

# HALLMARK



**The Lacey Green and Loosley Row Magazine**

**MAY 2014**

**NUMBER 230**

**ESTABLISHED 1970**

# Welcome to the May edition of Hallmark

## Donations

At this time each year we 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.

**Mike Piercy**



## Letters to the editor

Dear Editor

I was a bit concerned to read Councillor Molesworth's Parish Council Report in the last edition, saying that the Council own three ponds. As an Ex-Chairman of the Council I am sure it is four.

The one in Kiln Lane with its railings around is a nice place to watch wild life, particularly the Moorhens.

The one at Turnip End is more often than not dry, but with this wet winter it is very full.

At Speen the one in Studridge Lane never was an original Parish Pond. It seemed to be in No Man's Land, so many years ago the Parish Council registered it as Council property. It is overgrown with some nice weeds and grasses.

Long ago, farther around Studridge Lane was Long Pond – never a Parish Pond, now filled in by the owners, but as “kids” eighty years ago, we skated on this pond for many weeks of the winter (yes it used to be cold.)

A few possibly know of the pond along the Pink Road. It is the largest and good for watching wild life, but unfortunately public access is restricted and obscure, so it would be a good idea if the Council were to erect a finger post saying “Parish Pond”.

Maybe Hallmark's wild life reporter John Tyler could enlighten us what we can see in and around these ponds. (see page 18 - Ed)

**Ted Janes**

## Local Police News

Since 1/1/14 there have been 6 crimes reported in the villages of Lacey Green and Loosley row and 4 of those happened in January. These include an attempted robbery in the early hours of 3/1, two burglaries to houses that happened in the afternoon/evening of 8/1 and 31/1 where cash, jewellery, computer & audio equipment was stolen. There have been two thefts from cars during March whereby specialist tools

were stolen during one and a mobile phone the other.

The area remains very low for crime and anti social behaviour but it is not immune from opportunists passing through so residents are asked to remain vigilant by locking cars, removing valuable items from sight and reporting suspicious activity to the Police on 101 or 999.

This time of year generally sees an increase in motor

crime and shed breaks, a good deterrent for the latter is a padlock that makes a loud noise when tampered with. These can be viewed online or your local NHW coordinator may have some for sale. If you are interested but can't find them or you have any questions please email me on [andrew.ralph@thamesvalley.pn](mailto:andrew.ralph@thamesvalley.pn) n.police.uk and I will assist.

PC 4755 Andy Ralph, Princes Risborough Neighbourhood

# What's On

**Sat 10 May**

Parents Association Disco  
see page 21

**Wed 14 May 3 pm**

“Tea for Brians”  
see opposite

**Sat 31 May 10 am**

Bledlow Country Show  
Lord Carrington's Farm

**Sun 8 June**

War memorial ceremony  
see page 37

**Sun 8 June**

Horse Trust Heroes Day  
see  
[www.horsetrust.org.uk](http://www.horsetrust.org.uk)

**Sun 8 June**

Tennis Club BBQ  
see page 9

**Sat 14 June 7.30 pm**

Sports Club Hog Roast  
see page 24

**Sun 29 June**

Windmills Under 5  
Fun Day see page 13

**Sat 5 July**

Church Fete  
see page 36

**Sat 12 July**

Fete at Pink & Lily  
see page 15

## National Mills Day

Lacey Green Windmill will be open on Sundays and Bank Holidays from Sunday 4th May to Sunday 28th September 2014. Open from 2 pm to 5 pm with admission at £2 per adult and £1 per child (aged 5-15).

For National Mills Weekend we will be open on Sunday 11th May from 11 am to 5 pm, and we hope to have the sails turning, weather permitting.

The Loosley Row and Lacey Green Horticultural Society will have their Plant and Produce Stall by the windmill, and Drovers Hill Farm will be selling their local organic apple juice.

For further details see [www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk](http://www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk) or tel 01844 275871 or email [contact@laceygreenwindmill.co.uk](mailto:contact@laceygreenwindmill.co.uk)

## STRAWBERRY TEA & BRASS BAND

**Sunday 6 July 2014**

At the Vicarage Garden, Church Lane, Lacey Green



Come & relax while enjoying strawberries & cream, scones & home-made cake, being entertained by the brass band.

Starts at 3 pm but welcome later. Tickets £5 at the gate

## LG Singers: Brahms' Requiem

On Saturday 17 May, the Lacey Green Singers are presenting the challenging Brahms Requiem at St John's Church at 7 pm. The entrance price of £7 includes wine and nibbles. Tickets may be obtained from Maureen on 01844 346823.

Guest conductor is Ben Saul, a teaching professor at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and a freelance accompanist and choral director with a strong history of establishing youth choirs. Soloists for the evening are soprano Anna Crookes and baritone Philip Hayes, accompanied by Thelma Malpass. As well as her work as a soprano, Anna is a full-time professional pianist who in 1982 won the BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition playing Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2.

## Mobile Library Service

Eastlands 11.30 to 11.55  
14 May, 11 June, 9 July

## Over 50s Pub Lunch

Come and meet some new people. First Tuesday each month. Contact Yvonne Axe 345216



# Horts Club Summer Calendar

Sun 11 May: NATIONAL MILLS DAY PLANT STALL at the Windmill 11 am till 5 pm.

Wed 21 May: GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY by Mr Derek Leary 8 pm Lacey Green Millennium Hall. Sponsored by Chris Gant C.G. Tree & Garden Services

Sun 22 June: Visit to RHS WISLEY. Meet at Village Hall at 09.45 £5 per member.

Wed 16 July: GRENDON UNDERWOOD - GARDENING IN PRISON by Mrs Sara Shelby. 8 pm Lacey Green Village Hall. Sponsored by Gommies Forge.

WE SHALL CELEBRATE

**BRIAN PANTER and BRIAN LUNN'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAYS**

**AT A SPECIAL TEA AT THREE**

**On WED. 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014 at 3.00 pm in the Village Hall.**

Everyone is welcome to this special celebration for the Brians' 90<sup>th</sup> Birthdays.

Tea, cakes and sandwiches will be served, at a cost of £2.50.

If you are able to bring some refreshments with you, that would be much appreciated, and entry will be free. Please let Joy Lawrence (01844 346715) or Rosemary Mortham (01844 345863) know what you can bring to avoid duplication.

Please tell anyone else who might like to come, and help us to make this a really special afternoon. (See also page 7 - Ed)

## Parish Council

19 May 7.30 pm Lacey Green Hall. Annual Meeting  
14 July 7.30 pm Speen Hall

## Youth Club

For 6 to 14 years old.  
7.30 - 9 pm  
May 9 & 23. June 6 & 20  
July 4 & 18  
Leigh Axe 345216

# Anti-Slavery

## Music for a Summer's Evening

You are invited to the third such concert to be held at "Chipko", near the Pink & Lily pub, on Saturday 28th June at 7.30 pm. The W5 Wind Quintet from London are giving their services again. These occasions are original and fun.

The programme will open with the challenging works of the composers Mazos and Samuel Barber. The middle section will be pastoral pieces, suitable for a summer's evening, by Barthe and Percy Grainger. Finally there will be an arrangement by Paul Nagle of a number of well known tunes called "Roaring Twenties".

The interval will be assisted by Fair-trade wines and soft drinks.

Please telephone or e-mail your intention to come :  
01494 - 488398 or  
[andrewcc@andrewclark.plus.com](mailto:andrewcc@andrewclark.plus.com)

See full article on page 27

## Lacey Green & Loosley Row Sports Club 65th Anniversary Celebrations

Join us for a night of Music and Festivities to celebrate the Anniversary of the presentation of the ground.



## Live Music - Hog Roast - Marquee

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm to Late

Tickets £12.50

For tickets call Steph Dell: 07768831196





## **VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP EVENT TO COMMEMORATE THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR ONE**

### **TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED, AND SHOW ITS EFFECT ON OUR LOCAL VILLAGES**

St John's Church from Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. to Tues. 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. It will include:

- A History Exhibition all weekend with a military lecture on Sunday afternoon;
- A Concert by Lacey Green Singers on the Saturday evening;
- A special Remembrance Sunday Service, and placing of memorial crosses for each local serviceman killed;
- Singing by the adult choir with songs and hymns, and poetry readings, to include the works of Rupert Brooke;
- A Junior Choir Concert for Peace on the Monday.

The History Group would be most grateful for any First World War memories or items which Hallmark readers would be willing to supply. We are especially keen to hear from the descendants of any villager involved in the Great War, whether in the Forces or on the Home Front.

Please contact Rosemary Mortham on 01844 345863.

## **Musical Visit**

Five years ago, the Lacey Green Singers presented a concert version of the musical *Below Stairs*, composed by their accompanist Alan Lewis and premiered in Chesham in 2002. The royalty-free show has raised more than £7000 for Cancer Research UK over its 14 productions to date.

Now, the Riverside Players are staging the 15<sup>th</sup> production in the Memorial Hall, Old Windsor, in June and in view of the interest from the LGS, Alan is arranging a coach to the last night, which is Saturday 28 June.

As we go to press, there are still a few seats left – the total cost is £16 for the coach and the admission – and anyone interested should ring Alan on 01494 564512 as soon as possible.

## **High Wycombe Judo Centre**

**Saturday 14 June 2014 10:30-17:30**

**Sport Relief isn't over yet. This June there's an opportunity to train with top instructors and try taster sessions in a range of different martial arts.**

Five and a half hours of classes, instructors with over 250 years experience between them, including local Paralympic Judo Champion Ian Rose. Choose your own day of training from the broad range of skill sets on offer.

Open to men and women over the age of 13.  
All profits to

## **Sport Relief**

Cost: £25 in advance (justgiving) For information and bookings visit: [www.mapmeet.co.uk](http://www.mapmeet.co.uk)



## **Polo!**

Remember that Lacey Green has an active Polo Club featuring Argentinean international professionals. They have matches every weekend on the field at Widmer Feeds on Pink Road. Anyone is welcome to turn up and watch. See the web site [www.laceygreenpolo.com](http://www.laceygreenpolo.com)

Of special note are a family open day on June 29 for the Princes Trust Centre in Risborough and on Aug 5 fund raising for Ian Rennie Hospice.

# Lacey Green Productions



The winter of 2013-14 for LGP has been one of never ending murder mysteries! Performances of our home grown murder mystery "Fracktricide" have been seen by audiences in Great Hampden (for the WI's 90th birthday celebrations), in Gerrards Cross (supporting the Amersham and Wycombe hospitals Scannappeal), in Lacey Green (for the St John's school PTA funds), in Radnage (for the Radnage school PTA funds), and in Princes Risborough (for the U3A).

And, despite the best endeavours of the writers of the show and the cast, some of our audiences managed to get the correct answer. Maybe the food and the alcohol helped a little.

As a result of these murder mystery performances, LGP has added an extra £2,500 to the money that it has helped to raise for charity; the total now stands at over £55,000. Thanks again to all our audiences over the years.

And so we now have to decide what to perform for our annual dinner theatre at Lacey Green village hall at the end of November. We have quite a few ideas already and we also have members who are interested in directing.

All we have to do now is to find the right play! To that end, we are arranging several evenings of play readings during the summer months. We shall display posters to advertise these evenings in Lacey Green and Princes Risborough and all details will appear on our website at

[www.laceygreenproductions.co.uk](http://www.laceygreenproductions.co.uk) .

So please contact us through the website and come along to one or more of these evenings if you're interested in joining us, or call 01844 344207. Newcomers are always very welcome in any capacity.

And, finally, we cannot let the moment pass without referring to our oldest member's 90th birthday. Brian has been involved with LGP ever since it started 31 years ago.

He has acted – do you remember him as a very hot Lion in the Wizard of Oz?

He has directed - his play won a cup at the Aylesbury Festival.

He has painted sets - his scenery cloths for the musicals in the barn at Stocken Farm were giant works of art.

He has made props - will we ever forget his pig's corpse with those very realistic guts?

And, above all, he has passed on the benefit of his experience and skill from his days as a professional actor to all the other members of LGP over the years.

Brian – thanks for all of this – you have made us all very happy.

**Peter Brookhouse**



*Brian as The Mock Turtle in "Alice" 1989*



# Tennis Club

Our Cheese and Wine night held on Friday 21 March proved to be a great success for the Club. I estimated in January that we might get some 25-30 people and raise £150-£200. As it turned out, 51 came and we managed to make £504! It was nice to see new faces too, and already some have signed up to become members. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the night a memorable one.

After the very wet months of January and February, the weather in March and the first half of April has been kind to tennis players. With the lighter evenings, the Club is in full swing. Men's tennis night is every Monday from 7 pm, ladies tennis is Wednesdays at 9.30 am and Fridays at 1.30 pm and club mornings are 10 am each Sunday. The standard of tennis is mixed, so even if you haven't hit a ball for some time, you are very welcome to come and play. We are a friendly bunch, and welcome new players!

A new format we are introducing this season is "Fun Fridays".

This is aimed at Members with children, and the idea is the children play tennis and let off some steam around the grounds, whilst the adults enjoy some tennis, and have a chat with a glass of wine....or two! Well, that's the theory!

The family theme continues into June with our Summer BBQ on Sunday 8 June. There will be a bouncy castle and Steve Bell our Head Coach will be giving 2 hours tuition to juniors. The first hour from 10.30 am will be for the under elevens and the second hour for the under sixteens. The event is open to non-members, and tickets cost £10 for an adult and £25 for a family. This includes a BBQ lunch with

salads and a dessert, free junior coaching and a friendly adult tournament in the afternoon. Alternatively, you may feel like sitting back and enjoying our Pimms Bar, whilst watching others play!

Finally, as well as a Twitter account, we now have a Facebook page. This has all the photos taken from the Cheese and Wine night plus others and is an ideal way to keep up to date with Tennis Club activities. Just Google "Lacey Green Tennis Facebook".

**Nigel Glenister**  
Chairman





# On The Farm

Spring is here and as soon as the sun came out we felt we were behind with the jobs. Yearly, we roll the grass, spread manure and slurry on the maize ground and prepare the land for planting the Spring cereal crops around the end of April. The crops planted in the autumn also need fertilizing. Then there are fences to check so that the cows can get out into the fields and will stay where they are meant to.

This winter we had many branches and trees blown down and these needed tidying up - usually the fence was broken at the same time, as most trees are part of the hedgerow boundaries. So plenty to do.

In March we completed our annual T.B. test. In this time-consuming procedure all the cattle over 42 days old have to be presented to the vet twice. She injects them on the first day then three days later they have to go before her again to see if there is a swelling reaction indicating that they may have T.B. This is called a reactor and would have to be tested again

sixty days later. If the same result is found the animal is culled and as it may still not have T.B. the carcase is examined for confirmation one way or another.

We have never had T.B. We once had a reactor but she passed the next test. We passed this year, no problems. But we look at this disease as "when" rather than "if". We know there was a case in Bishopstone recently so it is not far away.

Anyway we are good for now as T.B. in your herd has serious consequences for selling stock and having to do that double test every sixty days. In the winter this not so difficult as most of the stock is indoors. In the summer the cattle could be in as many as eighteen different fields and it would take ages to round them up and test. As it was it involved everyone on the farm for the best part of two days plus hiring a vet.

Richard, Maxine and daughter Charlotte together with herdsman Ian and wife Sue

attended the Bucks Herd Competition Dinner at Winslow. For the first time ever we won two cups, one for best yielding heifer and the other for the "Genus supercow", this based on inspection and performance. A cynic may say it is because most of the other producers have given up but we prefer to think those left know they won't win and we like to think we are improving.

Another annual event, the F.A.B.B.I.man came. Passing this inspection scheme means that when our produce reaches the shops it carries the Red Tractor Logo. It keeps us on our toes and makes farmers improve their practices. Hearts may sink when he rings for an appointment but for the first time ever he left without requesting any improvements, so that was another relief.

Once again we have decided not to run the "Maize Maze". We look on this enterprise as dormant rather than extinct – Hopefully next year!

**Joan West**

## Thank You - from the District Council

Residents of Chiltern and Wycombe District Council are showing their commitment to recycling and are proving how simple it is to recycle!

Between October and December 2013, under the new recycling and rubbish service, residents have recycled 53% of their waste. Before the start of the new service in April 2013, the recycling rate was 44%.

Recycling your waste reduces the amount of rubbish going to landfill.

This means that we have lower disposal costs, are reducing the environmental impact of landfilling waste and helping to preserve the natural resources that would have been used in the manufacture.

Well Done. We are well on the way to reaching our target of 60% recycling by 2015.

To help the council achieve the target of 60% recycling remember that you can use your blue wheelie bin or reusable bag to recycle foil,

cartons, aerosols, glass bottles, glass jars, plastic bottles, food tins, drink cans, plastics pots, tubs and trays.

Residents in Chiltern can still sign up to receive a fortnightly garden waste collection starting for just £35 for the year.

The final phase of the new service is now gradually being introduced to flats and communal developments and this will be completed by the summer.

# Windmill Under 5s

It has been another busy and exciting term at Windmills where we have welcomed 12 new joiners.

The main themes this term have been Spring, transport and numbers. On Shrove Tuesday the children had a special snack that consisted of pancakes (of course!) with jam or lemon and sugar. The pancakes were eaten within moments of being brought out!

For Mother's Day the children all decorated flower pots and planted violas to bring home as a surprise for mummy. The children found this very exciting and it is a really lovely way for the children to understand that there is a joy in giving as well as receiving gifts.

As it got closer to Easter the children drew Easter pictures and made Easter cards, and lots of Easter themed decorations and bunting were put up to decorate preschool.

We were fortunate to be awarded another technology grant this term and were able to purchase some metal detectors, walkie talkies, phones and a cd player with multiple headphones.



All the new equipment has already come to good use! With our fundraising money we have invested in two new storage cupboards and these will be of great help when the staff and parents pack away the preschool every weekend during the cricket season. The preschool uniforms and the staff uniforms have all been updated and now have the new logotype on them, and children and staff are all looking really smart!

We had a very successful social wine and pottery night. It was a fantastic, creative evening which I think it is safe to say everyone enjoyed. Parents and staff painted plates, cups, frames and egg cups whilst having a glass of wine and a chat. The preschool children also got an opportunity to paint pottery during session time at preschool. Both events were run brilliantly by Vicky Scoble from local company Pot-tastic.

## Easter Party

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> April we had an Easter party at Windmills. Over 50 children attended and there were lots of activities to keep everyone entertained. There was a treasure hunt, lucky dip, Easter card and egg decorating, biscuit decorating, games and a disco, and the children had a really good time.

A special thank you to Angela and Kay for organising the disco and party games and to Sarah, Victoria, Sue and Jude for helping out all day. Also a big thank you to all volunteers who planned, prepared, baked, donated, set up, manned tables and kitchen, and cleaned up, it would not have been possible to run this event without all your help.

## Summer Term

Now the staff and children are looking forward to some nicer weather and sunshine and are planning more excursions to the field and the playground. The teachers are also planning to plant seeds with the children so they can water them and look after the plants as they grow.

Next term the children can also look forward to a visit from an animal lady who will be bringing in some guinea pigs, rabbits, frogs and maybe even lizards, that the children can look at and cuddle, very exciting.

Windmills next big event will be the Family Fun Day on the 29th June, so please keep an eye out for the posters that will be put up shortly.

I can't thank the staff; Paula, Angela, Louisa, Lucy, Annie, Elise and Keely, and the committee and other volunteers enough for all they have done and do every day to make Windmills the stimulating, exciting and wonderful place it is for our children.

Windmills has a waiting list until the Summer Term 2015, and if you would like your child to start Windmills in the Autumn Term 2015 we would recommend that you submit your child's application form as soon as possible.

## Johanna Young - Chair





# Party time up at the Pink

Incredibly, as I sit here composing this, the sun is for once absolutely shining! Equally incredibly, it's almost impossible to believe that in a few short months, The Pink and Lily will have been open again for a year! How time flies when you're having fun!

It seems only yesterday that we bought the poor old rundown girl and this time last year we were in the process of restoring her to her former glory. And what a brilliant year it's been!

For me, it's been a year of firsts. First job as a pub landlady (although not the first time I'd pulled – pints of course!) first time forging close personal relationships with other local businesses, like the fantastic Long Crendon based XT Brewery and not forgetting our fabulous relationship with the wonderful Oak Taverns of Thame, but also for me the most important first – becoming the owner of my gorgeous Springer and pub dog extraordinaire, Snorkel!

In order to celebrate our extraordinary year – and to party with our wonderful locals,



as well as those who come from further afield, we will be holding on July 12th the first ever, inaugural Parslows Hillock Village Fête.

This will be a complete celebration of everything The Pink stands for: good quality food, beer and fun and above all local! Think of 1950s village fêtes and you'll have some idea of what we're aiming at – coconut shys, bunting, beautiful XT beer and gorgeous food.

It's all being sorted out by a bunch of local lovelies – Maggie Robbins step forward – so if anyone else would like to join what I'm calling 'the committee' (put it this way, they're meeting in the pub regularly so you can call them what you like!) let me or Georgina know and we'll give you the secret password!

Another 'first' that we're celebrating is the appointment of Georgina as my Assistant Manager. After making one mistake – mentioning no names but some of you may remember Paddy from last year, god rest his Christian soul! – we decided to promote our safe pair of hands behind the bar, so gorgeous George stepped up a month or so ago and is making a brilliant job of it!

Yet another first is that The Pink and Lily is going on tour! Well, sort of. The Home of Rest for Horses on the Speen/Lacey Green borders has asked us to get involved with their annual Open Day on June 8th. This is something we are really excited about, as it combines two of my great loves, horses and beer! We'll be providing the outside



catering and the beer tent for what promises to be a delightful day so pop along and say hi.

Not a first but a second is our continuing support of the local football team – Lacey Green FC. We are their away sponsors and after a reasonably successful season last year – put it this way, I'm not sure the Premiership need to panic quite yet – we are proud to be renewing our association with them.

So all in all a busy spring continues up at the Pink! With our super-chef Carl currently pulling a local pig in his pulled pork sandwiches, our food miles are at an all time low as the pork is our own home-grown from less than a mile and a half away!

There's a menu change for the summer on the horizon, the garden is well and truly open and there is no better time to pop into The Pink!

**Alice Hill**  
**Landlady**

Tel: 01494 489857



# Life On The Tops

Everyone who lives on or near the Pennines knows the phrase, 'on the tops', which is literally up on the hill tops of the Pennines, and that's where Alexander found our new home – a Pennine farmhouse dating back to 1624, with an attached barn and five acres of land.

This was in the 1970s, the years of the three day week and power shortages, when the phrase, "share a bath" was more than a joke.

We had been living in the temperate Vale of York in a very modern house on a small estate, surrounded by fertile farmland which consisted of gently rolling arable fields. I mention this setting in particular, because our new home in the Pennines, 'on the tops', could not have been more different in every sense.

Firstly, this spine of England farmhouse was 1,000 ft up the hill, at the end of a long, steep track – no, correction – more like a steep, rough, rocky dried-up river bed; but that's for another chapter. Yes, there were neighbours, but they were sensibly down at the bottom of the track.

However, the views were superb on a good day and,

being the 70s, the appeal of living the good life and being partly self-sustained seemed a laudable aim for us and our two daughters. So we set to, firstly purchasing some chickens and ducks before turning our attention to the house and a garden. Not having central heating seemed bearable at first (after all, Alexander and I had grown up without central heating) but, as December set in, we all found we weren't as tough as we thought we were, and none of us could wait to have it installed.

Then we found the situations that can arise from properties that are hundreds of years old. For example, I had never heard of 'capillary action' until the kitchen mysteriously flooded from no apparent source. As it was explained to me during the reparation, because the farmhouse was partly built into the steep hillside, it was 'sucking up' water into the kitchen. This involved Alexander doing a lot of digging and cementing outside (I'm sure I've over-simplified this complicated exercise because, as you may have gathered, I'm not very technically minded) but he succeeded in the end.

Then, every time it rained heavily (which was quite frequently) being on spring water, the spring higher up in the field behind would dam and our water supply would stop, meaning – guess what – poor Alexander would have to go up the hill in the pouring rain, and usually in the dark, to dig yet again to clear it. I'm glad to say he finally invented a method which stopped this happening, much to his relief as you can imagine.

We survived that first winter – and learned a lot, and our first summer, 1976, was absolutely amazing. I was lulled into a false sense of rose-coloured glasses, naively thinking that summers were always like this in this part of the country. I had already planned my quarter-acre vegetable garden and we looked forward to reaping the harvest, which we truly did during that amazing season. What a bounty we had that year, with a freezer full of vegetables, but little did we know there would be a price to pay during the following Pennine winters.

But more of that another time perhaps .....

**Catherine Sinclair**

## Cricket Club

The sun is out and the new season almost upon us.

Some of us have been practicing in earnest over the last few months, while others are obviously relying on their natural fitness and ability!

The first game of the season is on Saturday 3rd May, with the newly promoted 2nd Eleven at home to Holmer Green II, and the 1st team away at Knotty Green.

We will be having regular evening nets over the course of the season.

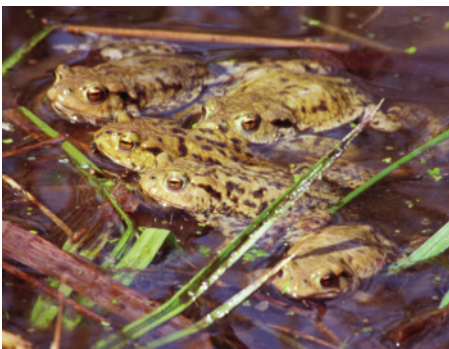
More information can be found on our Facebook page, or by calling Luke Weston on 07813 299683.

Our thanks go out (again) to the Black Horse for their continued support.

**Luke Weston**

# Wildlife Notes

By now ponds all around the villages will be buzzing with activity. One of the first signs of life will have been the return of the frogs, which have spent the winter hidden either at the bottom of the pond or away from the water altogether, but come together again every spring to spawn. The female can lay over a thousand eggs in a matter of seconds, after which her job as a mother is done and she can have the rest of the year off.



Next come the toads, marching as much as a mile under cover of darkness and using their sense of smell to home in on the ponds where they were born. A particularly desirable female will attract several males, who all pile in enthusiastically to form a tight, loudly-squeaking scrum. Sadly, trapped in the middle of all this it is not uncommon for the unfortunate female to be drowned in the process.

Any time now, as we approach the summer, the blues, reds and greens of dragonflies and damselflies will appear, patrolling over the surface of the pond. Whereas frogs and toads must return to the water to breed, dragonflies have to leave it, so by mid-summer plant stems around the pond will be dotted with the empty skins of nymphs that have clambered ashore and burst out as winged adults. Having mated, the male

will use special claspers on the tip of his tail to grasp the female by the neck and they will fly off in tandem to search for a suitable spot where she can dip her tail into the water and lay her eggs. Then, mission accomplished, they will both die with the arrival of the first frosts, leaving the nymphs to develop into small but fierce predators. Their jaws are mounted on a hinged arm that they can flick out at lightning speed, rather like a chameleon's tongue, to snatch their prey.

The dragonfly and damselfly nymphs share their pond with unseen hordes of diving beetles, water-fleas, water boatmen and pond snails, many of which will in turn become food for moorhens, wagtails, ducklings and herons.



As in most villages, our oldest ponds are the 'working' ones which were dug a century or two ago to provide the clay for bricks to build the surrounding cottages. Many of these original ponds then carried on working, as watering holes for generations of livestock and villagers, or as somewhere to wet the wheels of farm wagons to stop them drying and shrinking. Most working ponds have long since retired but nowadays they still earn their keep by giving shelter to the creatures that I have already mentioned, and many more besides.

Four of our oldest ponds are owned and protected, on our behalf, by the Parish Council (see details on page 2). Perhaps the best-known and most accessible is Deep Pit Pond in Kiln Lane, where as a schoolboy I stood for countless hours in the summer holidays with a net or a worm on a thread, optimistically fishing for newts.

Sadly though, ponds are themselves becoming an endangered species: in Britain as a whole we have lost three quarters of them in the past century, either by leaving them to become choked with leaves or by actively filling them in because of worries over Health & Safety. Fortunately many of us still have ornamental ponds in our gardens and these can be every bit as rich in wildlife as the old ones, offering a wealth of interest, activity and colour for several months of the year. They are simple to create and very easy to maintain. So if you are lucky enough to have a pond already you should cherish it and congratulate yourself on doing your bit for conservation. And if you haven't yet got one, then now is the time to get digging.

**John Tyler**





# St John's School Parents Association



Can it really be the summer term already? Life at St. John's is as busy as ever with all of the children working extremely hard and looking forward to the new summer term.

St John's School was delighted to welcome the Eden Project all the way up from Cornwall for a day in March. They reminded everyone that while nature can live without us, we can't live without nature, so looking after the environment couldn't really be more important. It was a fantastic day, much enjoyed by the children and part of a broader program at the school to raise awareness of sustainability. The school is grateful to Toby Robins and his company, Wiles Greenworld, for sponsoring the event.

This term we held two PA events, the first being a Murder

Mystery Evening on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Lacey Green Productions kindly gave up an evening to perform for us. It was a well attended evening and everyone enjoyed the acting. They really did give a great performance set 20 years in the future in Lacey Green! It was also a good opportunity to use our new kitchen facilities and we enjoyed food from the same kitchens as the school meals. School dinners have come a long way since my day...!

Our next PA event was a school disco for the children on the Friday before we broke up. The children love the chance to have a "mufti day" at school followed by 3 separate discos: first school, year 3 /4 and year 5/6. Thanks to the parents who come and help sell sweets, glow sticks and spray hair!

This term the PA are looking forward to hosting a Summer Disco on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May which will include an auction of favours. If you would like to join us please contact Jodi Sangster for tickets at [angus.sangster@btinternet.com](mailto:angus.sangster@btinternet.com)

Ice cream sales will start after Easter every Friday after school for the summer term. This is a lovely treat at the end of the busy school week for the children.

St John's School is putting together a Community Cook Book to celebrate the new school hot meal service and the development of a new school chef's club. The cookery book is only in very early stages and we hope to involve the whole community with sections and recipes to reflect all areas of life in Lacey Green, Speen and Princes Risborough. If you would like to become involved please email Kate Collet-Fenson on [colletfenson@gmail.com](mailto:colletfenson@gmail.com).

Have a great summer.....

**Julia Spittles**

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# Constance Baker: 12 July



Early this year we lost our oldest resident, Constance, Connie or Con Baker, who had lived up to her name by being a constant resident of Loosley Row for an amazing 105 years. Spending her whole life in one village, Connie grew up with many people that became life-long friends. However she was just as friendly and welcoming to people who moved here in more recent years.

Connie Gomme's early life was at a cottage by Loosley House, where her mother was a Nurse Maid, and her father, Ralph, was chauffeur, who apparently drove the only car in the village at the time. She first attended the Loosley Row School until it closed, when she moved to St John's School. Many of Connie's early memories make fascinating reading, especially those of her school days, the games she played, and Sundays spent at the Baptist Chapel.

Her father became involved in running Gomme's Forge with his 2 brothers, and their mother Sarah, who lived at Foundry Cottage. In 1933 Connie married Fred Baker. He worked in the furniture industry, but within a year had joined the family's business at the Forge. At that time much of their work was still repairing traction engines and other machinery for local farmers. They had also once employed a millwright, so

undoubtedly worked on the village windmill.

During the war, Connie worked in the Forge. Her father, Ralph Gomme, died in 1949 and her husband, Fred Baker, took over running the business. Connie and Fred had 3 children, Graham, Jenny and Geoffrey, who all worked in the family business. She also had four grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren when she died.

Loosley Row Baptist Chapel and its Sunday School were important to the community, and formed a large part of the lives of both Connie and her husband Fred, especially when he became Superintendent, and she was teaching there. After closure in 2001, and the Chapel lying idle for some years, Connie wrote that she was pleased to see it transformed into an elegant dwelling.

After Connie's husband died in 1988, she started exploring the world by going on cruises with friends. More locally, she attended meetings and social events of many groups, but she was always very grateful to the organisers. She even outlived some of the organisations that she belonged to, such as the Afternoon WI and the 81st Club. But she also encouraged new ventures. When Ted Janes founded the Walking Club, Connie was on the first walk, then aged 83. By the Club's 20th Anniversary, they wrote that, at the age of 103, Connie was finding stiles a bit challenging.

She enjoyed her own garden, and was a keen supporter of our Horticultural Society. She attended meetings and social events, insisting on a seat in the front row, for the best view and best chance of hearing the speaker. She also exhibited her flowers (particularly roses) and

vegetables at the Annual Show until the age of 104.

Connie's childhood memories show a distinct mischievous character, which stayed with her all her life. Nobody would now remember her adventures during her 90 minute long lunch breaks at school. In the 1990s, Connie and Mary Adams, famous for being the village chimney sweep, attended social events together. I well remember them both giggling, like a couple of schoolgirls.

People say that Connie blossomed on reaching 100. She had a celebrity status, often appearing in the local media, and had an eventful life over the last 5 years.

For her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, her family took her to London for a day, which included a river cruise and a ride on the London Eye. She arrived for her Birthday Party at the Village Hall in a 1938 Morris. Many relatives from Canada attended, and everybody admired the spectacular 10 piece cake, with 100 candles. The same year she rode on a model train pulled by a steam engine, easily defying those who doubted that she could climb aboard.

At 101 Connie was a model taking part in a WI Fashion Show, and the following year she helped to launch the over-50s Lunch Club. When a splendid Village History Exhibition was held, Connie arrived in a 1954 Rolls Royce to cut the tape for the opening ceremony.

Around 1920 Connie had watched her father on his motorbike at the Kop Hill Climb. So 90 years later she went to the revived event. At 103, she amazed onlookers by calmly climbing the steps onto a tall Steam Carriage. As it was older than Connie it could not drive up Kop Hill, but she enjoyed a ride around the paddock. At the following year's event, Connie

# 1908 to 23 January 2014

was determined to ride up Kop Hill itself, and was taken up in a modern electric car.

Connie was at many events for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics. She also had many outings by car and coach, with trips to gardens far and wide, including Highgrove and Kew Gardens only a month before she became 105. She particularly enjoyed attending Village Cricket Matches, and was recently described as one of the team's most stalwart supporters.

Besides the organised events, Connie was often taken for more informal trips and meals, keeping a very busy diary. Connie was delighted when people went to see her, or to play Scrabble, and was doubly pleased if you were a man and greeted her with a kiss.

Her keen sense of humour never diminished, but although her hearing and sight deteriorated, Connie enjoyed good health until the last few months, claiming that her long life was due to Black Coffee, Cigarettes, and plenty of Cabbage. But remember that her Grandmother, Sarah Gomme, ran the Forge for many years and lived to be 102.

Connie told me that she enjoyed life since becoming 100, when everyone had made such a fuss of her. I say that she also gave us much pleasure in recent years. She was lucky to have her family's help to enable her to stay in her own home until the last few months.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> February, around 170 people were at Amersham Crematorium for Connie's funeral. She had said nobody needed to wear dark clothes at her funeral. That reflects the bright, fun loving, sociable nature of her character, which will long be remembered in Loosley Row and Lacey Green, and was reflected in the music played at the Crematorium.

Connie was always delighted to see children. As their oldest former pupil, on her recent birthdays St John's schoolchildren sang to her, and wrote "A Song for Connie" for her 105th Birthday. After she died, they adapted some of the words which I read at Connie's Funeral:

*Dear Connie was wonderful*

*Our Special Friend*

*Dear Connie, you always were  
such fun*

*There was nobody like you*

*And that's why we're glad*

*You were our Friend.*

Graham, Jenny and Geoffrey have asked me to pass on their thanks to everybody who attended their mother's funeral, and gave donations of over £1,000 for Rennie Grove Hospice Care.

They are also especially grateful to many people who helped Connie in various ways such as visiting her and taking her on outings. I think that some who deserve special mention are Joyce, Marion and Les, Bette and Norman, and Rosemary.

**Michael G Hardy**





# Lacey Green & Loosley Row Sports Club

Lacey Green and Loosley row sports club is this year celebrating the **65th**

**Anniversary** of the presentation of the ground. To celebrate we will be holding an evening event on Saturday June 14th; there will be live music in the clubs a marquee and a hog roast. Tickets are £12.50, available from me or any of the Sport Club Committee or heads of the three sporting sections. Please come and join us and help us celebrate our 65th Year.

## Support your club

The sports ground and club house are privately owned, and are run and maintained by a group of volunteers made up of the Executive Committee, sporting members and local people from the community. All the facilities are paid for and maintained by subscriptions from the sports sections

(Cricket, Football & Tennis), contributions from Windmills Pre-School, fundraising events and private hire of the club house.

We are actively looking for new members to play cricket, football and tennis; alternatively you can become a social member for just £5 and enjoy the sports from a seated position in the clubhouse with glass in hand. Please come and enjoy the facilities of the club.

In summer, cricket is played every Saturday from 1.30 pm and the bar is open in the afternoon. Football is played from September to April and tennis all year round.

## Dogs

The sports club is a private ground (not a council run facility) and ideally we would

prefer dogs not to be brought to the ground at all. If you do bring your dog to the sports ground please can you ensure it is kept on a lead **at all times** and you take home any little parcels it may leave..

## Thank you

Huge thanks to the team of volunteers who put so much effort in all year round to maintain the lines, cut the hedges and treat and weed the field keeping the surface safe and looking good - Nigel Kelloway, Chris Oakford, Dave Saunders and Dave Highgate, Thank You.

## Private Hire

The Sports Club is available for Private Hire for most of the year and has a fully licensed bar.

**Stef Dell** 07768 831196

# Princes Centre Fundraising update

The Princes Centre is growing in success and has recently taken on more staff and introduced even more activities for the clients. Funds keep growing and now exceed £180,000, and the trustees are very grateful to all those people who have recently supported the Appeal, and especially those individuals who continue to donate monthly by standing order. Their generosity enables the balance to creep slowly but steadily up to the target of £300,000.

The purchase of the buildings will hopefully be possible this year if donations continue at the rate of previous months. Please help this to become a

reality. Once the Centre has purchased the buildings it will become easier to apply for grants to enable some major refurbishments to take place.

Eighty golfers took part in a Charity Golf Day organised by Tom Winkworth at Whiteleaf Golf Club on the 24th April. Princes Risborough Masonic Lodge have pledged £10,000 to the Appeal. After a successful Quiz Night held at the Centre they have plans for a BBQ Race Night and 3 members are taking part in the Three Peak Challenge.

A county councillor donated from his leader's fund, and this helped to pay for some essential repairs to the heating

system a few weeks ago. The Bledlow Charity also sent a sizeable donation. We hope that others will keep the ball rolling and send donations, however small, as every donation will edge us closer to the goal.

We would like to ask you to consider supporting the Appeal by attending the Polo event, which is being organised [weather permitting] for the afternoon of Sunday 29th June. Last year we had good weather and it was very relaxing taking a picnic up to Lacey Green and being able to experience watching live polo.

**Maggie Wooster**



# Black Horse



*New garden*

The time seems to come round so quickly for my small entry to Hallmark. It sometimes gets difficult to think of new things to say.

Mothers' Day day was a great success, very busy, and it was good to see so many families altogether. It was a sad day for me as it was year to the day my Mum died; it just doesn't seem possible, as you get older, time just flies by. Also a very dear friend of mine and a lady from Lacey Green passed away. Brenda McLeish was a great lady, been through some pretty rough times in the last few years but has still laughed through it. I will and I know many people will miss her.

We have now put things in motion and have a patio garden; put in new tables and shrubs and flowers, it is looking good. The children's play area has been updated with a few new toys and the return of the giant connect four. Aunt Sally is about to start at end of April on a Friday night.

Our beer festival is booked for the weekend of Friday 1st August till Sunday 3rd August. On the Saturday there will be music in the garden and food all afternoon and evening. Plenty of beers to try.

There have also been some changes inside the pub. The wheel has now been removed



*Pub wheel gone!*

from the front bar and has been put outside, this has given us more room and looks good.

We are still showing BT Sports and Sky television in the front of the pub. We do not show it if we have people eating in the front bar, so it does not effect anybody that just wants a quiet meal.

Sky Sports has worked really well with all the rugby, football etc. Not so sure about the BT Sports. We will keep it for a couple more months and see if it is worth while. We will be showing the world cup matches.

**Lynne**

## Award for the Black Horse

The Black Horse has achieved a 100% score in Admiral Taverns' retail excellence programme, aimed to help licensees grow their business.

The programme was established by Admiral in the summer of 2012 to drive and maintain high retail standards in all its pubs. It involves a meticulous examination of the pub, its retail standards,



Licensees Lynne Comley and Ian Wilson of the Black Horse, Princes Risborough, who achieved a perfect score

category management, target customer base, internal marketing, external marketing and how it compares to other pubs in the local area.

Admiral CEO Kevin George said "This is a fantastic achievement, of which we are all so proud, and really shows how close working relationships between Business Development Managers and licensees can boost pub retailing.

These licensees are an inspiration to all of us, and the challenge for them is to maintain the impeccable standards they have set".

# Anti-Slavery Society - 175th Anniversary

It used to be a self-evident untruth: "Well they abolished slavery, didn't they." It was not even a question. Today there are at least 20 million people in contemporary forms of slavery, and you do not need to go far to find them: young Vietnamese men trafficked as "agricultural labourers". Then with a debt for travel, passport removed and no English.

They are forced to work on growing cannabis in domestic houses in High Wycombe, having committed a crime on day one.....

When Slavery in the British Empire was ended in 1833, by compensating the slave owners with £20 million(!), the slaves were turned into "apprentices" which was little different. This was finally ended in 1839, at which time the British & Foreign Anti-Slavery Society was founded to eradicate the evil world wide. It is now the oldest continuous human rights organisation.

Quite simply, Slavery is recognisable when a person is forced to work by violence or threats, has been bought or sold by an "employer" and is unable to escape.



*A child domestic worker from Togo. Her situation is now monitored by our partner WAO Afrique, and she is able to go to school*



Slavery meanwhile has metamorphosed over the decades from descent-based slavery which still exists in West Africa, to trafficking in people from Eastern Europe for all kinds of cheap labour, sometimes under illegal gangmasters, or prostitution, bonded labour on the Indian subcontinent. Worst forms of child labour include forced begging and domestic servitude. Early and forced marriage is not yet counted in the statistics.....

So what does the now Anti-Slavery International do?

- Research the data where slavery still exists to prove and document it.
- Work with the UN Rapporteur (whose post we helped to create) and ILO to set standards, inspect, name and shame countries internationally.
- Campaign with indigenous anti-slavery organisations to pass legislation outlawing slavery, and enforce the law.
- Support and assist those local organisations worldwide to help the victims escape and re-establish their lives socially and economically.
- Educate and train the police to treat slaves as victims not criminals, with a view to

helping them, and obtaining the evidence against their traffickers.

- Focus on the supply chain of imported goods made under conditions of slavery, such as cotton from Uzbekistan, or textiles from Bangladesh, cocoa from Nigeria or timber from Brazil.

We have a map of 50 goods coming from 29 countries. The pressure point is the retail outlets: do they know what they are selling? Are they (and we) unknowingly part of supporting slavery?

We have a staff of 20 and a budget of £2 millions a year, which has to be raised.

**Andrew Clark**

(See Page 4 for fund raising music event on June 28)



*A girl working in a brick kiln*



# Happy Wanderers



## Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Seventeen members and two guests met by the Green in the centre of Quainton on a perfect sunny morning for the walk.

We set off at 10.30 a.m. taking the Waddesdon road towards the steam railway yard where we stopped for a few minutes watching a loco being fired up for the day. Then moving off on a footpath which was along side the road which was the old Brill Tramway route. After about a mile we turned left on a path which was a branch of the Brill Tramway leading to Waddesdon Manor, the path passing the now abandoned garden centre on to the Church.

Through the grave yard and back towards Quainton across fields with the windmill standing out as our marker back to the end of our walk. The mill was waiting for a new set of sails costing a six figure sum.

Back at the Green most of us enjoyed the refreshments at the George and Dragon Inn, some sitting out in the sunshine.

Thanks to Kim and Ian for leading the walk.

**Ron Goodearl**

## Windmill WI

Our first speaker for 2014 was Squadron Leader Graham Laurie MVO. With the help of slides Graham gave us a history of royal flying which was really interesting. Graham flew many times with members of the royal family including the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Diana. He had many interesting stories to tell us. We also welcomed 5 new members that night.

In March we had Chris Lowe talking about the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Chris is a volunteer for the RNLI Education Department and visits schools telling the children about the work of the RNLI. Chris was a very good speaker and showed us many slides and stories about the work of the men and women of the RNLI.

We had our first Jumble Sale of the year which proved very successful, lots of jumble, homemade cakes and tombola. We had a good turnout of

helpers and customers and lots of sunshine.

At the end of the month some of us went to Sands Village Hall for a Group Meeting. We were well entertained by the speaker Mrs Susan Howe talking about 'Cantering through a Funny Life'. Susan had been PA to John Betjeman and a friend to the daughter of James Herriott so had lots of funny stories to tell us.

On the 2nd April a few of us went to the Annual Council Meeting at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury. We had a very entertaining day with four speakers in the morning including Patricia Pearce MBE who spoke about her Charity 'Dreamflight'.

Patricia was an air hostess and raises money to send handicapped children to Disney Land once a year. We have been fortunate to book her to speak at our May meeting. In the afternoon Chris Beardshaw was the speaker talking about

'100 Plants that Almost Changed the World'. Chris had written a book about these plants and was a hilarious speaker.

In the evening we had our April meeting with the speaker Mrs J Dineen talking about 'Old Bucks Cooking'. Another very good speaker who demonstrated some of her recipes which we sampled.

Now we are busily getting ready for our Fashion Show on the 9th April. This will have come and gone by the time you read this article but we hope it will be a huge success. We are raising money for the Motor Neurone Association and the Florence Nightingale Hospice.

Our next meeting is the 7th May which is the Resolution Meeting with Patricia Pearce as our speaker. If you are free that evening you would be very welcome. We meet at Lacey Green Village Hall at 7.45 pm.

**Ann Bartlett**



# Happy Wanderers, continued

## February AGM

The highlight of our year is the Annual AGM which attracts most of our members due to the unusual style of the event. As the members arrive there is an opportunity to look at our pictures in books of archives going back over the last twenty years.

The meeting this year was soon underway and the business quickly dealt with, because the sooner we deal with the Agenda, the sooner we can open the wine to go with our picnic lunch.

With the wine poured, we were able to remember and celebrate the life of Connie Baker, who was a founder member of the club, which she joined in her early eighties. We also rejoiced at the many members who have walked across the Chiltern Hills for the best part of twenty years. Meeting on a Sunday morning for some fresh air, a gentle walk and a chat is a certainly a recipe for a long and healthy life.

We have had many good monthly walks this year and our



annual long weekend away to Swanage was blessed with good weather.

## Ronnie and Liz Lewin

## Local resident honoured

March 3rd was a day that Candy Piercy will never forget. She was at Windsor Castle, to be presented with a MBE by the Queen.

Until 10 years ago Candy worked in Westminster for the Lib Dems. She then left and set up her own management training firm.

However she retained her interest in politics and became increasingly involved in training people in developing democracies to take a more effective role in politics and public life. Many of these workshops particularly focused on getting more women elected to Parliament.

Candy has worked for the British Council, the EU, the UN and various NGOs. She has now trained in over 30 countries around the world, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. The award of the MBE reflects both her international role and her recent work in the UK to get more women and members

of other under-represented groups elected to Parliament.

Candy commented "Seeing for myself the bravery of people who stand for election to Parliament in other countries made me reflect how much we take democracy for granted in the UK.

"It has been a privilege to meet so many fantastic and dedicated people. There were heart warming moments such as when 'The Mothers of Russian Soldiers' burst into song to thank us for coming to work with them to help them stand up to the Russian Government. There were scary moments too - a group of charity workers in Kosovo were threatened with violence for allowing two Serbian women to attend our workshop.

"After one workshop in Cairo the British Embassy confessed that they had been on red alert all week expecting us to be arrested! Thankfully we weren't.



"I was so lucky that the Queen gave me my MBE and that my family were able to be there for the ceremony. She herself is an inspirational figure to women around the world. Another highlight of the day was meeting other people who were being presented awards. It was striking that every one of us felt that our awards also honoured the other amazing people in our teams, who make our work possible."

# County Council News

Well it looks as if Spring has finally sprung after the deluge of rain which we have had. This winter, rain has decimated the surfaces of many of our County's roads. We have been inundated with complaints about potholes and although last year an extra £25 million was allocated for road repairs over 2 years with an extra £3 million vied across from Reserves to accelerate this programme, it is not anyway near enough. The Government has agreed to fund BCC with an extra £2.5 million this year following the bad winter weather but in reality we still need about £300 million to invest in our road network in the County alone.

With the flooding a couple months ago Transport for Buckinghamshire were working around the clock to keep water levels as low as possible in a number of areas around the County so now are looking to rectify the damage caused to our roads as soon as possible.

Following 3 years of a County Council freeze on Council tax, we have had to implement a 1.5% increase from April this year. This is due to Central Government reductions in funding to Local Authorities.

Last year an £18 million high speed fibre broadband programme was started for Buckinghamshire jointly with Hertfordshire. The first green roadside cabinet was installed in Butlers Cross last month. Phase one will continue with 30 more roadside cabinets to be upgraded, many in rural areas.

In the local area, I was able to donate funds to support the

local Neighbourhood Action Group, and Lacey Green Parish Council for the repairs to swings in the park through my Community Leaders Fund from Bucks County Council.

I had the great honour of being elected to serve as Chairman of Bucks County Council last May and I cannot believe that my term of office will end on 15th May this year. Time has flown by. One thing that I have found is that there is a huge number of our Community who volunteer and give up their free time to help others who are often less fortunate than themselves. There are equally a large number of volunteers who run vital services within Communities which would otherwise be lost due to cost savings having to be made within Local Government. So if you are one of those unsung heroes, can I thank you most sincerely for what you do within your local area.

Following the success of London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics within the County, with rowing and canoeing at Dorney Lake, and with Stoke Mandeville being the birthplace of the Paralympic movement, I was asked to develop a legacy programme on behalf of the Council. The Bucks Legacy Board was formed in the autumn of 2012 to facilitate that. The Board, of which I am Chairman comprises of Bucks County Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council, Aylesbury Town Council, Bucks Hospital Trust, Leap (formerly Bucks & MK Sport), Wheelpower, BUDS (Bucks Disability Service) Aylesbury College and Bucks Business First.



On 29th August 2013, the anniversary of the start of London 2012 Paralympic Games, an agreement was reached with the International Paralympic Committee. Every 2 years, prior to all future Paralympic games, a Heritage Flame will be lit with a torch relay in Stoke Mandeville. The first relay took place on 1st March 2014 before the Winter Paralympic Games held in Sochi in Russia. This was the very first time that a torch relay occurred outside a host nation. As Chairman of the Board, I had the great honour of taking two torch bearers to Russia for the Games.

Once again, if there are any matters relating to Buckinghamshire County Council that you would like to raise, please contact me either via email [cetholen@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:cetholen@buckscc.gov.uk) or by telephone 01494 564771 and if you would like a person to person meeting with me, I will happily come and see you.

**Carl Etholen**



# Youth Club



The youth club continues to be as popular as ever, averaging over 40 youngsters each session. Perhaps they like the extra freedom that they can't get at school or home, or the effort the leaders put in to give them a good time – see box..

We are fortunate to have a number of very willing and loyal volunteers. We have Bette, Mel and Karen H running the tuck-shop. Cathy gets several youngsters mixing it in the kitchen each week creating some very nice dishes that somehow never come to us volunteers. Phil T looks after the cash and pays the bills. Then there's Phil E, Karen L and everybody else who help get things out, put them away, clean up and make sure the youngsters don't take things too far (table tennis, for



example, is played anywhere but on the table and pool is often played one handed).

And there's Jenny who has taken the role of head coach and plans each session so the kids always have something different to do and making sure the kids leave a mess for the rest of us to clean up – thank you Jenny.

Sometimes parents offer to help and we are very grateful because, despite us appearing to have it well covered, we can't all be there all the time. Neither can anyone watch all the kids all the time. We like to feel supported. Help setting up and down is appreciated and if you stay for the session it is only a question of stepping in if there is a chance of serious injury. You even get a cup of tea. Thank you to those parents who have helped.

If anyone would like to come along on a regular basis, you will be welcome. People will



always leave at some point and need to be replaced.

It is a testimony to parents that thus far, without exception, the kids are always polite and don't argue with leaders. That's not to say they don't argue with each other but even this is rare.

Some youngsters come back to complete part of their Duke of Edinburgh award scheme - helping out in the community - and we are glad to help them achieve this.

**Leigh Axe**

## Recent Youth Club Activities

Juggling, stilt walking, hoola hoop, card tricks, clown hats;

Junk robots, deciding our own rules, name that baby quiz;

Vicky supervised painting pottery name plaques; a film quiz, nail varnish for those who wish to look like a film star!!

Big group charades; Halloween Night, costume prizes, hollowing out pumpkins, spooky games!! ;

Bonfire night. craft table, flashing poi outside, volley ball;

Superheroes and Villains evening. Super food smoothies and blending strawberries with spinach, dexterity/agility skills test, photo competition best superhero smirk or the most dastardly super villain grin. Finished with floating shapes;

Helping out at nativity making props and improvise the lines for the nativity;



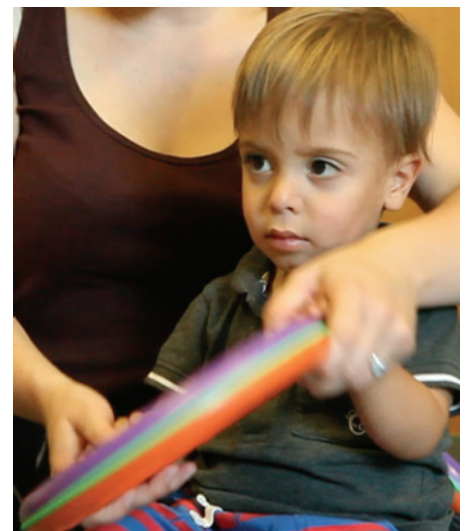


We have run some very popular events this term, as well as being full in 3 of our Lacey Green classes!!

During the half term break we held our popular Pancake Party “popping pancakes into a pan” with gusto, not to mention tasting a few, and teaching the children how to toss their pancakes. When e-mailing the results of the competition I was mortified to have my e-mail rejected from some recipients because of dubious content!! Apparently in future I cannot announce the results of the Pancake Tossing competition. I will have to call it “the Pancake throwing in the air and catching competition” !

I particularly like this time of the year – we are all ready for Spring and the children love all the traditions of Easter: The shaker eggs, which emerge each week from a couple of chickens, and the Easter Bunny songs, and making Easter Bonnets, and chocolate crispy nests in our Imagination Station classes.

My favourite moment, however was during our story of “the Hungry Caterpillar”, which we tell using percussion and song. Jonny told me that the Hungry caterpillar spun a canoe and stayed in it for 2 weeks, before he became a butterfly. It must be all the flooding we’ve had!!



We are looking for some more 3 – 4 year old children in our 1.40 pm class on a Friday. They are a good way to prepare your child for school, and help build confidence and independence. Don’t forget you can try a class any time.

Look out for us during the Risborough Festival at Wades Park and come and join in our 25th Birthday Celebrations. All children old and new are welcome for treats and to make their mark on our interactive art display!

Contact Jenny on [kindergymjenny@gmail.com](mailto:kindergymjenny@gmail.com) or have a look at our website for more details [www.kindergym.co.uk](http://www.kindergym.co.uk)

## Youth Club activities continued...

Making Christmas presents, decorations and Mia's mum came to do cards, volleyball;

Christmas Party!!; Making boxes to put any special Christmas items in;

Debbie, showed us how to make roses or teddy bears with icing, knitting, fabric painting;

Pancake day special, making them, pancake races and pancake tossing competition;

Paul helped us to make 3 stringed guitars; rainmakers for those who fancy an easier musical project

Percussion and guitar musical extravaganza – we will not get on X-factor, complaints have been ignored;



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# Community Planning Group

## Post Office news

It is unfortunate that we lost post office services in March and April. Our new postmaster (Shary) went to India for a family occasion, and whoever had been nominated as his stand-in just didn't turn up. Hopefully, services will have been resumed by the time you read this and we trust that there won't be a repeat performance.

## Lacey Green Stores

The stores are still going strong, although we can always use a few more customers, as well as anyone who would like to work behind the counter now and again. We can supply newspapers provided that you order these in advance.

There is a proposal (see below) to operate an on-line library book ordering service in Lacey Green, as a replacement for the mobile library that is currently used by only two people. It may make use of the Stores as a distribution centre, possibly also including an Internet terminal.

## The Wycombe District Local Plan

So far as one can tell, Lacey Green is unlikely to be targeted for more housing, whereas Princes Risborough, Bledlow, Saunderton, and Longwick all look more vulnerable. Risborough, in particular has at least three scenarios, the largest involving up to perhaps 3000 properties. This would inevitably have an impact on Lacey Green, for example through increased road traffic.

Recently, a senior member of the Royal Family suggested that villages could each accommodate a small number of houses that would blend with existing properties, and that this would be preferable to larger scale developments elsewhere. My own view is that Lacey Green could certainly accommodate, say, 25 houses, with the locations to be chosen ideally by local residents. This must surely be a better option than some planner elsewhere deciding that we should have 50 houses and choosing the location.

The local plan is required to consider *all* relevant factors across the District, including services, employment, transport and so forth. In theory it should provide the optimum answer to the area's housing needs. So although Princes Risborough looks to be a logical area for significant development, it is only one amongst many options, and isn't necessarily a given. It will be interesting to see what ultimately emerges.

There was a letter in the papers recently from a planning officer who considered that only trained planning officers could make sensible decisions about planning matters and that (untrained) elected councillors should not upset the planner's intentions. Provided you believe that planning qualifications are on a par with other professional qualifications such as those in engineering, then it is a perfectly rational view, even if not very democratic. What do you think?

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

## Mobile Library - Use it or lose it!

Lacey Green Library Service is currently in the form of a mobile library that visits Eastlands 11.30 to 11.55 every third Wednesday of the month. It is little used which may be down to

- Not being there when I want a book;
- Out of sight, out of mind.

A new service has been proposed that sounds much more convenient and practical...

**Click and collect** from the Village Hall shop. This has several advantages:

- You don't have to leave your home to select or return a book - the library website has all its books listed;
- No computer? You will be able to get help and on-line at the shop;
- Collecting from the shop couldn't be easier with free parking or just walk;

• You will be able to join the library at the shop;

• Shop closed when you are available? – The shop will have email and arrangements can be made.

All this is for FREE but it is not going to get off the ground if we are not going to use it. Would you be interested? Send us an email with your comments or questions via <http://www.laceygreen.com/Sections/ContactUs/Mailer.php?to=Enquiries>



# St John's Church



## Regular Services at St. John's Church

### SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion(1662) 1st, 2nd, & 4th Sundays

10.00am All age Worship Communion  
1st Sunday of the month.

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

Junior Church at 10.00am – all services other than 1st, held in upper room.

### TUESDAY

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

2.00pm Toddler Praise – Toddlers meet Tuesday afternoons during term time.

### WEDNESDAY

10.30.am Team Communion Service at Chapter House, St. Mary's Church, Princes Risboro'.

School Assemblies during term time are held on Friday mornings 9.15 am at St. John's and 10.00 am at Speen.

On the last Sunday in the month our 11 – 15 year olds are welcome to attend.

If you know of anyone who would also like to receive Holy Communion at home, or would like a home visit, contact churchwardens Mrs Pat Richards on 01844 345452 or Mr Dick Field 01494 562231.

### Past events.

Mothering Sunday was very special as always, when younger members of the congregation gave flowers to all the mothers present. This was followed by the sharing of excellent cake made by Rosemary.

A very creative craft day was organised by Karen, helped by others to make a very successful and enjoyable day.

Ongoing - we have three house groups who meet and study. We are happy to welcome any new member on Monday afternoons 4.15 for one hour only, at Maplehurst, Loosley Row. We have a study book of short chapters and questions - obviously linked to the Bible, and that increases our awareness of God's word. We will be studying Philippians after Easter. Ring June on 01844-347027 for more details.

### Future events.

We plan to have a progressive supper during May, great fun finding everyone's house, and sampling delicious food, and a good way to know people better.

Graham King will be organising this event – please contact him on 01844-343910 for more details.

Also Graham is taking names for the Men's breakfast on May 10th at the Black House – so

good you do not need to eat for the remainder of the day!

### Christian Aid week

is the 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a service on Sunday May 11th in the Baptist Church at 6 pm. All are welcome.

July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> will be a weekend of fun and great activities. There will be a fete on the Saturday followed by a Concert in Church. The entertainers will be our excellent St. John's Choir, and the Banjovi Revival Band. Tickets may be purchased before the event. There will be an interval for refreshments. Bring your friends !

The advertisement for a House for Duty minister will be going to press in May and interviews will take place in June. We pray for the right person to apply.

Meanwhile, our Interregnum has been blessed by everyone being willing to participate in our Church organisation – by attending as usual, and by offering to help whenever it is needed. We are especially grateful to the visiting Clergy who have inspired us, and broadened our perceptions of the Christian life.

And thank you to Churchwardens Pat and Dick. And did you notice the new green carpet in place beside the altar? - The result of prayer to find the matching colour!

BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Pat and Colin who celebrated their Wedding in St. John's Church on May 3rd.

**June Brazier**



## Annual Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will have already taken place when you read this, so if you didn't attend to hear how your Councillors spent the precept (your contribution to their budget) this past year, you can find out on the website [www.laceygreen.org](http://www.laceygreen.org).

Our Clerk, Sue Griffiths, was named Clerk of the Year last year, and she does a sterling job of conducting the official Council business on behalf of the Councillors - thanks and well done Sue!

The new War Memorial in the Garden of Rest has been well-received (see below for dedication ceremony details).

Some areas of the playground have been resurfaced with artificial grass - under the swings and climbing unit, a great improvement which has been much appreciated by all users, particularly the Windmill Under-fives playgroup.

Paula Cunningham, Business Manager for the playgroup said. "We feel very privileged to have the regular use of such a well appointed and rurally located playground as we know many other pre-schools do not have access to an outside play area."

We have a contract with the Princes Risborough Town Council Maintenance team for grass cutting and maintenance of the Garden of Rest and playground, and they continue to do a very good job for us.

The Parish Council is now planning for the next financial year, 2015/16, so if there is any group or organization in the parish who would like to request a grant or donation towards a project please write to the Clerk, including a copy of the last set of accounts before November, in time for our Estimates meeting.

If any group or individual needs help from the Parish Council or if you have any ideas for what the Parish Council could do for or to help the Parish and its residents, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk or one of the Councillors.

## New War Memorial

A short service for the dedication of the new War Memorial in the Garden of Rest will be held on Sunday 8th June 2014 at 3.30 pm in the Garden of Rest, followed by tea at 4.00 pm in the Village Hall.

All residents of the Parish are welcome to attend. To help with the catering, the Parish Council asks those who would like to attend to sign a list of attendees, available in Lacey Green Stores from 1st May. A book detailing the young men commemorated on the Memorial will be on display.

The High Wycombe Branch of the Royal British Legion is to mark the Centenary of the beginning of World War 1, with the emphasis on Commemoration. Wreaths will be laid at all World War 1 Memorials in this area to

include communities in this simple act of Remembrance. Wreath laying will take place on Monday 4th August 2014 at 12 noon at all four Memorials in this Parish, i.e. Speen Baptist Church, St. John's Parish Church, Lacey Green Garden of Rest and Loosley Row Baptist Church Cemetery. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

## May Euro Elections

**Are you and your neighbours registered to vote on 22nd May?**

Chances are at least some of them are not!

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May the Euro MP elections will be taking place across the area. Make sure you are registered to vote before the registration deadline of 3rd May. You can vote either in person, or with a postal vote if you prefer, but you must be registered with the Returning officer at WDC in order to have your vote - 01494 421180 to request a form or online, if you did not fill in the register of electors last autumn. Forms are also available in the Princes Risborough area office in Horns Lane.

Every vote is vital - thousands of young men fought and died in the Great War for our freedom. This May is the last time before the General election next year, to make your feelings known. Remember, use it or lose it!

**Cllr. Miv Hughes**



# Heavenly Bodies

As the evenings turn warmer and lighter, the weather may tempt us outside to fire up the barbecue and bask in a sunset or two. As the Sun goes down, and you look into the dying BBQ embers, remind yourself to look up to see a glowing orange nugget, celestial 'bullets' and the Moon illusion.

May is a good month for shooting stars this year, as a regular meteor shower may be followed by a new and possibly more energetic display a few weeks later.

'Shooting stars' are caused by the Earth passing through trails of particles left by comets. The usual Eta Aquarid shower is produced by the trail of Halley's Comet and peaks on **May 6**. Look out for white streaks zooming across the skies as late as you can (especially after the Moon has set), and do the same several nights before and after that date.

The exciting news is that a rare new meteor shower is predicted to hit its peak on **May 24** and could produce a dramatic display. The dust trail Earth goes through has been produced by comet 209P/Linear, only discovered in 2004. It's due to be nearest the Sun on May 6, with Earth slamming into its 'exhaust trail' on May 24. Definitely worth having a look – it could be historic.

The "red planet" Mars graces our skies now and for the next couple of months, but it stays low. Earth is on an inside orbit lap to Mars and overtook it early April when the two planets were 56 million miles apart. Mars is still brighter than

most stars, and unmistakably orange to the naked eye.

As planet Earth hurtles further around its own orbit, it leaves Mars behind and 63 million miles away from us by mid-May. The planet gradually becomes smaller and dimmer in our skies over the coming weeks.

You can see where to find it on the sky map shown on this page, along with an image of the planet I've taken. To help further, the Moon will be very close to Mars on **May 10 and 11, June 7** and **July 4**. We only get to see it every two years, so it's always good to find it and say you've just seen Mars!

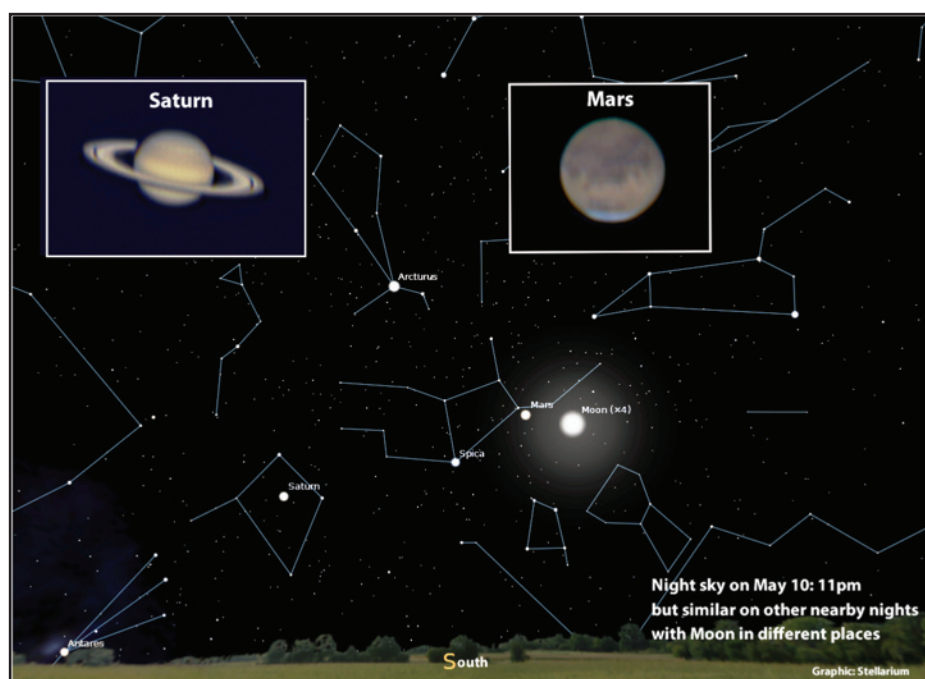
Hot on Mars' heels is the wonderful ringed gas giant Saturn much further out in the Solar System. It too stays low in the sky from our vantage point, and is at its closest to Earth on May 11 when it will be a neighbourly 800 million miles away, but easily seen with the naked eye. It's not quite as bright as Mars during this time,

but can be picked out using the sky map and noticing its pale yellow colour. The Moon helps out again by being very close to Saturn on **May 13 and 14, June 10** and **July 7**.

Closer to home, and visible most days and nights, is our lovely Moon. Here's something you can try on the nights of **July 10-13** to experience the Moon illusion. The Moon will stay quite close to the horizon on those nights so that you'll see trees, buildings and hills in the same field of view as the Moon. This makes it appear much larger than usual, but is in fact just an optical illusion.

Stretch out your hand and you'll see that the tip of your little finger will cover the Moon, just as it does when the Moon is much higher up in the sky. It's not known for certain why this occurs, but it's something to do with the brain trying to make sense of depth, size and distance when our eyes see the Moon close to Earthly objects. Enjoy!

**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. 8 pm	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	Denise Kinnard		lukeden2@hotmail.co.uk
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	Paula Cunningham	07502 198405	admin@windmillunder5s.co.uk
Windmill WI (evenings)	1st Wed of month except Jan. 7.45 pm	Daphne Willash	01494 562455	daphne.willash@btinternet.com
High Wycombe & District U3A	4th Wed afternoon of the month	Margaret Graham	01494 630713	Margaret@margaret-graham.com
Youth Club	Alternate Fridays - see laceygreen.com web site for details 7.30 pm	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 2 pm	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		Nigel Glenister	342771	ne.glenister@btinternet.com
LG Sports Club - Football		Ben Foster	344906	laceygreenfc@hotmail.co.uk
Karate	Monday evenings	Stephen Fincham	07540 531034	stevefincham@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	susancroxford@gmail.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		Pat Richards	345452	
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	275912	sue@princesrisborough.com
LG Post Office	Monday and Thursday 9 am to 12 noon			
LG Windmill	Sundays & Bank holidays 2 to 5 pm May to September	Michael Hardy	275871	contact@laceygreenwindmill.org.uk
Millennium Hall		Clive Hodgton	343113	clive@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**

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### **LACEY GREEN STORES**

Village Hall 9.00 am - 1pm every week day

### **COFFEE MORNINGS**

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Friendly chatting with tea or coffee & biscuit

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### **VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **Clive Hodghton (Chair)**

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Yvonne Axe (Treasurer),  
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Leigh Axe,  
Stella Boll,  
Jane Brown,  
Ginnie Brudenell,  
Cathryn Davies,  
Bette Tyler

### **LACEY GREEN WINDMILL**

In 2014 Lacey Green Windmill will be open from 2 pm to 5 pm on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from Sunday 4th May to Sunday 28th 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.

Printed by PK Inprint Ltd 01494 452266

**CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE AUGUST EDITION**

**July 17th 2014**