



# **HALLMARK**

The Lacey Green and Loosley Row Magazine

**FEBRUARY 2013**

**NUMBER 225**

**ESTABLISHED 1970**

# Welcome to the February edition of Hallmark



The aged ash on the front cover links the freezing weather we have been having with problems of ash die-back disease. On page 7 John Tyler gives an update of the progress of the disease.

In view of the dreadful weather you may want to look at Councillor Claydon's information about road gritting on page 27. I hope the worst of the snow is already behind us, but .....

On page 30 you will find Paul Rogerson's regular report. In it he says that he is standing down after 10 years as our County Councillor. We offer our thanks for his work over the years on our behalf. Remember to go out and vote for a new Councillor on May 2nd and hope we get someone as good as Paul has been.

**Mike Piercy**  
**Editor**

## T@3

It proved to be quite a Christmas Party in December - with Christmas cake, crackers, mince pies and delightful entertainment from pupils of St John's School who sang a selection of carols and jolly songs, some of which we joined in.

There was an excellent turnout and as a result we were able to send £50 to Scannappeal.

Thank you for your support.

**Jean Gabbitas**



## April issue

Please note that the production of the next issue of Hallmark will run 10 days later than normal as I will be away.

The deadline for submissions will be April 27 and magazines will be distributed around May 14.

## Faster Broadband

Have you seen the recent publicity for higher speed broadband becoming available in Lacey Green? A new cable has been installed to Lacey Green from the main exchange and we can now get "fibre broadband". This costs a few pounds more per month than conventional broadband.

One of our readers in Meadowrise has bought it and reports that his download speed has gone up from 3Mbps to 36Mbps!

That will give good quality downloads of music or BBC iPlayer and let the whole family share one Internet link without complaint.

## Donations

When we distribute the next issue, we will ask you to make a contribution to the cost of printing Hallmark. It costs us about £7.50 per household per year to print Hallmark.

All donations are voluntary but much appreciated. Any profit goes to supporting the Village Hall.

Can I take the opportunity of thanking all the distributors who deliver Hallmark and collect the donations - Thank You.

Also, sincere thanks to the anonymous benefactor who gave £100 to the Village Hall funds.

**Mike Piercy**

# What's On

**Fri 22 Feb 10am**

Children's pancake workshop

**Sat 9 March 2pm**

WI Jumble sale  
Items accepted 10 to noon  
Tombola, teas, coffee, cakes

**Wed 20 March 2pm**

Horts Club AGM & Talk  
about Chenies Manor

**Sun 22 March 11.30**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
St John's Church

**28 - 31 March**

Easter Services at St Johns. See p36

**Sun 11 May 11am**

National Windmills Day  
Horts Soc stall

## Mobile Library Service

Eastlands 12:05 to 12:20  
February 6 & 20  
March 6 & 20  
April 3 & 17

## T@3 Village Hall

T @3 will continue on the second Wednesday of each month.  
All are welcome including mothers and babies and hungry pupils at the end of the school day

## Over 50's Pub Lunch



The first Tuesday of every month at the Black Horse, village residents meet up at 12.30 for good company and a good lunch currently costing £7. If you know someone in the village who needs to make friends and or get out more, then phone up the booking secretaries - numbers on p37.

**Yvonne Axe**

## Bowling Group

Interested in gentle exercise, a good natter and friendly competition, then pop along to the village hall 2pm any Monday afternoon and have a go - indoor shoes required.

If you decide to join, weekly sessions only cost £2 and includes a cuppa. We have some second hand bowls for £40, which we will buy back for £30 if you leave. Bowling shoes

cost £40 but any smooth indoor shoes are acceptable. Membership is £20, payable once only, which goes to the cost of the bowling mats - we now have three. Work it out, it's excellent value for money and we can cope with six more members who all have equal say in running the club.

**Leigh Axe**



## Parish Council

**4 March 7.30pm** Council Meeting at Lacey Green Village Hall

**8 April 7.00pm** Annual Parish Meeting at Speen Village Hall followed at 7.30pm by Council Meeting

**13 May 7.30pm** Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at Lacey Green Village Hall

# Wildlife Notes

It's not often that a tree hits the headlines, but sadly in 2012 one did it in a big way, when it was reported that a fungus had arrived from Europe and was threatening our ash trees.

The ash dieback fungus (*Chalara fraxinea*) has been spreading across Europe since about 1992, when the first infected trees were spotted in Poland, and arrived in Britain early last year. It was first noticed in tree nurseries and planting projects across the country, on young trees imported from Europe.

Since then it has also been found in the wild, in areas centred on Kent and East Anglia, which suggests that its spores have also been able to make their own way across the Channel and the North Sea, carried on the wind.

The fungus normally infects a tree through its leaves, causing them to wilt and die, before working its way back down the twigs and branches to the trunk.

Unfortunately the government adopted the time-honoured strategy of 'do nothing until it's too late, if then' (don't get me started on politicians and the environment!) so that by the time the alarm had been sounded it was already autumn and many ashes were shedding their leaves naturally, making it hard to spot infected trees. Even so by then the disease had been reported from nearly three hundred sites around Britain.

We won't discover the full scale of the problem until about June, when the fungus will start producing spores again from tiny, pale toadstool-like caps on fallen ash leaves and twigs.

The spores can be blown as far as twenty miles in search of new ash trees and once a tree is infected the first symptoms - withered leaves and wounds on the bark - usually become obvious within a couple of months.

It is too soon to know what proportion of ashes will be affected and how many of them will die, but as yet there is no treatment for the disease. Young trees are the most vulnerable and many are likely to die within 2 - 10 years, whereas older trees can hold out for longer and some may even survive.

The fungus only attacks ash trees and we only have one native species, so hopefully no other trees are at risk.

With luck some individual trees will have a built-in genetic resistance to the disease and the hope is that in the long term it may be possible to use their offspring to replace the trees that are lost, but obviously restoring hundred year-old ash trees is a slow process and won't happen in our lifetimes.

It will be some years before we know just how serious a problem ash dieback turns out to be, but if its impact is anything like as major as that of Dutch elm disease (again caused by a fungus) and ashes disappear from our countryside it would be a sad loss.

Together with the beech and the oak, the ash is one of the most abundant trees in the Chilterns and without it entire woods would disappear. Even away from the woods it would be hard to find a hedge in Lacey Green without at least one old ash.



*Young Lacey Green ash*

They are easy to recognise in summer with their paired leaves and in winter by their upward-curling lower twigs and soot-black buds. The aged ivy-clad one shown on the front cover for example spent its life in the hedge opposite the Whip, watching generations of regulars come and go, before it keeled over in a storm a couple of years ago.

Admittedly in its youth an ash is not a thing of great beauty, straight, spindly and lacking in character, rather like an awkward teenager, but in time it develops into a real personality with lumps and bumps and hollows for nesting birds and roosting bats. So now is the time to go out and appreciate some of these old village characters, just in case.

**John Tyler**

# Windmill Artists Exhibition



What a marvellous time we had in our village hall on 3rd November!

Denis Croucher described our twin villages in the November 2012 Hallmark as "must be one of the friendliest and most active communities around". We certainly found it so at the Windmill Artists' Exhibition and Bistro! We saw a lot of people we've known for decades some of whom we haven't seen for years and others we see regularly.

It was a marvellous memorable day, one of the best we've had in the last year. Everyone we met were very well pleased they went. It seemed even more people were there than ever before (I don't know what the figures were).

We were able to admire a wide variety of paintings by various amateur and professional local artists. The art, mainly but not only paintings, included that by local amateurs as well as the highest level of professionals.

You couldn't get higher than our local resident, Dennis Syrett PPROI, RSMA, RBA. He has been



a professional artist since the 1970s. He was elected President of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters in 2004 and his letters also show his full membership of the Royal Society of Marine Artists and the Royal Society of British Artists. It's well worth doing a search on the Internet to learn more about Dennis!

The other displays were so varied and enjoyable as well. I don't know how well it went for the artists in these financially difficult times.

Thanks, Stella Boll and your team of volunteers who helped with so many aspects of the exhibition!

Rachel Panter's food as usual was an attraction in itself. It was served with great care by Val and Peter Brookhouse buffet-style. Altogether very reasonable prices, particularly for Rachel's quality care!

Anyway, we visitors of all ages certainly appeared to enjoy all aspects of this annual occasion!

## Norman Tyler



# Horticultural Society - Pumpkin supper

Everyone really enjoyed the marvellous evening we had in the village hall at our Horticultural Society's Annual Pumpkin Competition & Supper.

It couldn't have been better. We really are lucky to have such an excellent Horts, particularly if you compare it with other societies serving a population less than town or city size!

The food, for example, was all home-made to a standard you couldn't buy in any shop anywhere.

A lot of people put a lot of effort and skill into it and some lost some sleep. I'd like to thank all concerned.

## Norman Tyler

Our AGM is on Weds 20<sup>th</sup> March with a talk about Chenies Manor and Gardens. Our new programme of talks and activities will be published then, but we are planning garden visits, social events and informative talks. If you would like more information please contact one of the committee or to join us the subscriptions are £3.00 for a year per person. This allows you to enter our annual show, attend 5 meetings, all for no extra cost, plus have subsidised charges for garden trips.

The current committee are:

Chair: Alison Shreeve

Secretary: Leigh Axe

Show Secretary: Adam Heeley

Treasurer: John Burnett

Events Secretary: Marcia Fendom

Membership Sec: Laura Chapman

Committee: Chris Boll, Denise Kinnard, Judith Fitt, Linda Taylor,

Just a reminder about our times for meetings – we start at 8.00pm and finish around 10.00 and hope to see you there.

## Alison Shreeve



# The Black Horse

Happy New Year to everybody. I am sitting here in my office watching the snow falling outside. They said it should be about 3 inches but looking at it maybe 5 inches at the moment and it is still snowing. It looks beautiful outside; even though it is a real bug bear for me, as people cancel and staff are unable to get to me. My locals support me all the time, a big thank you to them. Also it was really nice to see new faces coming in hopefully to return.

Christmas was a good one and New Year was also really good. The New Year's Eve party was

great fun, not so many people but the ones that came made it a really good night and a very late one. The children's disco was once again a great success, they have so much energy.

Congratulations to Raj and Sam on the arrival of Rohan Robert a brother to Ela; and to Toby and Pauline for little baby Arthur.

Burns Night is fully booked once again for January. The haggis is ordered and the whisky is in the cellar waiting to be poured.



We are delighted once again to be in the 2013 Good Beer Guide and the 2013 Good Food Guide. Hope to see lots of you in 2013. Look at the blackboards for forthcoming events.

**Lynne and Ian**

# Lacey Green Windmill

In 2012 we had a total of 1,214 visitors inside the windmill, with an average of 44 visitors on each of our open afternoons. This is quite a good number, especially considering the high profile national events during the summer, combined with the lack of summer weather. I reported on our National Mills Day and Diamond Jubilee openings in the August Hallmark.

During 2012 the basement wall of the windmill has been re-pointed, using a suitably coloured lime mortar, so that it does not appear too bright white. Apart from painting the interior of the wall, it has not had any attention since being repaired in the early 1970s.

At that time the outside of the eight corners had to be rebuilt, after the removal of the concrete blocks that were placed at each corner in late 1934. The new lime mortar, being a consistent colour throughout, actually gives the wall a more cohesive look, so the

variety of different coloured bricks are now not so noticeable.

We are always grateful to our volunteers who make it possible for the windmill to be open for visitors. They often tell me how much they enjoy meeting the wide variety of people who visit the windmill, who in turn are very impressed with the windmill's machinery, its age, and the way it has been restored by such dedicated volunteers over many years.

I am always happy to discuss what is involved for new people to join our team of wardens who open the windmill. Please contact me using my contact details below.

In 2013, the windmill will re-open on Sunday 5th May. We will then be open from 2 pm to 5 pm on every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday until Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

National Mills Day will be on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May, when we will be open from 11 am to 5 pm.

We will hope to have the sails turning, but that will depend on suitable weather, as always.

The Horticultural Society will again have their stall by the windmill, and will also be open from 11 am.

For further details, please see our website, or contact Michael or Betty Hardy by phone or email.

**Mike Hardy**

01844 275871  
contact@laceygreenwindmill.org.uk  
www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk



# LGP -Panto Time!

We made it! The performances of the "pantocrime" *Our Cinderella is a Fella* played to full houses at the end of last November but our rehearsals were dogged with illnesses. Until the last 10 days of rehearsals we never had a full cast but thankfully nobody was actually ill on the night!

This was LGP's first ever attempt at a full length panto and our audiences enjoyed trying to discover all the clues about which character had committed the ultimate "pantocrime" of changing the ending of the play. The winning table was rewarded with a prize of an assortment of cup cakes, which they were encouraged to eat despite having been well fed on the dinner theatre nights with carbonade of beef and lemon choux buns!

The photos, taken by Norman Tyler in performance and by Speen Photographic Society during rehearsals give an indication of the fun we had in the performances plus the ludicrous costumes that our director made us wear.

Having full houses and wonderful sponsorship support from local firms and retailers meant that these performances raised the most money ever for our charities and we shall shortly be announcing the amounts given to each of them. Our two charities were the "Scannappeal" for our local hospitals and The Prince's Centre, which is the newly formed Day Care Centre for this area.

With the money raised from these performances, the total amount given to charities by LGP since we started 30 years ago has now topped £50,000.

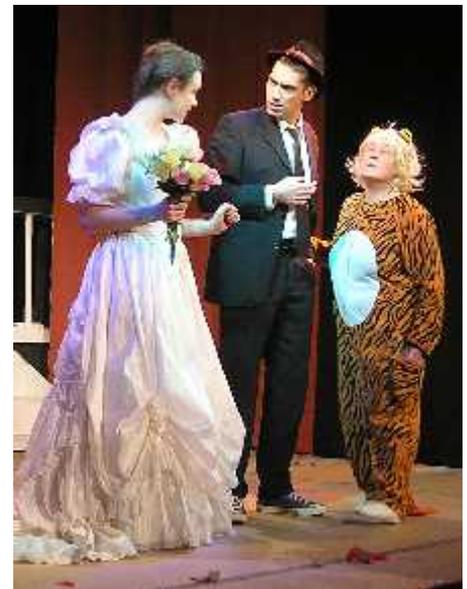


This brings us on to what we are doing next. 2013 will be a big year for LGP as it is our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During 2013 we are planning to have a special themed evening in the village hall to celebrate our 30th year, a summer performance of a play, our dinner theatre in November again and a grand reunion summer party for present and previous members of LGP.

If you know anybody who used to be in LGP but who now lives out of the area and would like to come to our reunion, please put them in touch with us on 01844 344207 or through our website [www.laceygreenproductions.co.uk](http://www.laceygreenproductions.co.uk).

For 2013 and beyond we have many ideas under discussion designed to give the group the space to change and develop. LGP has reinvented itself many times already. Our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary seems the ideal moment to do a bit of future gazing. So, if you would like to be involved in any capacity, please contact us now.

**Peter Brookhouse**



# The Windmill WI

Even with the busy lead up to Christmas there was still a lot going on at our W.I. In October we hosted the Village Quiz Evening for the first time. This was a very entertaining evening and everyone enjoyed themselves. Of course we had lots of helpers - on the door, a very successful raffle, making the tea and coffee and many thanks to Colin and Les for keeping the score. We also had our own team Sandra, Helen, Lynda and Bunny who although they didn't win certainly put up a good show. Lacey Green Productions were this year's winners.



At our November meeting we had Sally Botwright, a Blue Badge Tourist Guide, talking about the City of London Gardens. We were amazed to learn about the number of green spaces in the financial mile and how the people working in the city use them for their leisure time. Sally had some wonderful slides with her to demonstrate these lovely gardens.

The highlight for December was our Christmas Party. We had a really lovely evening. Everyone was greeted with a glass of wine as they

arrived. The committee had worked very hard and produced a superb three course meal.

As usual we had our Secret Santa present and I think most people were pleased with their gift. Sandra also did a fantastic 'Silly Raffle' and everyone had a prize. After eating our meal and receiving our presents we were served with tea or coffee and everyone enjoyed some quality time chatting to each

other. Another splendid evening for our W.I.

Now it is 2013 - if you want to enjoy one evening a month listening to a good speaker, or going on an interesting outing why don't you join us. We are a very friendly crowd, we meet on the first Wednesday in the month at 7.45pm in the Village Hall, you would be more than welcome.

**Anne Bartlett**

## St John's School

The children have enjoyed a busy half term to Christmas. We held two PA events, the first being a Barn Dance in October. This was a great evening enjoyed by parents and children.

Our next PA event was the annual Christmas Fayre held in December. It was again a very busy afternoon, in which the children were able to visit Father Christmas, play games designed by year 6, enjoy face painting and buy presents for their family and friends at the secret room. The parents enjoyed craft and toy stalls

to name but a few as well as a cup of tea and cake! Thank you to the parents, relatives and friends who visited and supported the Fayre during the afternoon. We raised an amazing £2,817 for school funds!

The children worked very hard to practice and learn lines for the school Christmas performances. The first school performed a traditional nativity and the middle school performed "Robin Hood's Christmas Holiday". Thanks must go to the teachers for again

putting on two incredible performances.

This term the children are looking forward to a Hot Dog lunch and a School Disco.

For the summer term we have planned a Camp Night and our much awaited Summer Ball which will be held on July 13<sup>th</sup>, watch this space for more details!

Happy New Year.

**Julia Spittles**  
**(PA secretary)**

# Sports Club - Tennis Section



Tennis during the winter months can be a challenge especially when it's not only the skill of your opponents that are set against you. Unless you have the luxury of indoor courts, then deciding whether or not to play can be a difficult decision.

Fair weather players would not even think of playing other than on a nice warm sunny day. However, there are quite a few hardy types in Lacey Green who are more than willing to play in just about anything short of snow and rain. The trick of course is to wear the right clothing and make sure your tennis shoes have a decent tread to minimize the risk of slipping if the surface is a bit wet.

At Lacey Green, the intrepid ladies and occasional bloke have been continuing with their Wednesday and Friday morning 'foursomes' through the winter, usually checking on the weather on the day and exchanging emails before deciding to don the extra layers, hats and gloves. These friendly practice sessions are about fun and anyone can come along to join in. Although the recent snow has made it a mission impossible, the club will become more active as soon as the snow melts.

So don't be put off by the weather, tennis unlike most other sports is available all-year round

and it ticks all the boxes for exercise, keeping fit and being active in body and mind. It can also be good way to meet people socially and play people of similar tennis ability.

The tennis club received some really good news late last year. The club has needed to resurface the worst of its 3 courts for many years but was unable to contribute sufficient funding towards the project from members annual subscriptions. This was becoming more of a problem for the club when all 3 courts are needed for tournaments and competitive league matches. The third court is also needed whenever the coaches require adjacent courts such as for mini-tennis; and to extend the potential for the facilities to be used for schools extra-curricular tennis activities.

The tennis club therefore made a bid and was successful in securing a Community Support Grant from Wycombe District Council along with additional interest-free funding from the Parish Council.

Although the tennis club members have themselves raised more than 2/3 of the funding for the project, the club is enormously grateful that the District and Parish Councils recognized the benefit to the whole community of these local sporting facilities and contributed enough to enable the club to proceed with the work as soon as the weather improves, probably in late March or April.

To manage and sustain the club going forward, it now needs new volunteers to join the management committee. Key roles to be filled in 2013 include the Chairman, Club Secretary and Maintenance Coordinator; other volunteers are needed to captain the Men's team, co-ordinate juniors, organize tournaments, co-ordinate communications and Wimbledon ticket allocations. Nominations for these roles are needed before the next AGM, which is to be held in late February 2013.

And finally, new members are always welcome. Subscriptions will be the same as they were in 2012 and there is a discount for members whose subscriptions are paid before 1 April 2013. Anyone joining now will be able to enter the club's Wimbledon ballot for 2013.

You can join us through email, or by using the LTA website (find a club link)

**Email:**  
[LGLR\\_TennisClub@btinternet.com](mailto:LGLR_TennisClub@btinternet.com)

**Internet:** [www.LTA.org.uk](http://www.LTA.org.uk)

**Membership Secretary:**

Julie 01844 275711

**Club Administrator:**

Ian 01844 345567



# Community Planning Group

## Lacey Green Stores

We have just changed the opening hours so that the shop is now open from 09.00 to 12.00, Monday to Friday. It does make life a little easier for our team of volunteers, and we hope that this change is not too great an inconvenience for our valued customers.

Whilst we would have preferred to move in the opposite direction, and extend the hours, we need more volunteers to make this practicable. If you would like to help us, and can spare an hour or two now and again, contact Angela Roberts (347603) or me.

We are very pleased to welcome Audrey Ash, who has just joined the team, having moved from Stoke Mandeville into Lacey Green last year.

Remember that the shop is here for you. It is a non-profit making organisation, and aims to provide a community service that we would like to keep running. So please do use it!

## Wycombe District Local Plan

WDC has started working on a new local plan, which looks ahead to 2031, and a first statement about this is shown on page 27. Parish and Town Councils, together with other interested organisations, have been asked to contribute their views.

The Parish Council had decided not to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan, it being considered that existing WDC local plans, and the location of the Parish within the countryside, together provided good protection.

However, it will collaborate with WDC, so that the interests of Lacey Green Parish can be considered in any future local plan. Recent government initiatives might indicate a lessening of protection against further development, and there is of course the unsettled situation with regard to HS2.

We would try to ensure that Lacey Green Parish gets what its residents would like, and not something imposed from outside.

Issues of importance to residents have been identified, and are listed in the Parish Plan. Many of the more important issues have already been dealt with. The Village Design Statement for Lacey Green and Loosley Row is referred to regularly when dealing with planning applications.

Both the Parish Plan and the Lacey Green/Loosley Row Village Design Statement can be seen on the new Parish Council website ([www.laceygreen-pc.org.uk](http://www.laceygreen-pc.org.uk)).

The Community Planning Group will be working together with the Parish Council to make our views known to WDC. Readers of Hallmark may have further ideas to contribute, so please tell us.

**Tony Molesworth**

Community Plan Steering Group  
(01844 344975)  
[molechem@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:molechem@yahoo.co.uk)

## Church Christmas Fete

Father Christmas managed to spare a couple of hours from his busy schedule to visit the village at St John's Church coffee morning. 50 children managed to talk to him and visit the magnificent grotto that magically transformed the plastic chair cupboard!

He told me that they were all on the "nice list" so I am sure they all had a great Christmas.

**Jenny Stothard**



**THINK  
ABOUT US...**



**SLOW DOWN!**

*Speed awareness poster  
By PR Primary School*

## The Black Horse

Main Road, Lacey Green

**A real Village Pub**

**Good Beer Guide**

**Good Food Guide**



**We now have four real ales every month**

Food times - Tuesday to Saturday

Open for breakfasts 9:00am till 11:00 (*8 items £6.50. 5 items £4.50*)

Lunches: 12.00 - 2.30 Evening Meals: 6.30 - 9.30

Sunday Roast two course - £9.50 (*children under 6 free!*)

**Telephone: 01844 345195 [www.blackhorse-pub.co.uk](http://www.blackhorse-pub.co.uk)**

## Possible closure of LG Post Office

You may remember that Lacey Green was without a Post Office for several years and it took a great deal of effort to get back the facility we now have. Over the past 5 years the village has benefited by the Post Office opening three mornings each week.

George Crombie is due to retire officially sometime during 2013, possibly earlier than we would like. If George goes, there is no one designated to take over the running of these two post offices.

We believe that the residents of Lacey Green would like to keep their Post Office. There are several possible options. These include:

1. Finding a new sub-postmaster to take over all or part of the job being done by George.
2. Setting up a community Post Office.
3. Some other solution.

At the moment we do not know which of these options is likely to succeed. Probably the most desirable answer would be to have someone take over the existing sub-postmaster's job (assuming that this is technically possible).

**Is there anyone in the village who might like to take on the job?**

It is paid – not a lot but certainly not to be disregarded. It's an ideal job for anyone now retired who fancies some part time work, which would also be a help to the community.

Please let us know if you might be interested.

We may have to set up a small action group to explore all the possible options, and we would also like anyone that wants to join such a group to let us know. We may also arrange a public meeting in the near future to discuss the matter further.

**Tony Molesworth**

Community Plan Steering Group  
(01844 344975)

[molechem@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:molechem@yahoo.co.uk)

# Happy Wanderers

## October

We live in an area of gentle hills and woodland, yet a few miles away the landscape changes to a flat treeless plain. Open an Ordnance Survey map and the contrast can be visually seen where the west escarpment of the Chiltern Hills slips into the Plain of Oxford. Our leaders who plan the monthly walks always survey the route well beforehand to check the terrain for steep slopes and the number of stiles. On this occasion



we carried out this survey on a hot, dry day in March ready for our Club walk two months later. This was to be a four mile circular walk starting in Thame and going over the fields and rivulets to Long Crendon village. On the day we surveyed the walk it was exceedingly hot and after a couple of miles we realised we had no water and no money. We were discussing what to do as we approached Long Crendon where we met a lady who, hearing of our dilemma, kindly gave us a small amount of money to buy a drink at the cafe in the centre of the village. We duly arrived at the cafe and asked what we could have for two pounds; the cheery owner just told us to sit down in the sunshine and within a few minutes provided us with tea and cakes! We continued on our journey and passed the Rector's house where he and his wife were mowing the lawn; they welcomed us to Long Crendon and offered us a cool drink before we went on our way.

The route then took us across the flood plain back to Thame. To our surprise in the middle of this huge agricultural area was an industrial site and even more to our amazement we discovered this was the home of the Cornish Pasty. By the time we were back in Thame we were sure that our members would enjoy meeting the good people of Long Crendon and a cup of coffee in their friendly cafe.

On the actual day of our Sunday walk, which had been postponed to October, the weather had changed from blue to grey skies and the ground from hard clay to very wet grass. Twenty members came on the walk. A welcome cup of coffee was enjoyed by everyone at the friendly cafe in Long Crendon before setting off for the second part of the walk. Finally we retired to a local hostelry where we had a traditional Sunday lunch together.

## Ronnie & Liz Lewin

## November

Our November walk took us to Tring, we parked quite near the museum, after splitting into 2 groups, a long walk led by Roger which attracted 10 walkers and a short walk led by Ann with 3 others accompanying her. It had been raining for days but Sunday arrived with blue skies.

We were extremely lucky as we all were able to appreciate the wonderful views over the Vale of Aylesbury from the Ridgeway path which was part of both



routes. We were able to see 3 of the original Rothschild houses. The short walkers were able to have coffee in the Akeman Cafe before being met by the others and 9 of us had a very good lunch at the Black Horse in Tring.

## Roger & Ann Walker

## December

The walk started from Bobs Barn (Aylesbury Golf Club), Bierton and went to Hulcott Village, where we left the short walkers.



A lap around the green and off towards Rowsham Old Road, I had to revamp the route a couple of times due to floods blocking our path. After crossing a few fields, we picked up a footpath crossing private gardens, then back along the road to the barn where we enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies etc.

The walk was approx 4 miles and we were 26 in number. Plus we sang happy birthday to celebrate Ronnie Lewin's 80th.

## Ian Goodearl



# Windmill Under 5s

The Autumn Term seems a long while ago as we have snowdrifts here in January, but last term Windmills welcomed 10 new starters and with two more beginning this term and 6 more in the Summer, again the pre-school is full and that is a testament to what a great job the staff have been doing. Windmills is known to have really high standards in our area, so as a parent I feel so lucky we have this pre-school in our village. The staff; Angela, Louisa, Annie and Elise have now been joined by Lucy who comes from a primary school teaching background, which is a fantastic addition to the team.



The Autumn term was a whirlwind of projects, events and themes that covered 'On the farm' and 'Harvest' when a splendid tractor was made out of large cardboard boxes and used to plough the carpet and gather stray animals from around the room. Halloween was just before half term and the pre-school had a wonderful party, which luckily did really well as a fundraiser (tickets sold out – always a good sign) and turned out to be a really brilliant spooky afternoon. Former Windmills children who had gone off to 'big school' came along too, it was lovely to see them again, and along with siblings and friends it was fun to see all the very scary costumes. Annabel the cat won the 'best costume' and there was apple bobbing and lucky dip (or

unlucky for poor Sharon who had to 'control' the bucket of very cold jelly). Angela did a great job keeping the games on track and the children left thrilled and exhausted.



After half-term the children learned about Winter Animals and habitats and hibernation, and stories as themes started with 'We're going on a bear hunt' which involved the children bringing in their favourite teddy bears and crossing rivers and going through forests – not being scared! Then before we knew it, the Christmas season was upon us and the children all had a great time learning songs for the Christmas Play which had the Nativity played out through songs, it was a lovely performance and the staff including Keeley and



Lucy, who had been roped in to help, did an amazing job in getting everyone to not only learn the songs but a few lines too. We were so glad that Reverend Denise joined us and she did the very important job of pulling out the raffle tickets afterwards. The

Christmas play is a key fundraiser for the pre-school and we did really well this year thanks to all the parents who donated such good things for the raffle and dedicated time helping in all aspects including making tea on the day. Alison, the new committee secretary did an incredible job managing all the tickets and money (particularly as Paula our fab administrator was away – we really missed her!). Clive from Entertainment House is due an enormous thank you for videoing the Christmas Play and making DVDs available for the parents – brilliant job.

The term was finished off with a Christmas party where Captain Fantastic entertained the children with games, tricks and a crazy foam machine that covered everyone. Santa managed to fit us into his busy schedule – THANKS Santa!

This Spring Term has started slowly partly due to the weather, but school applications were due in this month which is a shock for those of us with children who will leave the pre-school in the summer, I am sure that will come around soon enough. For now the children are just enjoying acting out 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', baking with porridge oats and this week making a big green beanstalk for 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. In such a caring and nurturing environment they can't help but enjoy their time there and learn along the way. Well done to all of the staff and as usual a big thanks to the parents who have contributed time, resources, snacks, funds and enthusiasm, it makes Windmills the happy and successful place it is. Roll on Spring!

**Kay Bolton - Chair**

# St John's Church - plans for Easter



Vicar: Reverend Denise Critchell.  
Tel. 347741

## The News in Brief

We had wonderful attendance for our services during Christmas time – at the Candlelit carol service, every seat was occupied, extra chairs in place, the singing was uplifting, and the children made a beautiful tableau around the crib.

Now we are in Epiphany – which is the time of the Wise men bearing gifts – we consider our own gifts and talents and how we can best use them to help mankind. Our skills are God's gift to us; how we use them is our gift to God. And His greatest gift to us was His Son Jesus. Epiphany also means gaining insight and understanding.

So many new exciting things are happening in this new year- be aware of the differences in Your life. Be Positive.

Now and again, an overwhelming urge to clean comes over us – with duster and spray polish – and it is so rewarding to enter a lovely clean church. If you feel keen to clean, please come and volunteer to keep our church beautiful.

## Easter dates for diaries

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February.** Men's Breakfast in the Black Horse. (You might not want to eat for the rest of the day). A time of fellowship, interesting discussion, and learning.

**Shrove Tuesday - February 12<sup>th</sup>.** will see us buying the ingredients for Pancakes, with lemon and sugar. The beginning of Lent. The idea is to use up all foodstuff in the house and endure a time of Fasting – ie giving up 'something' during the 6 weeks of Lent.

**Ash Wednesday -February 13<sup>th</sup>.** the schools will be attending their services in Church. Communion Service at 8pm.

Lent Groups. Please do try to attend, either on Wednesday evenings with Mrs. Virginia Goode in Walters Ash – **first meeting Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>**. Or at the Vicarage with Rev. Denise on Thursday evenings – **first meeting Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>**. Members need to sign up so that study books may be ordered. More details will be advertised on the Church notice board and the pew sheets.

**March 24<sup>th</sup> PALM SUNDAY** at 10am (usual service at 8am) Palm crosses are blessed and received by the congregation, who will then walk around the church waving palms and remembering the first Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

The service will be followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 11:30am.

It is important that you are at this meeting, especially if you are a member of the Church Electoral Roll. We look forward to seeing you there.

**March 28<sup>th</sup> MAUNDY THURSDAY** at 8pm – remembering the way Jesus washed the feet of the Disciples and the institution of the Lord's Supper.

**March 29<sup>th</sup>. GOOD FRIDAY.** 2 till 3 pm. Meditation hour in St. John's Church.  
**TOWN CENTRE WITNESS PROCESSION** – meet 10.45 for 11.00am at the Risborough Library

Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup>- decorating the church for EASTER.

**EASTER Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup>.**  
8.00am Holy Communion

10.00 am Resurrection Eucharist.

6.00pm Easter Choral Praise.

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A Quiz evening (date to be advised) will take place either late February or sometime in March.

On the last Sunday in the month our 11 – 15 year olds are welcome to attend 'LATER' from 6-8 pm at Jim and Gill Taylor's house in 26 Summerleys Road, Princes Risborough.

It's all fun, laughter, food, making friends, crazy games, and just being there.

## Electoral Roll

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, preparation of a new electoral roll will take place in 2013. Letters will be sent shortly to each person on the existing roll to request a new form to be completed and returned by the 24th February 2013. The new roll will be displayed from the 3rd March 2013 for the required period before the APCM.

**June Brazier**

# On The Farm

Mid January, and the last few days have been getting colder. As I write a driving fine snow, a hard frost and an easterly wind are looking ominous. Of course it brings extra problems to different people, except maybe the children who hope for snow, preferably enough that the school will close and they can enjoy it.

It is already making life very hard for the wild birds who are really appreciating food and water. Every morning it is a relief to see they have survived another night.

## Tree maintenance

A few days ago after a slightly heavier snow the branches of the evergreen trees were drooping under the weight. It helps to shake it off rather than let it build up but luckily it thawed so no problem. Frost can do even more damage, getting into damp and dead wood which can break off branches.

Actually on the farm we have done a lot of maintenance work with the trees, starting back in the autumn. For the very old hedgerow trees, many over a hundred feet high we had to engage tree surgeons. They cleared out all the dead branches and it was necessary to fell two of them. I did mention it last time and no doubt don't need to remind the mums and children about it because the footpath by the main road was closed off for several days, making the proceedings not only "educational" but at the same time inconvenient. More importantly high winds and severe frost will not be so dangerous now.

Over the last forty years we have planted many trees and are encouraged that they are growing well. Having said that, two years ago, a cedar only planted six years earlier, then about 15 feet high was blown by a strong wind and partly uprooted when the ground was absolutely saturated, as it is now. It was lashed back to a post and rail fence and seems to be O.K. Thick with needles it just caught the wind and the ground couldn't hold it.

## Long cold days

Regarding the farm I imagine it is obvious that winter, never mind the cold working conditions, makes extra work. Freezing temperatures and driving winds get into everything, the most critical consideration being to keep water flowing. Thawing pipes and water troughs is a non stop task. Of course the usual daily work still has to be done.

Typically the day starts at 4am when the herdsman arrives. After checking the maternity ward for cows calving or that have calved since the late evening check, milking the 300 cows is started. At 5am another member of staff starts cleaning the cattle beds whilst they are being milked. At 6am our calf man arrives to feed the calves, currently 75 being given warm milk in buckets. He then checks and feeds young stock that are outside on another farm, undoubtedly having to thaw their water troughs these days.

At 7am the rest of the team start, helping to clear up after milking, to bed up the bedded yards and to feed the cows. So far so good and a break for breakfast.

Back to work and extra jobs to be tackled. More bedded yards to be

cleaned out, foot trimming, maybe a routine vet visit, say pregnancy testing, and nearly every day inseminating cows that have been identified to be on heat, important to spot that as there is only about six hours in which to do it.

At 3pm milking starts again, cleaning beds again, baby calves fed again, cleaning up and every thing finished about 8pm. But we haven't finished yet. Between about 10pm and midnight the cows close to calving are checked again. If they have started they are checked that everything is presented correctly, then all should be okay, if not, steps will be taken to put things right.

The big dread is that a really difficult calving is on your hands and the vet needs to be called out say for a caesarean. This is also a good time to check for "bulling" cows as it is an activity easier to spot when the cows are generally fairly inactive. These cows will be served the next morning.

Lastly make sure they have food and unfrozen water. It is surprising how often they will wake to have a snack in the night. It's very late now but it's not long till its 4am again.

## Tuberculosis

T.B. is something farmers dread. Here we have always been in a four yearly testing parish, which means "considered low risk."

There have been some cases in Bucks, mainly in the north of the county. In Defra's battle with the disease Bucks has now become an annual testing county. This brings many new rules and much more work to us.

*(Continued opposite....)*

# District Council

As with Bucks County Council, Wycombe District Council intends to freeze Council Tax for a further year – having developed a budget which maintains vital services while at the same time reducing costs to offset the further reduction in central government funding. WDC already sits in the lowest 25% of councils for Council Tax, and the decision to freeze tax again will help all District residents with their personal budgets.

## Waste Services

A new contract for waste services, jointly negotiated with Chiltern District Council, will begin implementation from March 2013 and is an excellent example of how WDC is reducing costs.

The projected savings are in excess of £1million per annum, with the benefit of additional recycling for glass and the potential for further items such as batteries and textiles, which will be introduced progressively as the new contractor implements the new agreement.

Further details of the new waste service will be issued over the coming months by WDC.

## HS2 Update

The main activity concerning HS2 has been the series of 5 Judicial Reviews which took place in December 2012. By the time you read this article, the results should be known.

The best outcome would be for the reviews to determine that the project should be stopped, but realistically, that is unlikely to be the outcome. It is hoped that the reviews will, however, be highly critical of the processes used by Government in their handling of HS2, which will provide further ammunition for the campaign against the project.

It is now one year since the Government indicated it would proceed with HS2 and over that time, the business case has steadily eroded to the point where, by normal standards, this project should not go ahead.

Unfortunately, HS2 is a project of political dogma, so the campaign has to continue to focus on demonstrating that this is a monumental waste of taxpayers' money which could be invested better elsewhere (for instance in rolling out high-speed broadband across the country).

Also by the time you read this, the second part of the HS2 route to the North should have been announced for consultation. The Government will try to persuade Northerners that this will help their economic outlook (for which there is no evidence) and it will be interesting to see how much resistance is generated when millions more people realise the cost, in both environmental and economic terms, that HS2 will incur.

**Mel Foster**

[mel\\_foster@wycombe.gov.uk](mailto:mel_foster@wycombe.gov.uk)

01949 488905

District Councillor, Lacey Green, Speen & The Hampdens

## On The Farm continued

The test involves putting the cattle through a handling system twice in three days, the test being done by a vet. Stressful for both man and beast and even worse if you have a positive animal which will be slaughtered and all cattle movement from your holding severely restricted. Also it all has to be done again every 60 days until all pronounced clear.

The very thought fills every farmer with dread. Now we will have to subject all animals over eight weeks old to this every year.

Years ago the Chilterns were a mass of tiny farm holdings, each with a holding number. Many of them amalgamated or were bought up for their houses and the land rented out. All land keeps its own holding number. We rent some of these. Another new rule is that if animals are moved between different holdings they will have to be tested again.

We farm about half a dozen holdings which could mean that where two adjacent fields are divided by just a fence we should test the animals before letting

them through the gate. Cows are inquisitive animals - they are certain to have been making friends over the fence already, but that's the new law. It does seem a full time job keeping up with new rules and regulations.

We are really hoping for an early dry spring to let us catch up with the field work that was a washout last autumn. Then we really will be busy.

**Joan West**



A Happy New Year to all our readers.

### Winter road salting

With the possible onset of wintry weather, Bucks C.C have drawn up their plans for salting the roads. The roads through the Parish to be salted are Woodway, Loosley Row, Pink Road, Main Road and New Road, Lacey Green. Slad Lane (South) and Flowers Bottom Lane are also to be treated, allowing access to and from Speen.

Each precautionary run is expensive and uses approximately 65 tonnes of salt. Readings are taken from monitoring stations around the County. These stations monitor ground temperature, as the decision to salt is based on the temperature of the roads rather than the air.

Since the beginning of the season (October 2012) when monitoring began, up to the beginning of January 2013, the roads have been salted twenty four times. For safety's sake never assume a road has been salted.



**when it's less urgent than 999**

### District Local Plan

The Parish Council has been asked to comment on the preparation of the Wycombe District Local Plan. This will shape what Wycombe District Council will look like in 2031. It will look at issues such as how many houses should be built and where they should go. The kind of businesses to attract to the area and their location. The need for new community facilities, their setting in the area and their funding. The improvement of roads and public transport to support new development. How to plan for the future, but still preserve everything that is good about living in the District. Technical Studies will commence this year and it is anticipated the adoption of the Plan will be December 2015.

### Introduction of NHS 111 in Bucks

NHS 111 – the new number for urgent (but not life threatening) calls – is being introduced in Buckinghamshire early this year. It is planned that the service will go live in late February 2013, when everyone in Buckinghamshire will be able to use the 111 number. NHS 111 will ensure local people receive the right care from the right person, in the right place, at the right time. Providing a clinical assessment at the first point of contact, without the need to call the patient back, the service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Once the service is introduced, there will only be three numbers, 999 for life threatening emergencies, the GP's Surgery or 111. "Call 111 when it's less urgent than 999."

### Home security advice

With the long winter nights, Thames Valley Police have given some home security tips and advice.

Amongst the suggestions are: Fit padlocks to sheds and garage doors. Prevent easy access to the back and sides of your property by installing locked gates. Security lighting can be used to make offenders feel vulnerable. Make sure it is easy for you to see people approaching your property. Securely lock all doors and shut all windows before leaving the house. Remove items that may be used to break in or climb up, such as ladders and garden tools. Visibly and permanently mark your belongings to help police to identify them. Use automatic time switches to turn on a light when it gets dark, even if you are just going out for a couple of hours.

**Cllr. D. Claydon**



# LG Singers and School Choir - Dec 9



The Christmas Carol and Song Concert was given by the Lacey Green Singers together with the Year 3 and 4 Choir from St John's School, Lacey Green. It was conducted by Fiona Isley and accompanied by Alan Lewis on keyboard.

As in previous years the audience consisted of all ages, from one week old to one hundred and four years old. They provided great support by joining in with singing the Carols and enjoying the splendid singing of the choirs especially the children who were very good.



The program was made up with a mixture of seventeen Carols and Songs, and the evening concluded with mince pies, mulled wine, and fruit juices.

A most enjoyable evening with the Millennium Hall filled to capacity.

**Ron Goodearl**

## Kindergym and Melody Minors



We are back to normal routine again, despite the snow! Christmas was such fun with workshops and parties, Santas jumping in and out of chimneys, reindeer galloping round the hall, the children singing and the ringing of bells.

However, the children have all been ready to return after the Christmas excitement, not to mention the Mums. Our next special event will be our Pancake Workshops during half term, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February Millennium hall at 10am. Don't forget to practise your Pancake Tossing!

# County Council News



## 2013/2014 Budget

The good news at this time is that the County Council is set to freeze Council Tax for third successive year.

Other major recommendations from the Council's Cabinet include investing an additional £25m in road repairs, protecting grants to the voluntary sector and approval of the Council's brand new Strategic Plan. Whilst not finalised yet I anticipate that all the recommendations will be adopted by full council at the Budget setting meeting in February.

Despite £14.4m less funding from Government, freezing Council Tax again forms the centrepiece of the County Council's budget plans for 2013/14 and firmly reflects the views of 82 per cent of residents who said they wanted it to stay the same. On average, the combined effect of the three year freeze will see around £100 back in the pockets of hard-pressed local council tax payers.

In proposing its balanced budget of £335.2m, the Council has also been able to cope with inflationary rises and the increase in costs of safeguarding the most vulnerable. Grants to the voluntary and community sectors also remain protected to recognise the valuable work they do across Buckinghamshire.

The transfer of Public Health from the NHS back to the Council is set to happen in April this year. Transition plans are progressing with the appointment of Dr Jane O'Grady to the position of Director of Public Health. Dr O'Grady comes into the post with experience, as previously she was in charge of public health for the NHS in Buckinghamshire.

At this time the funding for the new service is unknown but pressure from the County Council looks to have paid off with the expected settlement from central government substantially higher than first indicated.

## Elections

With County Council elections taking place in May, this will be my final update for Hallmark. With the changed divisional boundaries meaning a fresh start for whoever is elected, I have decided not to stand for re-election this time. On a personal note I would say that I have enjoyed my time as the representative for Lacey Green and Loosley Row and hope that I have made some small difference to the services provided by the Council.

## Environment

One of my main priorities has been to improve the environmental conditions in rural areas and hence the quality of village life but the last few years have seen dramatic reductions in funding putting a great deal of stress on the delivery of services.

During my time we have had some success, the improvement of the A4010 Culverton junction, reduced speed limits through the villages, the return of traditional finger post direction signs and more grit bins around the patch are good examples. Road maintenance has proved to be more difficult however with a continual battle against pot holes. This year I have been able to nominate Main Road and Woodway for surfacing treatment for the coming year which I hope will be honoured in my absence.

The threat from HS2 remains and we await the outcome of the judicial review. Should this be negative then pressure for greater environmental and community protection must be given.

Finally I would like to thank all of you that have helped me carry out the task over the past twelve years and look forward to meeting you in a more relaxed atmosphere in the coming months, years .....

## Paul Rogerson

County Councillor  
01494 4883151  
progerson@buckscc.gov.uk



# Sports Club - Cricket Section

Cricketers, sit up straight and pay attention. We have a few changes in personnel and in the format of the league matches this new season.

First, Leslie Rixon, Esq. has decided to retire as Club Chairman. Les has served this club for close to 70 years as player, groundsman, team-captain, kit repairer, umpire, etc. This position will now be filled by another long-serving member, David Highgate, Esq. Like Les, David has served the club in many capacities over the years. The gratitude of all is due to fellows like these who keep village sport alive. Thanks, chaps.

'Jonno' Dell was asked take over as 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Captain for this season but, unfortunately, work commitments forced him to turn the opportunity down. Maybe next season? So Luke Weston has sportingly agreed continue as Captain.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> X1, Tim Page will take over from Mark Janes as Captain. Mark did a good job but we know its been a burden for him. This will allow him to concentrate on his batting and bowling which improves with every match. Tim, too has some innovative ideas, so we hope for great things for the 2nds this season.

The format of the League matches has been changed for this season. Instead of the win, lose or draw the matches will consist of 80 overs with the draw discarded. This is an experiment for this season to see how it works. The reduced overs (10) are mainly to try to attract more youngsters to the game – their complaint has always been that the matches go on too long into the evening interfering with their social life.

Simply, it would mean that the team that scores the most runs wins. But, hang on, it is not as simple as that. Apparently, points will be awarded for batting and bowling plus percentage points for various stages of the match – don't ask me, I'm just a simple country lad. So it seems that the team that scores the most runs hasn't necessarily won if the losing side rack up more points. My heart goes out to the umpires and scorers officiating!

I can't see what was wrong with the way we used to play. We started at 2.30pm, tea at 4.30 – 5pm, played until 7pm when the umpires removed the bails whatever the state of the match. No batting or bowling points, no percentages – simple.

It seems to me that ,supposing our team should be bowled out in ten overs ,their opponents could then bat at their leisure for seventy overs. Am I right? Without the points system and percentages it could be a good idea. We shall see what happens. But I foresee lots of arguments.

In these, what are in effect limited overs matches, tactics will be important. With the number of overs available there is no need to try and knock the cover off the ball in the first few overs. The idea is to bat normally keeping as many wickets in hand as possible so that you can then have a thrash at the end of the innings.

The trouble is it is not clear if you have forty overs each. As our Cricket Secretary explained to me that is not the case, it seems. As mentioned above one team could bat for most of the overs leaving their opponents no chance of overtaking their score. That appears unfair.

Perhaps we will learn more as the season starts – I hope!

There could be a problem with the bowling, too. How many overs will each bowler be allowed to bowl? Will it be twelve as now? Or will it be ten? And, if one side bats for most of the overs it may need everyone in the team to take a turn, including the wicket-keeper! It seems daft to me. It will be very interesting to see how this experiment works. We shall see.

Arrangements are being made for pre-season indoor nets. No date has been set as yet. Anyone wishing to participate should contact the Cricket Secretary, Ms Christine Marshall on 01494 463460. Leave it perhaps for two or three weeks.

If anyone new to the village should feel they could be an asset to the club in any way either as player or fund-raiser or in any other capacity then contact Christine on the above number.

The lads will be working on the ground Easter Weekend as usual – weather permitting. The ground and the facilities in the clubhouse are a credit to those who give up their time to make it one of the very best in the district. Thanks lads – and lassies!

Mentioning the weather: despite last years wet weekends only seven out of the thirty-six matches scheduled were rained off or had to be abandoned. We've known worse. Let's hope for a good summer this year.

**Geoff Gomme**

# Heavenly Bodies

There are several celestial events with potential 'wow factor' in the night sky over the next few weeks. If all goes to plan, we could be watching a comet, the Northern Lights, the crowd-pleaser of all the planets and bid farewell to a true giant in its field.

In the last issue, we focused on Jupiter which came closest to



Earth in December. When it was 377 million miles away, I took the image on this page using a telescope and a simple webcam which shows the Great Red Spot storm, GRS 'junior', the north and south equatorial belts as well as various weather swirls and smaller storms. Jupiter is still very bright in the night sky above and to the right of Orion (see last issue for map location). The Moon will be very close to the planet on **February 18, March 17 and April 14**. The planet then disappears from view in the summer.

So, cometh the comet? You may have noticed some recent media trail-blazing about two comets predicted to arrive in our skies this year. The first is Comet Pan-STARRS (officially called C/2011 L4 Pan-STARRS) named after the Hawaiian telescope which first sighted it. This ball of ice and dust is heading towards the Sun after it was knocked out of its orbit within the Solar System's very distant

Oort cloud by the gravitational effect of a passing star. Astro-forecasters say that we may be able to see it (its tail) if we look slightly above the horizon in the west just after sunset from early March. News media will keep us informed. It will fade later in March and April and will not return, as it's doomed to be consumed by the Sun. A word of warning – comets are notoriously difficult to predict as they may disintegrate at any time. As comet-hunter David Levy says: "Comets are like cats; they have tails, and they do precisely what they want." The second comet is ISON, so-called 'Comet of the Century', which is due to be with us this autumn. More on that story later this year.

It could be curtains...or so we hope if the Northern Lights are strong enough to flow south and illuminate Lacey Green latitudes. Curtains, rays, arcs and bands in shimmering green, red or purple could be rippling above us in March and April. They're caused by charged particles from the Sun slamming into Earth's magnetic field.

This is more likely to occur soon when the Sun is at the maximum of its 11-year cycle, and in those months when the Earth's tilt makes it easier for the particles to connect with our magnetism. Look north on a clear night, and hope we're lucky. Keep track of aurora predictions at [www.spaceweather.com](http://www.spaceweather.com) and <http://aurorawatch.lancs.ac.uk>

What is certain is the return of Saturn. Earth is catching up with the ringed planet and we'll be at our closest point to it on **April 28** when Saturn will be 820 million miles from us, and still out-shining most stars. It stays low in the sky but is easily seen. Find Leo and go left from the lion's back, past the star Spica, and a make quick hop left to Saturn. Do look out for it with the naked eye (see sky map on this page). The Moon will help as it will be very close, and below, Saturn on **March 29** and **April 25**. Happy hunting!

**Chris Dignan**



Organisation	Meetings	Contact	Phone	Email address
Happy Wanderers Walking Club	Full walk last Sun of the month 10.30	Ronnie Lewin	274961	relewin@btinternet.com
Happy Wanderers Walking Club	Short walk (2-3 miles) 2nd Wed 10.30	Linda Taylor	345261	
Horticultural Society	3rd Wed of Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov. 8pm	Alison Shreeve		a.shreeve1@btinternet.com
Kinder Gym & Melody Minors	Baby to 5 years. Fridays during term. After school classes for up to Year 3	Jenny Stothard Gabby Kenny	344441 07793 80745	jennystothard@btinternet.com
LG Singers	Thursday evenings in term time	Pat Syrett	347596	
Lacey Green Productions	Theatre, drama, and sometimes food			info@laceygreenproductions.co.uk
Windmill Under 5s	Mon-Fri 9.00-12.00 or 1.30 if your child stays for lunch	Kay Pallister	07811 812627	admin@windmillunder5s.co.uk
Windmill WI (evenings)	1st Wed of month except Jan. 7.45pm	Daphne Willash	01494 562455	daphne.willash@btinternet.com
High Wycombe & District USA	4th Wed afternoon of the month	Nadia Ellis	01494 451295	nadia.ellis@homecall.co.uk
Youth Club	Alternate Fridays - see laceygreen.com web site for details 7.30pm	Joan Smith	342322	joansmith38@googlemail.com
Over 50s Pub Lunch Club	Black Horse. First Tuesday of the month	Betty Tyler Yvonne Axe	344606 345216	
Short Mat Bowls Club	Monday 2pm	Leigh Axe	345216	leigh@laceygreen.com
LG Sports Club Secretary		Stephanie Dell	07768 831196	steph.dell@btinternet.com
LG Sports Club - Cricket		Jonathan Dell	07786 386912	
LG Sports Club - Tennis		Ian Ward	345567	ian.ward21@tiscali.co.uk
LG Sports Club - Football		Ben Foster	344906	laceygreenfc@hotmail.co.uk
Karate	Monday evenings	Stephen Fincham	07540 531034	stevfincham@sky.com
Whiteleaf Bowmen	Wed, Thu & Fri evenings, Apr to Sep	Brenda Cordwell, Sec	01494 485037	www.whiteleafbowmen.org.uk
Pilates Classes	Tuesday mornings	Sue Croxford	346656	ncroxford@ashleyhouseplc.com
Wycombe District Council		Mel Foster	01494 488905	mel_foster@wycombe.gov.uk
Bucks County Council		Paul Rogerson	01494 488315	progerson@buckscc.gov.uk
St John's Church		Denise Critchell	347741	
LG Community Planning Group		Tony Molesworth	344975	molechem@yahoo.co.uk
Scouts (Naphill & Hughenden)		Peter Byerley	01494 565955	peter.byerley@capgemini.com
Parish Council		Susanne Griffiths	342685	clerk@laceygreenparishcouncil.org.uk
LG Post Office	9am - 12 noon Mondays and Thursdays	George Crombie		gcrombie.greathampden@ukonline.co.uk
LG Windmill	Sundays & Bank holidays 2 to 5 pm May to September	Michael Hardy	275871	contact@laceygreenwindmill.org.uk
Millennium Hall		Clive Hodgton	343113	dive@laceygreen.com
Millennium Hall bookings		Karen Hodgton	274254	karen@laceygreen.com
The Black Horse	Quiz night last Sunday of every month at 8pm	Lynne Comley	345195	lynnecomley@btconnect.com
Police		Andy Ralph	101	

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.

We welcome news from all the Village clubs, societies, church and school, stories of local interest and entries for the Village Diary. A version of this printed Hallmark may be found on our website [www.laceygreen.com](http://www.laceygreen.com), which also has breaking news and many additional articles & photos.

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### **VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS**

Clive or Karen on 01844 274254 (answering service)

### **LACEY GREEN POST OFFICE**

Village Hall 9 am-12 noon Mon, Tues & Thurs.  
All services except Vehicle Road Fund Licences.

### **LACEY GREEN STORES**

Village Hall 8.30 am - 1pm every week day

### **COFFEE MORNINGS**

Held in Village Hall 10am-12 noon Thursdays.  
Friendly chatting with tea or coffee & biscuit

### **THE FOOT CLINIC**

Chiropody services with Cathy Maynard. Tel 274521 Tuesdays by appointment

### **VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **Clive Hodgton (Chair)**

Rachel Panter (Vice-Chair),  
Sue D'Arcy (Secretary),  
Yvonne Axe (Treasurer),  
Karen Hodgton (Booking Sec.),  
Chris and Jill Baker,  
Leigh Axe,  
Stella Boll,  
Jane Brown,  
Ginnie Brudenell,  
Cathryn Davies,  
Bette Tyler & Norman Tyler

### **LACEY GREEN WINDMILL**

In 2013 Lacey Green Windmill will be open from 2 pm to 5 pm on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from Sunday 5th May to Sunday 29th September. Admission is £2 per adult, and £1 per child aged from 5 to 15. For further information see [www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk](http://www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk) or telephone Michael or Betty Hardy on 01844 275871.

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