

# HALLMARK

**THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE**



***“Spring lamb”***  
by Brian Panter

**FEBRUARY 2007**

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# HALLMARK

## THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE

SPRING 2007

**H**allmark 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

### VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

☎ CLIVE OR KAREN on 01844 274254 (Answering service)

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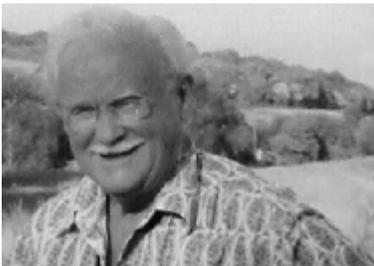
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**The Summer Hallmark will be published in May  
- closing date for copy is April 17<sup>th</sup>**

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## From the Editor



**F**irst, as this is 2007's first edition, we wish you a Happy New Year, a full enjoyable life, with time to appreciate the best things in life, and good health!

We have several references to the future of the **Methodist Chapel**. There are various points of view. The success of any shop would depend on the extent

to which we would in practice support it. We are told **Speen's shop** does satisfactory turnover and is looking for someone to take it over, in view of the illness of the present keeper. Speen is smaller (770 population) than our village (870 Lacey Green and 450 Loosley Row), has fewer travelers through it and doesn't have a bus service through it as we do. On the other hand, we lost our own village shop years ago through insufficient custom, since when there has been greater supermarket competition nearby in Princes Risborough. Would we actually support a village shop with post office enough to provide a living for its keeper? That is the crux, in my view. This matter is still very much in

progress and this edition's comments by Cllr Paul Rogerson, Tony Molesworth and the current owners of the Chapel are not necessarily their last. I have brought Hallmark up to date as at 30th January, long after copy date. See pages 12, 36, 41 & 42.

I have tried to get the latest news from **Marks & Spencers'** Head Office regarding their **replacing Budgens** in Princes Risborough, but on 29th January they still could not tell me anything. This is partly because it depends on their planning application, of which there is a council notice at the nearest corner of the car park (if you can bend down enough or read with your knees!). However, we understand from some of Budgen's staff that they have been taken on on a 6 months trial, including training by Marks & Spencer. On page 12, we also have an historical article relating to Budgens v Tesco, headed **Unconsidered Trifles**.

There has been a lot of reaction to last edition's **Letter from Hallmark's Founder, Ted Janes**. Some older folk agree with him unreservedly. Others feel sorry that Ted, who did so much for villagers of older times, much of it still being enjoyed by today's villagers, should feel that way. Some old-time village activities have stopped, commonly for lack of support or availability of people with time and willingness to do the work involved. Others are even more active than when he started them (eg Happy Wanderers Walking Club). My wife, Bette, was involved with Ted in some of his earlier social initiatives and tries, in her *Letter to the Editor* on page 11, to cheer Ted up by encouraging him and Jean to take part in today's activities when they can. The world has always changed with time, in some respects for the better and some for the worse. It is up to us to try to spend time on the best of both worlds whenever they are available, I feel. Today's village life can be at least as fruitful as it ever was – but you do have to spend the time to enjoy it.

Apart from *On the Farm* and all our other regular good reading matter, we have an interesting article on **Lacey Green Productions together with The Command Performers** by a most welcome newcomer to our village, Ian Gillett. See pages 7 & 8.

On centre pages 22 & 23, we have a feature **Memories of my time with the Lacey Green Singers** by Cathie Kaye, who has done so very much for the Singers and for our local musical enjoyment. Their performance of Mozart's *Requiem* is evidence of the broadening of their repertoire in Cathie's 4½ years at their helm.

On page 43, we have added a list of **Regular Users of**

**Village Hall** by Karen Hodgton, Village Hall Bookings Secretary, for whose time we should be very grateful, as mother of two young boys, as well as wife of her equally busy Chairman of the Millennium Hall, Clive. They are both excellent examples of very busy people who nevertheless spend so much of their time for the benefit of villagers.

The **Village Notice Board** on page 4 gives details of our seeking a **Clerk to the Parish Council** (George Crombie will be retiring) and some volunteers to enjoy **delivering Hallmarks!** It also asks us to tell the Lacey Green Community Planning Group of any newcomers to our villagers, so they can receive a **welcome pack** with masses of useful local information.

We are always looking for new talent from our villages to do our **Hallmark front cover illustrations** – any age. Any budding youngster artists?

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**Higher standard:** I am different from Washington; I have a higher, grander standard of principle. Washington could not lie. I can lie, but I won't.  
Mark Twain



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## More Girlhood Memories

by **CON BAKER** – the oldest person in our village  
**THE FIRST GRASS TENNIS COURT IN LACEY GREEN**



**W**e worked hard to get the court ready for play. This was in the vicarage grounds by kind permission of the vicar. Miss Janes and Miss Jarvis, teachers at the school, took over the running of the court, cutting the grass and marking out. They worked very hard to keep the court really good. We had a few members. 2/6 (2 shillings and 6 pence = 12½p) a year each. At this time, PC Harris was the policeman. He and Mrs Harris were keen players. It was a long way for me to go, pushing my bicycle up the hill with my racket, which in those days was made of wood, really heavy. I remember winning a tennis tournament and winning a lovely flower vase, which I have never used in case I broke it., as I would never win another tournament. We had good fun, games and laughs. I do not think anyone got to Wimbledon. What fun.

## On the Farm

Every January for the past 61 years a two day farming conference, with morning, afternoon and evening sessions has been held at Oxford. It costs £200 per ticket, takes 650 delegates and is oversubscribed. The speakers this year represented farming, marketing, development commissions, land & business associations, meteorology, biochemistry, rural energy, heat and power generation and Members of Parliament. They were highly qualified in their various fields. The Topics this year were chosen to find answers to "Changing times, changing roles, new opportunities". First the speakers, then a debate on the case for commercial farming and also panel discussions at the close of both days.

John attended and came home with a sheaf of papers an inch thick – all the facts and the speeches. I find these very interesting and they gave me so much information that I could have written extensively on Irish farming, UK farming and the environment, retail marketing, global warming, biogas and ethanol in the UK, biomass in the future and generating heat and power from crops. I did actually start writing about global warming – unashamedly cribbing from the address given by Sir John Houghton. Sir John has been professor of atmospheric physics at Oxford University and chief executive of the UK meteorological office, his particular research into humanly induced climate change. He chaired the scientific assessment on the new intergovernmental panel on climate change in 1992-2002. On retiring from the met office he became chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution 1992 – 1998. He lectures on climate change and its challenge to human communities. He has been awarded many international prizes and medals. I found it absolutely absorbing, then realised that I was moving outside my brief to write about our farm. Although global warming would make a difference to everyone including us and Sir John is convinced that it is happening.

Bio fuels are still on the agenda – I have gleaned an enormous amount of extra information, but this is an ongoing subject, which is constantly changing and is only in its infancy. And at last some support is being shown in the UK. Planning permission has been granted for the first plant to make this in Somerset from feed (cattle feed) wheat. The E.U. is way ahead of us, with these already up and running, also with wind farms, and there are many other options.

A personal highlight in our lives was the opportunity to

study agriculture in Paraguay. For six days we were taken to collectives, co-operatives and ranches which have all been established for decades. We spent a morning at the agricultural university, being taken to the different faculties, looking at horticulture, forestry and agriculture, livestock, and their national bird, snake and insect collection. We had an appointment with the principal, where we hoped we came up with some intelligent questions. We covered beef, for which they are famous, dairy, pigs, sheep and poultry, and then asked what major changes there had been in research and development with crops. Quite simply, he said that there had been an explosion in the production of soya beans. Grown in the east of the country. We travelled that road and counted 28 storage silos. Most of the crop is exported, being taken by road down through Brazil to the sea.

Back home, the shock of hearing that a 200 cow herd at Stokenchurch is being dispersed. Only last August his herd was cited as a prime example of good management at an open day. The latest figures that I have are that only eleven herds remain in the Bucks Chilterns after that.

Even more of a shock the news that the Lavenham herd is to be dispersed. This fantastic herd is admired as the flagship of dairy herds. Established in the 1890s and a cornerstone of the industry. The sale is expected to draw record crowds, 570 head in two days coming under the hammer and a chance to obtain some bloodlines from this herd we have all so admired will be irresistible to some and of immense interest to all the industry. It's just the end of an era.

**Joan West**

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## Windmill Artists

Another enjoyable day last November 11th. The excellent Bistro and Bar provided by Rachel Panter and Val and Peter Brookhouse enhanced the "works of art". A couple of glasses of red and we can challenge any "Impressionist"!!

This year, please come again on November 10th to support us.

**Di Bradley**

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**Husband** - a man of few words.



# Village Notice Board

**FREE! BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!**

Just kidding! I needed to get your attention!  
This is your chance to get some healthy exercise, a chance to meet new people, admire their gardens, get ideas for your own. How? By offering to **deliver Hallmark** four times a year.

If this appeals, please ring **Betty Tyler** at **01844 344606**

**LACEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

## **CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

A vacancy has occurred for the position of Clerk to the Parish Council owing to the retirement of the present Clerk

Applications or a request for further information should be sent to:

**G Crombie  
Blackwells, Great Hampden  
Great Missenden, Bucks  
HP16 9RJ**

**Do you know of someone who has just moved into  
Lacey Green, Loosley Row or Speen?**

The **Lacey Green Community Planning Group** would be pleased to welcome them to our community by delivering a **Welcome Pack**. It contains a lot of relevant information about local services and features.

Please contact

**Angela Agate** (re Lacey Green/Loosley Row) at **01844 273916** or  
**David Howarth** (re Speen) at **01494 488570**

# Lacey Green Productions together with The Command Performers



“I cannot afford the glasses”

## ‘ALLO ALLO: close shave helps homeless



Charles Leigh-Dugmore



Helen Titchen's cabaret

Listen very carefully, I shall say this only once: not only was the recent LGP and The Command Performers' co-production of 'Allo 'Allo a hit with the sell-out audiences, but proved to be a charity success too. The performances raised a grand total of £1235 for international housing charity Habit for Humanity. In addition to this sum, cast member Charles Leigh-Dugmore weighed in with a hefty donation by shaving his beard for his role as General Von Schmelling. Charles and a couple of his co-workers' sponsored face de-fuzzing notched up £256, which his employers, the

National House-Building Council, generously doubled to £512. This now means that over the years these productions have raised in excess £30,000 for several charitable causes.

Based on the long-running TV farce, 'Allo 'Allo was our latest Dinner Theatre production, and all those who came to see it will surely agree that the combination of appalling Gallic, Germanic and Italian accents, Rachel Panter's marvellous French-inspired food, and an inflatable rubber Hitler (!), made for an evening to remember.

Because of the overwhelming demand for tickets, we had arranged for a special preview performance on the Thursday, which was enthusiastically attended. Amongst the audience were several personnel from RAF High Wycombe, including the station commander, Group Captain Smith. At the end of the performance she came on stage to make a presentation of the 2006 RAF Theatre Association's Endeavour Award to The Command Performers. The award is presented annually to the RAF theatre group that has shown the greatest spirit and determination in overcoming obstacles while striving for theatrical



von Schmelling

endeavour. In the case of The Command Performers, this has meant carrying on as a vital drama force despite having lost their theatre to the station's need for more parking spaces. LGP salutes The Command Performers and thanks them for helping to make 'Allo 'Allo the huge success it turned out to be.

## THEATRE AT HOME

This popular strand of our performance calendar offers the chance to see a set of short plays and revue sketches in an intimate theatre-in-the-round setting. Once again, we are glad to include members of The Command Performers amongst our players. This year the dates of the performances are the evenings of Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, with a matinée performance on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March. As previously, the aim of Theatre at Home is to bring you a range of works that we wouldn't normally stage at the Millennium Hall. The flavour of the nine pieces we're currently rehearsing is diverse, to say the least, with comedy, Absurdist Theatre and near-pantomime all being in the mix. Theatre in the Home is by invitation only, so if you would like a convivial atmosphere coupled with a stimulating drama experience, accompanied by good wine, please do contact us now.

## DINNER THEATRE 2007

Those who read Ted Janes' remarks in the last Hallmark about the perceived decline of Lacey Green and Loosley Row may have come away with the impression that LGP is either defunct, or at least barely scratching along. We would blush to correct anything that Ted has to say on village life, but equally we would like to set the record straight: LGP is a flourishing society, as the reports above surely prove, and we continue to attract both new acting and backstage members, and are already planning our next Dinner Theatre production.

Whilst we are still mulling over precisely what we are going to perform, it will possibly be something with a musical flavour. Watch this space. The dates for this year's performances are November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> – they will soon come around!. For ticket and invitation details for Theatre in the Home, please telephone either **07899 797968** or **01844 344207**, or email [valbrookhouse@btinternet.com](mailto:valbrookhouse@btinternet.com)

Ian Gillett

## REVIEW OF 'ALLO 'ALLO by Chris Dignan

No previous warning had been issued to those people – and there were several - who'd never seen an episode of the TV spoof war series 'Allo 'Allo. So it was utterly understandable if many departed after the stage show in a state of perplexed laughter.

For they were treated – or subjected – to enough vivid images to ponder for a week. In fact, months later, many may *still* be pondering what they witnessed. Consider the following: a policeman who almost strangled himself (unscripted) with German sausages on a string, five people dressed as Hitler on stage at the same time (not all were men), a member of the Gestapo in a suspender belt, a parrot stuffed with a fully working radio set, and a female agent of the French Resistance dressed alternately as a tart, nun and police officer.

Just another day in occupied France. Fortunately, organisers ensured the audience ate their sumptuous dinner (created by Rachel Panter of The Good Cook Co) before the show began. This may well have been for safety reasons so that the guests didn't splutter or take a sharp intake of breath at crucial moments of consumption.

Suitably replete, it's amazing how quickly members of the audience adapted to the mayhem which then unfolded before them. For purists, there was a plot to provide a cloak of legitimacy to the outlandish and excellent outfits adorned by the cast, who threw themselves – often literally - into their characters.

It all revolved around a priceless painting of 'The Fallen Madonna with..' generous endowments, which the Germans and the French hatched hopeless plans to steal so they could live on the proceeds. The show built up to a fabulously ridiculous finale, and it is a testament to the actors' professionalism that they didn't fall about in hysterics themselves.

There are reports that for several weeks after the show, significant numbers of people from Lacey Green were heard talking in weird accents and greeting one another with: "Good moaning..".



**Praise** - the sweetest of all sounds

**"A drama critic is a man who leaves no turn unstoned"**

George Bernard Shaw

# Letters to the Editor

## RE "TIRED VILLAGE" LETTER FROM TED JANES

I was saddened to read dear Ted's article on Lacey Green and Loosley Row, remembering that most of the organisations we have and lost were started by him. He was always so enthusiastic and gladly gave up his time to make them work. Personally, I regard Lacey Green and Loosley Row great places to live with plenty to enjoy. For instance:

**WI Quiz night:** Buzzing with anticipation with a great atmosphere.

**Thursday coffee mornings:** Extremely friendly, laughter can be heard as soon as you reach the village hall. A member of the upholstery class, who book the main hall at the same time as the coffee morning is being held in the meeting room, asked "what do you put in the coffee to make them laugh so much?"

**81<sup>st</sup> club:** Members look forward to meeting their friends for a chat and to enjoying a delicious tea. Christmas lunch, so kindly provided by Lynn at the Black Horse, is always looked forward to and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

**Walking Club:** Another extremely friendly group, plenty of chatting and laughter, plus fresh air and exercise. Last Sunday of the month, plus second Wednesday for those who only want a shorter walk.

**Lacey Green Productions:** Always an event to look forward to. We are so very fortunate to be able to enjoy such an excellent dinner/theatre in our village hall.

Tickets sold so quickly this year for *Allo Allo* that a preview was arranged to enable those who were too late to purchase a ticket to see the show.

**Windmill Artists:** This is a great chance to admire the amazing talent we have in the village. The Bistro, so ably run by Rachel Panter, Val and Peter Brookhouse, is a most pleasant venue to sit with friends for a coffee and chat. After more viewing, a delicious lunch can be purchased with Rachel's home-cooked fare.

**Lacey Green Singers:** In the evening of the daytime Windmill Artists' exhibition, we were entertained by Lacey Green Singers to an excellent performance of Mozart's Requiem in the church, which was full of keen supporters. (Editor: also see pages 21 – 23).

**Horticultural Society:** Very friendly organisation, with a variety of interesting speakers. Supported by many newcomers to the village, some of whom are on the committee.

Ted mentioned outside organisations using the hall as opposed to local ones. Many of these are supported by Lacey Green and Loosley Row residents. WWDFAS,

for example, has at least 28 villager members.

**Jazzercise** also has many Lacey Green members. These organizations, plus Whiteleaf Bowmen, Yoga and Pilates are open to all to join.

Regarding **Turkey Supper**, the reason that came to an end was the difficulty we had in selling tickets and also in getting people to help. At the last one, Norman and I were the only two officially serving over 100 people, having paid for our tickets! Likewise, the **Village day and Fete** finished for lack of organisers and helpers.

I agree with Ted it was sad to lose the **Post Office**, which closed because of physical attack by a criminal, but we now have George running one at the village hall on Mondays and Thursdays. A good chance to pop in for a coffee and a chat on a Thursday. Jill Baker, whose idea it was, is also President of afternoon WI. She is one of the many newcomers to the village who are much involved, as is her husband Chris, who is responsible for advertising in Hallmark.

It most certainly is not a tired village. There is plenty going on with lots of support. Regarding new residents, the ones I know willingly give up their time to help. We have two in Woodfield who deliver Hallmark, one of whom delivers Ted's! Also two of them help on the Windmill.

I agree with Ted the **two WIs** are still going strong. New members are always welcome.

**Karen and Clive at the shop**, although extremely busy with their business and two small children to look after, willingly give up hours of their time. Karen is Booking Secretary and Clive is Chairman of the village hall committee. They always have keys available for people who book the hall, Clive being called upon, quite often without notice, when they need help. They are another good example of newcomers working hard and voluntarily towards village activities.

There are plenty of **other activities** going on at the village hall, not to mention the Sports & Social Club. **The Windmill** is another unique attraction, with many newcomers on Michael Hardy's rota helping to man it. Mike and Betty give up a great deal of their time organizing everything.

We now have a **welcome pack**, which is presented to people who have moved into the village. This is much appreciated by newcomers and was initiated by Angela

Agate, a comparative newcomer herself. When we arrived almost 40 years ago, newcomers were certainly not made so welcome.

All this in a village of about 1,300 population. So I hope those who think that there is nothing going on in Lacey Green and Loosely Row will think differently after reading this and come and join in with what is on offer.

**Betty Tyler**

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## METHODIST CHAPEL

I have talked to a number of people recently who are concerned about the future of the site, so I thought it would be helpful to set out my reasons for arguing that a significant part of the land should be retained for community use.

Firstly the site, designated as community land, is a valuable asset to the village. The loss of the land would probably mean that any return of village services to the village on a permanent basis would be made much harder to achieve. With an ageing population and escalating land values pricing out youngsters who have grown up in the village, I believe it is right to look for ways to bring back lost services and amenities. In this case the Methodists, original beneficiaries of the donated site, were aware of this requirement and, in the knowledge that the Village Design Statement Group was proposing a recommendation for the retention of community use, abandoned their submitted plans for housing, and sold the site to the highest interested bidder.

I believe there is a strong case for supporting the needs of the rural community and this should not be lightly discarded and with it a valuable asset that many people have worked hard over the years to protect. With regard to viability, a shop plus other benefits to local people, similar to those gained with Speen Stores, remains a possibility.

I do think it important for villagers to be aware that the applicant's offer to fund a piece of work to look into the service need did not protect the site. Quite the reverse, if accepted, the site would have been permanently lost to housing. Most importantly, the offer did not provide funds to compensate for the loss. Wycombe District Council's planning policy is that community land should be retained providing there is a need; any development on the land should be regarded as 'enabling works' that provides sufficient funding to deliver the community

project.

I am sure there is a way to accommodate everybody's needs but this will take meaningful discussion between the interested parties so that the benefits are not shared disproportionately. For my part I shall continue to work to find the solution that gives the best result for the villagers of Lacey Green and Loosley Row.

**Paul Rogerson**

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## Unconsidered Trifles

Now that the lingering death of Budgens in Princes Risborough is over, it is, perhaps fitting to ponder on a certain irony. Budgens first opened in 1970 on the Place Farm Estate in Monks Risborough. Tesco's at the time was in what is now a hairdresser's in Bell Street. Over time Budgens migrated into the town and Tesco's closed. Budgens became the only supermarket with the concomitant effect on the shops in the High Street, but Tesco's lived to fight another day and has now had the last laugh.

Budgens rise and Tesco's temporary fall was at the height of the Green Shield stamp era, when no shopkeeper was safe without them, except that is, Robin Ball at his popular sweets and tobacco shop. Robin steadfastly resisted all pressures and blandishments until two senior salesmen were sent to rope him in. They met with the stout assertion from Robin that his standing with his customers was so good that he had no need to bribe them with stamps. Furthermore, to demonstrate his point he was prepared to tell the next customers to enter the shop to f..k off. To his relief, it was a man and not one of the many elderly ladies who shopped with him. The man was Freddie Latchford, insurance broker at large whose branch offices were the local pubs. Everyone knew and liked Freddie. Robin now addressed him. "Freddie", he said, "f..k off". Freddie looked startled. "Oh, alright" he said and left the shop. The Green Shield men did likewise, never to return.

**Autolycus**

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**General election** - when you have a chance to choose the lesser of evils

**Advertisement** - the most truthful part of a newspaper.



# Parish Council Comments

Your present council includes Councillors...



**Don White**  
Chairman



**George Crombie**  
Clerk to Council



**Dennis Claydon**



**Mrs Cathryn Davies**



**Peter Pilkington**



**Roger Caft**



**Tony Molesworth**



**Miv Hughes**

Reading the letter from Mr Janes, the founder of Hallmark, in the last edition, I was dismayed by the number of groups and associations that no longer exist in Lacey Green and Loosley Row. It spurred me into taking the opportunity this time to write about something else which could also disappear if it is not nurtured: your very own local government – use it or lose it!

May 2007 sees elections for many parish and town councils across the country. But in recent years it has become increasingly difficult encouraging participation in the democratic process at all levels of governance. Many people simply do not make the connection between their own dissatisfaction with a particular aspect of public life and the traditional political process as a means of effecting change. There are several possible reasons: feelings of social exclusion; that 'politics' is an activity for 'other people' to take part in; scepticism about any impact that local people can have; and being too wrapped up in their own lives to look beyond the garden gate. This last is also the reason for the demise of many of the organisations mentioned by Mr Janes.

We complain to each other about all kinds of perceived injustices (as we see them!) enacted by a local council. Yet how many write indignant letters to the 'powers that be' when their feathers are ruffled? Precious few. How many of us are spurred into action as a result, and REALLY want to change things? Fewer still. And how many put their 'money where their mouth is' and stand for election? Hardly any!

Why? I think the reasons are obvious. Generally speaking, most people are too selfish to look beyond their own immediate world, adopting an 'I'm all right Jack' attitude until something directly affects them. Unless and until this changes and people start to participate again, politics will continue to be seen as boring and unrepresentative.

To be able to vote is a hard won privilege and not to use a vote is, in some countries punishable under the law and in every instance, foolhardy.

Although many parish and town councils, like ours, are not party political, devolution of more powers toward the local or neighbourhood level from above is rising fast up the political agenda. The recent Local Government White Paper included proposals for devolving specific powers to town and parish councils with the aim of 'enabling better surface delivery at the

grassroots level'. The intention is to give more decision making to the people of the 'first tier' so that resources can be better targetted to benefit rural communities. This has to be the way forward and it also means that the electorate can be more involved, but only if it is interested enough.

Election information will shortly be available from local councils to help achieve greater participation in local politics, both by encouraging individuals to stand for election and everyone to vote in local council as well as national elections. This information will cover the functions of parish and town councils, their responsibilities and powers, the role of parish and town councillors and answers to frequently asked questions on candidacy.

The local electorate is the pebble tossed into a pond, the ripples thus formed radiating outward to the other layers of government – you really can influence what happens!

I could adapt a phrase by JFK - 'Ask not what your (parish) can do for you, but what you can do for your (parish)', but I have said enough! There are many other analogies - and the longest journey begins with the first step – BUT.....

....If this has spurred YOU on to find out more about how the wheels of local politics turn in the 'first tier'- the parish - and how it all affects each and every one of us - then my purpose has had the desired effect. Come along to the next parish council meeting - meet your current councillors - voice your opinion – VOTE- or why not apply to join your parish council this year and do something positive for your community?

The elections will be on Thursday May 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you are 18 or over, on the electoral register (or live within three miles) you could be eligible. Your local council meets 12 times a year, on Mondays (in Lacey Green) alternating with Tuesdays (in Speen) in the village hall. Watch out for more information in the local press, or, (from mid-March onwards) contact the Elections officer at Wycombe for a nomination form – do **SOMETHING!**

**Cllr Miv Hughes**



My idea of an agreeable person is  
one who agrees with me  
Samuel Johnson



Happiness is a halfway station between too little and too much

## Around Our Local Pubs



Happy New Year to all. I hope your Christmas and New Year were as good as ours at The Black Horse. New Year's Eve was another great night and early morning. Everybody seemed to enjoy it. Thank you, Peter, for doing the disco once again.

Christmas time brought a new arrival to the village. Congratulations to Duncan and Lauren on the birth of their new daughter.

We now have a web site at The Black Horse. This is [www.blackhorse-pub.co.uk](http://www.blackhorse-pub.co.uk). You can find any gossip or events on this site, that's if I can work out my computer to put the stuff on! I am much better with pen to paper.

We have had to say goodbye to Joe, who has worked as my lunchtime bar staff for 10years on and off. Good luck, Joe, in your new job and welcome to Charlie, who has taken over. I hope you last as long.

Domino and crib league is still in full swing and so is bar billiard (in fact the bar billiard boys are TOP in their league). Well done. It must have been Jack's cheesecake that's done it!!!!!! We are still doing the quiz on the last Sunday of the month. It would be nice to see some new faces, no charge to enter. It starts at 8pm, so try and come and see how you fare against our regulars.

We have altered our times slightly. We now do lunchtime food 12 till 2.30 during the week and we will also open all day in the week if you are having a party or function. All you have to do is ask. We do open all day on Saturdays and Sundays; also bank holidays. Bank holiday Mondays we are always open all day. Mothers Day is coming up - we are doing two sittings - book now so you are not disappointed. Sittings at 12pm and 2.30pm.

Lynne



# Windmill Under 5s

The children and staff have all returned to Pre-School after their Christmas holidays full of enthusiasm for the new term ahead. Last half term was jam packed with Christmas themed activities, huge amounts of glitter, the Christmas play watched by their proud friends and families, the Christmas party and culminating in a visit from Father Christmas. Fantastic!

Thanks to our school leavers who kindly donated some great toys as a leaving present to Windmills and thanks to the outgoing committee who achieved their goal of funding a hard surfaced extension to our outside play area. A great legacy to leave and we look forward to being able to use it whatever the weather.

This term is exciting as we have lots of new starters and Rachel and her team are busy putting all their 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 next Open Day on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Join us to see just what Windmills has to offer! or to arrange an alternative time call Rachel Manning on 07821-554343.

We are holding a Car Boot Sale on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February so if you have any extra stuff lying around you would like to convert into money please ring Karen Galvin on 01844 343973 to book a table or if you just want to browse around and partake of a coffee and a cake we would love to see you there.

**Tina Zychowicz (chair)**

## The Windmill WI



During the autumn our members spent a busy time attending the Group Meeting hosted by Downley Village Evening WI; participating in the Village Quiz, and spending a fascinating evening at the Wycombe Swan listening to

Dame Stella Rimington, former head of MI5 – what an amazing woman!

At our November monthly meeting we had a talk from a representative from Biffa Waste Services who talked to us about waste and landfill. I don't think any of us realised that waste could be so interesting!

Our Christmas Party, was, as usual, a most enjoyable event. The St Mary Singers from Princes Risborough started the evening with items of Christmas music and verse.



They were most entertaining and certainly got us in the mood for the rest of the evening. Members then enjoyed a 3-course buffet prepared by the Committee.

Once again this year, we have been able to offer two bursaries to our members. These bursaries are to be spent on, or put towards, any educational or recreational course. The lucky winners in the draw held at our Christmas Party were Mrs Stella Boll and Mrs Valerie Tilbury



We don't have a meeting in January, so our next get together will be on February 7, when our speaker will be Mr Jim Dale with his talk entitled 'The Impact of the Weather'. In March we will be 'meeting' Mary Kingsley, the 19<sup>th</sup> Century African explorer. In April we will be having a make-over by Sally Anne Taylor – should be interesting! If any of these subjects interest you, please don't hesitate to come and join us for the evening.

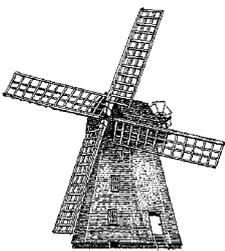
Another date for your diary is our spring JUMBLE SALE

on Saturday, 10 March. 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 a real treasure on the white elephant stall or a new outfit for the spring!

The Windmill WI meets on the first Wednesday in the month at the Millennium Village Hall at 7.45pm so if you fancy a night out please come along – we're a friendly bunch!

**Daphne Williams**

## Lacey Green Windmill



The windmill will be open at our usual times in 2007. These are from 2.30 to 5.30 on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from the 6th of May until the 30th of September, from 2.30 to 5.30. On Sunday 13th May we will hope to

have the sails turning for National Mills Weekend. As usual, we will be entirely dependent on having a dry day with some wind. The event in 2006 was a very memorable one, as Christopher Wallis had died just four days before. Many people came along to remember Christopher on that day, and you can read my thoughts on the day on the windmill's web site (details shown below). Follow the links to Special Events, and then 2006 National Mills Weekend.

In a historic timber building one has to be vigilant of attack by pests such as woodworm. Since the restoration of the windmill started in 1971, individual timbers have always been treated as required, however, over the last couple of years, we have become aware of an increasing amount of evidence of active woodworm in various parts of the windmill. The old oak timbers of the mill only suffer where softer patches of sap wood remain on the surface. But much of the machinery and subsidiary parts of the structure use soft wood which was gradually being attacked. There is a lot of timber in a five storey wooden windmill which has all wooden machinery.

We took expert advice which agreed with our thoughts that the whole windmill really needed to be treated. This involves spraying all timbers with chemicals that nowadays can only be handled by professional workers. This was done in October, and the work is guaranteed for 20 years. Over the last 35 years of work, there have been very few instances where

voluntary labour has had to be supplemented by professional skills. The treatment was by far and away the most expensive individual bill that the windmill has had to face in 350 years! The cost was around £2,500 which we were able to meet from the funds that we have built up from visitors' entrance fees and donations over the years.

Other maintenance work has been done, but this year it will be time to paint the body of the mill again. We would be pleased to hear from any volunteers who would consider helping us, a good head for heights would be an advantage.

I would also be pleased to hear from anyone who could consider joining our team of wardens who open the windmill to the public. It is not necessary to be an expert on windmills, many have gained significant knowledge with experience. The number of visitors we get on our open days often depends on the weather. We usually have around 1000 visitors over 25 open afternoons. The total for 2006 was slightly less, the hot summer days stopped people venturing out. They obviously do not realise that Lacey Green windmill is one of the coolest places to visit, as the interior of the mill maintains a very steady temperature.

Please feel free to contact me about any of the matters I have mentioned, and for further details of the windmill and our opening arrangements, see our web site which I am pleased to say has been well received since I established it in the Spring of 2006.

**Michael Hardy. Honorary Secretary**  
**Lacey Green Windmill Restoration Committee**  
Telephone: 01844 275871  
E-mail: [laceygreenmill@btinternet.com](mailto:laceygreenmill@btinternet.com)  
Web site: [www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk](http://www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk)

## Lacey Green & Loosley Row Sports & Social Club

### Cricket Section

As I listened to Geoffrey 'The Coronor' Boycott's inquest on the Ashes matches in Australia. I couldn't help being struck by the similarities in what he was saying about the England players and our Lacey Green teams.

The gist of his criticism in the main was that they lacked good hard matches before the Ashes series began.

**Continued on page 24**

# Lacey Green Singers

## AUTUMN CONCERT – MOZART'S REQUIEM

The autumn concert for 2006 was a performance of the Mozart Requiem. This was particularly appropriate in the year which celebrated 250 years since his birth. A special feature was the Samuel Green organ in St. John's church, which accompanied the work. The organ is in urgent need of restoration, and it will be a real help to efforts to obtain grant funding to make it available to a wider audience. It was most gratifying to have a packed house for this special concert.

A grant from the local authority helped to finance a string quartet, a rare treat for this small local choir.

The piece proved to be very challenging for the singers, but the conductor, Miss Cathie Kaye, with her normal calm and professional approach, enabled the choir to rise to the challenge. It was a wonderful experience both to listen to and to sing this lovely music. The soloists were drawn entirely from the choir, and all gave excellent performances, a real testament to Cathie's determination to improve and encourage the singing of choir members.

There was a special poignancy to this concert, which was performed on Remembrance Day. Thanks again to Cathie Kaye, choir members have DVDs of their performance, and it is hoped that the audience also have happy memories, and will return to support future concerts.

## CAROL CONCERT

This followed the usual format, with choir pieces, music from St. John's School Choir and Bell Ringers, and plenty of carols for the audience to sing. As always, the Village Hall was packed. The festive atmosphere was enhanced by mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Sadly, it was the last concert to be directed by Cathie Kaye. She will be much missed, and we wish her every success in the future.

Lacey Green Singers' next concert will be on Sat 17<sup>th</sup> March, under their new musical director, Kate Laughton.

**Rosemary Mortham, Chairman**

## AN APPRECIATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Lacey Green Singers gave an excellent rendering of Mozart's Requiem at St John's Church. It certainly was a most delightful concert, enjoyed I am sure by the packed church.

We are so very lucky to have our own "home grown" group of enthusiastic singers. They are part of what makes Lacey Green and Loosley Row real villages. Their concerts are always something I look forward to.

**Betty Tyler**



**Concerts fill our village hall or a church because they can always be relied upon to provide a fully enjoyable evening. Ask anyone who went. Then blame yourself if you didn't go!**

# Memories of my time with the Lacey Green Singers

By Cathie Kaye



**Cathie**

Photo by her dad, Terry Kaye

I remember going to listen to the Lacey Green Singers rehearse for the very first time. I had been asked by Michael Putnam, a close family friend, whether I would consider taking on a small village choir who sang for enjoyment and were desperately trying to find a replacement for Ray Isaacson, who was sadly retiring. At the time, I was a freelance musical director and had just finished my training at The London Academy

of Music and Dramatic Art, where I had run a choir for the students, as well as taking part in their singing classes and productions, both as a conductor/M.D. and performer. Being a singer and having been involved in choirs for a number of years, I was thrilled to be offered a

chance to run an established choir myself, but also rather worried. How would they feel about a young, ambitious female bursting into their settled and cosy choral life and shaking things up a bit?!

I agreed to go and listen to one of the choir's Thursday evening rehearsals before I made up my mind and in the few weeks beforehand, my feelings alternated between excitement and worry at how they would react towards me. However, sitting in on that first rehearsal, my concerns quickly disappeared as I suddenly realized how much potential there was in the choir and how far I could take them. I knew that there was a lot of work to do to get them to the standard I wanted them at, but I was up for the challenge and I agreed to take them on.

That was September 2002, and since then we have certainly had one heck of a journey! It took the Lacey Green Singers a while to get used to my ways; my silly (and not so silly) vocal warm-ups, the hours of note-bashing to make sure that every single person knew what they were supposed to be singing and not relying so much on their next door neighbour (an ongoing challenge!), singing without music (shock horror!), making the choir members stand next to singers of a different section to see if they could hold their parts, and other fun and games!

I know that some members of the choir were not so keen

to leave their comfort zones and were quite resistant towards me and my ideas at times - this certainly made it a challenge as a conductor. I have to be honest and say that things were frustrating at times, but the success that we had at our concerts made it all worth while



**Christmas Carol**  
photos by Tim Kidger

The choir has come on leaps and bounds over the last few years and we have managed to cover a huge range of music. I certainly feel that I pushed them to their limits and the result was some fantastic and memorable concerts. These were the John Rutter Requiem, Magic of the Musicals, Sounds of the 60's and 70's, The Armed Man (Karl Jenkins), Gilbert & Sullivan, Classic Choruses, the Mozart Requiem, and the annual Christmas concert with the children from St. John's School.



There have also been a few new experiences for the Lacey Green Singers, such as performing with the West Wycombe Brass Band at St Lawrence's Church, taking part in singing workshops and performing with professional musicians and ensembles.

As I look back over the last four years, I am extremely proud of what the Lacey Green Singers have achieved. Through determination and hard-work they have transformed into a choir who is able to take on more challenging and diverse repertoire and produce a high standard of concerts.



This period has also been a huge learning curve for me as a conductor and a wonderful experience. I have not only learnt much more about how to get the best out of a choir, but I have learnt a lot about myself in the process and my time with the Lacey Green Singers will always stay with me. I think the choir would agree that the tears, frustration, sleepless nights and (sometimes!) terrible rehearsals were worth all the amazing and rewarding times that we shared. We certainly laughed a lot along the way.

**St John's Church was full for the performance of Mozart's Requiem  
Photos from back of churches by Norman Tyler**

I could not have done as much as I have without the help of Fiona Insley, who has given hours of her time to rehearse with members of the choir and also stepped into the role of M.D. when I was doing panto at Christmas. We are also grateful to our wonderful musicians who have played for us over the years and made our concerts so special. Thank you!

to inspire them and leave them with a sense of pride at what they have achieved over the last four years.



**Cathie conducting at West Wycombe Church**

The Lacey Green Singers are a wonderful group of people and I wish them the very best of luck in the future. I hope that if I have done nothing else, I have managed

## Continued from page 20

That certainly applies to our teams; they are always playing 'catchup' against the teams that do prepare with pre-season matches.

A few 15 over eight-ball evening matches (and I'm sure that there are plenty of local teams who would be delighted to come to Lacey Green to play) would put them in fine fettle for the start of the league fixtures. I know travel is a problem for some of our lads but a mixture of 1st and 2nd elevens would ensure most gained some pre-season practice.

The next thing Geoffrey mentioned was the bowling. Now I know I keep harping on about this, but G.B. is quite right when he emphasizes the importance of 'line and length.' If you bowl short a foot or so outside the off stump, or the leg stump, for that matter, you deserve to be thumped for four. It matters not if you bowl fast, medium or slow - if you bowl straight the batsman has to think first about defending his wicket - not how far he can thump the ball. The best place (if you can do it) is on or just outside the off stump.

The other thing I picked up from what G.B. said was about the captaincy. Now he didn't criticise Flintoff harshly (and nor would I - a fine young player) but I did notice as I watched the highlights that as the Aussies lashed our bowlers to all corners of the ground he stood with a look of hopelessness on his face. In my opinion, the captain should be encouraging and cajoling his bowlers (and fielders) at all times - especially when things are not going too well. He should be switching his bowlers, moving fielders - anything to make the batsmen think he's got a trick or two up his sleeve. That's what I think 'Freddie' has to learn and it applies to whoever captains our teams.

On to other things. The renovation on the pavilion is now finished, I understand. It's been made larger with even better facilities - as was mentioned by Gordon and Norman in the last issue. We are very fortunate to have had craftsmen (and labourers) over the years who have built and rebuilt the pavilion from its very humble beginnings back in the fifties. Not to mention the amount of money they have had to raise to do it. Some clubs still have the shed-like structures they've had for many years. What a pity more people from the village don't come down and enjoy our fine ground and the facilities we can offer. And support the team!

I have a little news about the league structure for the coming season. The 1st eleven are relegated to

Division One - as expected. Hopefully, this will give them time to re-group, consolidate and head back to the Premier division the following season.

The 2nd eleven keep their place in Div Two. I'm pleased about that because I saw quite a bit of them last season and I'm sure that despite losing players at the last minute to the 1st eleven - and often going short - they were certainly not the worst team in that division. And they did win the Junior K.O. Cup.

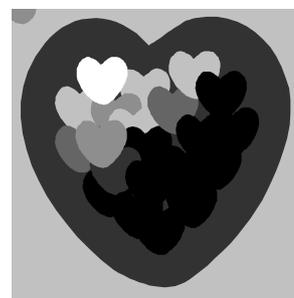
I understand that Ibbstone, who, as far as I remember, have always played 'friendly' cricket, are joining the league - possibly in Div Two. Apparently, some of the younger players want to play more competitive cricket. Good for them, I say.

There is one major change to the league rules, I'm told. Any team that scratches a match early in the week will not receive eight points should all the other matches be washed out. That seems fair to me.

Now, I know of one young lad in the village eager - nay, anxious - to play this season. Surely there must be others who would like to join him. I do hope he - or they - is given the chance to see what they can do.

**Geoff Gomme**

The most important thing a father can do for his children is to demonstrate his love and admiration for their mother.



All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother

Abraham Lincoln

You ain't learnin' when you're talkin'

Lyndon Baines Johnson

We are tomorrow's past

Mary Webb

Don't talk unless you can improve on silence

Vermont proverb



# Loosley Row and Lacey Green WI

2nd Thursdays 2.00pm Village Hall

We have once again had a very interesting quarter. In October we hosted a group meeting in the Village Hall. The speaker was Graham Laurie MVO, who told us about the Queen's Flight, from the beginning to the present day. This was followed by a very tasty afternoon tea. (We always seem to be eating).

November was once again the annual meeting when we select the committee. The President and Treasurer agreed to stand again, but we were in difficulties over a secretary. Dawne Glenister stood down for personal reasons and no one was prepared to take over the job. After a lot of discussion and advice from our WI advisor, two people agreed to share the work. This was a great relief because without a secretary we were in danger of being closed down.

That little problem being settled, we were able to concentrate on the Christmas party. The starter and main course were cooked and served by the committee, and the delicious desserts were provided by the members. (See what I mean about the eating.) After lunch we played some good, old fashioned party games and it was voted one of the best parties that we have had.



**Now which pudding shall I try first?**

We were pleased to re-assemble after Christmas to exchange news of family gatherings and Christmas activities. The speaker was Mr R. Bignall, born and bred in Bucks, who showed us his magnificent slides of the Vale of Aylesbury. A lovely way to start the New Year.

**Doreen de Grey**

# 81<sup>st</sup> Over-60s Club

1st Tuesdays 2.00pm at Village Hall



**Photos by Pat Brooks**

As I write this, I cannot believe it is seven months since our 48<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration lunch.

Our Christmas Party was once again a roaring success – all thanks to Lynne at the Black Horse, who donated everything for the superb feast, plus all the party goodies – hats, crackers, party poppers etc. Thank you, Lynne and your helpers, for providing the club with such a wonderful and generous treat.

After lunch, some 20 children from St John's School entertained us with a selection from their Nativity Performance, which kept members awake after such

**25**

a full lunch! Our thanks go to the staff and children for their festive cheer.

This year, we plan to have a spring/summer outing by coach – thanks to some sponsorship from the Princes Risborough Charity Commission, Wycombe District Council “Community Chest” and Hallmark’s 200th edition celebration, which allows us free use of the hall for 2007. Our grateful thanks to you all for your support and generous donations.

Over 60 – why not come and join us? We would be delighted to welcome you on the first Tuesday of each

month at 2pm in the Lacey Green & Loosley Row Millennium Hall for a home made tea, chat or some entertainment. As we now have seven nonagenarian members, we must be a good advertisement for longevity, or perhaps it’s something to do with Lacey Green being so high above sea level!

We wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. We would also like to send our grateful thanks to all our drivers and cake makers for their voluntary support throughout the year.

**Carole Knight**

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## Loosley Row and Lacey Green Horticultural Society

### OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

**W**e have just enjoyed the January talk on “Butterflies in the Chilterns”. This was arranged at very short notice by our Programme Secretary, Linda Storey, after the intended speaker became incommunicado at the last minute. Linda had booked the lady in July last, when the engagement was confirmed in writing by both sides. Ten days before the meeting Linda made her usual phone call to ensure that the speaker had remembered the date, and the number was unobtainable. An e-mail was sent but rejected. Linda finally obtained a new address for the lady, in Hampshire, but could not trace a phone number. A letter to the new address produced no reply. After many phone calls, Linda was able to find someone to give us a talk, at 72 hours notice. The intended talk would have been entitled “Stress free gardening”! All of this illustrates just how much work goes into arranging our bi-monthly talks, and which I think we largely take for granted. Thank you, Linda.

The topic for the meeting in November was “The Cape in Spring Time” and was very well received. It was also the time for judging the Pumpkin Competition. On arrival, members were treated to John and Laura’s splendid Pumpkin Soup. The heaviest pumpkin was grown by Alison Shreeve, the pumpkin with the biggest circumference was entered by Mary Lawrence, mine was adjudged to be the most attractive, but I am not sure what criteria were applied and, being a thoroughly modern and p.c. Society, we had a prize for the smallest pumpkin, which went to John Langlois. There were several varieties entered so it was not necessarily all down to the entrant.

You may have seen the TV programme in January from Kew Gardens, which showed their compost making scheme. It appears that, in a process taking only 3 weeks, they turn into compost everything which dies or is cut down in the gardens. It requires an enormous “chipper” capable of devouring tree trunks, a JCB to turn the heap daily, regular contributions from the Household Cavalry stables, and, most hard to come by, a considerable volume of water. However, we can do the same in our gardens, on a smaller scale, saving ourselves the cost of buying compost or mulch. A deep mulch keeps the weeds down and the moisture in. We are arranging a talk and demonstration of the art of compost making, to take place in someone’s garden, hopefully in June or July. Probably with refreshments. Details in the May Hallmark.

On Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, we have the Society’s AGM in the Millennium Village Hall at 8.00, after which we will have a talk by John Tyler, (Norman’s son), on The Ridgeway, which will more than compensate for sitting through the AGM. I anticipate that the business will last no more than 30 minutes. I believe that the present committee members are available for re-election, but would not be offended if they were replaced, and we would welcome new blood. I am very pleased to report that we have been able to co-opt two new members, Adam Heeley and Chris Boll, in the last few months and they have brought welcome new inspiration to the rest of us, who were elected three years ago.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the AGM, and if you are not yet a member you would be made very welcome. Just come along. We shall be distributing Schedules for the Annual Show to be held on 8 September, at the meeting.

**Terry Fendom, Chairman**

# Happy Wanderers Walking Club

## HUGHENDEN ESTATE BOUNDARY WALK Sunday 29th October 2006



**B**enjamin Disraeli used the fortune of Mrs Wyndham to purchase Hughenden Manor - an undistinguished house, which the Disraelis succeeded in making uglier. However we must be grateful for the efforts they made to produce a magnificent park and Estate. He loved the Chilterns, beech woods and wrote 'I am not surprised that the ancients worshiped trees'.

On a beautiful Autumn Sunday morning, a group of thirty Happy Wanderers had the delight of investigating the Boundary Walk, which goes around the 560 acre Estate. The walk was advertised to be suitable for both ramblers and amblers, allowing some members the opportunity to take a less taxing route.

The walk started from the Manor and went south, past the dogs' graves belonging to the family, before going downhill and past Home Farm. The fitter members decided to climb the steep hill to investigate the fine Monument in memory of Disraeli's father, who lived at Bradenham Manor.

The two groups rejoined at the top of Downley before passing through beautiful beech woods. This led downhill into the valley to the warm sunny grassland filled with grazing sheep and then back to the Manor through a wood of mixed trees.

Conveniently, we were now back at the National Trust restaurant, where some of us decided to have coffee and wish the remaining party well for the second leg of the walk. The second half took the Wanderers along the side of the Hanging Wood before passing around the turnip fields and then almost down to the Hughenden road.

The last half mile back to the Manor was quite arduous with several red faced Wanderers explaining that this was very good for the circulation.

**Ronnie Lewin**

A great autumn day, wall to wall sunshine, and a "first" for the club. A figure of eight walk, round the Boundary Path of Hughenden Manor estate, giving the opportunity for a short and a longer walk on the same day.

Starting at the car park near the House, the first part took us to the Disraeli Monument and back to the House. Then the second loop for those who wished to complete the full walk.



Starting at the car park near the House, the first part took us to the Disraeli Monument and back to the House. Then the second loop for those who wished to complete the full walk.

Led by Liz and Ronnie Lewin, who were supported by 30 other Happy Wanderers this Sunday morning. Our thanks to the walk leaders.

Photos by Ron Goodearl

**Ron Goodearl**

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## Sunday 26th November

We lead a walk from Cockshoot Woods, near Wendover. It was a good morning for a walk and 14 people turned up to join us. Our walk took us through two equestrian centres, one at Dunsmore and one at Cobbler's Lane. We had to walk through some very large puddles and some very muddy ground and over quite a few stiles, but everyone said how much they enjoyed it.

**Roger and Ann Walker**



Gossip goes in both ears and comes out of the mouth greatly enlarged.



The only thing wrong with the world is people.

Sign in a shop window: 'We buy old furniture. We sell antiques'.

# District and County Council News

## Methodist Chapel Site

I am aware that the subject of the planning application for this site has caused much discussion within the village. I have taken the view that the work done by the villages in drafting a Community Action Plan and Village Design Statement, all of which has been reported and extensively consulted upon within the village, should be supported and not lightly thrown away. The recommendations of the Village Design Statement are clear that land reserved for 'community use' should not be given over to housing unless the need for such use, which includes all forms of community use, is shown to be no longer present. The work carried out to survey the villages showed clear support for the return of village services such as a shop, post office and other services such as a doctor's surgery and meeting room.

The draft recommendations were known prior to the applicant's purchase and the subsequent application for change of use for the site. They had been referenced in comments on a previous application by the Methodist Church and were a reason why the Chapel site came on the market in the way it did, the Methodists not pursuing their application for housing in knowledge of likely refusal. The Application, through the applicant's own village needs study, sought to persuade the Planning Authority that the need to provide such services was no longer present and that those being provided were failing. In this way the application sought to make the way clear for the required change of use.

Contrary to this view the possibility of providing such services does exist in a similar way to that successfully developed in Speen through partnership with a Housing Association and therefore to deny the village the opportunity to have these facilities and services should be resisted. The Parish Council and the Community Planning Group shared this view with both making representations to the Council for refusal. In the event the Planning Committee voted overwhelmingly for refusal and as such to support the recommendations of the Village Design Statement. Having seen the success of the Speen development I believe that a similar scheme could be provided in Lacey Green and so to lose the land needed without adequate compensation and the certain provision of another site was unacceptable.

## Culverton /Woodway Junction

The scheme for the road improvements at this junction

is progressing with negotiations for land purchase. These negotiations are proceeding well in anticipation of start on site in Spring / Summer 2007.

## Kiln Lane Restoration

After discussion and agreement with the Parish Council, the Rights of Way Officers have taken the position that the developer should complete the construction of the replacement dwelling and, prior to occupation, reinstate the lane to the agreed standard that includes the removal of the concrete strip. In the interim period it is for the developer to keep the lane in a condition that is fit for walkers and equestrians. Failure to comply would result in legal action being taken.

## Property Spy

Wycombe District Council are now posting 'Buyer Beware' notices on these sites that includes Church Lane. If you notice any interference with these notices please let Charles Power know at WDC Planning Enforcement (01494 461000), and he will provide new replacement notices.

## Speed Limit Review /Tranquil

Work has continued to seek comments from those affected by the review. You may have read in the Bucks Free Press a letter from a schoolboy in Loosley Row asking for explanations why the County Council had put certain signage in place. It is always good to see constructive comments like his so I asked if he could be invited to the next meeting where these were to be discussed. Hopefully he is able to come in January and will be able to report back, through Hallmark, what was said.

The Tranquil Project has been taken over by County Council for implementation of the Village Entry Treatments (White Gates and Oak Features) and work on the new traditional finger post direction signing is progressing. Progress has been difficult during the handover but a new manager has been appointed which should now mean progress on the ground.

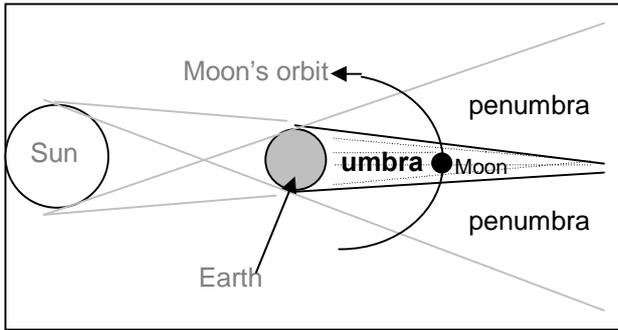
If you have any comments on the new speed limits then please send them to Pat Francis at the County Council (01296 395000). You can also contact Pat by using the email address [pfrancis@bucksscc.gov.uk](mailto:pfrancis@bucksscc.gov.uk) with a copy to me. If you do not have email then I would be pleased to pass them on for you.

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.

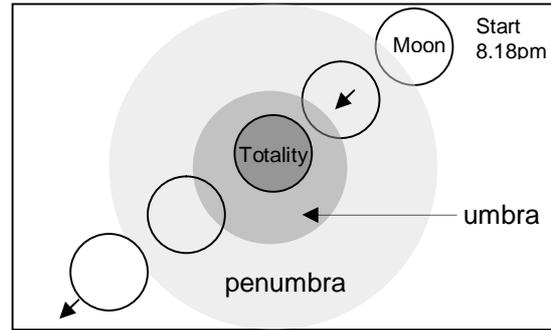
**Paul Rogerson**  
**District and County Councillor**  
**01494 488315**

# Heavenly Bodies

by Chris Dignan



1. View over Earth's North Pole



2: View from the ground

**G**et ready for an eclipse! Whereas the Moon has the power to block the Sun from Earth, our planet is about to make the Moon Sun-less and turn it blood-red.

You don't need binoculars or a telescope to see it either, as it's best to just use your eyes during the total lunar eclipse on March 3.

As with any solid object placed in sunlight, that object casts a shadow. So the Earth constantly casts a shadow out into space, and when the Moon travels into that shadow, a lunar eclipse occurs. This can only take place at full Moon when it is on the opposite side of the Earth to the Sun and all three spheres line-up (see diagram 1).

A lunar eclipse doesn't take place every full Moon because, at almost 250,000 miles away from us, the Moon doesn't orbit exactly level around the Earth but at

a slight angle which usually takes it above or below Earth's shadow. But when the angles coincide, a lunar eclipse occurs.

There are several stages of an eclipse. The Earth's shadow has two parts – a dark, central 'umbra' which obscures all objects in its path, and a lighter outer 'penumbra' which causes objects to dim.

The other thing to remember is that although we see the Moon rise and set from left to right in the sky due to the Earth's rotation, the Moon is actually orbiting around us right to left. So the first 'chunk' removed from the Moon by the Earth's shadow will be at about '7 o'clock' if the Moon was a clock face (see diagram 2).

So now you can plan your viewing for March 3, which is a Saturday.

8pm	ensure your vantage point can see the Moon which will look normal
8.18pm	the Moon enters the 'penumbra' and will start to dim from bottom left to top right
9.30pm	the Moon enters the darker 'umbra' shadow and will darken from left to right for an hour
10.44pm	'totality' - with the whole of the Moon in the umbra. This is when the Moon's colour changes to dark orange if conditions are right
11.20pm	maximum totality when the colour change is at its strongest – redder centre, orange edges
11.57pm	totality ends - the Moon brightens from bottom-right as it leaves the shadow until 2.23am

The Moon never 'disappears' in the shadow because sunlight striking the 'daytime' half of the Earth is refracted and dispersed around the Earth by our atmosphere, which acts like a very fuzzy mirror. It is this refracted light, mainly at the red end of the spectrum, which reaches the umbra and makes the Moon glow orange-red.

If you've never seen a Lunar Eclipse, it's well worth it as it really gives you a sense of wonder at the changing colours on the Moon, and is a dramatic demonstration of the precise clockwork movement of the Solar System. Make the most of it as the next one isn't until August – next year!



The reason history has to repeat itself is that no one heard it the first time

# Lacey Green Community Plan

**Methodist Chapel site development.** The issues raised in the last issue of Hallmark concerning the Village Design Statement and the Methodist Chapel Site by Mr. Parker's letter are interesting. It would appear that Mr. Parker is trying to undo all the work that has been done over the past 5 years, and to drive a wedge into the community, to gain something for his own benefit. In contrast, the Community Planning Group has been working with the Community and responding to issues that have been raised, in order to get benefits for the whole of the village. It was the work of the Community Planning Group, in conjunction with the villages and supported by Wycombe District Council, that has helped to bring about the return of the Post Office and Library services to the villages. More needs to be done if we are to secure a village shop and other facilities under a single roof.

This requires a substantial area of land, on which needed social housing would also be provided. The latter would enable the whole project to be suitably financed.

It is all too easy to get into a slanging match, which benefits nobody. No doubt there will be input from other residents. The only comment I would make is that the Millennium Hall could not accommodate the facilities we are seeking to provide, without very extensive modification and cost that was not present under Mr. Parker's proposals.

As far as we could see, the benefits to Mr. Parker of his existing proposals far outweighed those that might be gained by the community. It may well be that discussion between the interested parties, who either control the ownership of the sites or can contribute to bring about the development that would accommodate everybody's needs, would be better than one party seeking to gain all the benefits for themselves, i.e. to work with us to bring about change rather than against us.

Note the article by Bucks Housing Association regarding the Speen shop development, which has been successful for nine years, and could be achieved in Lacey Green.

**Parish Plan** We are proceeding (slowly) with the writing of the Parish Plan, which will then be published in draft for further community input and comment, probably involving a public meeting. If anyone feels that they have literary talent and would like to help, we would welcome their input. We now have a good idea of the community likes and dislikes, and have identified the many issues to be tackled in the short and long term. What is now required is the right form of words. All you need is some spare time and away you go (a suitable word processor also helps).

There have been various previous offers of help from residents, usually in response to one of our surveys or from a public meeting. We have obtained new members for our

Steering Group in that way, but we have not so far been able to make much use of other people's potential. So now is a golden opportunity for you to make your contribution. We would particularly like to have representatives from other village organisations and from the younger members of the community. How about it? Just call me – see below.

**Present members of the Steering Group** are: Angela Agate, Lindsey Allardyce (secretary), Linda Fisher, Dave Howarth, Tony Molesworth (chairman), Roger Newenham, Paul Rogerson (Treasurer), Barry Titchen. Jane Oakford has been a past member and will, we hope, rejoin us.

**On the fringes.** We are currently issuing a questionnaire to those parts of the Parish that were excluded from our 2005 survey. Apart from a few private properties on the fringes of the Parish, the largest element was the block of about 140 MoD houses at Greenwood, Walters Ash. In 2005 they were excluded in the belief that the residents there would probably not consider themselves to be in Lacey Green, were generally short stay, and unlikely to have any strong affiliation to Lacey Green. The response so far indicates that these beliefs were only partly true. Most Greenwood residents did not know that there was a post office in Lacey Green (but casual conversation with a couple of residents suggested that they would use it in future!). Many wanted information about what is happening in the Parish but were not satisfied with the level of communications and would like a copy of the village magazine. Answers regarding waste collection etc. were similar to those in the main parts of the village, but there was a significant demand for doorstep glass (bottle) collection (interesting since there is a bottle bank within walking distance).

There was a substantial interest in other potential services, notably a dentist, health clinic, vet, police, and a coffee shop. There was support for more local employment opportunities and a large proportion would be happy to see limited commercial or industrial development.

**Council elections** are to take place in May. One of the stated objectives in our Parish Plan grant application was that we intended to have a Quality Parish Council. An essential requirement for this to happen is that the Councillors are *elected*.

Please see Mrs. Hughes's article on the subject.

**Tony Molesworth**  
01844 344975

# Methodist Chapel News

## - A BRIEF UPDATE FROM OWNERS

We would like to offer a sincere thank you to all who commented following our article in the last edition of Hallmark. Your support and encouragement has meant a lot to us.

We have met with the Parish Council, Tony Molesworth and Graveyard committee to discuss a way forward at the Chapel site. We are hoping that we can all work together to find a realistic solution. The main outcome of this meeting was that we will include two options in our next planning application that would benefit the village. These are as follows:

**Option 1** - We donate a strip of land to widen the graveyard access to the requested width and also make donations to the Village Hall fund and Church fund.

**Option 2** – We allow use of the front corner of our site to enable a village shop to be located, if it is thought necessary or viable.

There have been many unjust things said about us, and what our intentions are. The truth is that building our family home has been a dream for many years, which we hope to realise at Lacey Green. I understand that this idea will not suit everyone and that people are sometimes reluctant to share other peoples' views, especially when their own plans are affected. We have tried to go about gaining planning permission in a fair and honest way, with the facts always to hand. During our research into village facilities, we found that the post office and library were under-used. This is fact and not something we have 'persuaded' others, including the council, to believe. We are trying to work with the various village groups to try and agree a realistic solution that will benefit not only us but also the community as a whole. If you have any comments you would like to share, please let us know. It is your community, have your say!

Changing the subject completely, we thoroughly enjoyed the production of 'ALLO ALLO'. It was great fun. Along with the good company and good food, it made for a really nice evening. Well done to all those who performed, cooked, served and did their bit behind the scenes. It was all very professional!

P.S. If anyone would like to see details of our planning application, including the Lacey Green Community Needs Assessment, then go to [www.wycombe.gov.uk](http://www.wycombe.gov.uk) planning section under application number 06/06274/OUT.

**Scott & Sereta Parker.**

**[Laceygreenchapel@talktalk.net](mailto:Laceygreenchapel@talktalk.net)**

**86 Swallow St, Iver Heath, Bucks. SL0 0HQ**

## Would you like to take over Speen Stores?



### Opening of Speen Stores in May 1998

In spite of considerable local scepticism when it opened as to whether a shop was viable, it flourished and is considered to be a focus of daily life.

9 years ago many villagers believed that the proposed shop was merely a ruse to get planning permission on the site for affordable rented housing. Happily they have been proved wrong! The 5 new homes have enabled local families to remain in the village but the shop and post office is felt to provide an invaluable service to Speen residents.

When Bucks Housing Association contemplated opening a shop, it realised that overheads were the key. The shop premises were therefore fully kitted out and let at a highly subsidised rent. Furthermore, the shopkeepers were given complete freedom to sub-let upstairs (provided that they did not make a profit) and as a result the rent is covered in full by the hairdressers and beauty salon. Village shops do not have to pay council tax so the shop only has to find the cost of electricity and water.

The project was granted £40,000 of Lottery funding conditional on the net rental proceeds being re-cycled into village charities and in the last 9 years over £20,000 has been paid to various village projects and charities, including restoring the War Memorial and improving the Speen Village Hall.

Sadly, due to ill health, our shopkeepers have decided not to re-new their lease, so we are looking for someone to take over. If you are interested, ring their **Jane Fleming on 01494 532808.**



One of the greatest labour-saving devices of today is tomorrow.

# Village Directory



<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Contact's Name</u>	<u>Contact's 'phone no.</u>
81 <sup>st</sup> 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 (Clerk)	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	Tina Zychowicz (Chair)	01844 344959
Windmill WI (evenings)	Stella Boll	01844 347268
Yoga Group	Annie Silverman (nee Cahill)	01844 343643

## Regular Users of Village Hall

### LOCAL VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

81 <sup>st</sup> Over 60s Club	1 <sup>st</sup> Tue afternoon of month
Horticultural Society	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed evening of month
Lacey Green Productions	One production per year
Parish Council	Six evenings pa *
Residents Association	Currently inactive
Walking Club	AGM once a year
Windmill WI (evenings)	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed evening of month
LR&LG WI (daytimes)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thu afternoon of month

### COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS

Adult learning – Furniture Restoration	Thu mornings, term time
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Jazzercise	Tue evenings
Jingle Tots	Fri mornings, term time *
Karate	Mon evenings
Kindergym	Fri, term time
Pilates Classes	Tue mornings
U3A	Last Wed afternoon of month
Yoga classes	Mon mornings, term time
Whiteleaf Bowmen	Wed, Thu & Fri evenings Apr to Sep
West Wycombe Fine Arts Society	Approx 2 Weds per month

\* in meeting room

The Hall is used every day Mon-Fri. On some days, three or four organisations use the facilities at different times. At present, the Hall is not used on a Monday afternoon.

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

Feb 24	Windmill Under 5s Car Boot Sale	TBA
Feb 25	Happy Wanderers' AGM & local walk #	11.15 for 11.30am
Mar 2&3	<i>Theatre at Home</i> by LG Productions with The Command Performers	Evenings
Mar 4	<i>Theatre at Home</i>	Matinee
Mar 6	81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month)	2pm
Mar 7	Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Mar 8	Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
Mar 10	Jumble Sale by The Windmill WI (bring jumble 10am-12 noon)	2pm
Mar 12	Parish Council <i>Annual Parish Meeting</i> at Lacey Green Village Hall *	7.30pm
Mar 14	Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Mar 17	Lacey Green Singers concert	TBA
Mar 21	Horticultural Society (3rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov) Including AGM and talk on <i>The Ridgeway</i>	8pm
Mar 25	Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
Apr 3	81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month)	2pm
Apr 4	Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Apr 11	Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Apr 12	Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
Apr 17	Parish Council Meeting at Speen Village Hall *	7.30pm
Apr 29	Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
May 1	81st Over 60's Club (1st Tue of month)	2pm
May 2	Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
May 8	Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
May 10	Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
May 14	Parish Council <i>Annual Meeting</i> at Lacey Green 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

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

May 16	Horticultural Society (3rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)	8pm
June 8	The New Rope String Band set mood for Village Fun Day Speen Playing Field Marquee	TBA
June 9	Speen Fun Day at Speen Playing Field	TBA
July 14	Speen Fete at Speen Playing Field	TBA
Jul 14	Summer Ball by St John's School and Church ##	
Sep 6	Speen Festival until 15th. Details to be announced	
Sep 8	Annual Show of Horticultural Society	
Nov 23		
& 24	Dinner Theatre by LG Productions with The Command Performers	

## Tickets available in the Spring. If you can offer sponsorship or raffle prizes, please contact **Doreen Lett** on **01844 347655**

**CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE SUMMER EDITION**  
**April 17th 2007**

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