

HALLMARK

The Lacey Green and Loosley Row Magazine



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Welcome to the February edition of Hallmark

Thanks very much to Jamie Buchanan for the cover photo - taken from The Grubbins at Christmas 2010.

I'd like to say goodbye and thank you to Rachel Panter who is moving out of the village. She has served for many years as the vice-chairman of the Village Hall committee. We have also frequently appreciated her magnificent catering and many an evening in the Hall has been much improved by her imaginative cooking. Good luck in your new home.

Just a quick reminder that with the next edition we will be collecting donations to support the printing of Hallmark and the maintenance of the Village Hall. Printing costs us around £7.50 per year per house, any donations will be welcome, either to your deliverer or put the donation in an envelope and pop it through the door of Entertainment House.



Mike Piercy

In Memoriam: Brian Dockerill

Brian was born in Dartford, Kent and moved several times before coming to live in Lacey Green in 1987.

He was a building surveyor by trade and a very practical person who would tackle most of the jobs that needed doing about the house.

He was treasurer for the Horticultural society and wrote their article for Hallmark with Bill Cleaver as 'Bill and Ben'.

His hobbies included visiting air shows, wood carving and model making. His biggest project was to build a working miniature steam locomotive from a kit, which due to his inexperience and poor manufacture took a very long time to complete and get into steam. Fortunately it was working in time to give Connie Baker (along with Bette and Norman Tyler) a ride around the Holmer Green track as part of her 100th birthday celebrations.

He slowed down a lot in the last few years and had to rely on an electric buggy to go any distance. However he still managed to visit Bruntingthorpe to watch the Lightnings do a fast run with full re-heat and had a ride in a Lancaster bomber for his 80th birthday.

He spend his last two and a half months in intensive care in Wycombe Hospital and died on 21st October.

Carol Dockerill

Douglas Parslow

The Parslow family - Sue, Russell and Purdy, would like to thank everyone for their kindness on the loss of their "Alpha Male" Douglas.

We have received cards, letters, visits, offers of help and lots of support during the last few weeks, all of which we are sincerely grateful for.

Doug was a local man, born in Lacey Green, who although quiet and unassuming was well known in the village, especially by fellow pub visitors! It was a tribute to him that so many people attended his funeral, it made it a memorable day for us all and we thank you most sincerely.

Sue Parslow & family

Mrs. Renée Mann

It saddens me to report the passing of Renée Mann who died on Christmas night.

She was an active member of Lacey Green Singers, both Afternoon and Windmill WIs and the Horts society. She will be sadly missed.

What's On

Sat 14 Feb 7pm

Valentine's Cabaret at
Missenden Abbey - see p25

Sun 22 Feb 10.30am

Happy Wanderers AGM
see p20

Sat 14 Mar 2pm

WI Jumble Sale, Cake
stall, refreshments.
Jumble welcome before
noon

Wed 18 Mar 8pm

Horts Soc AGM and talk
by John Tyler

Fri 20 Mar

Tennis Club Cheese and
wine. See p22

Sat 21 Mar 10am

"Lace Day"
see this page

Mobile Library Service

Eastlands 11.30 to 11.55
15 Feb, 15 Mar,
18 Apr, 13 May

Parish Council

2 Mar 7.30 pm
Lacey Green Hall.
13 Apr 7.30 pm
Speen Village Hall

Risboro Lacemakers

The Risboro Lacemakers will be holding their Tenth Lace Day on Saturday 21st March from 10 am to 4 pm. Gavand Lace and Crafts, M & D Lace and Liz Norris of Chalkshire Alpacas will be present.

Visitors will be welcome to come and look or to shop.

Our raffle will again be in aid of the Chiltern Air Ambulance.

Visitor admission is 50p.

Jill Baker

Future events at St John's Church

Sun 8th February: Pancake Brunch in the School at 11:15 am

Sat 28th February: Ceilidh in the School. For further details contact Pat Rushmere on 01844 345452

Sat 18th April: Children's Musicals in Church. "Two Short Parables", performed by the young people of the parish. Rehearsals in the Village Hall from 7.00 pm on Fridays 13th Feb, 27th Feb and 13th Mar, as part of Youth Club meetings. Anyone interested in performing, singing, dancing, playing in a group, or helping, please contact Cher Mole 01844 342303

Sun 3rd April: Teddy Bears' picnic and Maypole dancing in the Vicarage Garden after the morning service

Sat 25th April: Progressive Supper

Sat 27th June: Church Fete in the Vicarage Garden

Easter Services at St John's Church

Sun 29th March: Palm Sunday

Mon 30th March 8.00 pm: Compline with Meditation

Tues 31st March 7.00 pm: Agape Supper and Compline

Wed 1st April 8.00 pm: Compline with Meditation

Thurs 2nd April 8.00 pm: Maundy Thursday. Holy Communion followed by stripping the altar

Good Friday 3rd April 2.00 pm: Last hour followed by erection of Cross

Easter Saturday 4th April 6.00 pm: Holy Communion Service - lighting the Easter Candle followed by Wine and Cake

Easter Sunday 5th April 8.00 am and 10.00 am services, and 6.00 pm Choral Evensong

Weekly Schedule Of Activities

| Day | Time | Function | Location |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Every Monday | 2.00 pm | Short Mat Bowls Club | Millennium Hall |
| Every Monday | 6.00 onwards | Karate | Millennium Hall |
| 1st Tuesday of the month | 12.15 pm | Over 50s Pub Lunch Club | Black Horse |
| Every Tuesday morning | Various | Pilates | Millennium Hall |
| Every Wednesday (Apr - Sept) | Evening | Whiteleaf Bowmen | Millennium Hall |
| 1st Wednesday of the month | 7.45 pm | Windmill WI | Millennium Hall |
| 2nd Wednesday of the month | 10.30 am | Happy Wanderers | Millennium Hall |
| 3rd Wednesday of the month | 2.00 pm | Beginners Computer classes | Millennium Hall |
| 4th Wednesday of the month | 2.00 pm | University of the 3rd age | Millennium Hall |
| Every Thursday in term time | 10.00 am | Coffee morning | Millennium Hall |
| Every Thursday in term time | Evening | LG Singers | St John's school |
| Every Thursday (April - Sept) | Evening | Whiteleaf Bowmen | Millennium Hall |
| Alternate Fridays | 7.30 pm | Youth Club | Millennium Hall |
| Every Friday in term time | Various | Kinder Gym | Millennium Hall |
| Last Sunday of the month | 10.30 am | Happy Wanderers | Millennium Hall |

Windmill Artists

On November 1st, Windmill artists held their Annual Exhibition and Bistro in the Village Hall.

This proved to be a very jolly occasion with morning coffee and cake being served, shortly followed by lunch.

The hard work in setting up the hall had been done the previous evening and I would like to thank everyone, especially John and Laura, for their kind help on the Friday evening and the dismembering on Saturday afternoon. We could not do without them!

The caterers did a wonderful job and the afternoon concluded with tea and spectacular cakes! Thank you all for supporting this event and we look forward to seeing you again in 2015.

Stella Boll

National Trust Volunteer Open Day

Hughenden, West Wycombe & Chilterns National Trust

Sat 21st March 10am-1pm Hughenden Manor

All welcome! No need to book.

For more info contact helpingout@nationaltrust.org.uk or call 01494 755573

Woodbyne Fitness Clinic

Every year at Woodbyne Fitness Clinic in Lacey Green, a number of us take on a group challenge to help keep our motivation to train regularly. These have included a number of different activities including 24 hour bike rides, kayaking, road riding, mountain biking, running, trekking, swimming etc.

Last year we took on a mountain biking and kayaking challenge through the Lake District which included a very "exciting" and very turbulent 29km kayak from the north to south tip of Lake Windermere.

This September we crossed from one side of Scotland to the other in a weekend, via running, trekking, mountain biking and kayaking. Some of us have already signed up to go back next September to attempt the same course in just one day. Along the way, we have raised thousands of pounds for various charities.



This year we thought it would be good to add the Movember Challenge to our schedule.

Woodbyne sponsored all those who grew a moustache and fines were imposed on those refusing to do so. Fines were also incurred every time one of us missed a group training session throughout the whole month of November

This has resulted in some pretty ridiculous looking facial hair, but we have raised a healthy £676 for Prostate Cancer. We had a lot of fun both on the events and whilst training for them. Anybody wishing to join us on any of our future group challenges and group training sessions should contact me at paul@woodbyne.co.uk

Paul Johnstone

Windmill WI

At the end of October we hosted the WI Autumn Group Meeting. Members from our local group attended and we had a very pleasant evening with refreshments and a raffle. Mike Beech was our speaker and gave an interesting talk on 'The History of a Victorian Glasshouse'.

For our November meeting we had Val Edwards who gave us a very enlightening talk about the history of Chenies Manor and the gardens. As the Manor is not far from us we are hoping to organise a visit there this year.

At the beginning of December we had our Christmas Party which as usual was great fun. We all enjoyed delicious food and good company. We had our 'Secret Santa' presents and also made our donation to Dreamflight. This is the UK Charity that takes seriously ill children on a holiday of lifetime to Orlando, Florida. We all enjoyed our last meeting of 2014 very much.

In the same week some of our members went to the Oculus Room in Aylesbury for a musical evening. This was a lovely

Christmassy evening with Carols, music from a Silver Band, songs from the Joyful Divas and seasonal readings. Coffee and mince pies added to a very good evening.

We did not have a meeting in January but our first meeting this year will be the 4th February in the Village Hall at 7.45pm. You would be very welcome, we are looking forward to more interesting speakers and outings in 2015.

Ann Bartlett

On The Farm

Last time I mentioned that the dairy industry was once again in dire trouble. As this has even got onto the national news now I am going to leave it at that - except to point out that 60 dairy farmers went out of business in December before 'First Milk' failed to pay its producers in January. How many will go this month?

Meanwhile the farm has been getting on with the winter routine work – on the land if the ground is fit enough (not often). Actually, the first week of January was frosty which did let us take all the dung out. This is heaped in the fields to be spread later in the year. Yes, we do feed our land in this traditional way, and certainly the land on the Chilterns needs all the food it can get. The Winter wheat, sown in the autumn, is up and the oil seed rape has been up some while. It is very vulnerable to pigeon damage. So far the birds have been eating ivy berries and beech mast following last year's bumper crops but the hedgerows are getting sparse now. We can scare the flocks of them off the rape with 'bangers' but they simply move to another site. Left to their own devices they can completely strip a crop.

Otherwise there is the daily routine of running the dairy herd which is all inside now, and checking and feeding the beef cattle who are still out. All animals will have to be rounded up twice next month for the annual T.B. test. So fingers crossed for that. In December we purchased a new Hereford bull. His name is John. Our two bulls Excellency and Frank had to

go because they had got too heavy and were liable to squash the cows. This just cannot be allowed.

I have been compiling photographs taken of the farm since 1934 when John's parents came here. At that time the whole country was depressed including farming. Land was lying abandoned, so it was a risky thing to do. And Dick was not one to take risks. But if farming is in the blood then that is what you have to do.

WW2 helped in a strange way, for food was desperately needed but things didn't alter much until the late fifties, which happened to be when John came home and joined the partnership. Since then there have been enormous changes by way of buildings, husbandry, and technical knowhow.

In 1957, when I came on the scene, the farm had a telephone but it was a shared line with the Black Horse pub. Made for some interesting calls perhaps! Not many houses had even that. It was in the eighties that mobile phones came into their own.

We had 80 acres of land at Terrick, 8 miles away which was continuously planted with wheat. One day was roasting hot and the roads overheated the tyres on the trailers caused frequent punctures. The drivers had to find a phone, usually off a generous householder, but they are few and far between on the road home, past Chequers and through Hampden. A nightmare! At the farm I kept answering the phone calls requesting a new tyre, and jacks to support a trailer

load of corn. Fairly late in the day my heart sank as the phone rang for the eighth time. "Not another puncture?" I said. "No, a wheel has fallen off the trailer" on the bend by the Pink and Lily and the road was blocked with wheat. Not a good day! Lovely weather though! Mobile phones have made such a difference. All the staff carry them and Richard's is always busy.

Every year until John came home from college his parents had had a student who lived with the family. When Gerald Bedford retired, having worked all his life on the farm, we invited them all back for a farewell party. It was good that they had all kept in touch and a compliment to Gerald that they all came. Only one exception who was farming in Ireland, but he phoned in.

However, there is one person I have lost contact with. She came as a schoolgirl before Christmas wanting to work on the farm because she wanted to be a vet. The men laughed, they would never consider a woman vet. We were plucking turkeys at the time. They would tease her and put a really heavy bird on her lap. She managed wonderfully. Our own vet of that time remembers her. Says he was impressed by her. I think she qualified in Ireland and married another vet. I get a card from her every Christmas but I don't know her married name or her address. Can someone put me in touch with Lynn? **Come on Hallmark, do your stuff!!** Incidentally, all the vets that come to us now are women. Interesting isn't it?

Joan West

Windmills Under 5s

The children at Windmills have had a busy and fun-packed half term since I last wrote for Hallmark.

Back in October we had our annual Halloween party, and were delighted to see some of the children who recently started school return to join in the fun. We enjoyed lots of party games, dancing, craft activities and hotdogs, and all went home exhausted! The children looked fantastic in their Halloween costumes. Thank you to all of the parents and staff who helped at the party.

Shortly after this rehearsals for the Christmas play got underway in earnest. Angela and the staff did an amazing job of teaching the children the words and actions to an incredible ten songs, including a very memorable rendition of "Let It Snow" from the film Frozen.

The play itself went without a hitch and I am sure that I speak for many of the parents when I say that there weren't many dry eyes in the house by the end of it. We were delighted to be joined by Reverend Tony, who took on the very important job of drawing the raffle. A huge thank you to Angela, Louisa, Lucy, Annie, Elise and Keely for the enormous amount of work that goes into this very special annual event, which provides the parents with such special memories. Thank you also to Paula who filmed the play, thereby ensuring that those memories will truly be lasting.

The term ended with the Christmas party, this year with fantastic entertainment from

Jenny at Kindergym. The children all thoroughly enjoyed the singing, dancing and party games. We were very lucky that Santa took time out from his busy schedule to join us – thank you Santa!

Just before Christmas we held a very enjoyable pottery painting evening for the parents. Vicky Scoble from Pot-tastic was on hand with helpful hints and tips to ensure that everyone went home with a creation to be proud of. It was a great evening and a lovely chance for some of the mums to catch up and enjoy a glass of wine or two!

Aside from the many Christmas activities, the children have been busy learning all about themselves and what makes them special, including exploring and understanding feelings and emotions. They have also been looking at houses and buildings, and have created some amazing junk models.

We have welcomed three new children to the preschool this term, and welcomed back their families as all have older siblings who have passed through our doors previously.

With the deadline for school applications having just passed, thoughts inevitably turn to the summer and all that the last term at Windmills will involve to prepare our school leavers for "big school". But for now, the



children will be busy creating, learning and having fun with activities based around the themes of food and hobbies. We will shortly begin planning for future fundraising events, including the Summer Fete, which we hope will be bigger and better than last year.

The success of Windmills is entirely due to the amazing job that Angela, Louisa, Lucy, Annie, Elise, Keely and Paula do in creating such a wonderful, caring and nurturing environment for our children, so a huge thank you goes to you all. This success also means that Windmills is once again full. Therefore, if you would like your child to join Windmills, we would recommend that you contact Paula as soon as possible, and she will advise you of the most up to date information about our waiting list.

Victoria Geenes
Chair

The return of the Bull

Mention Lacey Green to anyone within a twenty-mile radius and they will almost certainly say 'Oh yes, where the windmill is'. Yet we also have another, less well-known claim to fame: as far as I know we are the only village in Bucks (and indeed one of just twenty or so in the whole country) where you can try your hand at 'ringing-the-bull'. It is said to be one of the oldest pub games in Britain and the story is that it may even have been brought back from the Holy Land by the crusaders.

The 'bull' is actually a sturdy iron hook set in a plate high on the wall of the Brooke Bar at the Pink and Lily. A copper ring, of the sort normally worn by bulls, hangs on a string from the ceiling and the aim is to stand opposite the bull and swing the ring onto the hook.

Like many apparently simple games there is quite a knack to it: take too wide or too wild a swing and you could clear the ashtrays off the mantelpiece; too straight and the ring will just hit the underside of the hook and bounce off with a clatter. But when you get it just right the ring traces a slender figure-of-eight, turns over at the top and drops lazily onto the hook with a satisfying clunk, like a doorknocker.

Each player has 21 goes. My personal best is a modest 13, but Ken, the landlord in my youth, was in a league of his own. His party piece was to sit on the bench directly beneath the bull, aim at a spot on the ceiling opposite (actually a crater where the plaster had been gouged out by countless hours of practice)

and then send the ring away and back, to land on the hook above his head.

On a frosty winter's evening, after a trudge across the fields or up the Pink Road, it was quite a treat to call in at the Pink for a pint and half an hour's ringing practice, toasted on one side by a permanently blazing log fire and entertained on the other by the little huddle of old boys, many of them ex-bodgers, who gathered there every week to play dominoes. They rarely got up to go to the bar (at that time the passage leading to the bar was just a few feet wide and lined with standing drinkers, so it was like trying to squeeze down a rabbit-hole), and instead preferred to summon the landlord for a refill by just hammering their tankards on the table.

Some time ago, as I'm sure you know, the Pink closed amid

much concern about its future as a pub. When it finally re-opened the bull was still there on the wall but the ring (and the old boys) had gone. I must admit I thought that that would be the end of the story, and of a small piece of our village heritage. In fact I had intended writing this piece as something of an obituary to mourn the passing of the bull. But just today, when I poked my head in, I was surprised and delighted to discover that in response to some gentle lobbying by fellow ringers the ring had reappeared and the game is once again alive and well. So, many congratulations to the new managers (sorry, I don't know your names) for bringing it back. Next time you are passing the Pink why not drop in and help to keep this old village game going by having a go at ringing the bull.

John Tyler



Plenty happening up at The Pink

There has been a lot of action up at The Pink since the autumn. Changes of staff, changes of menu and multiple new events coming up fast! We said goodbye to our first landlady, when Alice Hill decided to depart for pastures – literally as she went back to working with horses!! – new. But we have been incredibly lucky to appoint from within the pub when Jody applied for the manager's job.

Having been in place since October, she has done a fabulous job, particularly through the manically busy Christmas and New Year period!

We will be changing our hugely successful autumn menu for something more spring like in early to mid Feb and Dave has some exciting new options available.

As this is written, we are preparing to host the inaugural and hopefully, annual, Burns Night supper, and we have been lucky enough to sell out this exciting event! The piper is literally due any minute! Next we are looking at a fabulously romantic Valentine's night - obviously on February 14th for those forgetful men amongst the readers. This year it is on a Saturday night so there are really no excuses! Dave the chef has put together an exciting and innovative menu – but it still includes our perennially popular steak so again, no excuses!

Mothering Sunday – March 15th – just a month after Valentine's Day, sold out early last year, so the menu is already up on the website – pink-lily.com, and bookings are coming in thick and fast. All mothers, as we did

last year, will receive a very special gift – indeed it is actually the gift that keeps on giving! So call sooner rather than later to make sure that the mother in your life doesn't miss out.

Jody and the team will be waiting for your calls!

The Pink and Lily 01494 489857.



Gommes Forge reaches the New World.

Long-time village residents will remember Robert and Paddy Bateman who lived in Grymsdyke for many years and supported many village good causes.

They moved to Sacramento, California and have built an imposing entrance to their house. If you look carefully you can see that on each side of the gates is embedded a Gommes Forge fire back!

They say that they would welcome any passing visitors from LG & LR, I can pass on their contact details on request.

Editor



Lacey Green Windmill

In 2014 we had a total of 1,373 visitors inside the windmill, with an average of 47 visitors on each of the 26 afternoons we were open. This was the highest number of visitors we have had since 1996. Naturally the weather has a large effect on the number of people that visit the windmill, with fewer people coming on wet, cold, and very hot days.

However, it is not always predictable as two very wet Bank Holiday Mondays showed in 2014. On 27th May only 4 people visited the windmill, but on the equally wet 25th August we had 31 visitors.

Unusually, on Sunday 10th August I decided not to open because gales were forecast. In the event they were not as bad as they could have been; however that

day there was severe damage around Aylesbury, which is only a few miles away. As windmills can suffer damage in very strong winds, we have to be cautious and I decided to keep closed. All I can then do is fix appropriate notices at the end of the drive, and put a notice on our website to try and make anybody aware before they make a journey to visit us.

I am pleased to say that in early 2014 we had some very welcome new volunteers prepared to help us open the windmill. I gave them a group training session in April, after which they have been very enthusiastically opening the windmill to our visitors. Most of them had at least one session with one of our existing wardens before undertaking a duty on their own.

In 2015, the windmill will re-open on Sunday 3rd May. We will then be open from 2 pm to 5 pm on every Sunday and Bank Holiday until Sunday 27th September. For National Mills Weekend we will be open on Saturday 9th May from 2 pm to 5 pm, and Sunday 10th May from 11 am to 5 pm. The Horts Society will have their usual Plant and Produce stall.

As I reported in the August 2014 Hallmark, we will no longer be letting the wind turn the sails on these special days. This will obviously disappoint some people, but there are other windmills (with far younger machinery) that do turn their sails, and Lacey Green has by far the oldest smock mill machinery to be seen in the country, which we cannot risk damaging.

Mike Highfield: 1933 - 2014

In 1967 Mike Highfield met Christopher Wallis, when they were both looking at the windmill, and Mike became involved in the preliminary work of clearing the site in May 1969.

In 1971 when the project really got started, Mike took his primary role in the restoration work, overseeing the mechanical engineering. The most crucial part was restoring the early 19th century fantail and other machinery that enables over 9 tons of cap to turn automatically, keeping the main sails facing into the wind at all times.

Mike was well suited to that aspect of the work, his greatest interest was engineering, having spent his National Service maintaining Spitfires and Meteor jets. He had a collection of vintage motorcycles and was

highly respected by fellow enthusiasts, manufacturing unavailable spare parts for motorbikes, enabling others to keep their machines running.

With his increasing passion for the restoration of mills, in the 1980s Mike left his career as a Bank Manager, and joined Christopher Wallis in millwrighting.

I worked closely with Mike for 30 years, and he became a good friend. He died suddenly on 27th October 2014, and will be greatly missed by many people, and especially his family. My photo shows Mike repairing the fantail in 2008 when we had to remove it for its first major repair.

With the deaths of Jeff Hawkins in 2001, Christopher Wallis in 2006, and Mike Highfield in 2014, we have lost the original key members of the restoration team,

together with their expertise, and detailed knowledge of how the restoration was achieved.

However we are very clear that our duty now is to preserve the work that these three visionary men started, as it was them that encouraged all their helpers to achieve the near impossible, which has now been seen by the 49,000 visitors who have visited the inside of the windmill in the last 40 years.

Michael G Hardy

See back page for contact details



Lacey Green Productions

Happy New Year to all!

The members of Lacey Green Productions have been officially hibernating for the dark days of winter but are now very much awake again and raring to go!



Plans for 2015 include a new Murder Mystery to be written, as usual, by the cast. And what a cast! It will contain at least 4 previous murderers, any one of whom could be the guilty party for 2015. Or maybe it will be somebody new who looks entirely innocent and who could never, ever do such a thing.

Watch out for posters and publicity for this new Murder Mystery, which should be coming to a stage near you in early summer. In the meanwhile, if you, or your organisation, would like to raise funds by

having a murder mystery evening, LGP will be happy to help you to entertain your audience.

Last November's dinner theatre play, "Harlequinade" by Terence Rattigan was well received and was a financial success. Proceeds from the show will enable us to give away some sizeable donations to our two charities for 2014 - The Princes Centre in Princes Risborough and Helen and Douglas House. Once again, LGP would like to thank all our audiences who have helped us to donate over £55,000 to charities in the past 3 decades.

We have already sent £100 to the St Mary's Church, Aylesbury Community Dinner, which arranges for dinner on Christmas Day for the homeless and needy in the local area. The Christmas Day 2014 lunch was attended by nearly 100 people, all of whom were given a three course lunch and entertainment, served and provided by volunteers.

"Harlequinade" was something of a departure for LGP. It involved some cast members performing in



Elizabethan costumes with the rest in 1940s attire and with one cast member playing 4 roles! We were fortunate to find a magnificent costume hire organisation in South Oxfordshire (Oxfordshire Drama Wardrobe), whose costumes lent superb colour and variety to the play. Some of the attached photos will give you a flavour of the play, which was skilfully directed by Karen Beer, making her directorial debut with LGP.

If you have made a New Year resolution to get out and do more, then why not come and join LGP. We have great fun while putting on plays and would like to see new members joining us. You don't need to have any experience. Come along and give us a try. Contact us through www.laceygreenproductions.co.uk or phone 01844 344207 today. Now is a good time to join.

Peter Brookhouse



County Council News



the Budget debate live as Council meetings are webcast.

The new Bucks County Council Click & Collect Library service was launched on 5th November at the Lacey Green Community Shop. This is a first for a community facility to have this service within the county.

Library members can order a book online and it will be delivered on a Monday to the shop, which is staffed by volunteers, so that it can be collected anytime between 9 am and noon Monday to Friday.

Another year is upon us and at County Hall, we are at the stage of setting budgets for the forthcoming year 2015/16 as well as the Medium Term Plan. Last autumn there was the annual public consultation asking for residents' views on various priorities that they would like to see implemented, as well as options available for potential increases in Council Tax and hence the potential extra revenue that it would generate to fund these priorities.

Amazingly 72% of the residents who responded were in favour of an increase in Council Tax of between 2 and 5%. The Coalition Government has again capped any rise at 2% which means that if the Council sets the tax rise below 2%, we do not need to hold a referendum.

Therefore, proposals are being sought for a 1.99% increase in Council Tax from 1st April 2015, which will go before Council on 12th February. Those of you who have Internet access can follow

I was delighted to fund a laptop from my Community Leaders' Fund for the shop. Now those library members who don't have Internet access can still reserve their books.

I would urge as many local residents to support this initiative as it avoids having to travel to Princes Risborough or High Wycombe for a book. As the saying goes "Use it or lose it".

Here is the link:

<http://buckinghamshire.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/OPAC/BSEARCH>

That is all to report for now, but if there are any other matters relating to Buckinghamshire County Council that you would like raised, please contact me either via email

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

Community Safety

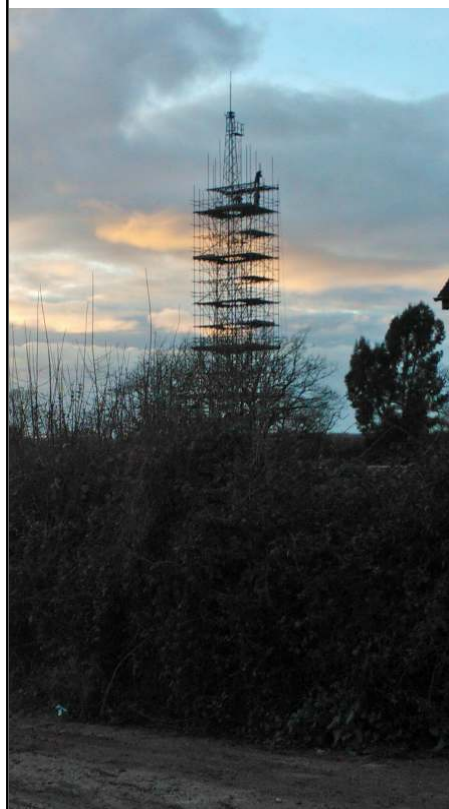
The Wycombe Community Safety Partnership are running an online survey to allow residents to state their priorities to influence the work of the partnership in 2015.

The survey is open until Feb 20 and can be found at <http://weblink.wycombe.gov.uk/Surveys/CS1415/communitysafety1415.htm>

Editor

Greenlands Transmission Tower

Eyesore or landmark? Perhaps it was both of the above, but the tower in Greenlands is no longer there. The photo shows it scaffolded before demolition in December.



Happy Wanderers

Another year over and the last walk of many end-of-the-month enjoyable mornings spent with very friendly and enthusiastic people whilst exploring local, and not so local, walks and a variety of eating places, some of whom are keen for us to return!

The last walk started at the Village Hall in Lacey Green and on a beautiful morning, with a band of walkers increased by friends and families, we set off around Church Lane and gradually descended into Smalldean Lane in single file. The track took us across the lane and into the woods below Strike Command with some lovely views back across the valley. Avoiding the two aircraft sited at the entrance of Strike Command

we walked back to Lacey Green, avoiding the traffic by taking a parallel path through the fields.

The whole object of the exercise was really to work up an appetite for the delicious mulled wine and mince pies which were on offer at Ronnie and Liz Lewin's house where they had very generously offered to entertain the whole Society. The row of walking boots outside their front door was worth a photograph! It was good to see ex-members and shortwalkers all joining in on this occasion with



everyone looking forward to 2015.

Note: The Happy Wanderers AGM will be held on Sunday, 22 February 2015, at 10.30 am in the Village Hall, Lacey Green, and welcomes all current and any prospective members.

Liz Southon

Black Horse

Well you wait and prepare for months then in a flash it is over. Many hours worked, long days and long nights filled with Christmas parties and drinkers. What a Christmas it was. A really good one, it was like old times which was a really good thing. My staff worked many hours and I thank them all for that. We were open on Christmas day for lunchtime drinks. It was nice to see all our locals and friends and for the first time ever one of my staff Beth said she would work for me on Christmas Lunch so I was able to mingle with friends. We then sat down about 5 for our Christmas meal. Open again Boxing Day with a full house.

New Year's Eve started with the children's disco. It was nice to see so many new faces and lots

of children. Then it carried on to the main New Year's Eve party, the last people left about 3 am.

I hear that there was many a headache on New Year's Day, put it this way, not many people came to the survivors party. A big thank you to Sam Oakford for doing the disco all night and John Jones and James Whip for the use and set up of equipment.

Next venue was our Christmas Party which went really well. We had a couple of hiccups to begin with - so to the staff that were unable to come, next year is waiting, and hopefully everybody will be able to join in. For those who came, what a night: the noodle bar was a little bit of a disaster, but the Adult Pantomime was great as usual.

Then we went back to The Black Horse where Hannah and Kirsty did party games and Martin did the bar. When we arrived back to the pub Colin Schofield was there so he had to do the games, I didn't know you could get so many marshmallows in a mouth and say fluffy bunny after everyone. You learn something every day.

We are now getting sorted for Burns Night on the 24th January. Breakfasts are now available again so come and try one. The first Tuesday of the month we are closed for breakfasts. Congratulations to Abby and Jasper on the birth of their new baby. We also like to welcome the new Vicar and his family to Lacey Green. **Ian and Lynne wish everybody a really good 2015**

Horticultural Society

The horticultural society continues to go from strength to strength with more new members who demonstrated their horticultural credentials at the annual show in September and their social inclinations at our pumpkin supper!

A wonderful three course meal was served to nearly 70 members in November, they also enjoyed a quiz and the grand pumpkin weigh in. Running true to form the largest beast took two heavies to carry it into the hall. This pumpkin belonged to Liz Philips from Stocken Farm and she maintains a long winning streak for the heaviest pumpkins grown in our villages.

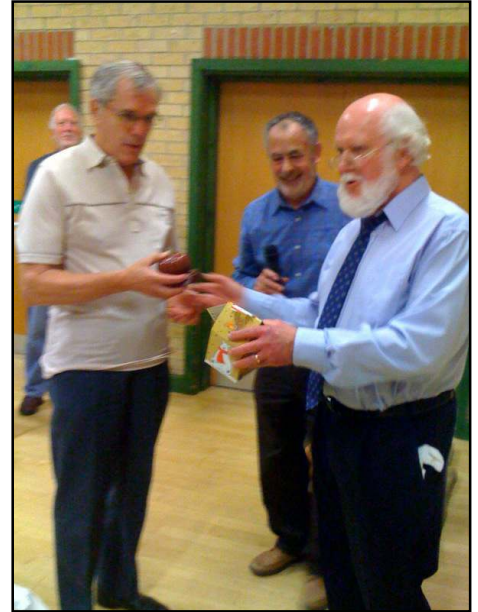
Our January talk was one postponed from last year. *Best of British* took us on a tour of architectural treasures and other eclectic places of interest throughout the UK. These included Lord Pirbright's Hall in Surrey, the Wensleydale Cheese

Factory and to the surprise of one of our members, his large display of tin plate toy trains at Alexandra Palace in 2012!

The village website has a good array of photographs of the annual show which was a very high standard this year with good numbers of entries. The show schedule for next year will come out in the next edition of Hallmark and will be available on the web site.

Now is the time to start planning your gardening and sowing seeds, so let your imagination run riot and have a go at entering one of the categories for flowers, fruit or vegetables. We also have a photographic class as well for those of you who don't have green fingers.

The web site also has details of the programme of speakers and we look forward to seeing you at one of our evening events. The programme is very varied and we



try and include something for everyone. Even if you are not a member you are welcome as a visitor if there is anything you fancy.

Look out for our plant sale on National Mills Day and do check the web site for details of the programme for the year.

Alison Shreeve
Chairman

National Trust Volunteer Open Day on 21st March, 10am - 1pm at Hughenden Manor.

Do you feel passionate about heritage? Are you a keen gardener or do you enjoy working outdoors? Do you like meeting people and chatting to them? If the answer is yes to any of the above, you should consider becoming a National Trust volunteer. The Hughenden, West Wycombe and Chiltern property group of the National Trust are holding an Open Day.

Whether your interest lies with history, gardening, helping with events or the countryside, we have the right volunteering opportunity for you. It is a great

way to make new friends, learn new skills or to develop new interests. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers for a variety of roles such as room guides for Hughenden Manor, the home of Victorian Prime Minister and author Benjamin Disraeli and the secret location for WW2 British map making.

We also look after West Wycombe Park, one of the finest Palladian Houses in the country which is open to the public during the summer months. Volunteers help maintain the extensive gardens at Hughenden

and are developing the Walled Garden as a lesson in sustainable gardening.

We also care for 3,000 acres of stunning Chilterns countryside, including West Wycombe and Coombe Hill. Why not come along on the 21st to find out more, meet some of the team and have a look around. We'll even throw in some tea and biscuits. No need to book, just turn up on the day. Alternatively, if you would like some further info, contact helpingout@nationaltrust.org.uk or call 01494 755573.

Tennis Club

We had a fabulous time at the Whip for our Christmas meal in early December. 24 members came along and we were served an excellent 3 course festive menu. The beer and wine were certainly flowing particularly down the men's end, and by the end of the meal a trip had been arranged to go to the La Manga Club in Spain. I went away thinking it was just the beer talking and by next week it will be a distant memory. But no, I was completely wrong, and a trip has been organised for 4 nights in late May! Watch out Rafael Nadal, David Ferrer et al, Lacey Green Tennis Club is broadening its horizons!

Back at base, we have been working hard to significantly improve the facilities of the club. During November we received a £1,500 grant from Wycombe District Council and a £10,000 interest free loan from Bucks Lawn Tennis Association. In January, we heard that the Bucks LTA would also contribute 50% of the total costs of buying and installing a new shed for our equipment. This is all very welcome news as the club needs some major investment over the next few years. During 2015, at a very minimum, we hope to



erect a new shed and re-surface court 1 together with its surrounding fencing. We also have some further exciting plans which we hope to announce over the next few months. Watch this space!

To aid this capital expenditure, we are once again having a **cheese and wine night on Friday 20th March** at the Sports Club. This proved very popular last year, and the format will be broadly similar with some unusual cheeses for you to sample. This event is open to non-members and a ticket purchase will entitle you and your family to a £10 discount off tennis subscriptions in 2015. If you would like to purchase a

ticket please email: Laceygreentennis@gmail.com or alternatively see Caroline Johnston at the school gates.

And finally, we have been working hard on our policies and procedures (the boring stuff!) to obtain "Tennismark". This is awarded by the LTA to clubs that are delivering quality tennis development and operating in line with best practice. In the local area, only Princes Risborough Tennis Club has achieved it, and Lacey Green is now very close to being awarded it too. Benefits include increased membership, raised profile and most importantly at the moment – more funding opportunities!

Nigel Glenister

Princes Centre

For those who are not familiar with the facility, The Princes Centre provides day care provision for adults with learning and physical disabilities, mental health issues and the elderly. We have a team of highly qualified paid staff caring for all our clients.

Various activities are provided daily such as pottery classes, swimming and gardening. There is a café where clients can have a hot lunch Monday to Friday and transport is available for those who require it. So, if you have a relative or friend who would perhaps enjoy more social

interaction with others, a regular hot meal and quality care in a safe environment, or for more information please either telephone Kim Challinor on 01844 345105 or email kim@princescentre.org.uk.

Youth Club

On January 16th there were 60 youngsters at Youth Club, which has been going now since 2009. They are surprisingly well behaved and polite; and generally just charge around making their own fun or use the equipment we provide; or engage in kitchen or other artistic activities. Equipment has to be got out, carefully erected and subsequently put away again with usually a clean-up.

We started with fourteen adult leaders and are now down to six. This may sound adequate but there are activities in the kitchen, and meeting room, and gatherings in the entrance hall as well as the main hall; in warmer weather they also use the car park and we also run a tuck-shop. If something happens that requires investigation and or first aid, fortunately rare, then those leaders can't keep watch.

Watching is essential as I'm sure you know. Youngsters don't see danger or potential for harm and they can get up to mischief ranging from raiding the others' toilets to bullying, again rare.

Full credit to parents who have done a very good basic job as I have yet to have one youngster answer back or be rude although I sometimes have to be firm to motivate them.

Leaders are sometimes absent, so a pool of people is necessary which we don't have. Some parents (**thank you**) do volunteer, and if they all took a turn they would only have to do it once in a year and increase our numbers by at least two. Better though if we have people who become



leaders because there is quite an admin job in arranging parents.

Youth Club is fortnightly 7.30 – 9 (7.10– 9.20 for leaders) and every other week does take the pressure off leaders. Not sure – just turn up and give it a try. Or

contact Jenny Stothard or myself via the website

<http://www.laceygreen.com/Sections/index.php#youth> or by phone – numbers on page 41.

Leigh Axe



St John's School

Autumn Term was the usual busy one for St John's with our traditional highlights of the Christmas Fayre, parties, carols and of course the Christmas play. The report below was written by two children from Year 6.

Spring Term started with some good news:

2014 Primary Schools Performance Tables

We were delighted to receive a letter from the Minister of State for Schools, congratulating us on our Key Stage 2 test results in 2014. Thanks to all the staff and pupils who worked so hard to achieve a fantastic set of results and to the parents who supported them.

Charity Fundraising

Every year our Pupil Council adopts two charities and a series of fundraising events are planned to support them. This year, Key

Stage 2 has chosen Cancer Research and the first event, a pyjama day was held on Friday 16th January. Children came to school in a variety of colourful nightwear and were fined £1 for not wearing school uniform. Almost £170 was raised by the event and classes are now planning their own fundraising activities for later in the term.

World Religions Theme Day

To celebrate World Religion Day, we held a special theme day on Monday 19th January. Each class found out about a different world religion and enjoyed activities to help them understand some of the stories or features of that religion. Some lovely artwork was produced and this will be on display in our hall shortly.

Future Events

Music and sport play an important part in school life and

much preparation is taking place for events being held later this term.

Year 6 are preparing for the Amersham Music Festival and Year 5 will be representing St John's at a concert to be held at the Royal Albert Hall in March. Mrs Insley, our music teacher, is working them very hard and always achieves an amazing standard of performance from the children.

A number of sporting tournaments and activities are taking place this term and the children are already in training. The annual Cross County event at Monks Risborough comes first at the beginning of February followed by Basketball and Netball Competitions. Good luck to all our teams!

Jo Rodbourne

Deputy Head Teacher

(see also page 29)

The 2014 St John's School Play

This year the performance was Aladdin. Everyone would agree that it was a tremendous success.

It all started when Mrs Thomas and Mr Barnes ran through the script with the Year 6 classes. Many people had a go at playing some of the characters; then came the auditions.

Surprisingly just 3 people auditioned for the part of Aladdin! Only a few people got shortlisted for the part they wanted; however, for the students that managed to be selected the nerves started building up...

Finally, the day came when the actors found out who were going to get the main parts.

A proportion of the students had to bow their heads in shame and be a dancer, although in true pantomime style, boys were happy to dress as girls and girls took the roles of boys. Even for those lucky few with speaking parts, challenges lay ahead...

Surprisingly, rehearsals were much more of a toll than any of us would have expected. At the start there were some shaky voices but the more we practiced the more confident everybody got.

Mrs Insley was a star on the musical side and Mrs Thomas was the star on the acting side. Mr Barnes was a great help with both sides of the performance.

At last, the show day arrived (cast A on the 16th and cast B on the 18th). The choir sang their hearts out and the main characters exceeded all expectations! Cast B were no different!

Overall, the school put on an amazing performance!

**Will Chapman and
Kieran Cranley**

People of Note: Gavin Mole

I've just met the ball of energy that is Lacey Green's answer to Gareth Malone!

Gavin is a musical powerhouse with an impressive range of musical projects on the go at any time.

He is a long-term Singing Coach at RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts), teaching students how to sing and perform. He has also worked in the West End theatres for over 25 years leading the orchestra in shows like Chicago.

He is famous in the music industry and last year when RADA celebrated its 60th anniversary, Gavin was invited to Buckingham Palace to play for the Queen and for the great and the good of the theatrical world.

Gavin also works for RADA Enterprises, raising funds for RADA from commercial events across Europe by entertaining businessmen and celebrities. One of his favourite corporate events is when he is engaged to do team building for a team of business managers. Like Gareth Malone in the TV show "The Choir" Gavin takes a business team for the afternoon and forms them into a choir and teaches them to sing a song.

You can imagine how difficult this must be as most of us are very nervous and embarrassed when asked to sing in public. However Gavin's energy and enthusiasm win through, and by the end of the day he has them all singing together as a group and enjoying themselves.



Gavin has also worked with musical charities taking travelling shows into old people's homes, day centres, prisons and other public places, bringing music to those who cannot get out to public performances.

His next venture is a trip to the Philippines to teach drama students about how Shakespeare used song and to help them put together a performance of "The Tempest".

Gavin also has various other commercial ventures on the go. Along with a friend he has a business called Writers of Note where they write and record original music and musical exercises for children.

Also if you are a practising singer and need an instrumental backing track for you to sing along to, Gavin can record a piano backing track for you. On his Internet web site at practicetracks.co.uk you can find over 1,000 tracks that Gavin has already published, or you can

commission him to record a track specially for you.

Finally he has a sideline in staging musical cabarets starring singers that he has worked with during his years on Chicago.

Sometimes he takes over a London theatre for a night and other times uses a more local venue. If you are looking for a different experience to take your beloved to this Valentine's Night then go along to Missenden Abbey where Gavin will be accompanying the famous singer Anita Louise Combe presenting a musical cabaret of well known songs. (See the Missenden Abbey web site for details).

Gavin is supported by a musical family - Cher is well known in the village for her piano lessons and as being the St John's Church organist, whilst their son Tom is much in demand for his fantastic singing voice.

Mike Piercy

Princes Trust fund raising

Your local community-run Princes Centre has experienced a very promising start to the New Year.

The collection at the funeral of Peter Robinson, who was a highly valued trustee and is much missed by the clients and staff, reached a fantastic £2,300, and as a large number of donations were Gift Aided, will ultimately raise around £3,000.

During December we received donations from the Monks Risborough Parochial Charity and the Princes Risborough Charity. Many other donations have been received from client's families, and friends of the Centre. The trustees, staff and clients are all very grateful for this wonderful support which will bring us a little

closer to getting some major refurbishment works arranged for the main hall.

Many willing volunteers stepped in to assist with the bucket collection outside Tesco last month and this raised £727, which will increase to £873 once Gift Aid is claimed.

Many thanks to all the people who gave their time to help and also to the ever-generous public who dug into their pockets for us.

The Christmas Pantomime, performed by the clients with much support from members of staff, was very hilarious and much enjoyed by everyone who saw it, and raised a total of £450.

We are extremely fortunate in that a member of the Fundraising Committee and his friend have quietly done some plastering and painting repair work in the entrance hall. There are some wonderful people in our locality and if anyone would like to offer support in any way, they would be most welcome. The trustees would be particularly interested to hear from anyone who has experience in making grant applications, who may be able to spare a few hours to help.

Once again, many thanks to all our supporters and if you wish to donate, to support your local Day Centre, you can donate on line by visiting www.princescentre.org.uk,

Maggie Wooster

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TRAVEL

St John's School Parents Association

It was on a gloomy autumn night that the new committee was voted in. The task ahead of us was daunting; last year's committee are a tough act to follow.

The Parents' Association really serves two purposes. We organise events that bring parents, governors, pupils and staff together, and we raise funds for the school. The latter needs our support; it is poorly funded by the government.

We are very proud of the school at the heart of our community. On 6th January David Laws MP wrote to the head teacher Mrs Grimsey to congratulate the school for having Key Stage 2 results in the top 149 schools in the country.

The highlights of the latter part of last year included the Christmas Fayre which was enjoyed by the kids and parents alike and managed to raise £ 3,256 .

Further festive fundraisers included children's and adults' discos and Christmas card sales, which raised a further £2,085.

We have agreed with the school that in 2015 the main fundraising effort will be in aid of new computer equipment for the benefit of the children and staff. We are delighted to announce that Richard Crook, a parent, has secured a grant of just over £5,000 from his employer RBS, to contribute to this project.

Upcoming fundraisers include a pampering evening for tired mums on 3rd February, a circus to be held on school grounds on

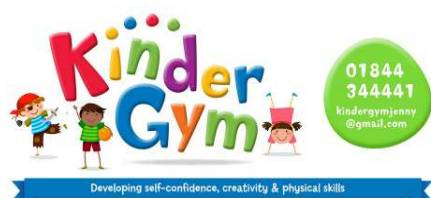
9th June (we hope the whole village will come and support this) and our big event, the Summer Ball on 4th July.

A further initiative is to set up an old members' association, to unite all those who have passed through the school, and to broaden the support network for the school to help it to prosper in the future. If you went to St John's school or its predecessor, or know of any one who did, please contact Ed Mueller (edwardmueller5@googlemail.com; 01844 342048)

Finally, I would say that anyone who wants to donate or contribute to the PA is cordially encouraged to contact me.

Rebecca Evans

Chair (07799 268953)



Christmas seems very far off now. As you can see the children were very helpful dressing up for our "I know a man with a bright red hat" song – No prizes for guessing who he is!

In some classes Mums bravely volunteered. I am not sure there was much resemblance, even with the "long white beard", but hopefully it helped the younger children get used to the idea of a man in red clothes and a white beard popping up all over the place, let alone down chimneys, and "watching you when you are sleeping".

We have lots of new little ones in our Kindergym and music classes .

Watching the other children, exploring all the equipment and learning to trust the Kindergym ladies are all important steps to increased confidence, physical and social development and being able to relax and have fun!!

Perhaps , as parents we can forget that these early years can be such fun for Mums and Dads as well as the children. (That's when you're getting enough sleep of course!!)

Pancake workshops will be taking place during half term. 10 am – 11.30 am. Monday Thame, Tuesday Chinnor, Wednesday Monks Risborough, Friday



Lacey Green. Aimed at children 1 yr – 6 yrs, but siblings always welcome.

Parents' pancake tossing competition, children's pancake race, plenty of pancakes to eat as well as toys, Kindergym equipment and Pancake Songs!!

Jenny Stothard

District Council News

As outlined in the last edition of Hallmark, there is a great deal of activity in the District with many developments taking place in and around High Wycombe. Other than to report that all projects are on schedule and budget and to perhaps state the obvious that there is more visible evidence of progress, for example where the new NEXT Homestore is being built at Cressex, I have no news in this edition of further developments.

Thank you to all residents who took part in the 2014 Residents Survey, the results of which have now been published. As may be expected, there is a mixed picture, depending to a large degree on the extent to which respondents use Council services.

There are some encouraging signs: overall satisfaction with the way the Council operates has risen to 59%, which is a 16% increase since 2009, although only 1% higher than the last survey in 2012. There has been a significant increase in the feeling that the Council provides value for money, rising to 51% of respondents from 43% in 2012, and 73% felt that the Council is doing a good job given the tough financial climate.

Whilst some specific services such as recycling, have improved satisfaction, other areas such as Planning, Building Control and Car Parks have decreased satisfaction.

The Car Parks result could have been predicted due to the implementation of ANPR – which in addition to being something new and different has experienced teething problems. It is recognised that more work is needed to make residents comfortable with this new system and various other elements of WDC service provision.

The survey report is available on the WDC website and provides more details which you may find interesting. I encourage you to take a look and feel free to contact me if you have any queries. It is worth noting (and probably not a surprise to many) that there is some confusion over who provides various services. Concern over the state of the roads, public transport, health provision and education have been mentioned and inevitably impact the results. However none of these are WDC responsibilities. This is an ongoing issue which is not easily resolved!

As Cabinet Member for Finance for WDC I am taking a recommendation to Council on February 26th that for the fifth year in succession, the Wycombe element of Council Tax should be frozen.

Depending on when you read this edition of Hallmark and subject of course to acceptance of this recommendation, I would like to believe that this is regarded as good news for and by residents; particularly as core Council services have been maintained and in some cases, improved.



In the last issue of Hallmark, I referred to Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and some implementation issues at Horn Lane in Princes Risborough.

Although not in my ward, I am undertaking a specific review of the problems with the service providers, Veripark, and am confident that solutions to the residual operational issues can be identified and implemented within the next few weeks.

It is encouraging to note that performance at the other WDC car parks employing ANPR is now becoming much better in both operational and perception of the benefits of the system.

Mel Foster

mel_foster@wycombe.gov.uk

01494 488905

Westminster calling

Apprenticeships

We've recently had some good news on the local economy, with unemployment in the constituency down to less than 700 – an unemployment rate of 1.1%. I know from talking to people who are out of work how unemployment doesn't just limit your income but can sap your morale and self-respect, so more people in work is very welcome indeed.

But when I look at the scale of global competition and the pace and scale of technological change, I know that we can't remotely afford to be complacent.

One key priority must be to ensure that our workforce has the education and skills that employers will need if they are going to be able to compete with the best in the world. And here again there are encouraging signs locally. In Britain, we've always had institutions renowned for academic excellence, but we've never pulled off the trick that Germany has managed and created an equivalent, first-class system of vocational and

technical education. While there is a long way yet to go, I'm now seeing encouraging signs of change. When I visit schools, more students are talking about an apprenticeship not as a fall-back position but as a deliberate and positive choice.

The government, employers and training providers have been very focused not just on creating more apprenticeships (like tax breaks for small firms that take on an apprentice) but also on improving their quality.

Locally, I'm seeing institutions like Aylesbury College and Bucks University Technical College focused on driving up standards of vocational education. I felt inspired after a visit to Stokenchurch company ProspectSoft, which has won national awards for the quality of its programmes for work placement students.

Telecomms improvements

Alongside good education and training, we need the right infrastructure for employment.

For rural businesses, that has to include access to decent broadband and mobile phone networks.

The government has got the big mobile operators to agree £5 billion of improvements to mobile infrastructure by 2017, halving the number of areas blighted by patchy coverage and getting full coverage by all four big operators up from 69% to 85% of geographic areas in the next two years.

On broadband, the target is to reach 95% coverage of super-fast broadband by 2017 and £10 million spending on pilot projects to explore options for the final five per cent hard-to-reach premises.

I'm keen to work with village businesses and community groups to ensure that villages like Lacey Green and Speen – and indeed the more isolated farms and hamlets – are fully included in the digital revolution.

David Lidington MP



Visit to ProspectSoft



Visit to Bucks apprenticeship scheme "Going For Gold"

Finance Matters

There is a time bomb ticking away for employers.

Auto Enrolment (AE) has been introduced to all employers whereby they will have to provide a Workplace Pension Scheme by 2018. AE means that employees will automatically be enrolled in the pension scheme. The date from which the company must have a scheme in force, or your “staging date”, depends on the number of employees in the company. Larger companies started contributing from October 2012 with the very smallest due by April 2017. Basically if you employ people – you have to have a pension scheme in force.

Contributions will increase for the employer and employee so that by October 2018 a total of 8% of salary is being paid into the employee’s pot.

So, as a company you may already be aware of your staging date which may seem a long way off. Well firstly the company will require at least 18 months lead in time to comply with all

the requirements. Please do not underestimate the time and work required to get to the staging date. For example there are certain communications that must go out to ALL staff whether they are eligible for AE or not. You may also need to update employee contracts, handbooks and induction materials to mirror the new legislation. Furthermore opt out (for employees who don’t want to join the pension scheme) communications must be sent within specific time frames and this must be recorded. Ongoing communications are required for employees who become eligible through age or salary and also those that cease to be eligible.

“Ah” you say, “my company has a pension scheme in force already”. Good but is it AE compliant? In other words does it meet all mandatory requirements, especially as the maximum annual management charge will be 0.75% p.a? So what is the charge imposed by your existing scheme provider?

Currently there are about 40,000 companies are going through AE and this increases to 400,000 and then to 800,000 over the next 3 years. As you can imagine some providers are already at capacity so please plan in advance to ensure you meet the staging date deadline.

AE won’t go away. Failure to comply can result in large fines for employers and the Pension Regulator has been very clear that where necessary they will ensure compliance and act accordingly if an employers breach the requirements.

As independent financial advisers The Spectrum Partnership, we specialise in AE and we can manage the whole process for you or just selected parts – you choose. For an initial no obligation discussion please contact me, Stephen Wilkinson email Stephen@tsp-llp.co.uk or 07785 955457

Figures sourced from The Pensions Regulator – employer staging forecast.

Indoor Short-mat bowling

We are looking for new members. We chat while we exercise. You have to bend, walk and carry weights albeit not very

heavy. You also have to think, the way we play knowing when it’s your turn can be problematic. Isn’t this all supposed to be good for longevity.

After this 2-3 hour work-out there is no guarantee you will live longer but it should put life in your years.

Disabled – the rules allow you to sit and

bowl or even use a launcher. For those that can’t bend we have a tool that extends your reach to pick up the bowls. So no excuses, this is good for you.

We meet every Monday afternoon at 2pm in the Village Hall – come and give it a go with no obligation to come again – you will need footwear that hasn’t been worn outside or just socks.

Leigh Axe





What happens at meetings?

Have you ever attended a Parish Council meeting? You can do so and we set aside 10 minutes before the formal start of the meeting for visitors to speak if they so wish. After that, visitors can usually stay for the rest of the meeting, but cannot then speak.

The meetings are organised with a fairly standard agenda, and mainly require decisions regarding actions to be taken. You won't usually find any explanation for the decisions, and the meetings do not usually include significant debate. One reason for this is to ensure that the meetings last no longer than 2 hours. Minutes of the meetings are published on the Council's website, but there is not a verbatim record of what was actually said.

Planning

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee for planning applications within the parish boundary. It takes a rather formal stance and avoids making extraneous comments. Planning applications are approved or disallowed according to planning rules and guidelines, although it is sometimes rather hard to know exactly what these rules are!

There is some attempt to prevent the worst horrors being produced. The Village Design Statement is sometimes referred to in planning applications or in comments from consultees. Its influence is unknown.

There have been applications recently for new buildings to be fitted into available spaces between existing properties. This is commonly referred to as 'infilling', and does at least have the merit of not using virgin land. The Council would not necessarily object to such applications, although it is aware that there are often objections from nearby residents. There is probably a general dislike of the practice.

One recent application has been approved despite several objections. The size of the proposed development occupies most of the site producing a high density construction with little space around it. Some parking spaces, but no garages were provided, and any extra vehicles would have to be parked on the roadside adjacent to the property. The area is already congested with existing vehicles. Increased on-road parking does not appear to be a reason for rejecting an application.

Most planning applications are delegated to planning officers, with a small proportion being referred to the planning committee. This process can have interesting consequences if there is a second application following initial refusal, due to changes in the make up of the committee. The decision of one committee might be changed by a later committee. This happened in the case of one property in our Parish, and there are surely other instances.

Traffic and parking

In 1969, Lacey Green was a remote quiet village. There was very little traffic, and not much in the way of speed restrictions. We did have artics delivering to the chicken packers in Loosley Row – they drove up Foundry Lane from the A4010, and never got stuck. Quite impressive. Now, the volume of traffic has increased enormously.

It is quite tricky travelling into Princes Risborough via Wardrobes Lane. Now one is likely to meet two or three vehicles coming the other way, which can be a bit of a problem.

A knock on effect is the increased amount of on-road parking. It isn't quite as bad here as, say, Castlefield in High Wycombe, or Stratton Road in Princes Risborough where you have a hard time driving along the roads, due to the number of parked vehicles. But you can see it happening in Greenlands and in Lower Road. What sometimes makes the situation worse is the proximity of two vehicles one on either side of the road. A contributory cause is the lack of sufficient parking space for new developments.

There is a lot of material available on-line with regard to parking that is worth a look.

Please note that these are my views that are being expressed, and not necessarily those of the collective council.

Cllr Tony Molesworth

St John's Church



Christmas at St. John's

This has been a wonderful Christmas for us at St. John's. During the many services, we have experienced the true peace and joy of the season.

The efforts of many of the church family have contributed enormously to the beauty of the church and the special words and music. Preparations started well in advance, and we thank those who cleaned and polished, provided candles and flowers, and erected our beautiful crib.

The services began with the Advent Carols and a few weeks later, we enjoyed a splendid traditional Nine Lessons and Carols. The choir stalls were packed. Cher Mole, our new organist and choir leader, had put in an immense amount of work to produce a service of which she can feel very proud.

On Christmas Eve, the Crib service was full of children dressed as characters from the Nativity story. How lovely it was to hear them all singing "Away in a Manger".

It was the first time that a camel and a donkey had been part of the choir! As always, Midnight Mass was a most magical occasion. The music was enhanced by a solo "O Holy Night" by Catherine Goode, and the much loved "In the Bleak Midwinter", with verses by Amy Stothard and Tom Mole.

Tom featured again at the Epiphany Service on Jan. 6th, with a beautiful rendition of "The Three Kings". This was followed by an Epiphany party, with "left over food", donated by the choir, and a treasure hunt for gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Attendance at all the Christmas services was excellent, even on Christmas morning. We hope that visitors will be encouraged to come again.

At all of the services, we were particularly delighted to have so many men singing in the choir. They bring a special warmth and fullness to the singing. We are also blessed with amazing junior choristers; all absolutely wonderful, but a special mention must go to Jessica Eden, who sang the first verse of "Once in Royal".

Bringing all of this together, and organising and encouraging, was our new vicar, Rev. Canon Tony Bundock. His first Christmas with us has been amazing. We all thank him very much, and look forward to new challenges in the future.

Pat Richards

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

10.30am 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.

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

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 26 Summerleys Road PR.

Please do come and experience the warm welcome in our lovely Church.

Heavenly Bodies

Forgive me being so direct, but what are you doing on the morning of Friday March 20? Cancel it, whatever you have planned. You could be watching one of the greatest (partial!) spectacles in the Solar System.

Before all that, from now through April, you'll be treated to views of our hottest and largest planets. Look west after sunset and you'll see a very bright white blob of light. That's the seething 460°C second rock from the Sun, Venus. It's in its "evening star" role and is the brightest thing in the night sky except for the Moon. On the evening of February 21, Venus will appear right next to Mars which will be dimmer but visible (especially in binoculars).

Over the next few weeks, it will climb higher in the sky as it orbits the Sun on the diagonal from where we look from Earth. It'll start at around 130 million miles from us on the far side of its orbit, getting nearer as it swings around the Sun towards us to be about the same distance as the Sun from us (93 million miles) by the end of April. Venus then

reaches its nearest point to us over the summer when it will be just 26 million miles away.

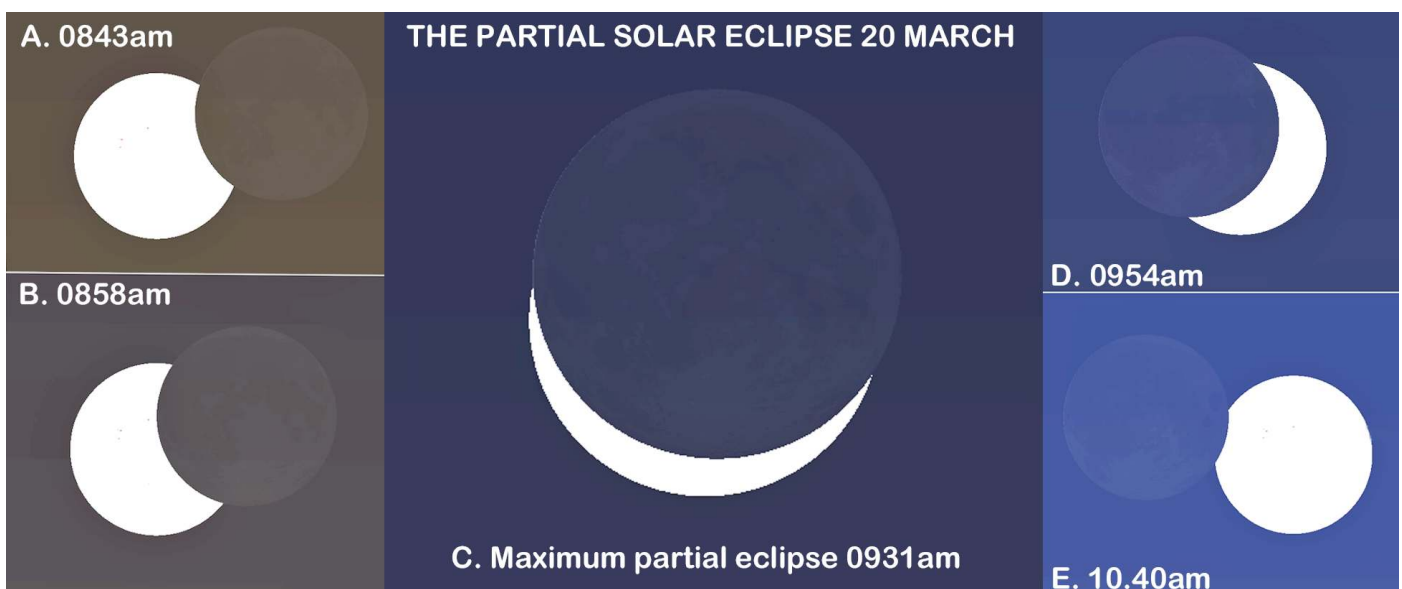
Look in the opposite direction when it's dark, and another bright dot in the sky will beam down on you. That's Jupiter, our largest planet, which will remain just under 500,000,000 (half a billion) miles away over the coming months. Though they may look about the same size in the sky, Venus is about the same size as Earth, but Jupiter could swallow 1,500 Earths. Because Venus is much nearer than Jupiter, they appear about the same size to the naked eye.

Now to our morning of Friday March 20 (the Spring Equinox). You may have heard that there will be a Total Solar Eclipse when the Moon blocks out the Sun. The total eclipse's shadow falls on the Faroe Islands and Svalbard, but we in Britain get to see more than 80% of the Sun "eaten" by the Moon. But DO NOT look at the Sun directly even when it is partially covered as it will still be bright enough to blind you.

The partial eclipse starts at 8.25 am, with the maximum partial eclipse at 9.31 am (see diagram for what it will look like and times).

An easy and safe way to see the event is with two pieces of thick A4 white card or two large paper plates. Put a very small hole in the centre of one piece of card (with a compass needle or similar). Point the pinhole card at the Sun (it's in line when the card's shadow is at its smallest), and then hold the other piece of "screen" card a couple of feet behind it until you see the white disc of the Sun focused with its edges sharp and not blurred (move the second piece of card nearer or further away to achieve focus). It may need two people to do this, or you can clamp the pinhole card onto something that holds it steady. It's a good idea to have a practice before the eclipse day itself. Now hope it won't be cloudy...

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 | | Carl Etholen | 01494 564771 | cetholenn@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, 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

Open Monday and Thursday 9.00 to 12.00

LACEY GREEN STORES

Village Hall 9.00 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)

Sue D'Arcy (Secretary),
Yvonne Axe (Treasurer),
Karen Hodgton (Booking Sec.),
Chris Baker, Leigh Axe,
Stella Boll, Jane Brown,
Cathryn Davies, Bette Tyler
Ginnie Brudenell,

LACEY GREEN WINDMILL

In 2015 Lacey Green Windmill will be open from 2 pm to 5 pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays from Sunday 3rd May to Sunday 27th September. Admission is £2 per adult and £1 per child aged from 5 to 15. For further information see www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk or telephone Michael or Betty Hardy on 01844 275871.

For National Mills Weekend, the windmill will be open on Saturday 9th May (2 pm to 5 pm) and Sunday 10th May (11 am to 5 pm). On Sunday the Village's Horticultural Society will also have their Plant and Produce stall by the windmill, which will also open at 11 am.

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CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE MAY EDITION

April 17th 2015