I am a grandparent of advanced years, probably having no place in any discourse on St John's School, but I consider someone who can be so nauseatingly arch in referring to his "Young Warrior" does the lad no service and should be prepared for the rest of us to regard his letter as fanciful.

Brian Panter

~~~~~  
Having read the letter numerous times in Hallmark referring to St. John's School, we feel it necessary to respond. The parents of the 'warrior' (the definition in the dictionary strangely means "fighter") obviously have their son's best interests at heart. We actually found the letter to be very contradictory. If these alleged events were happening to our own children we would certainly follow the official complaints procedure, given the severity of the accusations. All schools, even Pre-Schools, clearly state in their Policy documents how these work. Equally, we are sure that any child allegedly having to put up with this kind of treatment would actually be glad to leave - not sad as his parent has stated.

St. John's School has an excellent reputation and we are personally proud to be able to send our children there. Our sons will be joining Mrs McGinty in the reception class in January 2007, along with many other children whose parents have no experience of life within the education system. Every child deserves a good education and to feel safe within their school surroundings.

We are not totally naïve, we feel a great sense of anxiety as they go off to 'big' school and appreciate life will throw many things at them, and of course, some of these will occur during their school days. We feel confident that, should our children experience any difficulties or, worse still, be the instigators of any such incidents, the Staff will act promptly and appropriately in order to deal with these matters as and when they arise.

We hope that the young boy concerned finds happiness as he enters the next stage of his education and equally that all the present and future children at St. John's School receive the care that they deserve.

This letter represents our views as mothers and is in no way the opinion of any organisations that we belong to.

**Karen Hodgton and Sharon Wilkes**

## Letter to St John's School from a Parent

Mr Graham L King, Chair of Governors ....

18th October, 2006

Dear Mr King,

In response to your newsletter of the 11th October with regard to bullying at St John's, as reported locally, I was unaware of this letter and it's contents but feel compelled to write to you with regards this subject.

My child entered St John's at year 3 in September 2005 and sustained verbal antagonism from a few boys who were then in year 4. This started in his second term at the school and it culminated in me asking to see Mr de Wolf on the 2nd of the yearly child/parent review evenings. I thought it would be in my son's best interest to make the school aware that this was happening as I thought that it might accelerate to physical exchanges between them. I felt if the school realised there was a history between him and these individuals if anything was to happen they would know it was not an isolated action. I did not expect anything to come of this and was delighted when my son came home from school the very next day and told me that these individuals had been seen by the headmaster and had been made to apologise to him. This course of action resulted in making life very much easier for my son.

I do not think bullying is a problem at St John's and if I was ever worried as regards this issue again I would not hesitate in seeking help from the staff. Unfortunately, bullying behaviour is adopted by the few who feel inadequate in some area. I feel sure that this has nothing whatsoever to do with education, but more to do with parental expectation even if what is being expected is realistic or not, unfortunately the effect of this is that their behaviour mirror images being bullied themselves.

I endorse your sentiments as regards action taken by staff and I am extremely pleased with the help we

received. It is sad to think a parent would take this course of action and sully the schools name which is the reason for my letter, which I hope in part redresses this.

Only yesterday, whilst shopping in Tesco, I received my sports vouchers and was asked which school they were for, and on saying St John's was handed an additional pile with the accompaniment of "its for a good school" which it is.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Pattie Holman**  
**Parent of Guy Holman**  
**Address and 'phone number supplied**

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## Letter from Owners of Methodist Chapel

**Methodist Chapel - Nil, Community - Nil**

**An opportunity missed for Lacey Green?**

It's the day after our decision meeting at Wycombe District Council and I must admit I am feeling rather numb. After all the excitement of buying the chapel in the hope of realising our dreams of building a family home, doing the research into community needs and finally getting to the day when our future is being decided, I now feel totally baffled as to why a decision that could have benefited the whole community as well as us, was so strongly opposed by the very people who are there to represent the community.

I'll give you a little more detail as to what went on in our planning process. We applied for planning permission in May this year after completing extensive research. The council then scrutinised our research and the planning officers recommended that our permission should be granted as there were no policy issues. We were delighted and, as we had said from the start, as the building was once used for the community, we wanted to contribute to the community, either to St John's Church or the Millennium Village Hall.

It was discussed with Community Services at Wycombe District Council and felt the best way forward was for us to pay for the services of a Community Officer for six months to work with the community of Lacey Green, to research possible needs and to secure any funding that may be needed. We spoke about the Millennium Village Hall and the proposed extension, which could then include, if needed, a small shop and post office. We thought this would be an excellent outcome for the community and thought the Parish Council, Lacey Green Community Planning Group and Ward Councillor Rogerson would think so too, as this is what they have wanted all along; a composite facility for people of all ages to meet, to include a village shop, meeting room and post office. It would be sustained by passing trade of the already successful Millennium Hall and make a true focal point for the village. In fact, in a village survey done a few years ago, the majority of you said that you would prefer your post office to be at the Millennium Village Hall.

We couldn't have been more wrong. When the Parish Council, Lacey Green Community Planning Group, and ward councillor spoke at the meeting to decide our planning permission it was obvious that they had only one agenda. That was to prevent us, at all costs, from gaining our planning permission. They succeeded, but I'm afraid the community has lost out. That is why I feel compelled to write this article.

I am obviously feeling sad and angry at our dreams being crushed. It was hard to arrive home after the meeting and tell the children that we didn't succeed, but more than that, I feel that there could have been a good outcome for all, but it was thwarted by a group of people who claim to have the community's best interest at heart. I think, in this case, in their haste to stop us, they lost sight of what could have been achieved at the Millennium Village Hall, although I am trying not to criticise and I'm sure they have done good work in the past.

The groups mentioned above will no doubt reply to this article and will talk about the Village Design Statement recommendation that the Methodist Chapel is kept for a community facility such as composite shop, meeting room, post office etc, but isn't that what could have been achieved at the Millennium Village Hall? It is much more likely to be sustainable, has great car parking and safe entry onto the road.

I feel that you, as a community, could have had this type of composite facility years ago at the Millennium Village Hall had it not been for the insistence of these

groups that it must go on the Methodist Chapel site, which the groups do not own. They are probably feeling victorious, having scored, but was this a home goal? I'll leave it to you to decide.

Lastly, I would just like to thank those of you who have supported us over the past year; it has meant an awful lot to us to see a friendly face when we have been at the Chapel. We will also leave your access to the

graveyard, through the site, open and you are always welcome to come and chat if we're there.

If you have any views on this matter I would be interested to hear them. You can contact us via e-mail at [sereta@talktalk.net](mailto:sereta@talktalk.net) or you can write to;

**Scott & Sereta Parker**  
86 Swallow Street, Iver Heath,  
Buckinghamshire, SL0 0HQ

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## Loosley Row and Lacey Green Horticultural Society

### OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

The Annual Show was held on 2 September, and despite the difficult growing conditions through the glorious summer, it was well supported.

This year the Show was dominated by Alison Shreeve who carried off the Marshall Cup for fruit, the Plowman Cup for vegetables and the Hughenden Cup for the most points in the combined produce sections. Alison was also a very close runner up to Laura Chapman who won the Domestic Salver. The Floral Cup went to Les Hazell. The new Jubilee Cup for the most points by an entrant who had not previously won a Trophy at the Show was awarded to John West.

We had two entries in the Anniversary Fruit Cake competition, to celebrate the Society's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Jill Langlois created an excellent and beautifully decorated cake, but this was surpassed by a cake entered by Alison Shreeve. The detailed decoration was superb. Overall the cakes could not be separated and Jill and Alison shared the Bill Cleaver Memorial award for the Best exhibit in Show.

Our President, Michael Hardy keeps a record of the Show results, which show that over the last 20 years a total of 100 trophies have been presented to 29 different people, ranging from the 14 who have had one win, to Bill Cleaver and Doreen Ellis who have won 15 and 13 times over the years.

The Show was organized by Show Secretary David Fitt. This was his third Show, and he wants to give someone else a chance next year. I do not expect a deluge of offers but if there is some one out there willing to have a go, I would be glad to hear from them. We thank David for his hard work over the last three years. David was one of those who stepped forward to take on a role in running the Society three years ago,

had he not volunteered we may have lost a major event in the Society's year.

In September, we enjoyed a talk by Jeanne Bliss, a notable garden designer who has carried out commissions in many parts of the world. The talk was supposed to be on the subject of "Colour with climbers", but transmogrified into the use of plants to give shape and structure in a garden, I think. It was nevertheless an interesting and entertaining evening, with a lady who really knows her plants.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 15 November, 8.00pm, in the Millennium Village Hall as usual. The speaker will be Victor Scott, who will give an illustrated talk on the gardens around Cape Town. This should be good enough to come along to, but, not only but also, we have the Judging of the Pumpkins, and John and Laura will be serving pumpkin soup made to their own special recipe. There will be prizes for the heaviest, the biggest, and the best looking pumpkins, and in this age where no one loses, the smallest. This is an evening not to be missed, and you do not have to be a member of the Society in order to come.

**Terry Fendom**  
Chairman



# Happy Wanderers Away Weekend 2006



It was slightly different this year. To start with, it wasn't at the weekend at all, but ran from Monday to Wednesday. It was also new territory. 28 members plus one visitor made the somewhat longer journey to the Peak District. This is England's first National Park, created in 1950, with about 50 per cent of the English population living within a 60-mile radius. So it can get very crowded at the weekend. Even midweek, there are people around. Only a few of our members had been to the Peak District previously, and were I think suitably impressed with the scenery, which is quite different to the Chilterns. Mike, our temporary member from South Africa, was making a return visit after **57 years**.

Our base was the Peveril of the Peak hotel, right at the southern tip of the park. Everyone arrived in good time on the Monday and some were able to enjoy a drink on the terrace overlooking the very pleasant hotel garden. Later in the afternoon, we went on an unrehearsed short walk around Thorp Cloud, a mini-mountain that was on the seabed a few years ago (around 350 million to be more precise). The halfway point was the stepping stones across the river at Dovedale – a delightful spot but one of the most visited sites in the UK. There should be pictures somewhere of various members crossing the stepping stones, but none of anyone falling in. Shortly after this, a small breakaway group decided to take a short cut back to the hotel. The leader eventually found the correct (semi planned) footpath back through Thorp village, but only after a

small detour and a stiff climb in the process. Well I did say that it was unrehearsed, and the map was about 40 years old.

On Tuesday, we had the organised walk, about 5 miles, which was just right for our group. It started and finished in the Staffordshire village of Alstonefield (*Aelfstan's Open Land* – Saxon), and took us through Hall Dale (a dry dale), and Mill Dale (a wet dale, with the river Dove). Again, but planned this time, a small group went back to the village up a sharp incline (which I remember well from a recce back in February when I went down it mainly on my backside, due to the wet snow). The rest used the lane to arrive at The George for an excellent sandwich lunch. A few of us visited the churchyard, where there is one of the oldest circular tombstones in the country, erected for Anne Green in 1518. Not any relation to Peter.



Wednesday got off to a bright start at about 02.30, when the hotel's fire alarm went off. There were those that didn't join the survivor's roster – possibly on the logical basis that the alarm couldn't be for real because

it kept stopping and restarting. Quite right, it was a water leakage. The planned trip to Chatsworth attracted 19 of our members, and everyone thought it well worthwhile. For me it was an opportunity to rectify past omissions. Although I had lived nearby for 20 years,

and been through the park on numerous occasions, I had never previously visited the house or gardens.

The real bonus was the weather, which was just about ideal for walking. My email upstairs worked for once.

**Tony Molesworth**

## The Windmill WI

**First Wednesdays 7.45pm Village Hall**



It doesn't seem possible that we are again heading towards another winter. However, we at the Windmill WI have had a really good summer and autumn. At our August Meeting our speaker, Mrs Ann Leaver, talked to us about the Queens Charlotte and Victoria at Frogmore House. This was particularly interesting to our members who visited Frogmore House last year, and to those who went to Kew Palace in July.

We had another great trip at the beginning of August when we visited Ardington House, near Wantage. Ardington House was built in 1720 and has been the home of the Baring family for several generations. It is a family house and indeed, on being shown round the house by Nigel Baring, one of the two brothers who are the present owners, there was certainly a warm feeling to the rooms we visited. A delicious lunch, cooked by Nigel's sister-in-law, was then served, which we were able to eat in the garden. After lunch we moved on to the town of Wantage, where several of our members visited the Vale and Downland Museum. This is a fascinating Museum and a real credit to Wantage – especially the huge cream tea we were able to buy for £2 at the end of the visit!

We celebrated our 19<sup>th</sup> birthday in September by enjoying Tina-Louise and her belly Dancing – we even joined in! Tina gave us a demonstration in full costume followed by an explanation of the dance and it's many health and fitness benefits. We followed all this activity with a cheese and wine supper.

In October we held our Annual General Meeting when our President, Secretary and Treasurer reported on yet another successful and enjoyable year. The Committee and President, Mrs Pat Richards, were all elected back in office for another year. After the business part of the meeting was finished, we did a little mince pie tasting - after which it was declared that 'home-made' is best!



Once again our October Jumble Sale was a great success and our grateful thanks go to everyone who

supported us by bringing jumble or by coming in the afternoon to buy and of course, to all our members who helped on the day!

As you can see, we have had an enjoyable summer and we are looking forward to an equally good winter – why not come and join us? We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Millenium Village Hall at 7.45pm.

**Daphne Williams**

## Granny's Sayings

"Remember, a pain is nature's way of telling you something is wrong - - - see to it".

"Colour of the skin don't matter, colour of heart do".

"Good health keeps you young".

# Financial Planning

Most of us are proud of our property whether it is a small flat or a comfortable period detached residence nestling in the Bucks countryside. We may have aspirations for a bigger place and who knows when our numbers come up on the lottery we will buy that £3m property. Alternatively, many of us will look for that plot of land where you want to build the ideal house with some good size rooms, a decent size garden, nice view and maybe add a carp pool for a bit of status, but we don't want anything too flashy.

But if we're being modest in our aspirations, the word modesty does not apply to Britain's biggest landowners, especially when it amounts to the amount of land they own. Take Burghley House in Lincolnshire for example. This is home to the famous annual horse trials. Situated near the beautiful town of Stamford, the place is absolutely huge at about 10,000 acres but this is quite a modest spread compared to some.

So how big are the large estates and who owns what in the UK? See the following top 10 of the biggest landowners in Britain. It is interesting to note for example that the Church of England - 135,000 acres is not in the top ten! In reverse order therefore:

**10.** Duke of Westminster- 140,000 acres. Gerald Grosvenor the current Duke, owns 300 acres of probably the most valuable land on earth, Mayfair and Belgravia and a host of famous names like Grosvenor Square. Estimated fortune about £6.6bn.

**9.** Duke of Atholl – 176,000 acres. This is a large historical district in the Scottish Highlands with the title being established in 1703 by Queen Anne. The Duke also maintains the only private army in Europe so maybe think twice about a Sunday stroll across the heather.

**8.** National Trust for Scotland – 176,287 acres. This National Trust has a breathtaking range of castles, 8. stately homes, ancient sites and some of the wildest country to explore.

**7.** Duke of Buccleuch – 270,700 acres. This is the biggest private ownership of land in Britain at 400 square miles. The present Duke is Walter Francis John Scott. He is aged 83 and has a personal fortune of £55m backed by another £400m in the Buccleuch Group, his holding company.

**6.** Utility companies – 500,000 acres. Much of the land is an "investment" but the power companies don't like to say much about it.

**5.** Insurance companies – 500,000 acres. If the utility companies aren't too forthcoming about their land portfolios then the insurance companies are positively secret. Think of any shopping mall and the odds are an insurance company has a stake in it.

**4.** National Trust – 600,000 acres. The National Trust (NT) owns huge chunks of some of the most beautiful land in England and Wales. It has over 700 miles of coastline, 1,500 tenant farms, 300 great houses and gardens and 25 castles.

**3.** The Royal Family – 670,000 acres. The Crown Estate comprises of 400,000 acres and the Duchy of Cornwall has about 141,000 acres. The rest is dotted around the country- Balmoral, Sandringham, Buckingham Palace, Windsor, etc,

**2.** The Ministry of Defence - 750,000 acres. The MOD has to have somewhere to test those tanks.

And now, the **biggest** landowner by far in the UK is .....The Forestry Commission – 2.6 million acres!

**Steve Wilkinson**

## Speen Pre-School



**Speen Village Hall, Studridge Lane, Speen**

*"Speen Pre-School provides high-quality nursery education, which enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals." "The quality of teaching is very good." "Children respond positively to staff, form good relationships with adults and peers and show consideration for others. Children are well behaved." "Staff plan an exciting curriculum to challenge children and create an environment in which they develop their creativity and imagination."*

**All quotes from OFSTED report 2004**

# Obituary

**MURRAY SAUNDERS** 13.12.1934 –27.09.2006



I would like to say thank you to everybody that paid tribute to my Father at his funeral on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2006 and thank you to all those that have given me so much support since his

death.

He received the best care that anybody could ask for from the Iain Rennie Nurses and I would like to thank them for making his last couple of weeks as comfortable as possible. They are amazing people and “thank you” does seem somewhat inadequate for what they do. Many people gave donations to the Iain Rennie organisation and hopefully this will help them to continue their wonderful work.

Dad was visited by many people over the last few weeks and drank copious amounts of Gin and Tonic. Thank you, Tup, that was one of the best afternoons he had ever had, he told me many times over the last week what a laugh you all had. He loved all the visits he had and they made the days easier to deal with.

A special huge thank you has to go to Stuart Johns, who really was a rock to Dad and the family over the last month. None of us would have managed without him. He is a very special man. I think he might have moved away by the time this edition comes out but maybe we can get a copy to him.

Thank you all and I will finish this with a poem that my son Wills wrote in an English lesson In Dad’s last week.

## MY GRANDPA

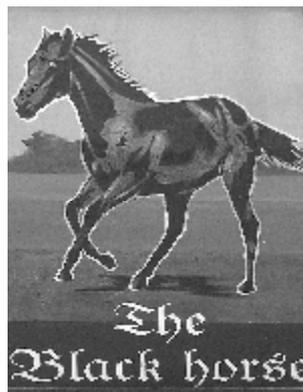
My Grandpa was a cheerful rabbit  
He was an intriguing man  
He could be a grumpy gorilla  
But he was always jokeful and bubbly  
He was a jack-in-the-box  
A cheesy grin  
A bomb getting ready to explode  
But he will always be a **SUPREME EAGLE!!!**

By William Carter

Once again thank you to you all.

**Catherine Saunders**

# Around Our Local Pubs



Christmas time is nearly here. All the preparations have started, even though it is only October. Things seem to get earlier and earlier. Our Christmas Menu is now available. A five course meal with all your novelties for £23.50 per head. A £5 deposit per person is needed on

booking. We are serving the Christmas menu as from November to the end of December and also January 2007 if anyone requires it. Lunchtimes and evenings, even on a Monday and we will stay open all day if you require. Christmas buffets are also available, starting at £5 per head, so come in and look at our menus.

Congratulations to Jane and Oakie on the birth of their daughter, Katie - a girl at last! We were very sad at the loss of our old cocker spaniel, Minstrel, 16 years old. He is really missed. A great big thank you goes to Ted Rogers for the lovely painting he has done for me of The Black Horse, I will always treasure it. Our thoughts and best wishes go to Cath, Fran and all the family for their loss of Murray, he will be sadly missed.

We are doing a Lacey Green Clay Shoot day on November 24<sup>th</sup>, so if anybody is interested, please ring **Giles on 07812146150** for information. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my customers for their loyalty all throughout the year and wish them all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. Also, I would like to thank my very good staff, who have been with me through thick and thin and have stayed, even though tempers sometimes go high, and a very special thank you to Ian, our Chef, because without him we would not have the restaurant. A Happy Christmas to you all, and no you can't have a rise!!!!

New Years Eve will be a Disco and open till very late. No charge to regulars but please book if you require a table.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

**Lynne Comley**

# Parish Council Comments

## Speed limits

Now that the new speed limits have been introduced throughout the county, is everybody happy? Not a bit of it! We now have a convoluted mix of limits from 70 down to 20 mph or less. From the lower end of Loosley Row to High Wycombe via Naphill now goes, I believe: 60, 30, 60, 40, 30, 40, 50, 40, and 30. I am sure that someone will come up with an even more bizarre example. Any suggestions?

The limits are unconditional maxima, and apply irrespective of time of day or weather conditions. They are arbitrary, and provide no variation for individual driver judgement. Some people are quite prepared to adhere to the limit, more or less, but there are others that seem to drive at around 10 to 20 mph faster, and those that will overtake anyone travelling at or below the prescribed limit, even if this means exceeding the limit.

Is there a problem? There wouldn't be if everyone respected the prescribed limits. The problem is that people don't and more to the point, won't. There are quite a few that think the new limits are too restrictive, and they may have a point. To impose a 30-mph limit along all stretches of road where there is any housing at all seems in some instances to be unnecessary overkill (sorry for the pun).

They are inconsistent from one part of the country to another. It is virtually impossible to judge what the prescribed limit actually is on any given stretch of road, unless you can actually see a repeater sign; it is certainly not determined by any rationally based set of factors. What Bucks County Council thinks appropriate for a 50 mph limit, will elsewhere be 30 or 40 and vice versa. I am not even sure that the limits are consistent throughout the county. It is no wonder that drivers are confused and annoyed.

What's the cure? How about mandatory jail sentences for causing death or injury whilst driving, say, up to 3 years. After 6 months of this with maximum publicity, it might be a strong deterrent, except for the incurable nut cases. You could then get

rid of speed limits, cameras and all the other paraphernalia!.

## Kiln Lane

The desecration of Kiln Lane has gone ahead notwithstanding several meetings amongst the interested parties in what appears to have been a vain attempt to reach mutual understanding and agreement. Although the County Council issued a letter identifying the improvement work that could be done (specifically including prior removal of the concrete strip), the individual concerned has ignored this letter and followed his own interpretation of what he believes is needed. He obviously believes that the County Council is unable or unwilling to take any effective action to prevent such disregard of its wishes. The situation is not helped by the view of the department concerned that the work carried out is not necessarily that undesirable. The Parish Council deplores what has happened, but has no legal powers to do anything itself; it can only act as a representative pressure group, and will be doing what it can to rectify the situation. One might argue that there has been both illegal dumping (fly tipping) and antisocial behaviour.

It is interesting that the problem is connected to two planning applications for a residential property and a stable complex both approved by Wycombe District Council. Such applications do not require any consideration of the effects on local highways or roads, unless there is a potential traffic danger, when the County Council would have a say in the matter.

Planning regulations consider the particular use of the land, and for most domestic property development, do not require other factors to be taken into account, except for immediate traffic dangers and some of the impact on neighbouring properties. Some types of development require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment. Perhaps something of this kind needs to be introduced, possibly with appropriate modification to deal with potential effects that are clearly unpleasant or undesirable for the local community, but not necessarily dangerous.

## Antisocial behaviour

Dog faeces and baby nappies are being dumped in the waste bin at the children's playground. It is unhygienic, a risk to the children and very anti social. Whosoever is doing this, please stop it immediately.

**Councillor Tony Molesworth**

## **Culverton / Woodway Junction**

Recent changes to Government funding for the County Council have resulted in budget difficulties for capital works especially in transport and schools programmes. The removal of Supported Borrowing, where the Government reimbursed the Council for the cost of borrowing has meant that the road works programme has had to be re-thought and some schemes have been lost. You may have seen that the proposed improvements in the Woodway / Culverton junction on the A4010 were under threat because of this. It is therefore good news that the scheme is still to go ahead. It is the Council's intention to contact all those who attended the consultation exhibitions in a few weeks time so more detailed information should be available then. Due to the work being on hold for a number of months the project has lost time. It is intended to re-start land acquisition via negotiation as well as to complete the detailed design and contract information pertaining to the scheme. There are also reports which need to be signed and other formalities to go through but the scheme is back up and running and will be implemented in 2006/07, subject to land acquisition.

## **Speed Limit Review / Tranquil**

Since the implementation of the SLR the County Council has advised that there will be a further review to look at the success (or not) of the new limits. Some problems have been experienced where the new limits meet the proposed Quiet Lanes. Here the introduction of de-regulation signs has raised concerns that, instead of reducing speed in the proposed Quiet Lanes, the opposite effect is being achieved. This problem has been caused by the delay by Government to issue the required regulations necessary to implement the Quiet Lane Programme. It was not until September that these regulations were released and it has now been found that before any work can be undertaken a further comprehensive consultation exercise will have to be undertaken as that done within the Speed Limit Review will not suffice. The County Council is proposing to start the consultation process with some sample areas to test whether or not the regulations will deliver what residents want. I would suggest that anybody who lives in a potential Quiet Lane contacts Pat Francis at the County Council (01296 395000) with your views on this as, should the initiative be withdrawn, the alternative of extending the Speed Limits will need to be pursued. You can contact Pat Francis by using the email address [pfrancis@bucksscc.gov.uk](mailto:pfrancis@bucksscc.gov.uk) with a copy to me. If you do

not have email then I would be pleased to pass them on for you.

However it is not all bad news as the Village Entry Treatments are being progressed through the Tranquil project where Parishes have requested them. In addition to the White Gates, an Oak Feature is being offered to the parishes that combines the village nameplate with the speed limit and Chilterns AONB logo.

## **Kiln Lane Restoration**

It has not been possible to resolve the situation in Kiln lane by negotiation. This means that the matter is now with the County Council legal team who have been asked to consider taking action through the courts. It is regrettable that this has happened but it would appear that all other approaches are exhausted.

## **Internet Land Sales**

With the successful determination of the appeal to the Secretary of State in finding that the staking of land was considered to be development Wycombe District Council are now posting 'Buyer Beware' notices on these sites. You may have read that this has started in Flackwell Heath and I have asked that it be extended to Church Lane and other sites in our area as a matter of urgency.

## **Bus Route 323 /324**

You may have seen that this bus service is to be rescheduled. The changes mean that the service through Lacey Green / Loosley Row will increase during the day to every twenty minutes with morning, evening and weekend travel less frequent. The bad news is that the 324 section of the route is to be dropped so that Kimble is no longer served. As you can imagine, this will cause difficulties for reliant on travel to and from Kimble, especially the elderly or with mobility difficulties. With this in mind, Arriva is being asked to look again at this proposal.

If you have any concerns regarding District and County Council issues, would like more information, or have noticed areas where action is needed, then please let me know and I will do what I can to help.

**Paul Rogerson**  
**District and County Councillor**  
01494 488

# Woodway / A4010 Crossroads

## – HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN THE CAUSE OF HUMAN INJURY?

The Bucks Free Press of October 11 1985 had the front page story headed “**Action urged as four are hurt at blackspot**”. It related to four people injured in one weekend, two in each of two crashes.

The article said “The county council has acknowledged that this stretch of the High Wycombe to Aylesbury road is dangerous, but it says improvements are not included in next year’s budget. It says improvement work should be carried out by at least 1988”.

This was 21 years ago! There have been improvements in safety in our county by virtue of the recent lowering of speed limits. They were achieved in a reasonably short time after our villagers were consulted at our village hall in a real democratic manner by the WDC and Bucks CC.

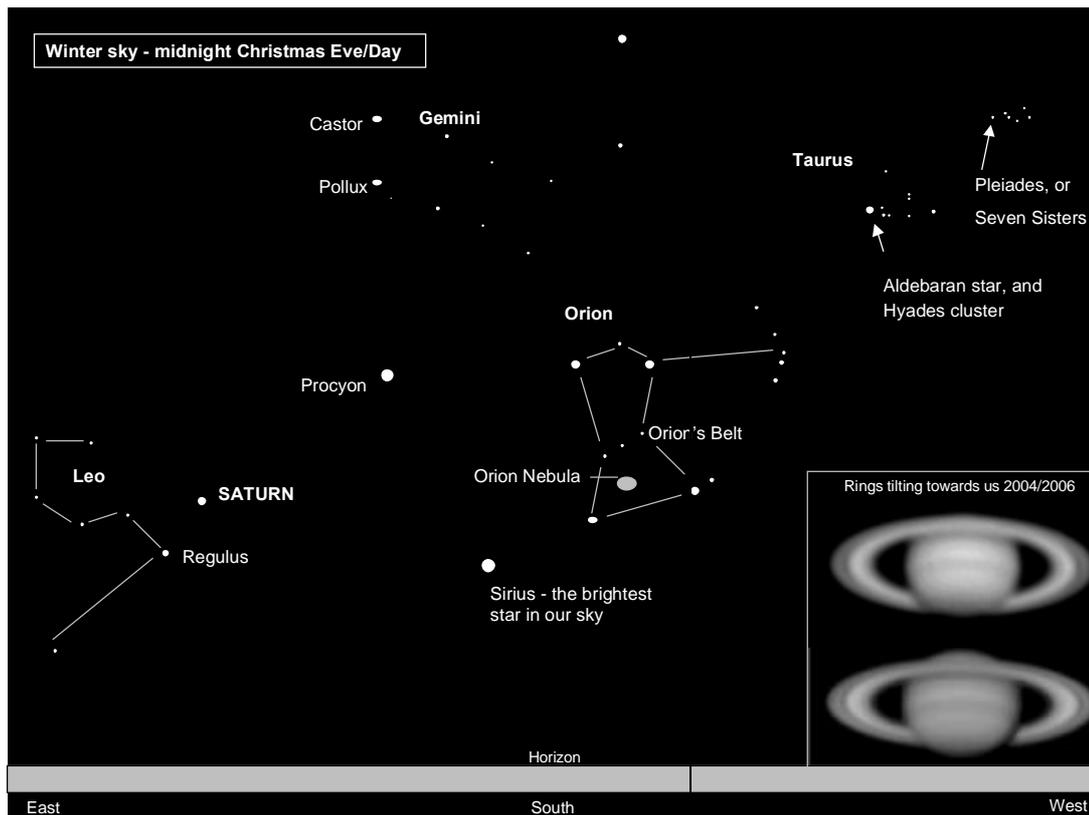
It is a great pity about the 18 years’ delay in the promised action for the perilous Woodway / A4010 crossroads.

Does anyone know of any even earlier promise regarding these crossroads? If so, please inform the editor.



When a blind man carries a lame  
man, both go forward

Swedish proverb



magically disappear from view in the winter of 2008-09. The rings are like a CD fixed around a wobbling spinning top. They are wide but wafer-thin, and they will be edge-on to us in two winters' time, making them almost impossible to see. You can see them starting to tilt towards us in the two images of Saturn that I took in 2004 and early this year. After 2009, the angle increases and they start tilting away from us, so we will be able to see them again.

Winter is the richest time to see the priciest gems sprinkled across the inky black night sky – provided you wrap up! In fact, it's the celestial equivalent of 'bling' in the heavens.

Firstly, we see the welcome return of the most bedazzling sight in the night sky – Saturn! The 'ringed wonder' has been on the other side of the Sun from us for quite a while, but is now at its best vantage point as Earth catches up with it on the orbital 'inside lap'.

Saturn can be found in the constellation of Leo, the Lion, as it whirls around on its 29.5-year orbit around the Sun. It clears the eastern horizon at about 10pm in mid-December and climbs steadily – so the later the night, the better the view! It is brighter than most of the stars you can see, and has a faint yellow tint if you compare it to the white-looking stars.

Although almost one billion miles away, the planet is easy to spot with the naked eye. It now sits at the Lion's foot, marked by the bright star Regulus (see chart). The head and front of Leo also look like a sickle or a back-to-front '?'. It is worth noting that Regulus is 200-times brighter than our Sun, but at a safe 77 light years away (roughly 462 trillion miles), it shines like a freshly polished diamond to us on Earth.

You can't see Saturn's famous rings with the naked eye or binoculars, but even a small telescope (e.g. 2.5 to 3 inches diameter) will show them clearly. And make the most of them, as they are gradually tilting back towards us until they

Sweeping to the right of Saturn is arguably the most fabulous constellation of them all – Orion (The Hunter). It is home to the outstanding Orion Nebula, a vast cloud of dust and gas where stars are being made and born. Above the nebula is the familiar Orion's Belt line of stars.

Orion is in the sky much earlier than Saturn, and can be enjoyed from about 10pm in November, rising from the east. It then rises earlier each night throughout the winter months.

Zodiac fans can also find Taurus, with the orange star Aldebaran and the Hyades V-shaped star cluster, and Gemini dominated by the 'twins' Castor and Pollux.

## “Star Wars: black holes, galaxies and nebulae”

Astro talk by amateur astronomer Chris Dignan

Sun 17 Dec at 7.00pm  
At Lacey Green Millennium Hall

Tea & coffee served at the beginning of the session with wine at the end, with a set of informative notes, total £5 ticket price

Seats to be booked in advance by calling **01844 344207** or emailing: [valbrookhouse@btinternet.com](mailto:valbrookhouse@btinternet.com)

# Lacey Green & Loosley Row Sports & Social Club



## CRICKET SECTION

This season has been a poor one for our cricketers - one might almost say a disastrous 2006. The 1st XI finished bottom of the Mid-Bucks Premier division, while the 2nd's ended their efforts second from bottom of Div Two.

However, there was one bright spot, so let's start with that.

Our 2nd XI won the Mid-Bucks Junior K.O. Cup. They had some tough battles along the way - particularly against a very strong Hughenden Valley team. Somehow, thanks to good performances, all round they managed a win, despite playing throughout with only ten men.

The final, played at Downley, proved to be an equally nail-biting affair. In their twenty eight-ball overs our lads posted a good score of 149. We lost early wickets but John Jones found his form and, playing with ever more confidence, scored an excellent 60 (I prefer cash, John!) which brought him the Man of the Match award. He was ably backed up by a determined Jon Dell, showing the kind of spirit we need in both teams, with thirty good runs. Incidentally, congratulations to Jon and Steph on their engagement. We look forward in anticipation to lots of little cricketers for the future. Be happy.

When Ley Hill batted the game swung one way and then the other. We spectators were left one minute cheering as a wicket fell, the next in despair as some of their batsmen hit out. But, thanks largely to an excellent spell of accurate, good-length bowling by Tariq Khan, who took four wickets for twenty runs, the Hill fell fifteen runs short of their target. All the team played a part with decent fielding and 'backing up'. I was impressed with fifteen-year old Mark Janes, who threw in well and caught one superb catch high above his head. I must mention Joe Stevens too who, despite suffering from a thigh injury, went on to field when another player had to leave suddenly.

As regards the league matches, the 1st XI won three out of the twelve they were able to play - six were rained off - leaving them stranded at the bottom of the table with 148 points. I can't quite understand why. There is talent in the team - I've seen some good performances from most of the players from time to time. If I may use the term, a bit more 'bloody-mindedness' on the field would go a long way to bringing better results. And I don't mean cheating or fighting. There is nothing wrong with playing hard and then shaking hands with your opponents afterwards. They will respect you for it. The cricket field is the place to show what you are made of because you have to play as an individual and as a member of a team and

that's a good lesson to learn. Here endeth today's sermon!

Much of what I've written about the 1st XI applied to the 2nds too. They won four of their matches, losing nine, with two losing draws and three rained off, giving them a total of 176 points. Again I saw some good batting performances - especially from Jon Dell (78 no), Simon Williams (65no), Dave Sanders (43no), John Jones (60no) and some other useful knocks. All we need is consistently good performances from both sets of players.

The 'few' kept the ground in excellent condition - as per usual - this year. Thanks to them for their time and effort.

I'm going to leave room for our Secretary, Gordon Lennard, Esq. to tell us about improvements to the pavilion recently carried out - with pictures, I understand!

Merry Xmas and Happy New Year to All.

**Geoff Gomme**

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## “MAKE-OVER” OF SPORTS CLUB PAVILION

**W**orking to a strict deadline, a complete “make-over” of the Sports Club pavilion took place during the summer holidays, just in time for the Autumn term of the Playgroup year. Led by Bob Dell, a mixed crew of volunteers and professionals have achieved an impressive top to bottom renovation of the clubroom and bar plus an extension, and congratulations are due to them for a splendid piece of work. The financing was possible thanks for the most part to a generous legacy from the late Walt Lacey, the plan being that his memory will be perpetuated by a new pavilion clock to be installed outside facing the cricket square. As we write, a “Celebration Evening” is to take place on Saturday 14th October.

The renovated pavilion is an ideal location when a smaller venue is required, particularly for such as children's parties, but we regret we cannot accept bookings for 18th or 21st birthdays, unless there are exceptional circumstances. For bookings and tariff details, please contact **Jane Oakford** on **01844 346295**

### Gordon Lennard



Photos by Norman Tyler



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You never really lose  
until you quit trying

Mike Ditka



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Whether you think you can or  
you can't, you're right!

Henry Ford (1863- 1947)



## *News from St John's Parish Church*

(Rector – The Reverend Denise Critchell)

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

**D**ear All

A warm welcome back to all our readers (!) after the summer holiday period. St John's Church is a well-loved and thriving church in the heart of the communities of Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen all one and part of this parish in the heart of the Risborough Team.

Attendances at church were regular throughout August this summer, usually a fairly quiet time and it is good to see everyone back in the church family.

We are finding that the All Age Family worship services on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month are well attended and for those of you who have young children, you will be very welcome at Toddler Praise too. This is held in the Upper Room on Tuesday afternoons in term time and is aimed at pre-school children. For more details see the notice board outside the church.

The PCC at their September meeting decided to suspend the 11.30 Family worship Service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month until further notice. This will hopefully lead to a more integrated church family. To accompany this decision, there will be a crèche for the under 4s at the 10.00am All Age communion service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. This will be supervised so that Mum's can feel free to be part of the main service.

Junior Church will now meet every Sunday except the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, during the 10.00 am service and will be aimed at children over 4 years old. For further details see the notice board outside church.

Harvest Festival was well attended again this year and the church was beautifully decorated as usual. The busy season of Advent is fast approaching, and the time of preparations for Christmas and the gift buying frenzy will soon be upon us. Remember to take some time out to reflect upon the greatest gift of all – God's gift of his son Jesus Christ to us all. Please do come and celebrate with us at St John's church.

### **Coming Soon .....**

A special service for Rememberance Sunday will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> November and will be a traditional act of worship with the laying of a wreath on the memorial plaque inside the church and the playing of the 'Last Post'.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Norman will be showing a group from a Sikh Temple in Slough around the Team churches as part of a reciprocal visit promoting understanding between faiths.

Congratulations and best wishes are sent to Lillian Curnow on the celebration of her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and to John and Jean Gabbitas who celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

### **Forthcoming Events**

December 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Sunday and Advent Carol Service at 6.00pm

December 10<sup>th</sup> Christingle Service at 10.00am

December 17<sup>th</sup> Carols by Candlelight at 6.00pm

December 20<sup>th</sup> Speen School Nativity service at St John's church at 9.15am

St John's School nativity service at St John's church at 2.30pm

## Christmas Home Communions

December 24<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion at St John's at 8.00am

10.00am at St Mary's church - joint service for all team Churches

Crib service at St John's church at 3.30pm

Midnight Holy Communion Service 11.15pm

December 25<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion 8.00am

Christmas Day Service 10.00am

## Regular Services

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

Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (1662) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

10.00am All Age Family Eucharist 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

10.00am Parish Communion 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> (&5<sup>th</sup>) Sundays

6.00pm Choral Evensong 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

Tuesday

9.30am Communion Service in the Lady Chapel at St John's

2.00pm Toddler Praise – each Tuesday afternoon during term time

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

Junior Church – meets every Sunday (except the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month) during the 10.00 am service - all children over 4 welcome, contact Jenny King for further details on 01844 343910

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

**Andrea Bennett** ☎ 01844 274550

## Iain Rennie Hospice at Home

### LIGHT UP A LIFE THIS CHRISTMAS

The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home has cared for more than 7,000 terminally ill patients and their families across the Chilterns area. Our pioneering service began in 1985 when five nurses helped our first patient, Iain Rennie, to come home from hospital to be with his young family during the final stages of his battle with cancer. 21 years later, the Hospice at Home charity that proudly bears Iain's name still holds fast to the values that made a difference for him and his family. Our belief in offering practical, hands-on nursing care at home for our patients, combined with support for their families and access to a 24 hour on-call nursing service, is as strong as ever.

During the past six years, more than £59,000 has been raised to support our work by people sponsoring lights on Christmas trees spread over the Iain Rennie "patch". Lights have been dedicated in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special event, or as a

Christmas present, perhaps for someone overseas. This coming Christmas, trees will be lit up in Hemel Hempstead, Tring, High Wycombe, Beaconsfield and Tylers Green, with dedication ceremonies being held at each venue.

Following vandalism of the *Light Up a Life* tree at Princes Risborough and the small attendance at Gillian King House, we have decided not to hold these services this year. We hope to see those people who would normally attend these events at one of the other services.

If you would like to sponsor one of our lights or find out more, please contact our office at **52a Western Road, Tring, HP23 4BB**, telephone **01442 890222** or visit our website [www.irhh.org](http://www.irhh.org).

Registered Charity 297847.



**FOOTNOTE FROM THE EDITOR:** I have had recent personal experience of the competence and genuine caring of Iain Rennie nurses when they visit your home or 'phone you to see if they can help, which they certainly do – in several ways.

# Village Directory

The organisations' contacts names and their 'phone numbers are as on the same page of the last edition, as well as in some of their current articles.



## Should you encourage your children to participate in sport?

A rhetorical question for most people, but you could be promoting lasting physical damage!

Comprehensive research has concluded that more thought should often be applied to what & how much sporting activity we encourage our children to participate in.

The human body is a machine and, in order to function to its best of ability for as long as possible, all of its component parts need to be looked after and kept in balance. Sports by their very nature often upset the optimum balance of strength in the body. To be good at a sport demands that the body becomes highly effective at certain movements or actions - this inevitably leads to a compromise in other areas. Most sports also encourage over development of one side of the body – especially problematic in the early phases of growing. *For health's sake, when it comes to sport, it is better to be a "jack of all trades" than a "master of one"*

The body is very efficient at dealing with muscular overload and will react by making those muscles that are fatigued, quickly stronger. A good thing if the muscular balance and muscular symmetry is maintained – a potential medium or long term problem if not.

Particular care needs to be taken whilst the body is developing (ie. girls up to 16 years & boys up to 18 years) to limit long term problems. If your child suffers from back pain, joint pain, or repetitive strain in any particular body area, these are warning signs that the loads being put on the body are detrimental to health.

So what should you do?

**Up to 11 years** - encourage your children to participate in as many sports as possible rather than focusing on one. Encourage them to use both sides of the body – challenge them to kick with both feet or throw with both arms. If they are naturally good at something try not to let them over-develop this ability at the expense of other skills.

**12 years onwards** – From this age they will be more inclined themselves and encouraged by parents, schools, sports clubs etc. to concentrate on the sports that they do well at. Unfortunately, many sports clubs are run by enthusiastic parents and ex-players and not by qualified sports coaches who are up-to-date with the knowledge and have the facilities to counteract and minimize the problems outlined above. Take responsibility to find and use the services and advice of someone who can teach your child the right way to train. All sports training at professional level is now supplemented with fitness and resistance training to both improve cardio-vascular fitness and to ensure that the body can deal with the stresses put on it by the particular sport involved, and this would be of benefit to your child too.

The Sports Council now encourages and advises that children from 12 years onwards would greatly benefit from a structured and properly supervised fitness training programme using both cardio-vascular and resistance equipment for optimised body development and long term health.

This needn't be expensive or too time-consuming and if you want your children to make the most of their abilities whilst still protecting their healthy development, seek this help for them.

**Paul Johnstone**

Paul is a fully qualified fitness instructor, personal trainer and sports injury therapist, & proprietor of **Woodbyne Fitness Clinic**, Main Road, Lacey Green.  
Tel: **01844 275829**. Email: [info@woodbyne.co.uk](mailto:info@woodbyne.co.uk)

# Village Diary Nov 15 – Feb 15

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

|                                                                          |                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nov 15 Horticultural Society (3rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)   | 8pm                      |
| Nov 23 "Preview" to <i>Allo Allo</i> as below by requested "invitations" | Page 12 has details      |
| Nov 24 LG Productions & The Command Performers dinner theatre            |                          |
| & 25 <i>Allo Allo</i>                                                    | 7.30 for 8pm             |
| Nov 24 The Black Horse's Clay School Day                                 | Page 25 has details      |
| Nov 26 Happy Wanderers' normal walk #                                    | 10.30am                  |
| Dec 5 81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month)                             | 2pm                      |
| Dec 6 Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)                                     | 7.45pm                   |
| Dec 7 Astro talk by Chris Dignan (see separate details)                  | 7pm                      |
| Dec 10 Lacey Green Singers Christmas Concert                             | TBA                      |
| Dec 11 Windmill Under 5s' Christmas Play – visitors welcome              |                          |
| Dec 12 Parish Council meeting at Speen Village Hall *                    | 7.30pm                   |
| Dec 13 Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)      | 10.30am                  |
| Dec 14 Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)                | 2pm                      |
| Dec 17 Astro talk by Chris Dignan                                        | 7pm. Page 36 has details |
| Dec 31 Happy Wanderers' New Year's Eve walk #                            | 10.30am                  |
| Jan 2 81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month)                             | 2pm                      |
| Jan 3 Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)                                     | 7.45pm                   |
| Jan 10 Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)      | 10.30am                  |
| Jan 11 Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)                | 2pm                      |
| Jan ? Parish Council Meeting at Lacey Green Village Hall *               | 7.30pm                   |
| Jan 17 Horticultural Society (3rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)   | 8pm                      |
| Jan 28 Happy Wanderers' normal walk #                                    | 10.30am                  |
| Feb 6 81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month)                             | 2pm                      |
| Feb 7 Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)                                     | 7.45pm                   |
| Feb 8 Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)                 | 2pm                      |
| Feb ? Parish Council Meeting at Speen Village Hall *                     | 7.30pm                   |



\* 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

? These Parish Council Meeting dates not decided as at 29 Oct 2006

## SOME LATER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY including in Speen & North Dean

Feb 25 Happy Wanderers' AGM followed by local walk

**CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE WINTER EDITION**  
**January 17th 2007**

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