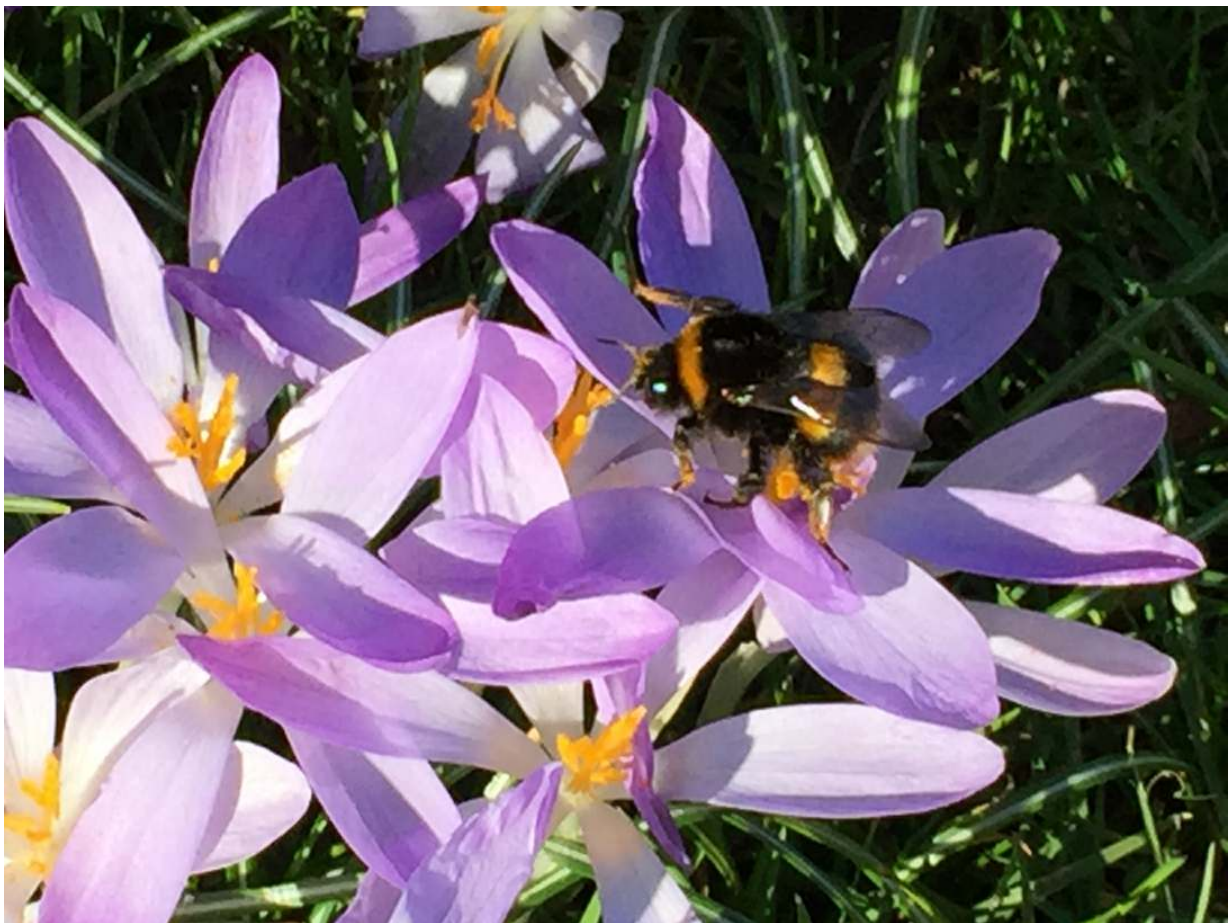


HALLMARK

The Lacey Green and Loosley Row Magazine



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Welcome to the February edition of Hallmark

Though Winter has come very late this year we seem to be suffering the blues - the What's On section is very quiet. Perhaps people are staying in to avoid the mud. In fact the main activity in my letterbox relates to the subject of parking!

On a more somber note we have tributes to two village stalwarts - Dennis Claydon who was a Councillor for many years and

Graham Carter who was the publican at the Black Horse many years ago.

There are also multiple references to the plans to build a vast amount of homes in the Risborough area - get involved with the Local Plan and have your say.

Mike Piercy
Editor



Letters to the Editor

A plea for an end to pavement parking

There are few things more irritating for pedestrians than having their progress along a pavement impeded by a parked vehicle. What goes through the mind of a driver who does this?

Do they imagine that it makes it easier for other vehicles to pass their car? It doesn't. Do they assume that their car will be

safer? It won't; if anything it might be less safe, particularly when at the mercy of an aggravated pedestrian!

If they think that their car is more valuable than the safety of pedestrians and pushchair-borne youngsters, they are both spectacularly wrong and unimaginably selfish.

Residents of Lacey Green and Loosley Row should not only conduct themselves properly and considerately, but should also impress upon their visitors the importance of parking in the road and not on the pavement.

Jamie Buchanan

The Psychology of the Driver

Write an article on good driving and who reads it - the good drivers because they want to be good. Others who think they are good, don't believe they need to.

We have a problem with speed through the village, especially round the bend near the Village Hall. We also have a problem with parking on the pavement.

Pavement parking is an issue for those who need walking aids, or parents with children in

pushchairs. They need more room to get through. It is not right that they have to walk in the road because a car is on the pavement especially near that bend.

So why do drivers park on the pavement? As a driver I find it inconvenient to have to keep slowing or stopping for parked cars to allow traffic through from the opposite direction.

Perhaps then I might be trying to reduce other's inconvenience.

There might also be an element of reducing my cars' vulnerability to being hit by another. Two things might be derived from this:

- Start thinking like a pedestrian when parking
- Stop parking on the pavement and you will reduce the speeding.

Leigh Axe

What's On

Fri 19 Feb 10am

Kinder Gym Pancake Day

Sat 12 March

WI Jumble Sale

Village Hall

Wed 16 Mar 8 pm

Horts Club AGM

Talk on Wild Orchids

Sat 19 March 10am

Risboro Lace Makers

Village Hall

Fri 15 April

**Tennis Club Cheese &
Wine evening**

Risboro Lacemakers

Will be holding their 11th Annual Lace Day on Saturday 19th March in the Village Hall from 10 am to 4 pm. Traders will be selling various items for lacemakers and general craftspeople. Visitors are welcome, the admission charge is 50p which will be added to the contribution we make annually to the Chiltern Air Ambulance.

Jill Baker

Tell us of your forthcoming events and we will advertise them here...

Parish Council

7 Mar 7.30 Lacey Green

11 Apr 7.00 Speen

Mobile Library

Eastlands 11.30 to 11.55

17 Feb, 16 Mar

More letters to the Editor

We were delighted to read John's fascinating feature on our local hedges. It was most interesting. May we add a few additional pieces of information for the next edition about The Black Hedge which runs along the north eastern border of our home, Lily Farm, past both its garden and our two fields bordering Monkton Wood .

We have always understood that the word "black" explains that it was originally a blackthorn hedge. Very little blackthorn is left because the beech trees of the Hampden Estate have subsequently overawed the less dominating blackthorn.

My late father, Gordon Home FSA. Scot, artist and

topographical author, states in his book illustrated by his own line drawings, "Through the Chilterns to the Fens", J.M.Dent 1925, that the Black Hedge was the original parish boundary separating the parishes of Princes and Monks Risborough and that it was recorded in the Anglo Saxon Charter in about AD 975. This would make it one of the earliest recorded hedges in England.

Today the mound on which the blackthorns were planted and the ditch from which the soil was extracted is still in evidence all along the pedestrian footpath that runs from Iron Beech Cottage , on the edge of Grimsdyke, to the boundary of Speen.

It is remarkable that the mound and ditch are still so well preserved . Indeed it is important that all readers of Hallmark are aware of this and that the story is relayed to our children and to their children, We hope that this postscript to John Tyler's thoughtful article will be of yet further interest. Finally we believe we are correct in stating that the parish boundary is from time to time beaten in the traditional way. If not, perhaps it should be, to create yet greater awareness locally.

Sincerely,

**Gospatric and
Diana Home**

St John's School

Musical Theme

During the last week of the half term, the whole school took part in a very successful 'Theme Week' based on a piece of music from Westside Story. Classes interpreted the music in different ways and produced a varied range of responses.

Miss O'Donnell from The Princes Risborough School ran a series of dance workshops for Key Stage Two classes and Key Stage One children also produced expressive dances under the guidance of Mrs Clark. Some wonderful artwork was produced across the school and DT, Food Technology, Science, English, Maths and ICT were also covered in cross curricula themes.

Visitors to the exhibition of work, were very complimentary and everyone enjoyed seeing what the children had produced. The music certainly inspired everyone to be creative as you can see from our pictures.

Year 5 designed briefcases for secret agents while Year 6 made a New York skyline in mixed media.



Remembrance

The whole school attended a very memorable Remembrance Service at St John's Church today. Contributions to the service were made by the children including a song, 'Where The Tanks Roll By,' sung by Years 5 & 6 and prayers

written by Year 2 pupils. Children from Year 2 also made a wreath which was laid during the service. A representative from the Royal Air Force also laid a wreath and read the poem, 'In Flanders' Fields.'

One of the most moving parts of the service was the 'Last Post,' led by Mr Button, and played by Raphael, Dominic and Kani. Well done boys, you played beautifully!

Christmas Baubles

Reception and KS1 proudly present their Christmas production of Baubles. Set at a school, very similar to St John's. A caretaker works hard to ensure the forgotten school Christmas tree is decorated with a selection of Baubles that tell the nativity story.



Peter Pan

This year, the Middle School performed a very adapted and localised variation of the story of Peter Pan. As usual, we included cheesy rhymes; a handsome hero; a pantomime dame; a love story; some boys dressed as girls; and of course, a dancing horse!

The narrators of our story were two fairies called Tinker and Belle. They introduced the tale of Wendy and her brothers preparing for Christmas. To try and calm her excitable brothers down, Wendy tells her brothers a story she wrote in her writing journal. She describes a faraway land where there are some 'lost boys' and a

Red Indian tribe who are being terrorised by the evil Captain Hook and his band of pirates.

The children travel beyond the stars to Neverland and they tell the 'lost boys' all about Christmas and Lacey Green. Meanwhile Captain Hook arrives and threatens the boys and Wendy. Peter Pan, our handsome hero, challenges Hook and threatens to recall the crocodile who ate his hand. Captain Hook is undeterred and calls for his pirates to help.

After a very strange encounter with the Red Indian chief and a drunken sailor called Smee, there is a battle and Peter Pan loses; in true panto style, there is of course a happy ending!

Christingles

In Key Stage 1 the children got together to make Christingle oranges and in the afternoon went to visit the church where they lit their candles and held their own special Christingle service. Years 3 and 4 made some beautiful books re-telling the Christmas story and in year 5 they spent the day working on projects related to peace at Christmas time. In year 6



they prepared for their special end of term carol service and produced some beautiful Christmas art. A lovely day was had by all.

St John's School

1934: “Lacey Green sentenced to death”

It was New Year in 1934 when Lacey Green hit the headlines in the national newspapers. It was a notoriety that the village did not want, for Fleet Street proclaimed that seven people had died over the Christmas period because of the pollution of water supplies during the drought.

The facts pointed that way because six villagers had died over Christmas and another soon afterwards and there was a severe drought in this part of Bucks.

But the seven people had died through natural causes and in any case they were aged 82, 81 three just under 70 and one 60; true one man had died in his thirties but he had had pneumonia. Although there was

a drought Lacey Green had plenty of water in its tanks.

A Bucks Free Press reporter toured the “village of death” and found the inhabitants indignant at the Fleet Street stories for there was no serious water shortage at Lacey Green, nor Loosley Row. Many villagers still opposed the water scheme being urged upon them by Wycombe Rural District Council because the rain water that ran off their roofs and into the tanks, their sole source of supply, was pure when drawn as any they would wish to drink.

The local merchant Mr. George Floyd, who at 70 could still lift a sack of coal like the next man, stated, “My mother and father drank water from the same tank for 70 years and they lived until they were 95.”

The water from the tanks was crystal clear, and Lacey Green might well be described as an oasis in a land of drought. Most tanks in the village were full up. And so they were at Loosley Row. It was just a coincidence that so many villagers had died within such a short time.

The Free Press discovered that no one was in favour of the new water supply.

Was it because they would be charged for the “new fangled” tap water or just resistance to change? No matter. Piped water was laid on to the villages in 1934 and life was never the same again.

It is difficult to imagine a school where the children had to get a drink of water from the pub opposite and at home your



water was from an underground tank with a pump on top, and don't forget to keep some water back to “prime” the pump, not to mention keeping your gutters clean. And your privy was down the garden with its one, two, even three, seater.

Are you or do you know someone 81/82 years old? This was in their lifetime.

To find out more about water in these hills go to our website to discover:-

19th century: The Enclosures of Princes Risborough 1823. See Public Ponds (their positions and uses) Water Access pre 1934.

20th century "When Fleet Street Sentenced Lacey Green to Death 1934". The complete version of this article.

How water was brought to the villages, more about “keech” ponds, proper wells, severe droughts and suicides. Personal recollections regarding water.

Lacey Green History Group

<http://www.laceygreen.com/Sections/History/twentyeth.php>



Horticultural Society

Since the last edition of Hallmark the society has enjoyed a number of activities and talks. Perhaps the most exciting of these being our annual Pumpkin Supper and Social evening (at least as far as satisfying all the senses is concerned!).

The committee worked tirelessly to produce a three course meal with a Middle Eastern theme. Many people helped to make it a great success, providing desserts, their company of course and a lively social atmosphere.

To build up the competitive spirit we awarded prizes to expert pumpkin growers and to teams who completed the quiz. We all enjoyed it tremendously and I would personally like to thank everyone who took part, but

particularly the committee, who are all excellent cooks!

We are nearing our AGM on March 11th with a talk on South Africa with slides by Stan McCabe, which promises to be excellent.

Further talks and activities for the year to come are also planned and include our usual sale of plants in conjunction with National Mills Day on 15th May, a composting demonstration on 18th May and a trip to Longstock Park Nursery and Water Garden.

The committee are always open to suggestions for activities and would love to hear from you. We welcome everyone whether your interest in gardens is practical or theoretical. Just come along to one of the evening talks or contact one of the committee for further

details. Look out for posters reminding you about our events as visitors are welcome too.

As this is the society's 35th anniversary year we are also in the midst of planning a Pig Roast for 10th July, so watch this space as we would like to invite everyone from the village, whether you are a member or not. Further details will be available at the AGM and we will update the village website with details of how to book a place and what to expect.

Don't forget that this is the beginning of the growing season, so get sowing and planting and a Happy New Horticultural Year to you all!

Alison Shreeve
Chairman

Pumpkin Supper

We are so privileged to live in these two lovely villages that I sometimes think we don't appreciate the amazing people who work their socks off to make it as good as it is. This was born out at the Pumpkin Supper which is held every year to celebrate the end of the growing year and to admire the pumpkins grown by members of the Horticultural Society.

It all began a few years ago when a competition to see who could grow the biggest, smartest, most beautiful, smallest, and most ugly pumpkins from a very little plant in a pot handed out to members in May.

Through the summer, members tended their plants and fought battles with slugs and snails, drought, and difficult weather conditions until finally Autumn arrived and the proud competitors

were ready to exhibit their best efforts.

It seemed such a shame to just bring them along to the October meeting, it didn't appear to demonstrate the enormous effort, time and loving care that had gone into the creation of these, in some cases quite considerable, golden orbs! One or two arrive on stretchers they are so large. Some clever person on the Committee had the bright idea that the pumpkins required a 'supper' to celebrate their beauty and largeness!

So the Pumpkin Supper was devised by the Committee, this incredibly jolly, energetic crowd of fantastic cooks and gardeners who enthusiastically run the Society with immense good humour and enthusiasm. They produce a delicious meal, full of surprises.

Marvellous dishes appear looking so appetising and smelling wonderful; there is something for everyone, it's all entirely yummy and the wine's good too. And that's before the puddings, the variety is so great, that it's hard to choose and there's cheese and biscuits for those who haven't a sweet tooth! So with coffee to follow and a quiz and a raffle, quite honestly what more could anyone want.

I would like to congratulate the whole Committee for the way they run this event and I recommend the Horticultural Society to anyone in the village who likes to garden, or even doesn't know how to, who would like to enjoy village life and some jolly company, and you might even find yourself growing a pumpkin!

Ginnie Brudenell

School Music Pavilion Opens



In the past few issues of Hallmark we have been following the progress of the architecture students based at Grymsdyke Farm designing and building a new innovative music pavilion at the school.

The project is an ongoing collaboration between Clementine Blakemore and the community of Lacey Green, that began as Clementine's final thesis project at the Royal College of Art where she gained her Masters in Architecture this summer.

The project was selected to be exhibited at the Sustain RCA show, as part of the London Design Festival back in September... and ended up winning an award in the 'Visionary Process' category!

I am delighted to report that the main structure is now complete and on January 8th the school held a ceremony to open the building. The current structure is roofed and has a lovely wooden floor but the sides are open to the elements.

The next stage, through next summer, will be to design and build the walls and furniture to complete the building. We also recently received the great news that Phase Two of the project (it's enclosure as an interior space) has won a RIBA McAslan bursary to fund the stage 2 work.

Full details can be found at <http://wrkshp.org/lacey-green/> And its associated blog.



Editor

Happy Wanders Walking Group

The Happy Wanderers walking group set off to Alresford for their annual weekend away in early October. The Swan Hotel in Alresford, Hampshire, was completely taken over by us. Just down the road from the hotel is the Watercress Line Steam Railway and the town's lovely "Millennium Walk".

Many of the group enjoyed the nostalgic trip on the train before embarking on the town walk.

The following morning some of the group did the longer and very challenging circular walk, starting



a few miles away in Selborne, which boasts the Gilbert White museum and 2 lovely pubs! Gilbert White was a local parson, a pioneering naturalist and ornithologist. The walk, although steep, gave us beautiful views after we had climbed the initial long and steep zig-zag path constructed by him up to Selborne Common.

The walk, estimated at 5 miles, was nearer 7 miles and we became increasingly wet as the rain continued to fall but were in good spirits as we approach the pub, just in time for lunch. Others of the group visited Jane Austen's House – highly recommended.

We all met up for the evening meals and breakfasts in the hotel.

Alresford is a very pretty village and there is much to see and do in the surrounding area, including



National Trust places and Winchester. If you have never visited this particular area of Hampshire I would highly recommend that you do.

The Happy Wanderers are a really friendly group and we welcome new members. Please come and try one of our monthly Sunday walks, Contact Liz Lewin on 274961.

Edie Radford

Christmas Walk

The Happy Wanderers are a tough bunch, but the post Christmas walk was a challenge for everyone. Not only had we all had ten days of feasting to contend with but the weather was quite the worst we have had for sometime, and there were hills too.

Twenty or so hearty souls met at Lacey Green Village Hall for a

shorter than usual walk; we never expect our members to do the usual four or five miles after the Christmas/New Year marathon. So we set off to follow the local footpaths from Lacey Green to the very lowest part of Loosley Row at College Farm, before returning uphill via Collins Farm and Loosley Hill.

In pouring rain this was quite far enough for most people and they

returned to their cars before joining Ginnie and Roger Brudenell at Loosley House for mulled wine and mince pies.

Most members were really glad to get in the dry and warm to socialise for a while before either going to The Whip or The Black Horse for lunch.

Ginnie Brudenell

Little Kingshill Walk

For those of you who have visited Mongolia, our walk would have reminded you of the terrain captured by Genghis Khan in the 13th Century. A dozen brave Happy Wanderers fought against the thin cold cutting wind blowing across the Little Kingshill plain.

The low white hazy sun lit up the slimy brown mud as the intrepid nomads battled towards their goal. The Mongolian scene was confirmed when out of the mist appeared a Mongolian yurt and thirty alpacas coming to greet us.

Soon the end of our walk came into view. Within a few moments

we were in the warm surroundings of the Full Moon public house enjoying a roast lunch and wondering if it had all been a dream!

Ronnie and Liz Lewin



Last December the Parish Council met and set the Budget and Precept for the next financial year 2016/17 which starts in April, and runs until the end of March 2017.

This means requests for grants, donations, loans etc. for and by local organisations for the next financial year have now been allocated and no others can be considered.

However, if any organization in the parish is considering requesting financial help, you need to know that the request has to be in writing, and accompanied by a copy of the current year's financial accounts. The sooner the request is made, the better, so often the request arrives, with no accompanying accounts, so there is a delay in the response.

However, the council is only able to make loans, grants or donations when the budget is set in the Autumn for the following year. So requests for the financial year 2017/18 can be sent in any time up to November this year.

We have opted as a council to take up the 'devolved services' plan offered by WDC, which means that they pay us a sum to do the work they would have done in the past, such as grass cutting, the cleaning of road signs, maintenance of footpaths

etc. In effect it means the work is done by our maintenance team when WE want it done and to a better standard than that done by WDC!

As the maintenance team we use (and pay for) is also the Risborough Town Council team, we are able to take advantage of a highly skilled workforce for a sensible cost, when it is required and which we hope is appreciated by residents!

We currently have two new councillors, Ed Mulcahy living in and representing Lacey Green and Philip Suter who resides in and represents Speen.

The new councillors will be undertaking several training sessions provided by BALC, the Bucks Association of Local Councils. These training sessions cover a wide variety of topics which are essential to new councillors to help them become familiar with the running of the council: financial issues, legal requirements, insurance, what we can and cannot do as representatives of the electorate, planning issues and playground safety for example!

The full complement of councillors for the parish is seven, and, with the sad death of Dennis Claydon, another vacancy has occurred.

New regulations regarding Burial and Interment of Ashes in the Lacey Green Garden of Rest are at the moment being prepared and will be displayed in the Garden of Rest in due course.

A number of Speen residents concerned about speeding in the village attended the Parish Council meeting in November. They learned that any action has to be initiated and run by the residents, with monitoring of traffic speeds using Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) done in conjunction with the District Councillor and Thames Valley police (TVP).

The residents have since formed themselves into an action group, headed by Shelley Jennings. The first speed checks with PC Lee Turnham will be taking place on the 22nd of this month. Persistent offenders receive a letter from TVP! You have been warned!!

The new Sports Centre has opened at Handy Cross, and WDC residents can obtain a concession membership card which enables large discounts on the facilities available. Please look on the WDC website for details.

Cllr Miv Hughes

Ted Janes 90th Birthday

Just before Christmas many long-term villagers got together in the Village Hall to celebrate Ted Janes' 90th birthday and 70th wedding anniversary.

Rosemary Mortham and friends had arranged a wonderful tea with a superb selection of savoury and sweet snacks (see photo below).

Tony Smart gave a speech recalling the highlights of Ted's work in the village, Ted then spoke himself, looking back on his life and his contribution to the community.

Ted was born and brought up in Speen until the Second World War. After the war he worked as a miner in the Derbyshire coal fields - this was the grounding of his strong socialist convictions, which stay with him today. He was Chairman of the Wycombe Constituency Labour Party for many years and was a magistrate at Aylesbury court.

On his return to Lacey Green he was elected to the Parish Council and soon became Chairman - a post he held for 27 years. When his children were growing up he was persuaded to take over running the Youth Club when no other leader could be found.

The Youth Club role took him into contact with the Village Hall committee who were worried by the exuberance of the kids. At the Hall AGM he was elected as Chairman of the Village Hall - a post he held for 33 years.

Ted has been instrumental in the setting up of many village societies including the Happy Wanderers and the Horticultural Society and started up the biennial Village Days. He was very active in the Twinning Association and acted as a figurehead to work with the Mayor of Hambye.

Ted and Jean also started and ran this magazine "Hallmark" which he edited for 22 years. He and Jean produced many issues on their kitchen table.

These notes are taken from the History Group section on notable people and families. You can find the full text at <http://www.laceygreen.com/Sections/History/people.php#Janes>

Editor



Windmill WI

At the beginning of October we had Mr Maycock talking to us about brass rubbings. This was really interesting and after his talk we all got very involved in doing our own brass rubbings. Also this month we had our Jumble Sale which raises money for us to have good speakers at our meetings.

We hosted the Village Hall Quiz which as usual was a successful and enjoyable evening. We were able to send £260 to the Village Hall for their funds. Thanks to everyone who helped and congratulations to this year's winners, the Lacey Green Singers.

Some of our members went to the Autumn Group Meeting at Flackwell Heath and enjoyed Mary Fortenza talking about 'Women'. Our institute won the art and craft competition with a miniture garden celebrating the Centenary of the WI. Three of our members (pictured) also planted spring bulbs in the Village Hall gardens to celebrate the WI Centenary.

Lacey Green Singers

After the Christmas and New Year break, it is always a joy to be singing again and 2016 is proving to be a year of change for the Lacey Green Singers.

Not only do we have a new venue for our Thursday evening rehearsals but we also welcome our new musical director, James Woodhall. James and his wife live in Loosley Row where he is a full-time music teacher, a director of a variety of choirs, and a pianist and composer.

His work has been performed in the Festival Hall, the Wycombe Swan and the Stables Theatre,

In November our speaker was Mrs Christine Nisbet talking about the Wycombe Homeless. This was a very moving talk about people who had lost their homes. We decided to support them at our December meeting.

We then had our AGM, our President Pat Richards and the committee stay the same. Also in November some of our members helped with the Church Christmas Bazaar running the Tombola which is always a big success.

Our only meeting in December was our Christmas Meeting. This is always an enjoyable evening. We were greeted with a glass of wine then we had caterers who served us a delicious meal. There was a Secret Santa and a draw for two bursaries. Our chosen charity for the year was the Thames Valley Air Ambulance and we also had a box in the hall for donations of good clean clothing for the Wycombe Homeless.

Milton Keynes, as well as in schools around the country.

The first week in January was our opportunity to begin a programme, chosen by James, which reflects the musical heritage of the British Isles; in the year when the nation will celebrate the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II it seems rather appropriate.

The choir enjoyed two hours of three-part harmony singing of the Howard Goodall version of *The Lord is my Shepherd* (readers will recognise it as *The Vicar of Dibley* theme) and also a



After our meal we were entertained by a musical duo called 'Anything Goes', Lesley Morris and Keith Harris. We had heard them before and thoroughly enjoyed their songs and carols. This rounded off a lovely evening for our last meeting of the year.

We meet again on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at 7.45 pm in Lacey Green Village Hall. We enjoy good speakers, lovely outings and good company, if you would like to join us you would be very welcome.

Ann Bartlett

beautiful arrangement of *Danny Boy*. With the wonderful acoustics in St John's Church providing an added dimension to the singing, our first evening was heralded as a great success by our members as well as our new MD!

If you would like to join us, you can contact us by email at laceygreensingers@hotmail.com or simply come along to St John's Church on Thursday evenings at 7.45 where you will receive a very warm welcome from your community choir.

Alan Lewis

A Tribute to Dennis Claydon



Dennis was born on 28th October 1942 in the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury. He always said that meant he was 'not Lacey Green born and bred', but he was certainly a Lacey Green man at heart.

His mother, Crisilla Hickman was from Turnip End and his father, William Joseph Claydon ('Joe') was one of six brothers who lived in Kiln Cottage (now known as Kiln Barn). Dennis' parents were Sunday School teachers at the Primitive Methodist Church, Lacey Green and Dennis had recently completed a book on the History of Methodism in Lacey Green, which can be found on the History Group website. Dennis said that his interest in history was sparked by talking to Miss Mabel Janes, a teacher at Lacey Green school - a near neighbour who lived at White House Farm.

Dennis' mother died in 1947 when he was just five years old and in 1952 his father married Evangeline Harber.

At Hatters Lane School, Dennis suffered a bad accident in the playground and dislocated his hip: this was treated at Oxford, where he was in traction for a

long time. Dennis was in the scouts and Lacey Green vicarage garage served as a scout hut. Here he would have met one of his life-long friends, Gordon May. Later, interested in cricket, but unable to actively participate because of the earlier injury, he became a score keeper for the local cricket club.

Dennis' career was spent entirely at Whiteleaf Furniture, Princes Risborough, finally as a Progressor, supervising and checking orders, retiring early after developing Deep Vein Thrombosis.

All his life, Dennis attended Lacey Green Methodist Church, where children were expected to go to the three Sunday services. He was taught to play the organ there by Mrs Kathleen Church and when the Methodist Church closed, often played at Naphill. Dennis was an accomplished organist.

A highlight of his life was in 1968 when he became '*Bard of Lacey Green*' on winning a poetry competition. Dennis was a very talented artist and several of drawings appeared on the covers of Hallmark.

Dennis also served on the Parish Council for over 25 years, much of the time as Deputy Chairman.

It is believed he was one of the founder members of the Princes Risborough Heritage Society.

In 1971 Dennis and Joan West worked on local history and in 2008, together with Rosemary Mortham, formed the History Group, since adding more members.

A number of exhibitions have been held since, including a large event at the school and with friends, Douglas Tilbury and Gordon May, a 'virtual tour' of the history of properties and occupants over the years, together with the invaluable technical assistance of Leigh Axe.

More recently, Dennis and Rita Probert researched and documented details of all local men who lost their lives during World War 1 and together, last year, compiled files for the Wedding Exhibition in St John's Church.

About three years ago, Dennis developed an untreatable cancer, but carried on with his work as historian and Parish Councillor for as long as he was able. He spent a few weeks in the Sue Ryder Hospice, Nettlebed and later in the Shelburne Nursing Home, High Wycombe, where he passed away on Friday, 13th November 2015.

Dennis was a very private person and few realised just how much he did for the community or how talented he was. We in the History Group feel proud to have worked with Dennis and grateful that we have been able to preserve many of his memories and research for future generations. Dennis will be sadly missed by us all.

The History Group

A further tribute from the Parish Council is on page 20

Black Horse Tribute to Graham Carter



It was a really sad time at the end of 2015 when we lost a special friend and ex landlord of the Black Horse Lacey Green.

Husband to Janet, dad to Amanda and Mark, and grandad to Wills and Sam; I have known Graham for many years as we

both lived in Chinnor and then of course I came to the Black Horse. When I took the pub over I didn't realise that Graham had been the landlord as well.

Graham loved his cricket and golf and tried to play golf until he was unable to do so and watch as many games of cricket as he could. Even when he was unwell he would get Janet to drive him up to the sports centre and he would sit in the car and watch the game. He used to play crib for me for many years and was my vice-captain for many of them.

When he was the landlord of the Black Horse he started the Black Horse golf society which is still going strong today with many members. We have had many a good night in the pub with Graham; he came to most of our

functions, Burns Nights, New Year's Eves etc. A great quiz player as well; if we had a quiz it was a really good thing if you had Graham on your team. In fact his own words, when I was in his team were "oh my god we have got Lynne". Just proves how good I was!!!!!! And how pleased he was at having me in it. He also used to do the questions with Janet if our quiz master was away.

Graham with Janet also did a lot of fund raising for charities: Air Ambulance and the Millennium Village Hall Lacey Green to name a couple.

Graham was a true gentleman and a good friend with a lively sense of humour who will be missed but never forgotten.

Lynne

Parish Council Tribute to Dennis Claydon

It was with great sadness that Lacey Green Parish Council heard that Dennis Claydon, the councillor representing Lacey Green, had sadly passed away on the 13th November 2015 aged 73.

Dennis had been a member of the Parish Council since 1984 and was a valued member until his death. His breadth of knowledge of the villages of Speen, Loosley Row and Lacey Green (the villages forming Lacey Green Parish) was invaluable to the Council. His input will be very much missed at future meetings.

Dennis was a keen walker and was often seen walking the

footpaths of all three villages. He was very proud of the footpaths and bridleways in the parish and liked to ensure they were well maintained for others to enjoy.

Dennis was on the planning sub-committee for the council and he knew almost every house and property in the parish. His knowledge was extensive and he could recall at any time relevant facts relating to individual properties.

Dennis put a lot of time, effort and great pride into turning what was formally the Methodist Cemetery, behind the Chapel, into a non-denominational 'Garden of Rest' for the parish. Following the purchase of the

burial ground for the parish, Dennis was instrumental, along with former custodians, in retaining the war memorials which had been built into the entrance gates of the Chapel. They placed them in the new memorial, built to a design idea of his in the Garden of Rest, as a dedication to all those men from the village who gave their lives during war.

Drawing, another of his talents, will always serve as a reminder of Dennis because his image of Lacey Green Windmill is on the Chairman's Chain of Office, worn at every Council meeting.

Cllr Roger Craft

Tennis Club



We had a fantastic turnout for the Christmas Dinner at the Pink & Lily in early December. Thirty five members were treated to an excellent festive meal and it was a great opportunity for both new and old members to catch up in a cordial and relaxed atmosphere.

Whilst the evening was a success, the same couldn't be said for the club's official photographer. He was seen wandering round with a pint in one hand and camera in the other. Never a happy combination when the latter was set to manual. Rest assured, the chairman has had a quiet word with himself and is confident this will not happen again!

With the very poor weather recently, there has been little opportunity to play any consistent group tennis. In the men's winter league we have struggled with injuries, availability and better competition after being promoted last season.

Currently we sit just above the bottom having played half our games. Hopefully 2016 will be more fruitful.

Our £30,000 spending spree in 2015 has left the club temporarily impecunious, so this year will be a period of consolidation with the emphasis being on encouraging more group tennis and friendly tournaments.

Cardio Tennis- non-members as well!

Last year we introduced cardio tennis and it was a great success. It is a fun, group activity featuring drills to give players of all abilities and ages a high-energy workout. Supported by music and a qualified instructor, participants get to hit lots of balls and have a great cardio workout.

This year we are going to open it to non-members as well and it will run from May to July. For more information, just type "LTA cardio tennis" into your search engine. You don't need any previous tennis experience to participate.

St Johns

We are very keen to get more juniors on the courts and would like to expand our after school club to years 1-3, as well as a separate session for the older children. Last summer this worked really well, and with our new facilities we are confident the children will have an even better experience this year.

For existing members we want to organise more friendly tournaments on Sunday afternoons as well as a few junior competitions. If there is sufficient interest, our head coach is also considering offering some "rusty racket" sessions either on a Tuesday morning or Saturday morning.

Off the courts, we will be offering a number of social nights during the year, the first one being our annual cheese and wine evening on Friday 15 April. Anyone have David Bailey on speed dial?

Nigel Glenister



Black Horse

2016 is here - another year. As you get older the years seem to fly past so quick. What happened for the Black Horse in 2015?

Many things, too many to mention I think as I will end up boring you to tears. The Good, The Bad and The Sad.

We will start with the good; we celebrated 20 years at the Black Horse in December. Such a long time, but a time I have loved in Lacey Green. Many friends have been made and many laughs have been had. I feel part of the community here now though people say I still have not lived here long enough to say that. It is so nice to be able to walk down the road and say Hi to most people and know them all.

We had a really good Christmas this year, it was really busy and it was nice to see some of the Christmas parties from years ago coming back to us.

I took all my staff to the Kings Head at Stokenchurch for our Christmas party; what a night, can't say much more than that. I think they say what happens at a firm's party stays there.



We had so much fun and danced the night away. It was a good place to go as my youngest of staff to my oldest could all go, I think there were 24 of us.

New Year's Eve was a blast, we did the children's disco from 6.30, it was so busy, never seen so many children. Then it was adult time till early hours in the morning. I got to bed at 3.30 knowing I was fully booked for New Year's Day, not a great feeling. The survivors party was a little thin on the ground on New Year's day - just a few hardy people. A big thank you to Sam who did the disco all night for me, John Jones for the loan of his

equipment, Dean for the pizzas and all my customers because without them it wouldn't have happened. Ian became a granddad again a grandson called Tait. And not forgetting that Lauren came back to work for me. Thank you Lauren for telling me to put that in, as if I had forgotten.

The bad was all about ill health but that's all getting sorted, so enough said. The sad, the loss of two very special men, Graham Carter an ex landlord of the Black Horse and a dear friend and George Goodey father of a very good friend of mine Lisa. He was a really lovely man and will be missed greatly. Also the loss of Ted Mines who has lived in Lacey Green for many, many years and is known by many people.

I would like this opportunity to end my chat to say a GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL MY LOYAL STAFF AND CUSTOMERS AS WITHOUT YOU WE WOULD NOT HAVE A BLACK HORSE AND I HOPE 2016 IS A GOOD YEAR FOR YOU ALL.



Lynne

Lacey Green Productions

The village hall was full, the conversations were meaningful, the food and wine were consumed and LGP took their audience "Around the World in 80 Minutes".

Our end of November show took everybody on a somewhat incredible journey around the world, during which they sang "Frere Jacques" as a round, gavotted Greek style to "Zorba's Dance", played the Plato Game (which is, incidentally, a LGP registered trademark) and wished everybody a very early, very merry Christmas!

The show included appearances by French tarts, Italian Mafiosi, opera singers, Hawaii Five O wannabes, a lunatic marathon runner and finally Father Christmas with Rudolph. The photos do not lie.

All this plus raising money for our 2015 charities. With your help, LGP have now sent the profits from 2015 to our three charities. The details are as follows:

- £675 to "Educate for Life"- a charity which has built a school and community centre in a remote farming village in India. Details at www.educateforlife.org.uk
- £675 to "Focus"- a charity which provides support to families and children at Saunderton Lodge Hostel. Details at www.bucksvoice.net/focussaunderton/services
- £100 to the St Mary's Church, Aylesbury Free Christmas Lunch, which provides lunch and entertainment on

Christmas day for the homeless and lonely in the Aylesbury area. Details at www.freechristmasdinner.com

Since LGP was founded, we have now given over £59,000 to charities, both in the UK and abroad. Thank you for your help.

In March 2016, we are performing our murder mystery entertainment "The Phar Phetched Phantom" in Great Missenden on behalf of the Wycombe hospital Scannappeal and also in Princes Risborough for the U3A. We also have further performances pending, so LGP will be "on tour" again!

Our November 2016 show is now in the planning stage. So, if you have made a New Year's 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. Now is a good time to join.

Peter Brookhouse



Pink and Lily



Now is the Winter – and We're Quite Content!

Looking forward to Spring up at The Pink!

looking forward to some warmer days on the way! We're really excited about reopening the garden with its heated outdoor dining, as well as welcoming people back in to our super special garden 'pods'!

But before I tell you about our exciting plans for Mother's Day and beyond, there's Valentine's Day to get pumped about first!

This year St Valentine's Day is on Sunday, so we're extending the romantic mood to include Saturday February 13th as well. I know that you'll all groan when I say that if you want to explore the food of love (!) on the day itself then you'll need to get a shuffle on as Sunday lunch is popular at the Pink and we've already got bookings in the diary. Don't forget that Saturday night will have the same specials available for all of you lovebirds!

Talking of getting a shuffle on, Mothering Sunday is early this year too – and the early bird certainly catches the worm as we

have some big bookings in and it's still only January! We'll be offering a specially extended Sunday lunch menu with plenty of choices to please so call us as March 6th will be here before you know it. There'll be a special gift for all the lovely mums being treated too!

After the success of our dedicated 'rugby room' during last Autumn's World Cup, we'll be showing all of the Rugby Six Nations – starting from the first game on February 6th, so come along to see if England have got the balls to pull something out of the bag (finally!!).

We've also got something special planned for Paddy's Day on March 17th. There's plenty going on so Think Pink for all your drink (and food!).

Rodney Parker

Landlord of The Pink and Lily
01494 489857

With two open fires, prosecco on tap and a wide range of local beer to satisfy anyone's appetite, Winter is a season that we thoroughly embrace up at the Pink.

Our brand new chef, Michael, is a huge fan of local game and is beaver away preparing some fantastic meat as you can see - as well of course as our usual wide choice of food including fish and vegetarian options - but that doesn't mean that we're not



Parliamentary News

In the last few months, I've spent a lot of constituency time dealing with three issues: housing, health and HS2.

Both Wycombe and Aylesbury Vale District Councils are preparing new Local Plans to determine how many homes there should be and where they should go. It's important the plans are in place as soon as possible to put the Council on firm ground in resisting speculative applications.

Most of Wycombe District is Green Belt and AONB, so there is enormous pressure on the Risborough area which is not protected by those designations. There could be upwards of 2,000 new homes in Risborough and 200 on the Molins site at Saunderton.

We do need more homes locally. I'm meeting more and more young people who are in full-time work but can't afford even the cheapest place to live.

The reasons for that are various including a growing population, partly due to immigration and partly to an increased birth rate.

Low unemployment and growing businesses make Buckinghamshire a popular place to live. Growing longevity and the rate of divorce and separation mean we need more separate households than before for any given level of population.

Local councillors want to know your views, including on the kind of infrastructure that would be needed to make new development sustainable.

Second, the NHS budget is being increased. But medical science is making more drugs and procedures available. The good news that people live longer also adds to demand.

Hospitals are becoming more specialised and stays there shorter. There are good clinical reasons for this. Concentrating local cardiac and stroke care in specialist units

in Wycombe was controversial, but has led to higher standards and better patient outcomes.

What should this mean locally? What will we need to help people who've been treated but take time to recuperate? What does this mean for the relationship between NHS and social care?

Third, there is HS2. I gave evidence to the Committee late last year to support the case for additional tunnelling to protect the Chilterns. You can see a transcript and a video on my website.

In late January, I shall give evidence about all the other aspects of the scheme that concern local people. Sometime later this year, I expect the bill to move to the House of Lords, where a committee there will call for petitions and hear representations from people affected.

David Lidington MP

Princes Centre update

The clients, staff and volunteers all enjoyed the festivities held at the Princes Centre over the Christmas period. We are very grateful for the help received from many volunteers in December, including a number from the Nationwide Building Society and Lucy, the Community champion from Tesco's. The new heating system which was recently completed ensured a pleasantly warm temperature for all.

There was a problem with part of the roof due to the recent winds but this has been rectified. The renovation of the patio area is in progress at the moment.

We are all hoping that the aging bus will behave itself and that we may be fortunate to receive a grant from Wycombe District Council to replace it. We will know more in February.

The staff will be holding another popular Quiz and Bingo evening on Friday April 8th, doors opening at 7pm. The cost is £10 and includes a meal. Please support this fundraising activity by putting the date in your diary and ringing Kim to book a table for you and your friends [up to 8] to come along and take part.

The Tesco collection, held in December, raised a magnificent sum of nearly £700.00 which, with gift aid, will be 25% higher. Some customers were entertained by the Jingers and others by Aunt Sally's Delight, a small band who donated their time to encourage people to dip into their pockets. Many thanks to the volunteers who gave their time and to everyone who contributed towards the success of the day.

If you would like to offer support in any way call Kim on 01844 345105.

Maggie Wooster

On The Farm

It was January 1963 when our milking parlour was completed. It was a bitterly cold winter, deep snowdrifts and biting wind. It went on for several months. For the outside steps the concrete was mixed with antifreeze, it was that bad. John had been insisting that we install one. His father was not convinced, for it would be very costly, but eventually gave in to pressure. It revolutionised Stocken Farm.

Milking parlours were a completely new concept. At that time there were at least six other dairy farms locally. We were probably the biggest with 30 cows but I'm not sure about that. Now we are the only one. Some with only a few, say a maximum of 10, probably less, were still milking by hand. Some, like us had installed an air pipeline that worked the clusters by vacuum. But the milker still had to bend to the cows, one by one, carry the milk to a cooler then tip it into churns which were collected by lorry.

The parlour did away with all that manual work. Now the cows come in at eye level a batch at a time. The milk is automatically piped into a refrigerated tank and transferred into a tanker when collected. The whole system is then automatically washed out. It is ten times faster than anything before. Concentration is the order of the day to keep everything running smoothly.

Until then the farm had been a general farm in every sense of the word, with cows and their followers (calves and beef), sheep, pigs, hens for eggs sold at the door, even a few turkeys plus

arable crops. But pressures were starting to build. New equipment and more advanced technology was rapidly being developed. If you didn't keep up with the times you were in effect going backwards.

But it was all very costly; overheads were escalating; something had to give. It was no longer possible to do everything well. Stocken Farm has gone down the milking route. We now have 340 cows and their followers plus the arable land. Everything else has been discontinued.

Other farms obviously had similar problems, plus some others where we were more fortunate. Crucially we were able to rent extra land which enabled us to grow until we were big enough to employ extra men. For the family farm that cannot, it is truly a 24/7 life. In recent years the extra paperwork imposed by the EEC has simply been the last straw for many. You might decide to keep doing the farm work but after a long day outside nobody wants to start on paper. Some wives have stepped in there but very few children will even consider going into farming. So the end of the family farm? Not completely. Hereabouts there are a couple that have it in their blood so to speak: College Farm at Loosley Row which I believe is purely arable and Promised Land Farm where they have a beef suckler herd. The butcher in Princes Risborough had a couple of beasts from them a while ago and I can vouch that it was excellent.

Some have diversified into horses. Speen Farm is now the Home of Rest for Horses, Widmer Farm an equestrian centre with a large feed shop. Horses also on what were smallholdings. Smalldean Farm owned by the National Trust has a manager and beef cattle. Woodbyne Farm with the land sold to a farmer, now a gym. Grymsdyke Farm, a private house, much of the land sold and the buildings with several tenants. Windmill Farm still lived in by the family, 10 acres with suckler cows, self-catering unit and beauty therapy in the converted barn. Many of the farms have been sold to become private houses and the land been sold or let to other farmers. But as no building is permitted outside the village curtilage, obviously all the land is still here, it's just that it is farmed in different ways.

Back to 2016. Milk prices are still a problem, but the cows are milking well, which reflects the quality of the silage of last year's hot summer. We have just stopped serving the cows to dairy bulls, hoping to have enough replacements for the herd in June to October 2018. We are now serving the rest with beef bulls for calves to rear for beef or sell on using Belgium Blue, Hereford, South Devon and Limousin, to be mature early 2019. Pictures opposite of Belgium Blue and Limousin.

Annual TB Test soon. So many consequences if there are inconclusives or failures we really have fingers crossed for that.

Joan West

County Council News



Another year is upon us and at County Hall, members are at the stage of setting budgets for the forthcoming year 2016/17 as well as the Medium Term Plan.

A large reduction in grant from central Government has led to the County Council's Cabinet proposing a council tax increase of 3.99%. This aims to keep key services as robust and viable as possible, and importantly to protect the most vulnerable, in the face of the financial difficulties.

2% of this is the acceptance of the Government's proposal to allow councils to raise extra

money specifically to meet the rising costs of adult social care.

The Council had managed to keep Council Tax at the same level for four years until 2014/15 when it was raised by 1.5% and then a further 1.99% in the following year. The Cabinet, in keeping with the wishes of residents in a recent survey of budget priorities, also aims to commit £15m to its Highways Maintenance budget in 2016/17. The final decision will be agreed by full Council at its meeting on 18th February.

In January, Buckinghamshire County Council were again working with the four District Councils to invite residents to see if they can make savings on their energy bills through the Government's Collective Switching Scheme. It is a national scheme, which joins our residents with other people from around the country in a large pool, and then invites energy suppliers to bid in an auction to provide energy to this pool of people at a preferential lower rate. Once the supplier has been confirmed they will then write to everyone with a personalised quote with no obligation to switch.

The average savings in the county have been around £295 per year – higher than the national average.

The deadline for this round was 1st February with the auction for suppliers taking place on 2nd February, so unfortunately when this edition has been published, the deadline will have passed but the exercise will be repeated later in the year. There is a website www.buckscc.gov.uk/switchedon where people can find out more and also register their interest.

If there are any matters relating to Buckinghamshire County Council that you would like to raise, please don't hesitate to 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

Councillor for the Ridgeway West Division - Bucks County Council

Chairman of the North West Chilterns Local Area Forum



District Council News



Apart from the day to day activity in delivering services within the District, there is much activity within the town hall adjusting strategies to meet the needs of residents within a much changing world.

The government has changed the rules for the funding of local authorities and the calculations are still being done as details gradually emerge from Whitehall. One thing is certain, there will be a shortfall of funds and your Council will have to be even leaner and more astute with raising funds from sources apart from local taxation.

Another change is the statutory requirement for a Local Plan that requires a calculation of the

number of new houses needed. This must take into account recent growth history, forecasts for employment and other demographic statistics. From this a calculation is made of the number of new homes that have to be built during the 20 year plan that effectively commenced in 2013.

Over the past few years the number of new homes built each year in the District has been around 200 and the Local Plan when finalised will dictate that more than three times that number will be the target that will be enforced by central government.

Some large sites close to Wycombe town centre have been 'released' for development in addition to the proposal for Princes Risborough to nearly double in size. Even that will not be sufficient to meet the target.

Therefore some homes will need to be built in rural areas and villages including Lacey Green and Loosley Row, Speen and Hampden.

It raises the question of what do we want our villages to look like? In recent years the smaller cottages have been extended to become desirable and therefore expensive properties, making

them unaffordable to most with young families.

One answer could be to release land in villages for affordable housing. This would provide accommodation to enable our children and grandchildren to stay in the area when the time comes for them to go their own way.

We need young children to populate our village schools, and their parents to use the local shops and pubs and to engage in village activities. Otherwise villages will become the secluded domain of millionaires and cease to be what people were looking for when they moved there.

It is an important subject and now is time to stimulate discussion about what would be considered as positive development within our villages and to consider the sites that could be used to build smaller affordable homes.

What do you think?

Graham Peart

Councillor for Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens

01494 488327

graham.peart@wycombe.gov.uk



Wycombe District Council
call us 01494 461 000

As the weather finally begins to turn colder we are still keeping ourselves warm with our activities at Kindergym. We have chosen a very energetic version of “Old MacDonald had a Farm” for the end of our 1 – 2 year old class, in the vain hope that trotting, flapping, paddling and jumping will wear off a few calories gained over the Christmas period. Please note: exercise for parents is included in the price. The children look at us in amazement!

Our 3 – 4 yr old children are learning how to play scales on stepped glockenspiels, and will be practising for a finely composed mini- opera version of “The Three Little Pigs” with much “huffing and puffing”. You will be pleased to know that no pig will be harmed in the making of this creative enterprise.

We have lots to look forward to this term at Kindergym, and a few questions that need to be answered.

- Who will win the hand crafted wooden spoon in the parent’s pancake tossing competition?
- Which child will end up with a pancake on the head?
- How many will I have to make this year?

Come and find the answer on Friday 19th February 10am

More details on our web-site: www.kindergym.co.uk or our Facebook page: Kindergym South Bucks and Oxon.

(This year there will also be a box of chocs for the best photo of your child during the event posted on Facebook).



Stepped Chimes

Contact Jenny or Gabby with any queries, kindergymjenny@gmail.com

Jenny Stothard



Flapping like a chicken

Community Planning Group

Lacey Green Stores

The Stores continues to provide a valuable community service. There is a hard core of regular users and we trust that they are happy at the service provided. But there should be more of you. If you haven't used the Stores, please give it a try. Make a belated New Year resolution - come in at least once a week and give us your support. Newspapers can be supplied, if ordered in advance, and can be then collected.

The time credits scheme is up and running. Whilst volunteers don't do what they do just to win time credits, they are a bonus. The village shop in North Marston has been using the scheme for several months. It is apparently very popular with the younger volunteers who work there, and the credits are much used at the Aylesbury sports/leisure facilities.

We have only one volunteer younger than 25, so there is an opportunity for any young people resident in the Parish, or even outside it, to participate.

Experience as a shop volunteer would serve you in good stead, especially if you want a job with John Lewis. To know more, contact me or pop into the shop. Those over 25 are also very welcome - we are not ageist!

A minor mystery

Someone has dropped a key in the car park or nearby, and perhaps would like to claim it. The key has a label with the number 202 written on it. If it is yours please contact me.

Flooding

It does seem that the situation is getting worse. There are several causes. Climate change has to be included because we know that the carbon dioxide level and mean temperature have both increased in the last 100 years. Rainfall seems to have worsened in some localities. Things that should not have been done include the building of houses in the wrong places and covering ground with impermeable materials such as concrete.

There are also things that have not been done, such as the

dredging of watercourses and maintenance of effective drainage systems.

It is not helped by the conflicting interests of involved parties, and a lack of clarity as to who or what is responsible for the prevention of flooding. Is it the local authority? The Environment Agency? The National Government? The EA is able to offer advice regarding the undesirability of building houses on flood plains or other areas where flooding might be expected, but seems unable to enforce this.

We are fortunate in Lacey Green in so far as we seem to have a very low risk of flooding, at present. There is local minor flooding in Foundry Lane between College Farm and Amen Corner, and more recently on the main road into Walters Ash. In the former location, the drainage access points are blocked and never seem to be cleared. I wonder what it would be like if we had a fivefold increase in rainfall?

Tony Molesworth

Lacey Green Trig Point

The hedge cutting in Pink Road in December has made our Trig Point more visible, as it is normally hidden in the vegetation. It is located on the left hand side of Pink Road heading away from the village, and is about 100 yards before the speed derestriction sign.

The spot height indicated on the OS map is 243 metres or 768 ft.

Most of Lacey Green is slightly below this height but we still appear to be the highest sizeable village in the Chilterns, which doubtless accounts for our interesting weather.

Triangulation pillars were used as a solid mounting for theodolites used in map making and surveying. They are no longer used for this as aerial and satellite techniques have rendered them obsolete.

Chris Boll



Windmill Weather

We hear a lot these days about our changing weather. Whatever the reasons, it is certainly obvious that we are experiencing more extreme weather, and it seems to change more rapidly in recent years.

Extremes of **TEMPERATURE** do not have any great effect on Lacey Green Windmill, indeed on very hot days in the summer, people can find the interior of the windmill a welcome cool place to visit.

SNOW can be a nuisance, as it will blow up the walls and in through the open corners of the cap, and accumulate inside. In some years I have had to remove some before it melts.

The effect of **RAIN** entering the windmill for many years before it was restored can still clearly be seen in the condition of some of the timberwork. We repaired all the windows in 2015, making them more weathertight. The doors on the sloping walls of the Smock Mill are always vulnerable to let in the rain that will cascade down the weather-boarded walls above. We had one replaced in 2015, and the other one will be replaced in 2016.

THUNDERSTORMS are an obvious hazard for windmills. The last time we know our windmill was struck by lightning was on the 30th May 1895. It is very difficult to fit a lightning conductor to a windmill with a cap that automatically turns the sails into the wind. Attempting to do so could actually cause more problems than it would cure.

We choose to leave the cap of the mill to face into the wind at all times for its own safety in strong winds.

That brings me to the final weather element we have to consider, **WIND & GALES**. Of course, windmills would not exist if we did not have any wind. However we can now get too much wind, and although often on high ground, very few windmills are in such an exposed position as ours at Lacey Green, with the tip of the sails reaching 800 feet above sea level.

I am sure we all realise how prevailing winds hitting the 300 feet Chiltern Escarpment can be accelerated and strengthened. The sails are intricately designed to gather as much power from the wind as possible, and will turn in a moderate wind even without any sail-cloths being fitted. As the sails are kept facing the wind at all times, any wind will be exerting force on the sails trying to turn them.

They are held still by a timber brake shoe around the brake wheel, a mechanism that could be over 360 years old. It is not strong enough in a severe gale, and the sails turning would inevitably result in the mechanism catching fire.

Since the sails were fitted in 1981, we have had some heavy straps stretched from the cap frame around two spokes of the brake wheel to act as a further brake.

However, in December, after severe winds damaged many windmills across the country, I decided that we should have some extra back-up to prevent the sails turning, and we have now fitted strong chains as well.

On 10th August 2014 very strong gales were forecast, and I decided that it would be safest not to open the windmill. In the event, the worst winds were slightly north of Lacey Green, but many places around Aylesbury suffered severe damage.

Therefore we now have a policy of occasional closure of the windmill in the event of extreme gales or thunderstorms, but I have only had to instigate it once in the 31 years that I have organised opening the windmill to visitors.

In 2016 the windmill will be open from 2 to 5 on Sundays and Bank Holidays from Easter Sunday 27th March until 25th September. Full details are listed at the back of Hallmark.

Michael Hardy
Windmill Manager

Tel: 01844 275871

Email:
contact@laceygreenwindmill.org.uk

Website:
www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk

In the team



As a keen footballer in my twenties and early thirties, for quite a number of years I captained a team in the London and Essex Border League. Later, whilst training for ordination in Birmingham, I captained the Queen's Theological College team. As a curate in Stansted Mountfitchet in the early to mid-1980's, I occasionally turned out to play for a local team in North Essex but mostly focused on being manager for the local Cub Scout Team in which my son was then involved.

In those days, I discovered that the boys were just thrilled to turn out wearing the same colour shirts, come rain or shine, and a win was a bonus! And even a heavy defeat did not discourage them in any way. They simply saw each match as a fresh start and a fresh opportunity.

I managed to carry on playing 5-a-side and 7-a-side football during my time as a Team Vicar in Borehamwood; and also during the twenty years of my two posts in Leeds until early in 2014. Then I sustained a foot injury which did not clear up until well after our move to Lacey Green.

So I was more than resigned to my football days being finally over once and for all. However,

just before Christmas, the Reverend James Tomkins, Vicar of St. Dunstan's, Monks Risborough in our Team Ministry, passed to me details of local Veterans 5-a-side football being run by Buckinghamshire County Council.

So, with quite some fear and hesitation, I signed up to play in the Veterans League on Wednesday evenings at the Redgrave Centre in Marlow. The organiser from Buckinghamshire County Council encouraged participants to form their own teams but I ended up one of five spare players who were put together in a team called "Outsiders FC".

I was assured that although "Veterans" in this context meant over 35 years of age, there was no upper age limit. However, as I should have realised, most of the players appear to be around 40 years of age or thereabouts; and I seem to be the oldest by quite a bit.

As members of "Outsiders FC", we met for the very first time half-an-hour before our first match and our first contest resulted in a defeat by what was almost a table tennis score! But our second match, which was the last to take place before Christmas, resulted in a win. And, as I write this, not long after the Christmas and New Year break, there has been just one fixture in 2016 which was another win.

We have now recruited two more players which means that we can now rotate the team and give ourselves a rest break! One of the extra players is my son

who also qualifies as a Veteran, having now joined the company of forty year olds.

To be truthful, I am almost back to being like one of the young boys I used to manage in the Cubs all those years ago. Thrilled to have the opportunity to play and happy just to be wearing the shirt! Given the past injury, and the passing of yet more time, it may well not last very long this time round. But, as with so many things in life, my motto is "enjoy it whilst you can".

Indeed, I am just so grateful for all of the range of the wonderful opportunities that have opened up for me in these past 15 months or so since the move from Leeds to Lacey Green; and I certainly don't mean just the football by any means.

All of this, indeed so much more than I could have dared to hope would be the case. I really don't feel like an "Outsider" in any way, not in the football team and certainly not in the ongoing strong sense of teamwork in our local church and in local community here. And, in any walk of life, isn't it nice, simply lovely, to be able to feel that you are part of a team!

Tony Bundock
Vicar of St. John's

St John's Church



Three Wise Men at Epiphany

We started the Christmas season at St John's with Advent Carols and Lessons and were joined by Churches Together in Risborough on 29th November. This service was very well supported and a number of the readers were from other churches or from the schools in our parish.

On the 20th December we had our carol service of 9 Lessons and Carols, again very well supported by the Parish community.

The Crib Service on Christmas Eve was a delight with a full church and lots of children, many of whom dressed in Nativity dress (lots of angels and shepherds!) The children filled the Crib with the Nativity figures and Christmas had begun.



The Midnight Service was a beautiful service – again well attended and this was followed by a further service on Christmas morning.



The church looked wonderful. Thanks to the ladies who decorated it with flowers and candles; to the cleaners who made it look beautiful; to our Sacristan and Verger who look after many things behind the scenes; and to all those who helped in any way. The choir sang beautifully throughout the many services, accompanied by our organists. Their enthusiasm and skills are a credit to St John's.

The Feast of St John the Evangelist was celebrated on the morning of Sunday 27th December and the service was followed by wine and Christmas cake, another great occasion.

Lastly on Sunday 10th January the Epiphany Carol Service took place with the arrival of the Three Kings bearing their gifts. Another lovely service!

The attendances over the Christmas period were well up on previous years and our thanks to all who helped to make it a memorable time. Special thanks must go to Canon Tony for leading us all!

Pat Richards
Churchwarden

Regular Services at St. John's Church

SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion (1662) every Sunday

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.

WEDNESDAY

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

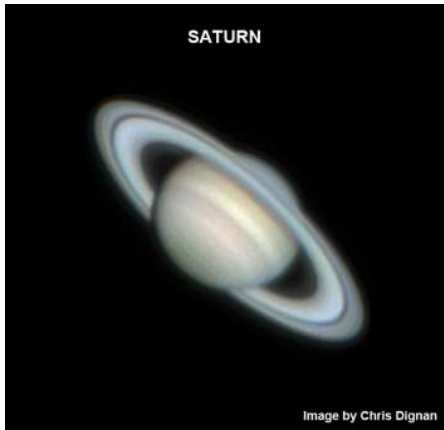
School Assemblies during term time are held on Friday mornings 9.15 am at St. John's and 10.00 am at Speen.

We are looking for someone to revive the Toddler Praise session. If you would like to help (possibly with others) please speak to Pat Richards.

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.

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

Heavenly Bodies



JSVMM. Clue, not an anagram, but in order of size. These are the initials of the five planets which are visible over the coming weeks – sparkling sights to brighten the dark mornings. So all you good people whose (grand)children won't let you have a lie-in, morning dog-walkers/trippers to the newsagent, commuters, and others who just like to wake before 7 am – look south and up to be dazzled.

You may have noticed a particularly bright early morning light low down in the south during the past few weeks. That's our 'sister' planet Venus shining at us from 130 million miles away as the Sun's light reflects off its white cloud layer. It featured in the last issue of *Hallmark* but is due to say farewell soon. Catch it in early February before the planet becomes lost in the dawn light on its orbit behind the Sun.

And early February is your chance to see all five of the planets at the same time (when the Moon joins them for a few days). As you look at Venus, you may spot the tiny dot of Mercury to the left during the first few days of February (only before the Sun is above the horizon to avoid eye damage), with Saturn, Mars and Jupiter to the right (see graphic and images I've taken of the planets). If you don't get to see Venus or Mercury in time, no matter, as the other planets hang around for weeks. For those who have never knowingly seen ringed Saturn or red Mars, this is a great opportunity to locate and see them with confidence. They are bright enough to be seen with the naked eye (as they reflect the Sun's rays). Saturn (almost 1 billion miles away) appears to be a pale yellow, while Mars (123 million miles away) looks smaller and has a definite orange hue. Looking over to the right, almost due West, Jupiter shines the brightest after Venus disappears, due to its vast size (Earth could fit into Jupiter about 1,500 times).

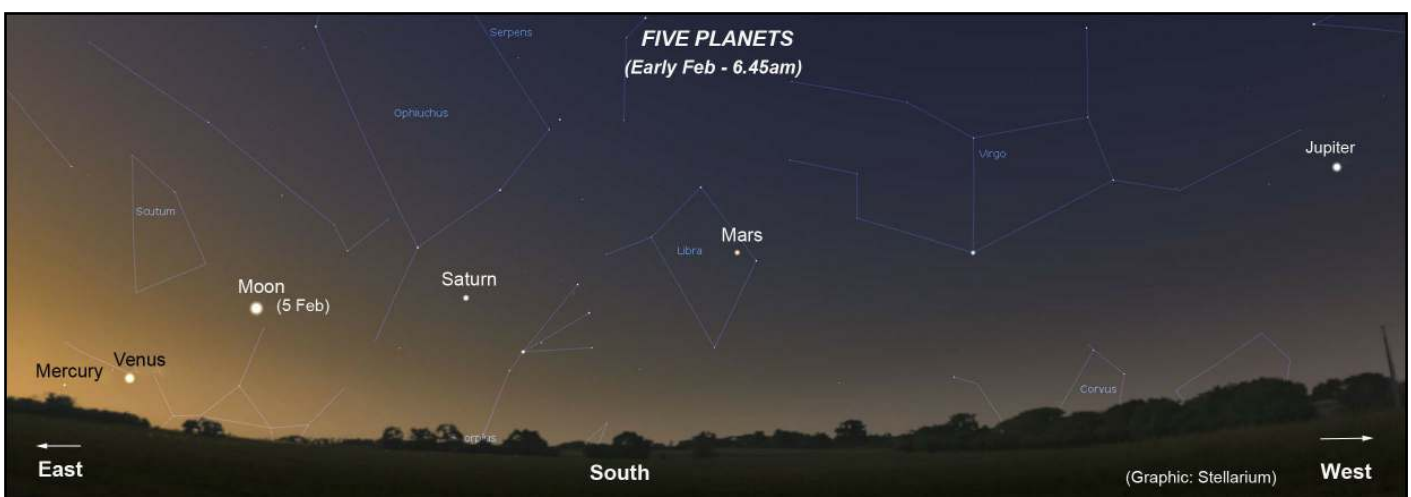
Jupiter then gets lost in the morning light and becomes a night object as it swings to its nearest position to Earth this year (412 million miles away), and will be due south at midnight on 8th



March. The Moon will also be near Jupiter on the nights of 20th and 21st March (and the Spring Equinox is on 20 March this year). If you have a pair of binoculars about 10 x 50 (magnification and aperture respectively), you may be able to make out some or all of its four largest moons very close to the planet.

While the planets perform their cosmic dance, a comet is racing across our skies. This is Comet C/2013 US10 Catalina (or 'Catalina') which is predicted to be at its brightest by early February. However, comets often fail to co-operate with predictions, so keep an eye on the northern night skies then (or search for its location on the Internet) in case it's still visible. Then...see the next issue for news of Mercury crossing the face of the Sun on May 9.

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		laceygreensingers@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	Theresa Hehir	01494 881170	hehirt@hotmail.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		Graham Peart	01494 488327	graham_peart@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 April 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.

HALLMARK EDITOR

Mike Piercy, Malmsmead, Kiln Lane, Lacey Green, Bucks HP27 0PU
(just before the pond on the right) 01844 344021 Email editor@laceygreen.com

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Chris Baker, "Woodpeckers", Kiln Lane, Lacey Green, Bucks HP27 OPT
(past the pond on the left) 01844 275442 Email ckbakerland@gmail.com

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 - 12 Noon 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,
Ginnie Brudenell,
Jill Gosling

LACEY GREEN WINDMILL is now closed for the winter

In 2016, Lacey Green Windmill will be open from 2 pm to 5 pm on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from Easter Sunday 27th March to Sunday 25th September.

Bank Holiday Monday Open Days: 28th Mar, 2 May, 30 May, 29 Aug. (all 2pm - 5pm).

For National Mills Weekend: Open on Sat 14th May (2pm - 5pm) & Sun 15th May (11am - 5pm).

Admission Charges for 2016: Adult £2.50, Child (5 to 15) £1.00. All children must be accompanied.

For further details about visiting the mill, such as access, facilities, location, and travelling. See www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk or telephone Michael or Betty Hardy on 01844 275871.

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CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE MAY EDITION

April 17th 2016

