

HALLMARK

THE LACEY GREEN & LOOSLEY ROW MAGAZINE



"Birds"

Collages in colour by St John's School students
Emma Williams, Bethany Hirst,
Piers Malden & Alice Williams

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HALLMARK

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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 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Clive Hodghton (Chair), Rachel Panter (Vice-Chair), Lee Harte (Acting Treasurer & Acting Secretary), Yvonne Axe (Co-opted Treasurer), Paula Oxford (Co-opted Secretary), Karen Hodghton (Booking Sec.), Jill Baker, Stella Boll, Jane Brown, Ginnie Brudenell, Cathryn Davies, Carole Knight, Betty Tyler & Norman Tyler

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

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

Chairman's Report

February 2008



Welcome to the first edition of Hallmark for 2008. I hope Christmas and the New Year was all you wished for and, as we look forward to the year ahead, it is time for new happenings at the Hall.

Good news is that our planning permission has now been granted for the extension to the rear of the hall. Work on it will hopefully take place as

soon as we can, so we will be able to offer more services to you, the villagers. "Watch this space".

Hopefully, this year we will find someone with the time and skills to help with collecting and loading information onto our website so we can officially launch www.laceygreen.com. So, if you have a few hours to help us with it, please could you get in touch as soon as you can. Once up and running, this website will be an invaluable resource for both villages and a fantastic

central point of reference for all matters to do with the Village Hall.

The Hall continues to thrive with bookings, 2008 is filling up very fast indeed. This year seems to be busier than ever, the phone is constantly ringing with new enquiries. Please remember to book early to make sure you beat the rush. We have now received some bookings for Weddings in 2009!

As I mentioned in the last edition, we now have a full alcohol license in the hall. This is proving to be a popular addition as we are able to supply full bar facilities

absolutely free of set up charges and serving drinks at normal pub prices.

Please keep an eye on the notice boards inside and outside the hall and don't forget the list of users in Hallmark. There's lots to do all week and numerous activities to keep everyone happy.

Have a great spring whenever it arrives and please continue to support all the local activities throughout the village.

Clive Hodgton, Chairman, Village Hall

From the Editor(s)



If you feel you could be interested in helping in any way towards **developing our village website** and/or **editing Hallmark**, please do contact me (my details on

page 1). Both are very interesting and offer plenty of opportunities to get involved with the village's organisations and people, to do some research on topics of interest or search back through the village history, including in our Hallmark archives.

The opportunities for someone to build **our website** would be exciting, interesting, challenging and rewarding. Rewarding because you would be creating a new world of interest to today's and tomorrow's villagers, ex-villagers, friends and relations. You would be free to use your initiatives as to what to do first. You would present your contributions, as you complete each, to be added to our website, already registered by our Chairman, Clive, as www.laceygreen.com

Editing brings you into contact with many people from different backgrounds & with various interests. I invite people to write something if I think – or am told – they have something to say or photographs (old or new) that would be of local interest. Choosing, formatting & adding photos is also rewarding to an editor and appreciated by readers. To help with editing, you need access to a computer, be able to type and to know (or learn – I could help you) how to use Microsoft Word, floppy disks, CDs & USB memory sticks. Your PC can do automatic grammar & spell-checking for you.

Con Baker, our oldest villager, will be 100 later this year. She writes of more memories of her girlhood on page 23.

Longstanding villager **Sheila Cole (née Anderson)** will be trekking the challenging, remote Himalayas 6-8 hours a day in March to raise money for the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home (IRHH). She will be doing this because Iain Rennie nurses supported her family so well when her father, Ted Anderson, died. With this Hallmark, there are some leaflets with much more information & some photos in colour. IRHH helped Gwen & Dennis Croucher - and I when I had cancer last year - so very much, they deserve every penny they get AND EVERY PENNY donated goes fully to the cause! To donate through Sheila herself, just ring **01844 346058**. See page 4 for an article by Rob Coles on his wife's commendable enterprise.

If you would like to get a warm feeling from doing very rewarding **voluntary work**, much of it very interesting, to help folk who are disadvantaged in some way, there are various ideas, depending on how much time you have and what your interests & experiences are, on page 42.

A **letter to the editor** on page 24 relates to our windmill proving we are in a good position to use our wind to help save the planet – but nothing to spoil our marvellous views, please! The other letter is from an appreciative Canadian reader whose daughter lives in Loosley Row.

Serious local interests are the subjects of the **Parish Community Plan** article on pages 25 & 26. These matters will be discussed at the meeting on 14th May.

In this edition there's also plenty more, some serious, some less so, from our valued regular contributors. And if you hear of anything else you think other villagers would like to read or see, or laugh at, do please tell me. I'd love to have articles from teenagers relating to their interests – we have some of school activities, most are for folk in their 20s or older, but little in between.

On the Farm

At Christmas, I was mulling over my wine and this edition of Hallmark. I thought "I really must make this one more light-hearted, and still try to keep it interesting and also to keep to my original brief which was to throw a little light on our farming world".

Many years ago I stopped listening to "The Archers. It was so well tuned in to the farming wavelength that it was no entertainment to me, just the story of our lives with the attendant difficulties. It is however a good ambassador for farming because it is entertaining as well and very much to be congratulated. Then along came January and the TV, radio and newspapers have all been inundated with food and farming topics. A farmer being asked her opinion about food said that the cows had a much better balanced diet and she knew where it all came from than many human foods. And I thought "How right you are". I could write a whole article about cattle food and that might just surprise you, for many by-products from our foods are used, not just grass and corn. But by now you may be punch drunk with all these programmes about chickens and what you should eat. If you are like me, at the end of the day I need to be entertained not lectured to. I haven't seen all the programmes but I must say that, right though what I have seen has been, I do hope that it has also been explained that the EU has more husbandry regulations in the pipeline counting down to deadlines. These producers cannot compete with products from abroad now, never mind when the regulations get tighter. It is a very uneven playing field already.

Then farming problems were brought to my mind in a quite unexpected way and I decided to enlarge on that instead. The National Farmers Union (NFU) has two functions. Firstly, to look after farming interests. Unfortunately they do not have a lot of clout for there are just not enough farmers. Secondly, they have an excellent insurance arm. Small to medium claims are dealt with by assessors who work on an expenses only payment. When John went to the local area AGM in December, he was presented with some engraved glasses commemorating that he had been an assessor for twenty five years. When called to a case, they have to write a report giving their recommendation of settlement, being the value of animals, crops, buildings or machinery damaged, and what in their opinion has occurred. The NFU Insurance has a policy of paying promptly, with seldom a quibble.

So what sort of problems arise which are outside the usual run of difficulties to be expected? OK, so animals can get out for various reasons, but so many gardens

are open plan now and, of course, the other man's grass is always greener. Obvious problem. Add to that that a lot of gardens now have swimming pools. A green cover on a swimming pool also looks tempting and having a cow in a pool is neither good for pool nor beast. I leave that one to your imagination.

Got that? So what about this? A woman in her kitchen is watching a farmer cultivating the slope behind her house. She sees him get off the tractor and goes back to untangle something caught in the implement behind it. Released of its restriction, the tractor starts to move. Gathering speed, it proceeds down towards her. It gathers up her washing on the way and delivers it into her kitchen, demolishing the boiler as it comes through the wall. Not an everyday problem, you have to agree. One that happened twice to the same farmer turned out to be sparks coming out of his tractor exhaust, setting light to his load behind as he was pulling out of Bradenham turn. Too much effort for the old tractor at that steep turn it seemed.

We had a branch fall off a big chestnut tree. Not that very big old one but the one on the other side of the drive entrance. It fell on a car windscreen and the vehicle was crushed. It was a miracle that the driver wasn't hurt. For that, specialist tree inspectors had to be called in. Fortunately for us, they could find no reason for this so the insurance paid the man's claim. It had no other big branches over the road, but when the big tree was split open in the storm we were given priority in having that felled and that left the other somewhat one sided, so that was taken down too.

Probably the strangest one that John was called to was ten cows dead in a field. Not a problem to assess the value, but how did they die? When all the detective work was done, it transpired that they had been standing in a bunch fairly near the fence. There had been a torrential thunderstorm and lightening had struck the wire fence, run along and down the metal posts, the ground was awash and it had travelled across the water to the animals which were standing in it, thus being electrocuted. Not an everyday problem, fortunately.

Sometimes someone tries to pull a fast one, so that is something to look out for too. It is an interesting job and John went to inspect many claims over the years. Just one other aspect of the farming world.

Joan West

Village Notice Board

Collecting annual donations to Hallmark in May

Our voluntary deliverers of Hallmark will be inviting you to make a donation with the next edition.

Most deliverers don't enjoy asking for money, so please surprise them by offering your donation before they get the chance to ask you!

See if you can beat them to it!

As a guide, printing and other expenses cost about £5 pa per household

Local Lady Aiming High for Charity

SETTING YOUR SIGHTS HIGHER



Sitting in your lounge on a winter's evening in your warm centrally heated home in Lacey Green or Loosley Row, it is tricky to drum up the urge to take a bracing walk across the windswept fields that we have so

many of, perched as we are on the end of this hill, at the cold end of the long low Aylesbury Vale. So what do you think would inspire someone to take a walk all day, every day for eight days solid in conditions that would undoubtedly lend our Sunday strolls to the 'very comfortable end of the spectrum'? As if that weren't enough, how about changing the grass fields for rocky paths and our hills for steep, mountain passes, at an altitude where the air is decidedly thinner? I don't know about you, but I get out of breath walking up to the pub. 'Easy' did I hear you say? Well lets round it off by spending the night in a tent just to make it interesting? Oh yes, did I mention the **Himalayas**?

Now, who do you know that would put in the months of training needed to be mentally prepared and physically fit enough to cope, as well as the months of evenings spent patiently fund raising (not to pay for the trip - oh no, she's paying for that herself) no, to raise money for someone else, and that someone else maybe a person she may have never met. Did I mention bonkers?

Well, that person happens to be my wife and yes she probably is a little bonkers; however, do it she will, and raise money she has, and this effort is for something that could well touch all of our families at some stage, regrettably to say.

Sheila Coles (nee Anderson), who is just a regular mum and ex-pupil of our village school, has for many years been running the streets of London and pounding the fields of Bucks in a bid to do her bit for the Ian Rennie nurses, who in turn did their bit so wonderfully for Ted Anderson (her dad) when his call went out. Sheila has quietly drizzled money out of every single member of the family (children no exception) and all our close friends too, but that hasn't stopped her prodding us again this time.

Sheila and Lacey Green gym partner, Christine Ive, are undertaking this challenge together, making up a small team of seven, each in aid of a charity personal to them. Although what lies ahead will doubtless be tough, it nevertheless promises to be a unique expedition through one of the most spectacular and humbling parts of our planet.

With such a big undertaking, it is important to take every opportunity, so I am writing to the Hallmark to use their umbrella to spread the word. Every penny raised will go to Ian Rennie Hospice at Home and, no matter how much you can give, big or small, every penny does count.

She leaves for her ordeal on the 15th of March 2008 and if you would like to support her, then please look at the details on the leaflet inside the Hallmark, where you will find more information. We will happily collect if you cannot call by - just ring **01844 346058**.

Rob Coles

Volunteer a little time, make a lot of difference

... continued from page 42

We use the slogan 'volunteering is not just giving – **it's giving a little and gaining a lot**'. People go into it aiming to change someone else's life, and end up changing their own in the process." *If you're interested in volunteering, or for further information on the services offered by the volunteer centres in Buckinghamshire, please call **0845 389 0389**, or visit www.do-it.org. The centres are open from 9.30am to 3.30pm, Monday to Thursday.*

Lacey Green, Loosley Row & Speen 81st Over 60s Club



The 81st Club, for the 8th year running, had their usual excellent full Christmas Lunch provided by **Lynne** from our 'local' **Black Horse** pub. Members are so lucky to have such a superb feast every festive season. Thank you, Lynne. I know everyone is most grateful for your continued kindness and generosity.



After lunch, some 45 children from the infant classes of St John's School entertained us to a selection of their carols and Christmas songs, which was so enjoyed by all members. Our thanks go to everyone involved in organising getting the children from the school to the hall and back, all within an hour!

As is always appropriate, we would like to thank all our helpers in the background who keep the wheels turning (our drivers, cake makers and the furniture remover).

The club has been lucky enough to have received a handsome donation of £150 from the Princes Risborough Charity Commission, which will be a great

help towards our Summer outing. Our thanks for their continued support.

PLEASE NOTE – The club meetings in future will take place on the first **THURSDAY** of each month at the Lacey Green and Loosley Row Millennium Hall at 2pm. As always, we are glad to welcome new members – perhaps the change of day may bring some more over 60s to the club.

Best Wishes for 2008 from all helpers at the 81st Club.

Carole Knight

Around Our Local Pubs



Happy New Year to everybody. Let us hope 2008 brings us all a very good year. Now all the rush is over we are back to normality. The Black Horse has had a lick of paint inside and we have some new menu boards up with new specials on. There is still work to do, but hopefully within the next few months everything will be finished.

New Year's Eve was great fun, thanks to all that came, young and old, and of course to Pete for doing the disco once again. What would we do without you? Our darts team is now in full swing, well sort of!!!!!! We have not won a game yet but we will, just you wait!!!!!! It is really good fun and, hopefully, we can continue with teams in the summer too. We are going to pubs out of this area, so it is nice to see other venues.

What's happening at the Black Horse:

Monday nights Domino and crib

Thursday nights Darts

Sunday nights **First** Sunday of the month we have the tarot reader, this is going very well. Angela starts at 6.30pm and goes on until every one is seen. It is first come first seen and everybody that has been seems to have been really impressed. The next time that she will be here is first Sunday in March.

Second Sunday of the month is music night. We are having different small bands every month from 8pm onwards and we are doing basket meals till 10pm. John Dexter Jones and the Steven Twins did our first gig and it was a fantastic success. The next gig is Sunday 10th February. Look out for our notice boards to see who is playing.

Last Sunday of the month is Quiz Night. We still could do with some more teams.

Our Christmas Quiz raised £98 for the arthritis charity. Thanks to everyone for a great fun night.

Lastly, I would like to give a big thank you to all my staff who worked so hard over the Christmas period.

Lynne

Lacey Green Productions together with The Command Performers

A big thank you to all our audiences who came to see "Oh what a lovely war" last November. With our preview/final dress rehearsal night on the Thursday plus our usual Friday and Saturday performances, record numbers of you came to the Village Hall.

As a result, we are sending £1,450 to The Royal British Legion – our chosen charity for this performance. This figure includes a donation from Joan West, who very kindly gave money to our charity as a thank you to some LGP members for the help that they gave with John's celebrations, earlier last year.

With the Inclusion of this latest donation, the total raised for charity over the years is £34,200. Thanks to everybody for this.

"An Inspector Calls" by J.B. Priestley.

For our next production, we shall be tackling the above full length, 3 act play, popular in the 1940's and 50's and with a lasting relevance to today's world. It will be performed as part of our Theatre at Home and you will be able to see it at "Chipko". This is Ann-Noel and Andrew Clarke's home at Parslows Hillock.

Further information on this will be available shortly by phoning our usual numbers – see below.

In addition, we hope to be performing "An Inspector Calls" at Princes Risborough school shortly after the "Chipko" date. The play forms part of this year's GCSE syllabus – so entertainment and education go hand in hand!!

Future Ideas and Productions

Plans for a lighter programme of humorous small plays, sketches and songs are beginning to take shape. We hope to present these to you in late Spring/early Summer. Plus we are starting to think about next November's production – will it be a pantomime with a difference, will it be serious stuff or riotous comedy or could it even be Ben Hur on ice in the car park?

To keep your finger on the pulse at LGP/Command Performers, why not contact us and join us for one of our next shows? Our contact numbers for this and tickets for "An Inspector Calls" are as follows:

01844 347518 or 01844 344207.

Peter Brookhouse



Honolulu - it's got everything. Sand for the children, sun for the wife, sharks for the wife's mother.

Ken Dodd

Loosley Row & Lacey Green Horticultural Society



◀ A late shot from last September's Annual Show of Chris Boll & his sunflower, the tallest at about 13ft!

November saw the first real frosts of this autumn and the second of the Society's pumpkin competitions. These were first held in 2006, with some 13 entrants with weights approximately 2-14 Kg and, considering the lack of water in 2006, the general consensus was more rain bigger pumpkins, although there was no real threat to the world record, which stands at 1689 lb or 768 Kg. Well, for 2007 we had a fantastic entry of 17 pumpkins ranging from 0.2 to 10.1 Kg, which just goes to show we had more rain but smaller pumpkins

so this year's excess is lack of Sun! Who says gardeners don't learn from politicians!!!! Not only did we have a large variation in weight but we had a fantastic variation in entrants, with ages from below 12 years to Connie Baker at 99 years old with a 5 kilo pumpkin, which was

well up the league table for largest pumpkin. The colours this year also seemed to suffer from the lack of sun to ripen the skins but from a lesser specimen already consumed the taste does not seem to have suffered.

The final prizes were:

Tracey Fendom	Heaviest pumpkin at 10.1 Kg
Chris Boll	Largest pumpkin at 98 cm
Mary Lawrence	Best shaped pumpkin and for the second year running too.
Bette Tyler	Smallest at 0.2 Kg



◀ Bette Tyler's pumpkin was awarded as the smallest!

Two entries from local children, Georgia Morris and a joint entry for Dominic and

Charlie Morris were magnificent, with so little difference they were awarded joint winners certificates in the under 16 years category - and some of Laura's superb ginger bread pumpkins. John's hot cider punch was also highly recommended and rapidly consumed. Many thanks to all those involved making the competition a success. The evening included an entertaining talk on the island of Guernsey.



Now's the time to get those seed catalogues out, have a drop of your favourite tippie, stoke up that wood fire and dream of next spring (back ache – broken finger nails – green fly – late frosts). Hoo the stress of it all.

But remember that we have the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 19 March at 8.00 in the Village Hall. Last year the AGM was completed in about 10 minutes, and the Chairman is hoping to improve on that! Immediately following the AGM will be a talk on "Unusual Plants for Summer Containers" which will be interesting and topical.

Show Schedules will be distributed and a full and varied programme for next year will be announced. We hope for a

good turn out, if you are not a member but would like to hear the talk, just come along.

We will be having a Plant Stall on National Mills Day, 11 May, for which we will be glad of stock, so please bear that in mind when sowing your seeds.

David Fitt

Windmill Artists Annual Exhibition

- THE MOST POPULAR TO DATE

Congratulations to the Windmill Artists for arranging their best ever art exhibition, backed up by *The Comfort Food Café*. The whole day was so enjoyable and relaxing. Admiring the wide variety of art and craft. Relaxing over superbly cooked meals and light refreshments, served throughout the day.

The exhibits included some by Dennis Syrett, President of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters, as well as by other very talented local artists. The standard of some of the paintings was better than I have seen at some more pretentious exhibitions, including in London. Some exhibits were for sale, others not.

Some of the art was lovingly and carefully hand-carved in various woods, others made from a miscellany of materials and parts derived from all sorts of enterprising sources.

The exhibition, on 10th November, was even more popular than on any of the previous five occasions. The Village Hall was as crowded as it could be whilst in full

comfort. The social atmosphere could not have been bettered – a meeting of old as well as current friends and acquaintances.

100 people (50% more than last year) had hot lunches in the informal pavement-style bistro atmosphere with gazebo. This was in addition to all the morning coffees, afternoon teas and slices of cake. Even the committee room's two tables accommodated 16 diners at times. Some visitors timed their arrival to combine seeing the exhibition with having their Saturday lunch. The food offered was varied and up to Rachel Panter's high and interesting quality, even though she couldn't be there herself. The cooking was a joint effort by Rachel, Val Brookhouse and Val's daughter Katie. Husband Peter, supported by three pleasing young local waitresses, with Richard washing up - all had plenty of healthy physical exercise while satisfying fully all these customers.

The next exhibition will be on 8th November 2008 - a MUST date for your diary. Miss it and your life will be the poorer for it!



Some of the well-pleased people enjoying themselves

Photo by Norman Tyler

Lacey Green Windmill

The Windmill will be open at its normal opening times in 2008, which are from 4 May until 28 September on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays, from 2.30 to 5.30. The admission charges in 2008 will be £1.50 for adults and 75p for children under 16.

There is usually only one day each year when we plan to have the sails turning. This is always the second Sunday in May, which will be the 11th this year. This always depends on the weather, as we need a dry day and preferably a light wind. In 2007 we had a wet morning so we were unable to fit the sail cloths, although the wind was strong enough to turn the sails for most of the afternoon. Most of the Sundays for the rest of the 2007 summer also turned out to be wet, so we can only hope for some fine weather in 2008 for our visitors and those who help us to open the windmill.

If you have never visited Lacey Green Windmill, then please do come and see the oldest surviving smock mill in the country, with its unique wooden machinery dating from around 1650. If you have not been for a while, then you will find some displays in the basement about the windmill and its restoration.

For further up to date information, as well as some photographs of the interior of the windmill, please see our web site www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk

**Michael G Hardy, Honorary Secretary
Lacey Green Windmill Restoration
Committee
Telephone: 01844 275871**

Memories of the old Baptist Chapel

How lovely to see the Baptist Chapel transformed into such an elegant dwelling, and I wish the owner very many happy years there.

Memories for me have been written about before, but just a few I now call to mind.

When very young children had to sit through the service after attending Sunday School in the vestry, we had great amusement in watching the ladies arrive wearing their Sunday best hats. Then having to listen to a very boring sermon, which seemed never-ending.

Later years, we enjoyed choir practice for the chapel anniversary and dressing up the children for the nativity play. An old wooden chest stored all the clothes, which included an old pair of red velvet curtains used for the Kings.

Sunday school parties at the village hall were great fun, when after tea we played lots of games. Sometimes we hired a magician. The outing was usually to the seaside, which for some children was probably the only time they saw the sea.

I can remember we wanted to have a pets' service, but Bumble the donkey refused to go down the chapel steps.

One Christmas, we were lucky enough to have a real baby Jesus in the crib, thanks to Dick & Brenda at The Whip.

Coffee mornings and sales were needed to do the upkeep of the church, including the organ, and I'm glad to see some of the pipes have survived the demolition and are in pride of place on the wall.

So I'll sign off now by saying Jesus wanted me for a sunbeam but I wanted to be an engine driver!

Con Baker

MEMORIES OF A "TORTOISE STOVE"

Loosley Row Baptist Chapel had three of these, one in the basement, one in the vestry and the largest one in the main building.

These, during the winter months, were lit by Mr John Ginger – at that time my Sunday school teacher. Each Spring, the smoke pipes were lowered by Mr Fred Baker and Mr Ted Stevens, and here is where my vivid memory lies. At 10 years old, with a fear of heights, I was sent up the double extended ladder to the roof to fill with rags the last length of smoke pipe which went through the roof, thus preventing birds coming in or building nests in there.

What a memory! No health and safety regulations then!

Dudley Stevens

Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI

The AGM on Nov 8th was well attended. Doreen de Gray and Joyce Delnevo retired and were given a vote of thanks. Voted onto the committee were Jean Gabbitas, Kathleen Turner and Mary Hazleton. Members completed the afternoon with a quiz.

Christmas Lunch Dec 17th. This year, as a departure from previous years, the majority of members went out for lunch, which was a traditional turkey meal served at The Red Lion Whiteleaf.

At the **Christmas Party** on Dec 18th, the President took the opportunity to present Long Service Membership Certificates to Connie Baker for 70 years, Phyllis Dell 50 years and Bette



Tyler & Joyce Delnevo both for 40 years.

Members enjoyed a Christmas tea, for which the President's daughter, Julie, made & decorated a celebration Christmas cake. Members played traditional parlour games and sang carols led by Renée Mann on her keyboard.



Joy Lawrence

On Jan 10th, the first meeting of the year coincided with heavy rain and electricity breakdowns, so cosily keeping warm in the village hall committee room, we were able to enjoy Mrs Lilwall-Smith share her memories of Japan, which were illustrated by a delightful assortment of dolls, fans, shoes and other decorative artefacts. Her tale included some amazing facts regarding Japan:-

- 27,000 of population is over 100 years!
- 1000 islands make up Japan
- The population is concentrated on 12% of the land
- The customary attire of a wedding is black!

The Times They Are A Changing

We no longer indulge eating cake with our tea
Instead we have biscuits to nibble
We no longer thrill speakers with a scrumptious 'spread'
For the times they are a changing

With Village Day gone we have no float to plan
No need to dress up and display on the van
We are now so refined and so modest
For the times they are a changing

We've abandoned cooking our own Christmas Lunch
So there's no salmon-en-croute or steak-in stout
No trolley of sweets so exciting
No seconds, no punch or that home-made mince pie
For the times they are a changing

We no longer compete with a fancy dress scheme
When we'd try to look like a nursery rhyme team
Or a TV star pop song celebrity
We just dress up smartly refined or sedate
For the times they are a changing

We've given up Pan Cake Day - hung up our pans
No more will we race or count tosses
We just watch our waist lines
Our traditions have gone – for
SADLY
For the times they are a changing!

An old retrograde

However, it must be admitted that we have one of the largest WIs in the group. We continue to organise the VILLAGE QUIZ, which involves all sections of the village and raises money for the Village Hall and our President, Jill Baker, organises a team of members to serve coffee on Thursday mornings, complementing the Post Office, and of course we still sing

Jerusalem !

Jean Gabbitas



Photos by Jill Baker

Speen Festival

- YOU MISSED A LOT IF YOU DIDN'T GO

Hallmark gave advanced details of timings & locations for this festival's variety of cultural & entertainment events, held in 2 weeks of sunny weather. We felt sorry for anyone from Lacey Green or Loosley Row who didn't arrange their lives such that they could go! Speen has activities we don't - and vice-versa, in fairness - and we should both benefit from both.

The organisation was led by Catherine Haddon, who moved to Speen with her family only two years ago. She was daunted by the prospects of following in the footsteps of the Festival's originators, Martin & Marjorie Stockley. She soon realised the whole village, including the organisers of each event, was behind her & that helped to make it such a success.



▲ Wildlife Watch

The youngsters supported well some new activities aimed at them. These included the *Wildlife Watch & BBQ*, *Bike Park Challenge* and

Teatro

Unfortunato's presentation of *The Fantastic Tales of Lord Smelly and Capitano Bravado*, comprising story telling, silly songs and audience participation. One of the most enjoyable times for all ages was at the three evening performances by schoolchildren & "teachers" of the musical play *"Three Cheers for Mrs Butler"*. Apparently,

the whole cast spent nearly every Sunday right through the summer rehearsing!

The *Wildlife Watch* involved children of all ages enjoying hunting for listed insects & plants, being shown how to build a bat box, a talk on bats by Wycombe Rangers, eating at the BBQ and, after dusk, listening for and spotting bats in the nearby playing field.



Teatro Unfortunato called to the stage the oldest in the audience - guess who!

Photo by Loiz Bale

For the grown ups (who gained so much from the children's activities anyway) there were also demonstrations by local craftsmen & artists at the *Arts, Crafts, Health & Beauty* event, you could be tutored on how to make people laugh at *Jack Milner's Comedy Workshop*, a pub-type quiz, *Music for a Summer Evening* concert at the Baptist Chapel, a photographic competition and exhibition, a *Jazz Evening* of the Rogers & Hart Songbook (sold out very early). The grand finale was the *Cabaret Supper* – black tie preferred – in the "glitzy" Marquee Nightclub, with local acts & delicious food, followed by a "knees up" and waltz, £20 per person including supper. Many events were free. Something not to be missed next time in 2009.

Parish map by a local artist & historian

Copies are available of a limited edition print that portrays the parish of Lacey Green including Speen, Loosley Row and Walters Ash. The hand-coloured map captures both the historic parish and ancient boundaries such as the unique Black Hedge, plus today's settlements and roads. The map itself is surrounded by drawings featuring local wildlife, including butterflies and wild orchids and the important heritage buildings. Mounted or framed, the map itself is 20x16" (51x40.6cm) and makes an ideal present.

Contact Francis Gomme at francisgomme@aol.com or ring 01844 274865, for further details.

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Happy Wanderers Walking Club



▲ Arriving at Great Hampden Common on 30th December, chatting before the last arrive, deciding who to start the walk with

We always have happy reunions – all ► become lasting friends sharing a warm atmosphere

CADSDEN, WHITELEAF HILL, PULPIT HILL FORT

Sun 25 Nov

Fourteen people joined us on our walk at the end of November. We met along side the road at Longdown, just above Cadsden. It was a cold, grey day, but we set off through variously named woods and along undulating pathways, enjoying the newly fallen leaves beneath our feet. Eventually, we came to Whiteleaf Hill with the cross down in front of us. We made a stop to take photos and look at the view - a bit hazy though magnificent - and also to look at the information place there. It is very informative about the area and well worth a visit. From there we skirted Whiteleaf golf course, a slightly changed route due to the recent rain and the slippery chalk hillside, passing interesting looking pigs in a field to our right before reaching the road near the Plough pub at Cadsden. Crossing the road, we made our way uphill to Pulpit Hill Fort and more good views over the Vale of Aylesbury before returning to our cars. We did manage to find a less taxing route towards the end, which 3 members decided to take.

Roger and Ann Walker

Photos by Ron Goodearl



Everyone is always in a happy mood – or soon becomes so

I am in the process of writing the Chairman's Report for our AGM on 24th February and it is a time to reflect on the activities of the Club, both during this year and in earlier times.

Ted and Jean Janes had the vision to start the group in 1991 and the inaugural meeting of the Walking Club took place nearly 17 years ago on 3rd March 1991.

It is heartening to see how many of those original Club members still regularly join the walks, which is a tribute to the successful principles of that early period. At the first AGM in the old village hall, chaired by Ted Janes, it was decided that the Club be called 'The Happy Wanderers' because that is the way that the members see themselves. An alternative popular name was 'Ted's Trotters', but Ted's wife, Jean, was not happy with that name.

The chosen name was very apt and is still at the heart of The Happy Wanderers Walking Club. Liz and I joined as new residents of the village five years ago and we were immediately struck by the care and consideration shown by everyone on the walks. The chance to meet friends once a month; to share and talk as we walk through the beautiful Chiltern countryside is now a very special part of our lifestyle.

Fortunately, there are some good records kept by the Club and during the last year one of our long standing members, Rita Probert, has kindly assembled our Archives consisting of photographs, minutes of meetings and lists of members.

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words and the pictures, mostly by Ron Goodearl, enrich the story of the Club, the members and the places visited, both in the Chilterns and during the annual weekends away to other parts of the Country.

The core members are 17 years older than when the Club started, but even a close scrutiny of those members confirms the value of walking as a healthy life style. In fact, this has now apparently been accepted by the Government. *The Times* reports on a trial in 6 London GP practices, where some patients are being prescribed country walking and cycling as the best remedies for their ills, replacing some drug prescriptions! The results of the trial will be submitted to the National Institute for

Health and Clinical Excellence, who could then approve such prescriptions nationally. The recommended minimum exercise is 30 minutes three times a week.

However, there is some correlation with the more mature age of some of our members - the lengths of the Sunday walks over the years that have been reduced by a mile or two. Also some members have a degree of incapacity which does not allow them to do the full walk, but as a caring Club, we have instituted two groups of members; namely ramblers and amblers. The latter group starts and finishes at the same time as the ramblers but spend more time admiring the scenery and looking at the fauna and flora.

A smaller group of Happy Wanderers meets on the second Wednesday of the month, starting at the Millennium Hall car park. These are shorter walks and, like the Sunday walks, often end at a local hostelry for lunch.

So if you would like to get fit and meet other people in the village in a sharing and caring way, I suggest you might consider joining us on one of our walks, where you can be assured of a warm welcome.

If you would like a Walk Programme or to know more about The Happy Wanderers, please contact **Ronnie or Liz Lewin** on **01844 274961**.

Ronnie Lewin

Windmill Under 5s



Back again once more with the children eager to see their friends and share all their Christmas experiences. Unfortunately, the rain is drumming on the windows but hopefully there is some more

seasonal weather around the corner. Our theme this half term is "Winter" and we hope through our planned activities to help the children explore and recognise seasonal changes through the clothes we wear together with frosty/snowy mornings, icy puddles and the shorter days. We will help the children experience warmth and cold and in the kitchen we will prepare hot food. We will also draw the children's attention to the birds and how we can help them to survive when there is no food available in the cold months ahead. We are looking forward to making bird feeders putting up some nest boxes ready for spring, together with celebrating the Chinese New Year and Valentines Day.

Last half term was jam packed with Christmas themed activities, huge amounts of glitter, and lots of fun. The Christmas nativity went without a hitch, with beautiful singing and acting and not a dry eye in the place. That was followed on the last day of term by the Christmas party with Magic Martin entertaining everyone and culminating in a visit from Father Christmas. Fantastic!

If you are considering a Pre-School for your child then please call our **Acting Supervisor Denia** to arrange a convenient time to visit on **07821-554343**. I feel confident that you will like what you see. A friendly, warm and nurturing Pre-school where our children have so much fun whilst learning. You can also find out more about us on our website: www.windmillunder5s.co.uk

Tina Zychowicz (chair)

Drooling: How teething babies wash their chins.

Full name: What you call your child when you're mad at him.



The Windmill WI



The rubber glove brigade – keeping Health and Safety happy!



Suitably replete at our Christmas Supper

We ended 2007 with our usual Christmas Party, which was enjoyed by all the members. The Committee prepared an excellent buffet and during the evening we held a draw for two bursaries, which are to be spent by

the winners on an educational or recreational course. The lucky recipients this year were Pat Richards and Sheila Dickinson.

Previous to this, at our November meeting, our speaker Barbara Young talked about the *Life and Work of Claude Monet*. Mrs Young accompanied her talk with some lovely slides and we all certainly came away from the evening knowing a lot more about the famous founder of French Impressionist painting.

During November, several of our members travelled up to London to the O2 to see the stunning and mysterious Tutankhamun exhibition and, early in December, ten of our members joined others from the Disraeli Group and had a great evening singing and listening to carols at The Royal Albert Hall.

We don't have a meeting in January, so our next will be on February 6, when our speaker will be John Tyler talking about *The Ridgeway*. John's talks, accompanied by fantastic slides, are always so interesting. In March we will be entertained by Dr Maisiey with his talk entitled *Spare Part Surgery* and in April Mrs Taylor will be telling us about *her life as a Blue Badge Tourist Guide*. If any of these subjects interest you, please come along to the meeting – guests are always welcome.

Another date for your diary is our spring JUMBLE SALE on Saturday, 8 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 at 2pm and buy it all back again!

Don't forget – we meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm in the Village Hall – come and join us!

Daphne Williams

Lacey Green and Row Sports Club

CRICKET SECTION

Rain, sleet, snow, high winds, dark dreary days – it may seem an odd time to be writing about cricket, but of course cricket doesn't just start in May and end in September. Lots goes on in between. There is the upkeep on the ground and the pavilion – including

Loosley



repairs – and the raising of funds. And boy, does it take a lot of money these days to finance a club. When I first started watching as a lad of seven, some – Ooh, twenty years ago now (Oh, yeah!), sheep grazed the field and the dressing room was a shed under the hedge that smelled of old socks. How times have changed.

The trouble with striving for better and better facilities is that the low-life believe that's a licence to help themselves. Yes, we were burgled – as were the school and the church. The school and the church were bad enough but, to rob a sports pavilion, that's sacrilege! I believe bottles of drink were taken (from the pavilion I mean) but, of course, the damage has to be repaired – more time and expense. And again, the few who do most of the work will be the ones to put things right.

Talking of finances, I understand Skipper Bob's Xmas Party was a great success. Apparently, he and Duncan worked their socks off in the bar which, hopefully, will have put some much-needed cash in the kitty.

Having just mentioned Skipper Bob – or to give him his full title, Robert Dell – I'd like to go back for a moment to last season. You see, I suffer from Mean-Editor-Syndrome. Splendid chap though he is, Norman won't let me have half the magazine for the cricket report. And, being a long winded sort of feller, I need space. But to be serious, there is so much at times to get in I have to cut and cut again. I just want to elaborate on what I said about Bob's batting. Things went pretty badly for the team. I think everyone would admit that. Bob's preference, I know, is to stand up and play his range of strokes but, being well aware of his team's frailties, he committed himself to a head-down, watchful, grinding out of runs to make sure the team reached a decent score. I understand the willpower it takes to do that and I salute you, sir! I hope the rest of the team follow your example in the new season.

Now, with thanks to Edwin and Daphne – and the internet, I have the new divisions. The 1st XI stay in Div 1. The only new team they will play is Ibstone who, of

course, won Div. Two last season. Let's hope our lads can buckle down and show some fight this time. I'm not saying I expect them to win the division every year – nine out of ten times is sufficient. No, seriously, play to enjoy but play as if you are determined to win – it's an insult to your opponents not to. So go for it!

The 2nd XI have two new teams in their division, Aylesbury Town, a team we, so far, know nothing about. With all of Aylesbury to choose from, they could be a very powerful side – only time will tell. The other newcomers are Nomadic Medics, a side from the Beaconsfield area. Again we know nothing about them. A consolation could be that if any of the lads are injured they could receive immediate attention on the field.

I should have mentioned that the 2nds will be playing Prestwood again – that's their first XI. Prestwood, like us, have struggled to find two teams in recent seasons but now appear to have found players from somewhere and feel confident enough to enter two teams. So the 2nds will play Aylesbury Town, Challoners, Downley 2nds, Frieth, Hampden, Holmer Green 2nds, Lt, Gaddesden, Nomadic Medics and Prestwood.

Our 2nds are in much the same position as previous seasons. Apart from Holmer Green and Downley, every side they play are 1st XIs. Which is why I consider last season's performance in finishing fourth excellent. With the confidence gained from that, I hope they can go on and do as well if not better.

And, finally, belated commiserations to our member Joe Stevens and his family on the sad loss of a father and husband.

Geoff Gomme

More Memories from My Girlhood

by **CON BAKER** – the oldest person in our village – 100th birthday this year!



ORANGES AND WHITELEAF ON GOOD FRIDAY

Many years ago while still schoolgirls, Gladys and Rene Brown, Gladys Hickman and I walked to Whiteleaf. We started

at the bottom of the Cross. Carrying a bag of oranges, halfway up the bank the bag burst and the oranges rolled down the hill. Of course, we picked them up and got to the top of the Cross, where we ate the oranges. I don't

know how we got these – maybe Hickman's Store – and don't know what we did with the paper bag (no plastic bags) or peel. Anyway, I suppose we ate them. What a treat those days, when we did not see many oranges. We walked back home, a long way. No cars, buses etc. Guess we had a good day. Memories.

ON ANOTHER GOOD FRIDAY

Some years ago, of course, a group of us teenagers by now, decided to have a concert at the village hall (the old

one) on Easter Monday. So the rehearsal was Good Friday. We had a sort of picnic in the hall and a good many laughs, I guess. We girls had to wear blue dresses as we were singing *Alice Blue Gown* and other songs, of course. The boys wore top hats borrowed from Mr Saunders, the undertaker. Gosh, we were posh. We danced and sang the songs, Kath Brown playing the piano. Rene was to say a poem but she would not until the night. "I will do it on the night", she kept saying. I think Harry Church did a reading too. The hall was really full. I think they paid one shilling (now 5 pence) or maybe 6d (now 2½ pence) to come in. Whichever they did pay, the money went to the village hall. Everyone enjoyed our little concert. "Do another next year" they all said but, of course, we never did. The singers and dancers were Jess, Eric, Fred and I and another pair, whom I can't remember – may have included Gladys Brown.

What fun we had doing the so-called concert!

MUSHROOMS AND BLACKBERRIES

A person who lived near us when I was young, an older person, one day said "would I like to go mushrooming with her?" My mother was pleased for me to go. Mushrooms for my Dad's tea. My mother gave me a basket and off we went. No mushrooms!! Only blackberries. My mother was maybe cross with me – no mushrooms, only blackberries. But the next day this person came round to our house with mushrooms to sell. She knew where to get mushrooms and was not going to take me – she was artful. I went lots of times mushrooming without her, with friends. Wish I could go now. Nothing like wild field mushrooms.

Letters to the Editor

USING OUR WIND TO HELP THE PLANET

I moved to Loosley Row last year. My neighbours made sure I had a copy of Hallmark. The information and advertisements have all been of value.

We noticed the bus shelters in Lacey Green and it's great to know where they came from and their history.

I am not sure how Joan finds enough time to write, but I do enjoy having an insight to the farms which make our views so wonderful. I hope she continues to somehow find the time.

In the February edition, she mentioned global warming and wind farms. A lot of electricity is lost along the wires transmitting it to our distributed homes. Our Windmill has been used for centuries as a form of energy for driving machinery, demonstrating we are in an ideal place to harness the wind power we have in the 'hills', reducing the demand on the grid.

From what I have gleaned, mainly from www.futureenergy.co.uk, there are already British made domestic turbines with 6ft steel blades (with the advantage of not being prone to wood worm!!!) which produce around 1Kw of energy which can be used directly, held in batteries for up to 36 hours, or fed back into the grid to reduce our bills. The new blade designs can rotate at very low wind speeds with lower noise levels - around 2 decibels, which I guess is not perceptible, especially with the tree noise in the wind! They recommend putting the mini wind turbines on 'towers' away from the house and trees to maximise the wind power (the structures cause turbulence which reduces their efficiency). I suspect, as with most technologies, once people start buying them, the cost will decrease and efficiency increase. By 2008, they were expecting to increase the output to 5-6 Kw.

This seems a golden opportunity for us to do our bit. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could reduce our consumption by producing it locally in the 'traditional' way and reduce the burden on the country for new power plants?

The tower, turbines, magnet generators, charge controllers etc. seem quite complicated, although they claim a good DIY'er who can build the tower, with assistance from an electrician, will do. I wondered whether there was anyone who had looked into these and what their experience is, as, like with double glazing, there seem to have been some early 'lessons learnt' in their installation. I am also curious about what the general view is. Are they seen as the modern windmill helping reduce the green house effect or some contraption worse than TV aerials and more akin to mobile beacons?

Caroline Clark
07966 139610

THOUGHTS FROM CANADA

I have just finished reading your village magazine, Hallmark. I enjoyed it so much that I read it from cover to cover. My daughter, Angela Agate, who by coincidence left Canada when she married an Englishman and now lives in Loosley Row, brought it to me in Canada. I was

born and brought up in High Wycombe, a few miles away.

Hallmark really takes me back to my early years in the 1930's. I was a member of the Green Street School Orchestra and we played a concert at the Methodist Chapel in Lacey Green. We played at many chapels and village halls all around High Wycombe.

It was interesting to read about the many activities in the village and the groups to get involved in. They bring people together.

I hope my daughter will save her copies of Hallmark and pass them on to me to read and enjoy.

Adrienne Dawson (nee Standage)
Ajax, Ontario, Canada

Lacey Green Parish Community Plan

Whilst some issues that have been of concern to the community have been dealt with reasonably satisfactorily, others are still ongoing. There has been a very favourable reception to the Welcome Pack that we started issuing to new Parish residents several months ago. In Lacey Green and Loosley Row, Angela Agate maintains the list of new arrivals, but there are a lot of for sale signs and keeping track is hard work. If you know of a new arrival, do tell us. Please call Angela (273916) or if there is no answer, give me a call. In Speen, Christine Oliver does this work.

Our main current activity is production of the Parish Plan, a formal statement of how the Parish could and should be developed in the future. As mentioned in a previous Hallmark, we propose to hold a public meeting at which to present the draft Parish Plan for discussion, and hopefully, agreement. It has been decided to do this at the next Annual Parish meeting on Wed 14 May in the Millennium Hall starting at 7.30pm. It is important that we have a good attendance, so please make a note in your diary. To give you a flavour of the topics proposed, below are a few of the more important issues, just to whet your appetite. Some are rather controversial, and we expect that there will be strong views that will help ensure your presence.

Lost services. The Parish has lost many of the facilities that provide essential services to residents and help to maintain a sustainable community. These include a general store in Lacey Green, a doctor's surgery, a police station, a common in Lacey Green, a pub in Speen, a bakery, a full post office service in Lacey Green, and a library. Some people would add others. Although there is the excellent Millennium Hall in Lacey Green, it cannot always provide a room in which to hold a meeting, and we believe that there is a need for more

space. We aim to try and bring back at least some of these facilities.

- One outcome from the unsuccessful efforts to retain the **Methodist Chapel** site for community use was a specific planning obligation. This involves research into the needs of the village for a shop and other missing facilities, possibly involving use of the Millennium Hall for this purpose, although other potential sites will be considered. Work on this is being carried out by ViRSA on behalf of Wycombe District Council, and the first stage should be completed by July. It is a parallel exercise to the work being done by the Community Plan Steering Group, and we hope that there will be a favourable response from residents. There will be a preliminary progress report at the May meeting.

Housing. It is important in a sustainable community that young people are able to remain in it as they become older, and are not forced out by the exorbitant cost of property. There is a need for more housing in the Parish, some 'social' or 'affordable', but also including smaller units of one or two bedrooms suitable for older residents who would like to move but can't find anything small enough within the Parish. To find locations for these properties will be a challenge and we think that the choice of sites should be made by the community and not by some external agency. Consideration should be given to brown field sites that could be used for housing, possibly in conjunction with other developments perhaps of a commercial nature. For example, Grimsdyke Farm has a large area of land at present lying idle, which would surely be of benefit to the Parish if suitably developed.

Poor communication. Many residents consider that they do not receive adequate information about what the Parish Council is doing, and that events taking place are not quite as well publicised as they could be. So this is an area for improvement, perhaps involving a Parish website. There are two quite separate village magazines, neither of which really recognizes the existence of the other village. Is there a case for a merger?

Traffic and parking. One of the long-standing issues in Lacey Green is the amount and speed of traffic along Main Road, and parking adjacent to the school. There is a similar issue for residents of Speen, although not perhaps to the same extent. We aim to try and reduce the amount of traffic by persuading drivers to use the A4010 and not the road through Lacey Green. To avoid the school parking problem we need to provide a car park. Grimsdyke Farm? Many residents think that in the immediate vicinity of the school (both in Lacey Green and in Speen), the speed limit should be reduced to 20 mph, either for a specified period only, or completely. Will the improvements at the Culverton Junction actually work to improve safety at the junction?

Entry to St. John's School. Not every child of appropriate age living in the Parish has been able to get into the school,

and this has upset some parents. Whilst the problem has been partly resolved in the near term, there is no guarantee that shortages of school places will never occur again. One of our aims is to change the situation so that all children living in the parish have automatic right of entry to St John's.

Planning. There are issues associated with 'planning', a particular problem being the unofficial resurfacing of **Kiln Lane**. Planning for specific developments does not consider effectively the wider implications of any particular scheme. A requirement for all planning applications to include a more rigorous environmental impact assessment might be of help in avoiding similar situations in future, and we aim to get appropriate legislation introduced.

Public transport. The possibility of providing a bus service between villages within the Parish, and the railway station will be examined. The frequency of buses serving Speen may need to be increased.

What exactly the Steering Group can accomplish is far from clear, but it is a challenge and we will look for ways of obtaining improvements. The Plan will identify the other organisations involved, the time scale, and the resources required.

A novel feature in the Plan will be a look into the longer-term future (25+ years), to see what developments might take place and how they could impact on the Parish. You will all have seen mention elsewhere of the kind of thing we are talking about. Consider the following brief selection of some possibilities:

- *No affordable motor fuel, with serious effects on personal travel and goods movement capability. You can't drive to Tesco any more!*
- *An influx of people from low lying areas due to flooding, thus increasing pressure on the Parish to provide more houses, and making existing houses more valuable, exacerbated by a general population increase*
- *Sharia law in some parts of the country?*
- *Green belt policy abandoned*
- *Atlantic Conveyor fails and new ice age develops in Northern Europe.*

These are contentious issues, and some will suggest that they are ridiculous. However, is anyone willing to bet that none of these things will happen in the next 30 years?

Finally, an appeal. We can always use more help, and we would like to hear from anyone that believes they can contribute, even in small ways.

Tony Molesworth (01844 344975)

Financial Planning

No doubt over the years you have saved some money into a personal pension. The retirement date is looming. You may have stopped paying into some or are still contributing into one or two. Some of the companies may have been taken over but now the insurance company has written to you, showing you the benefits available.

There are a few alternatives available - you can take a tax free lump sum with an annuity or have the whole benefit as an annuity. It's just a question of filling in the forms to receive the benefits.

STOP! Just because your insurance company has been investing your money over the years, does not necessarily mean the annuity they will give you is competitive. In other words, an alternative annuity provider may be able to give you a higher annuity.

But hang on, all the money is with XYZ insurance company. How does it work?

A lot of people are not aware of "open market option". This means when you wish to take the annuity from the pension provider, you can shop around with other annuity providers to see if the annuity can be improved. If it can, then your fund is simply transferred to the new annuity provider.

In fact very few pension policyholders take up the "open market option" and this is a pity, as in many cases the annuity can be improved. You would probably need the help of an independent financial adviser, as he or she would be able to quickly source the most competitive annuity provider and deal with the paperwork.

Also a lot of annuity providers offer "enhanced rates" by offering preferential rates based on anticipated shortened life expectancy. This could mean a heavy smoker or people suffering from diabetes, general ill health or even obesity.

Annuity rates in general are low compared to years ago, so it is important to think seriously about retirement income and to shop around covering both standard and specialists products.

After doing the comparison, you may find your exiting insurance company does in fact offer the best annuity so there is no reason to change. At least you will then have confirmation of receiving the most competitive annuity on the market.

Steve Wilkinson

Obituaries

GEOFF PRINCE

Treasurer for a number of years of our old village hall, including when we were raising money for the original extension to the old village hall, still remembered by many longstanding villagers, Geoff has died, aged 83.

He had lived back in Debyshire with his wife, Marcia, for the last 20 years or so. He died peacefully in his sleep.

GEOFFREY WALTER STEVENS



On 23rd January at St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough, in a packed church with many standing, we were given the opportunity of participating in a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Geoff Stevens.

To write a full obituary relating all that was said about this man's life of service to his fellows would fill Hallmark, so perhaps a few facts would suffice.

The Service began with personal memories given by his youngest son, Joe, and his wife, Margaret – memories loving & humorous revealing the importance Geoff attached to family life.

John Bush of the Servers' Guild revealed that Geoff first became a Server in 1939! That he was liked and respected by other servers throughout those years – was given awards for long service and that he had held positions of authority within the Guild.

Lt Col Michael Hoey related some of the events of Geoff's wartime years in the Royal Navy, how Geoff had insisted that the 'new-fangled' radar should be used to help deter the enemy!

Margaret explained that Geoff had been one of the first men to take a management course and how one of his careers had necessitated a great deal of foreign travel. This by one who had been a Saturday delivery butcher's boy on a bike with a schoolboy's reluctance to do his geography homework, for he was sure the Isle of Wight would be the furthest he would ever travel.

We learnt of his great sadness at the death of his eldest son and his first wife and then how, 34½ years ago, he met a young widow at a dinner party – Margaret, who he eventually married and who bore him a son, Joe.

The Rector Paul Fiske and Mrs Patricia Neale attempted to relate the truly enormous amount of service he had given during his years as a licensed Reader. Taking over 600 funeral leading services both to children, adults and the very frail and elderly, in homes public and private.

Barrie Priestley spoke on behalf of Longwick, where Geoff ministered to children and held a special service in the school hall. Barrie spoke movingly of how Geoff's friendship and encouragement would be greatly missed.

I was able to relate how, for three years during the Interregnum following the retirement of Rev Bernard Houghton, Geoff has supported our wardens by taking the monthly service of Morning Prayer and how, over the years, he had conducted burials at Loosley Row Baptist burial ground for villagers as well as all the wonderful acts of kindness to so many elderly people in need of his help and prayer.

Finally, like Margaret his wife, we rejoiced that, in spite of some ill health, he did not endure a long suffering death but, in her words, "went to bed to sleep and then wake up to enjoy Christmas with the angels – Geoff loved Christmas!"

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in its ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

Submitted by Jean Gabbittas

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The email address quoted in the last edition of Hallmark should have read lrwatch990@aol.com, NOT lrw990@aol.com. We apologize if you did email me.

If you, being either a resident of Loosley Row or Lacey Green, would like to be joined in to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, just email me and I will add you to our information distribution list.

Lee Harte, Scheme Coordinator
Loosley Row Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The harvest of old age is the memory and rich store of blessings laid up in earlier life Cicero



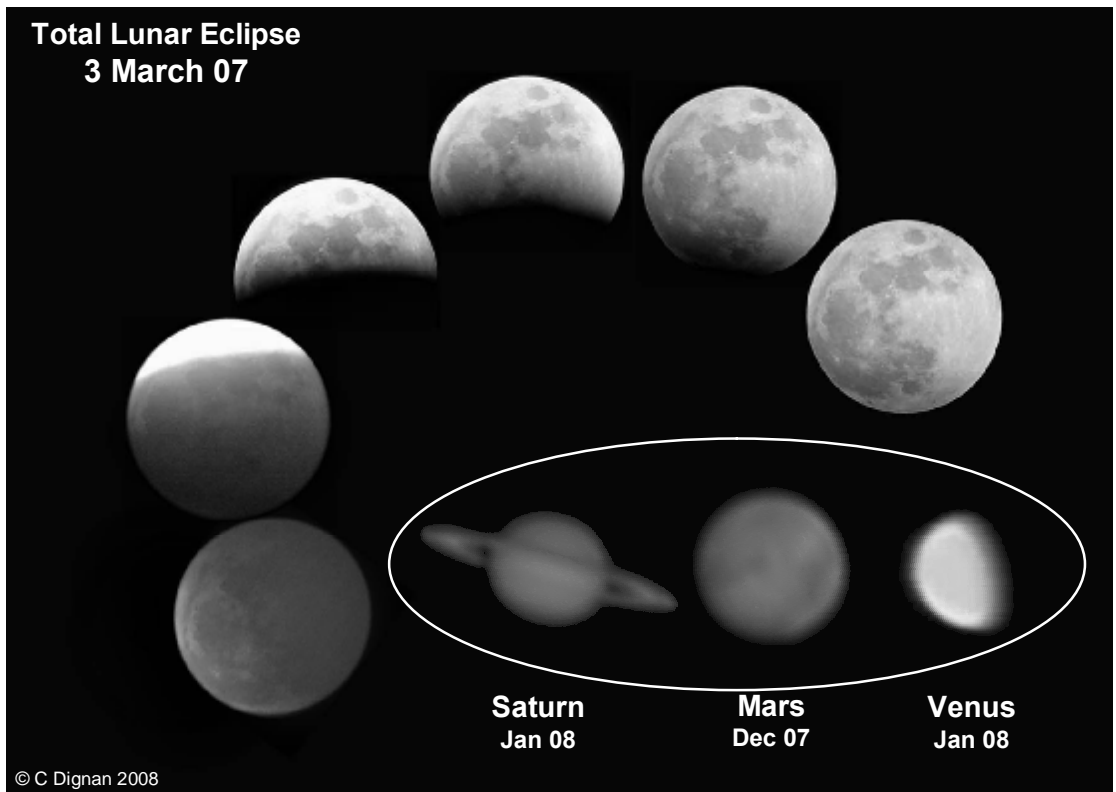
It's a busy time up in the sky this spring, as the planets are out in force and the Moon puts on a fabulous display for one night only.

Several people have asked what's the very bright 'star' towards the south at around dawn during December and January. It looks a bit like an aircraft's landing lights flying

straight at you, and many people mistake it for a UFO! In fact, it's the planet Venus, Earth's 'sister' planet, which has been putting on a sparkling spectacle as it circles to the right of the Sun during its so-called Morning Star period. Only the left half of Venus has been lit as seen from Earth (see inset image above which I took), but it's so bright because it's smothered in thick, white cloud which reflect the sun's light well. Now orbiting away from us, Venus will still be visible around dawn for the next few weeks, but lower in the sky until it finally disappears behind the Sun.

The highlight of the next few weeks will be the total Lunar Eclipse on February 21. This was a pleasant surprise to me as I'd written in the last issue that there wouldn't be an eclipse until August! This year's eclipse will not be quite as sociable as last March's fantastic display (see images above), beginning after midnight on the 21st. For those who want to witness what

**Total Lunar Eclipse
3 March 07**



happens to the Moon when caught in Earth's shadow: it starts to dim at its left hand side from 12.45am, the main shadow will start creeping across its face from 1.50am, with full totality producing a glowing orange-red Moon at 3am.

Two 'showcase' planets can be seen in the next couple of months, with Mars above the familiar Orion constellation, and Saturn below Leo, the Lion (see last issue for sky map or visit www.popastro.com). Mars shines a pale orange and gradually becomes smaller and dimmer over the next two months as Earth leaves it behind on its slower orbit.

The ringed beauty Saturn gets to its closest and brightest at the end of February. Its rings can only be seen in a telescope, and they are now tilted towards us. Next year, when we see Saturn again, the rings will be virtually invisible as it will be like looking at a Compact Disc edge-on. The icy rings then tilt away from us over the next few years to reveal their splendour again.



Marriage is the sole cause of divorce.

An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have; the older she gets, the more interested he is in her.

Agatha Christie

County and District Council News

The New Year's challenges for both Councils remain, for the most part, the same as 2007. It looks as if the budget settlement for County will be difficult in that the Government's support grant has only been increased by 2%. With inflation running at close to 3% this can only mean that the year on year savings which are expected to be made by the County Council will bring pressures on service delivery. The total effect of this settlement will not be known until next month, when the full budget proposals are publicised, but hopefully the areas of concern around Highway Maintenance and Transportation and Crime and Disorder found in the recent Residents Survey will be able to be addressed.

The District Council rises have been kept to inflation or below for some time now, but with added pressures from Government for additional service delivery to be met from existing funding, I suspect that this year this may not be possible and an increase slightly above the RPIX index (Retail Price Index less Mortgages) will be necessary.

Locally, I hope that some of the actions already in place to deal with these issues will start to deliver improvements. The Risborough Rural Neighbourhood Action Group will continue to meet to look at the way local policing is carried out and will be concentrating on the three topics of Speeding traffic, Inconsiderate parking and Fly tipping. These are meetings, promoted by the police, which include local representatives from each parish. If you have information on these issues then I would be pleased to pass them on.

The work to complete the Review of the new speed limits installed in 2006 continues. Interestingly a recent independent survey of 200 residents showed that:

- almost 70% agreed with all of the 30mph speed limits;
- 80% agreed with most of the 40mph limits;
- over 70% agreed with most of the 50mph limits;
- and where people disagreed with the new limits, there was a mixture of views as to whether the limits were too high or too low.

Almost 100 requests for further changes have been received from the public and from Parish/town councils. These have now been fully investigated - crash and speed data has been obtained and site visits have been made. The results of this work will be discussed by the Area 5 Working group, which will then make its recommendations this Spring for speed limit changes, which will include those for Loosley Row. Prior to implementation these potential changes will need to be advertised for Public Consultation. (Public notices will be

published in local papers and on the internet at www.buckscc.gov.uk/speedlimitreview) which means that the revised or new speed limits should be in place by summer 2008.

Further progress has been made with Village Entry Gateways. These are now cleared for installation and should be complete by Easter. These include the new 'Oak Feature' designs for the entry points to Lacey Green and Loosley Row on Main Road and Woodway. The work to replace local direction signs on non classified roads with the traditional 'finger post' signs is progressing and these should be in place by May.

Work on the A4010 /Woodway junction improvements are proceeding to programme. I have been advised that night closures for Woodway, to enable resurfacing works and kerbing to the carriageway to tie in the new link road with existing Woodway, will take place for 5 days starting from 3rd, ending 7th March 2008 from 10.30pm to 06.30 am. This will be from its junction with A4010 Wycombe Road to its junction with Wardrobes Lane so alternative routes will be needed at these times.

If you do have an issue with which I can help please let me know. As well as writing to my home address **Canastel, Water Lane, Speen HP27 0SW** I can be contacted by phone **01494 488315** or by email at progerson@buckscc.gov.uk

Paul Rogerson
District and County Councillor

Our hall's sign chosen for cover



Lee Harte noticed that our village hall's sign, made by Gomme's Forge, has been chosen as "the Cover Girl" for Village Halls Plus Group's brochure. They are the insurer specialising in village halls, through whom our hall is currently insured.



News from St John's Church

(Rector – the Reverend Denise Critchell)

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

The Christmas Market in the Millennium Hall on November 3rd was a huge success, with hard earned cash being put to good use spending on bargains and presents galore, and the most delicious food. Even Santa turned up for lunch! The market stall holders remarked on what a superb friendly atmosphere, and everyone votes to hold it again in 2008.

Christmas was very special this year with even more members of our community coming to celebrate Jesus' birthday. The Choir were in exceptional good voice for the Candlelit Carol Service, leaving warm firesides to encourage the rest of us with their beautiful singing. We thank the Choir, and Fiona Insley and Rosemary, who obviously know which notes to press. Ho Ho Ho. Doug Tilbury was heard to remark that it was the most marvellous Carol Service in his time and he has been here many, many years.

Jan 13th was the day for remembering when John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the River Jordan. The congregation were invited to renew their own Baptismal Vows and received a candle each to light later and reflect on Jesus being the light of the world, and also that He would baptise with the Holy Spirit.

Home Groups continue to meet in the village, attracting many members.

Youth Service. The 3rd Sunday in the month at 5.15 pm. In Church.

Lizzie and Hugh Thompson-Davies, Graham and Jenny King, and Amanda Day Invite all young people from Year 7 up to join them. Also meet at Collins Farm on the 1st Sunday in the month for great fun and activities.

It is with excitement and great anticipation that 82 people from the Team Churches will be attending **Spring Harvest at Minehead** and another 15 going to **Skegness**. Have a wonderful experience.

Regular Services at St John's church.

SUNDAY	8.00am	Holy Communion(1662)	1 st , 2 nd & 4 th Sundays
	10.00am	All age family Communion	1 st Sunday of the month.
	10.00am	Parish Communion	2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , (&5 th) Sundays
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong	1 st Sunday in the month
	Junior Church at 10.00am – all services other than 1 st , held in upper room.		
	Details from Jenny King – 01844-343910		

Lent begins early this year .Shrove Tuesday – Feb.5th. (Pancakes!)

Study groups will meet at Marge and David's, Chiltern Heights, Thurs 7thFeb.

Lizzie and Hugh's, Collin's Farm, Wed 6th Feb and at the Vicarage, Mondays. D.V. 13/14th, 20/21st, 27/28th, Mar5/6th and Mar12/13th as we study together and prepare for Easter.

Ash Wednesday - school service at St. John's, Lacey Green.

The Team Ministry will have a daytime and an evening service ...but ...please watch the Notice Boards for times.

Mothering Sunday – March 2nd. Come to Church to be blessed and bring your MUM to be blessed too,... and HER MUM if possible!

Palm Sunday – Mar 16th. Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem – very special.

And at 11.30am ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING - really important that all members attend that one – a plea from our Vicar.

Maundy Thursday come and discover what this is all about!

Two schools Easter Services. Speen at 9.15am and St. John's at 2.30pm.

At 8.00pm, we celebrate the Institution of the Lord's Supper where Jesus calls us to "Do this in remembrance of me"

Good Friday – 2.00-3.00 pm. an hour's Meditation on the Stations of the Cross.

Easter Sunday.8.00am traditional spoken service.

10.00am Glorious celebration of Easter starting at the Daffodil Cross, (Chocky eggs to follow). Eggs-citing!

Sunday evening Easter Praise at St. Mary's P.R. where we can say our Farewells to our Team Vicar Rev. Andrew Meynell, as this will be his last Sunday.

TUESDAY	9.30am	Communion Service in Lady Chapel at St. John's.
	2.00pm	Toddler Praise – Tuesday afternoons during term time.
WEDNESDAY	10.30am	Team Communion Service at St. Mary's church, Princes Risborough.

Full details of services and more information about St John's church are published in the monthly Parish Magazine 'Viewpoint' and displayed on the notice board outside church.

We look forward to meeting you in our lovely church – you are always welcome – come and be blessed.

June Brazier

Volunteer a little time, make a lot of difference

There's more to volunteering than first springs to mind and the benefits go far beyond the obvious. What do you think of when you hear the term 'volunteering'? Making the tea at a community centre, visiting old folk in a home, helping out in a charity shop?

While the above are certainly options, many are surprised by the sheer range of other opportunities. In Buckinghamshire, there are three volunteer centres which together are part of **Voluntary Impact Bucks**, and which exist to put individuals looking to get involved in voluntary work, in touch with charitable or not-for-profit organisations that need their help.

Christine Hodgetts of **Vale Volunteers**, the volunteer centre for Voluntary Services in the Aylesbury Vale district, says "We're a bit like recruitment consultants, or even a dating agency in many respects. Some people approach us having seen our website or in response to an ad., and they have a very specific idea of the sort of work they want to do. If they know they want to help out but aren't sure in what way, we chat to them to establish what skills and experience they have, either work-related or personal, when and where they can volunteer, and what they're looking to get out of it."

Volunteering roles involve painting, decorating and gardening for elderly or disabled people, driving minibuses and vans, teaching literary skills to adults, and assisting in local museums and theatres. Accounting and general administrative skills are always in demand throughout the county.

For animal lovers, **Riding For The Disabled**, **Guide Dogs For The Blind** and **Hearing Dogs For Deaf People** organisations often recruit people to socialise puppies who will later be trained to help the disabled. **Swan Lifeline** frequently requires swan rescuers, and the **Waddesdon Manor National Trust** site uses bird enthusiasts to assist its aviary keepers.

The reasons people have for becoming volunteers are

highly diverse. Besides the overall desire is to be doing something positive, some volunteers treat it as an opportunity to get out of the house and make new friends; others use it to develop business skills which they hope to put to use later in a job, or as a way of easing themselves back into a work mentality after a long time spent unemployed. Many retired people use volunteering as a way of retaining the skills they picked up in their professional life. Some use it as a road to recovery from mental or physical illness.

"When you get that match right it's an incredible thing," says Joy Johns of **Volunteering Action Chiltern & South Bucks**. "We recently helped a woman who had just had a baby and taken a break from work. She's now a trustee for one organisation, and will be helping with activities for elderly people for another."

The centres are keen to emphasise that volunteers come in all shapes, sizes and ages. "We encourage people to talk about their likes and dislikes as well as their skills and experience," explains Rose Parker of the **Volunteer Centre, Wycombe District**. "I interviewed one young man and we sat there for ages trying to find something that would be of interest to him. He suddenly piped up that he was interested in the environment. We were immediately able to find him a role completely suited to his interests."

Among the 800-plus locally-based organisations for which the three centres recruit volunteers are **Cruse**, the association for bereavement counselling, **Bucks Mind**, which deals with mental health, **Age Concern**, the **Red Cross Hospital Trust**, and the **Bucks Association for the Blind and partially sighted**. There is also the **Youth Focus** organisation, which exists specifically to encourage young people to get into voluntary work.

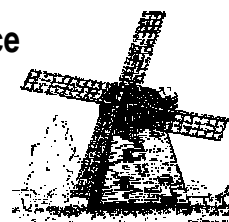
"Often, people will fill a particular voluntary role for a while, then want a change," points out Joy Johns, "In which case, we reassess their skills with a view to suggesting something else."

... Continued back on page 6

What's Happening in Lacey Green & Loosley Row ?

A LIST OF REGULAR ACTIVITIES to which you are welcome. Others take place but are subject, for example, to membership for which there is a waiting list

All events at Lacey Green & Loosley Row Millennium Hall unless otherwise specified



WHO in alphabetical order	WHEN, WHERE if not in Millennium Hall, and OTHER DETAILS	CONTACT	01844 *
Adult Learning – Furniture Restoration	Thu mornings, term time	Bucks office	0845 - 0454040
Happy Wanderers' Walking Club		Ronnie Lewin	274961
- normal walk (5-6 miles)	10.30am. Starting place informed on previous walk		
- short walk (2-3 miles)	2nd Wed. 10.30am, Millennium Hall car park		
Horticultural Society	3rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov. 8pm	Terry Fendom	342636
Jazzercise – exercises with lively music & company	Tue evenings	Sue Morris	01494 - 813968
Jingle Tots	Baby to 5 years. Songs, action rhymes, musical instruments, refreshments, playtime. Fridays during term time.	Jenny Stothard	344441
Karate	Mon evenings	Richard Peace	07768 – 896078
Kinder Gym	Pre-school Gym Classes. Fridays during term time	Jenny Stothard	344441
Lacey Green Productions	Various kinds of theatre, some with delicious food	Val Brookhouse	344207
Lacey Green & Loosley Row Sports & Social Club	Various activities	Jane Oakford	346295
Lacey Green Singers	Thu evenings, term time	Jane Brown	346071
Lacey Green Windmill	Open Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays 2.30-5.30pm beginning May – end Sep. See p44.	Michael Hardy	343560
Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI	2nd Thu, except Aug. 2pm	Jill Baker	275442
Pilates Classes	Tue mornings	Sue Croxford	346656
U3A	4 th Wed afternoon of month	Roger Smith	01494 - 484182
Whiteleaf Bowmen	Wed, Thu & Fri evenings, Apr to Sep	Dave Evans	01494 - 538235
Windmill Under 5's Playgroup	Mon-Fri 9.15-11.45am, lunch club 11.45am-1.15pm At Sports & Social Club (next to St John's School).	Tina Zychowicz	344959
Windmill WI	1st Wed of month except Jan. 7.45pm	Stella Boll	347268
Yoga Group	Mon mornings during term time	Annie Silverman	343643
81st Over 60's Club	1st Thu of month except Jan & Aug (was 1 st Tue) 2pm	Carole Knight	01296 – 614113

* Except where shown otherwise

See page 44 re Lacey Green Maize Maze and Lacey Green Post Office

Yesterday is history, tomorrow's a mystery, but today's a gift.
That's why it's called the present!



Village Diary

Feb 15 – May 15

All events at Lacey Green & Loosley Row Millennium Hall unless otherwise specified.
Sometimes includes some at Speen.

Feb 24	Happy Wanderers' AGM, own food, then local walk. AGM starts 11.30 #	11am exhibition
Mar 3	Parish Council Meeting at Speen Village Hall "	7.30pm
Mar 5	Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Mar 6	81st Over 60's Club (1st Thu of month excl Jan & Aug) (was 1st Tue)	2pm
Mar 8	Windmill WI <i>Spring Jumble Sale</i>	2pm
Mar 11	Lacey Green & Loosley Row Millennium ("Village") Hall's AGM	8pm
Mar 12	Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Mar 13	Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
Mar 19	Horticultural Society (3 rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov)	8pm
Mar 30	Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
Apr 2	Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
Apr 3	81st Over 60's Club (1st Thu of month excl Jan & Aug) (was 1st Tue)	2pm
Apr 7	Parish Council Meeting at Lacey Green Village Hall "	7.30pm
Apr 9	Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
Apr 10	Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
Apr 27	Happy Wanderers' normal walk #	10.30am
May 1	81st Over 60's Club (1st Thu of month excl Jan & Aug) (was 1st Tue)	2pm
May 7	Windmill WI (1st Wed of month)	7.45pm
May 7	Parish Council Meeting at Speen Village Hall "	7.30pm
May 8	Loosley Row & Lacey Green WI (2nd Thu, except Aug)	2pm
May 11	Windmill sails turning if suitable weather.	2.30-5.30pm
May 14	Happy Wanderers' short walk (2nd Wed, Village Hall car park)	10.30am
May 14	Lacey Green Parish Community Plan public meeting (see page 25)	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

LACEY GREEN MAIZE MAZE will be open during the school Summer Holiday. Car park accessed from Slad Lane.
Times and other details from **01844 347435**

LACEY GREEN WINDMILL is open Sundays & Bank Holiday Mondays 2.30-5.30pm 4 May – 28 Sep. Admission is £1 for adults and 50p for children. It is the oldest smock mill in the country and still has its original wooden machinery from the mid 17th century. Since 1971 it has been restored to working order by members of The Chiltern Society. For further information, contact Michael Hardy on 01844 343560.

LACEY GREEN POST OFFICE is open in Village Hall 9am-12 noon Mondays & Thursdays for all services except Road Fund Licences (vehicle licences).

SOME LATER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY including in Speen & North Dean:
None informed to editor.

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**CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE SUMMER EDITION**  
**April 17th 2008**  
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