



HALLMARK

The Lacey Green and Loosley Row Magazine

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Welcome to the February edition of Hallmark

Village Hall

I attended a meeting of the Village Hall committee this week and was very encouraged to hear about all the improvements that have been made to the Hall recently. The decorator has just finished the internal and external painting and has done a great job. The bar area has been improved with a new sink and a new urn is being plumbed in to improve the ever-important task of tea making. The Chairman has raked the car park to fill in the holes and reduce the puddles. New carpets are soon to be laid in the smaller rooms and a regular deep-clean is being planned.

The Hall is still heavily booked by local organisations and external users; it is one of the biggest halls in the area and is amazingly good value.

The schedule of regular activities is shown in the What's On section, it's not too late for a New Year's resolution to take up a new activity in 2017! AGM

The Village Hall AGM will be held at 8pm on Wednesday March 14. We will provide wine and nibbles to make this evening even more attractive to all comers.

The meeting will include a proposal to increase rental charges for the Hall, so if you have views on this please come along.

New Whip landlords

Welcome to Kris and Marie who have taken over at The Whip. We wish them the best of luck and have the full story on page 12.

Hallmark Helpers

We recently appealed for volunteers to help with Hallmark distribution and photographs. This appeal has been very successful, my thanks to all those who have come forward.

Thanks to photographer Barry Chignell who has provided the front cover photograph and the article on page 17.



Advertising Manager

The final piece of the jigsaw is to find someone who can manage the advertising for Hallmark. This is a simple task to liaise with people who wish to advertise and remind existing advertisers to renew their agreement. Just a few hours work now and then. Most of the work is done by email these days so that makes it easier. If you think you may be able to help, give me a call and I will explain the details.

Mike Piercy
Editor

Letters to the Editor

Could I congratulate Theresa and John, who moved into Stone Cottage on Loosley Hill a couple of years ago, on the wonderfully sensitive way in which they have developed and restored it.

This traditional Chiltern brick-and-flint cottage is the oldest on this section of the hill and helps to give Loosley Row some of its village character. Yet all too often I have seen similar cottages

demolished and replaced with a 'dream home' which might suit a city setting but looks completely out of place in a small village.

Instead Theresa and John have done such a good job of retaining the old features and matching the new ones that you have to look closely to spot the difference, and there can be no higher praise than that!

So congratulations to you both: it's a perfect example of how a 19th century cottage can be brought into the 21st century without killing it, and I just hope that others can follow that example.

John Tyler

What's On

Sun 12 Feb

Snowdrop Walk
see page 21

Tues 14 Feb

Valentine Dinner
at The Black Horse

Sat 11 Mar 2pm

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

Tues 14 Mar 8pm

Village Hall AGM

Wed 15 Mar 8pm

Horts Club AGM and talk
on Canadian Wild Flowers

Sat 18 Mar 10am

"Lace Day"

Members of the public are
welcome to browse or
purchase anything and also
look round at our exhibition
this year entitled Noah's
Ark. Entrance fee 50p which
will be donated to the Air
Ambulance

Sat 18 Mar evening

Lacey Green Singers Spring
Concert in St John's Church.
Look out for posters and
publicity

Sat 25 Mar 3pm

Horts Club Spring Show
See insert

Parish Council

6 Mar 7.30 pm and
8 May 7.30pm at
Speen Village Hall

3 April 7.00pm at
Lacey Green Hall.

Youth Club

Village Hall 7.30pm
Feb 17,
Mar 3, 17 & 31
Apr 14 & 28

More letters to the Editor

WARNING!

As my request for not parking on
the pavement fell on deaf ears
let's see how tolerant you
motorists are of me zig-zagging
along the central white line when
I'm out for a walk!

Maybe a compromise is in order.
I think the stretch between Kiln
Lane and Eastlands, where many
motorists speed round the bends
is a section where an accident is
waiting to happen. Deep down I
think you park on the pavement
in an attempt to avoid them
hitting you or perhaps not
forcing other cars too far onto
the wrong side of the road into
the path of that oncoming even
less able to see speeder.

Pedestrians I suggest are
vulnerable to much more serious
injury having to walk round them
and some can't walk quickly.

- Breaking the speed limit or
travelling too fast for conditions
was recorded (by police at crash
scenes) as a contributory factor
of 23% of fatal crashes in 2015.
- More than a quarter of
drivers surveyed (26%) admitted
to 'regularly' speeding in areas
designed to keep children and
other road users safe.
- Stopping distance at 40mph
is 9 car lengths providing you
are paying full attention
(reaction time .67 seconds).

Source

<http://www.brake.org.uk/news/15-facts-a-resources/facts/1255-speed>

Although we may often
complain about the parking at
the school it does slow the traffic
down at a crucial time.

It might be difficult to prove
without an accident but you
should also consider the law of
parking in a dangerous position.

**Please leave room for
pedestrians with a pram or
wheelchair and tell your visitors**

Leigh Axe

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 afternoon		Dancing class with Natalie Harris	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

Easter at St John's

April 9th: PALM SUNDAY

8:00am Holy Communion BCP
10:00am Parish Communion with Liturgy of the Palm

April 10th: Monday of Holy Week

8.00pm Compline with Meditation

April 11th Tuesday of Holy Week

9:30am Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel
8.00pm Compline with Meditation

April 12th: Wednesday of Holy Week

8.00pm Compline with Meditation

April 13th MAUNDY THURSDAY

6.45pm Agape Supper followed by
8.00pm Holy Communion followed by stripping of the altar

April 14th GOOD FRIDAY

2.00pm Last Hour and erection of Cross in Church Lane

April 15th EASTER SATURDAY

6.00pm Easter Liturgy followed by wine and cake

April 16th EASTER SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.00am Family Communion
6.00pm Choral Evensong



If you have never been to a Parish Council meeting, you can be forgiven for thinking that we are a group of people who meet in draughty village halls every so often to discuss local planning applications. Having been a Councillor now for three months, whilst I can confirm that you are somewhat correct, there is a whole lot more to our role in the parish.

The Precept

The parish has an annual precept, which is the parish's allocated share of the council tax. In December, we agreed our estimated parish spending for the 2017/18 financial year. As funding to local authorities is being significantly reduced it is more important that we recognise and justify all of the spending needs of our community.

You might be surprised to hear what this precept covers. There is an ongoing maintenance programme for the villages covering the children's playgrounds, the Garden of Rest, war memorials, ponds, footpaths, signage, benches and bus shelters, to name a few.

We also allocate a proportion of the precept by way of grants. These contribute towards community facilities and services such as the Lacey Green Village Shop, the village halls and churches, Windmill restoration and Speenfest.

We support other vital services such as the defibrillator at the village hall, the community bus and the community first responders.

Lastly, we set aside a fund for small grants applications; so if you have a community project that you would like supported, please let us know.

Planning Matters

We hope that, in our role as Councillors, we reflect how our community feels. The Parish Council is consulted by the District Council on the bigger topics which impact us all.

This is particularly true in planning matters and we not only look at planning applications, but parish boundary changes and possible encroachments. You may be interested to know that we can recommend enforcement action where necessary.

Speeding Monitors

We have a small group of volunteers within Lacey Green and Loosley Row who carry out the Speed Watch surveys along Main Road in conjunction with our local police force.

There is concern about the speed at which vehicles enter the village and we have recently replaced the Jubilee Bus Shelter adjacent to the school after it was smashed into by a speeding car. In that instance, we believe

that the driver was also seriously injured.

We have applied for a grant for a mobile Vehicle Activated Sign which would illuminate on approach to tell the driver to slow down and would help enforce the speed limit through the village.

Ideally, we would like one for Lacey Green and one for Speen, but funding is limited. The more data we can compile, the greater chance of a grant for both, so if you can help with Speed Watch please let our Clerk know.

Please do tell us if you have any concerns or any ideas for the village, so that we can continue to best reflect your views.

There is space in our team for one more Councillor, so if you are interested please let our Clerk know and attendance at Parish Council meetings is always welcome.

Best wishes from us all for a happy 2017.

Liz Patient

There's more than drink up at the Pink

There's plenty going on this Spring at The Pink & Lily.

We had a fabulous festive season up at The Pink – thanks to all of our wonderful customers who joined in with the celebrations.

But time doesn't stand still and we're looking forward to all that the New Year will bring!

Although at the minute it definitely doesn't feel like it, Spring will be springing soon enough and while the world may be going to hell in a handcart, you'll always get a warm welcome here.

We think that every day brings a cause for celebration, but surely one of the most important people to celebrate is your mum. Some people are quicker off the mark than most and we've already taken bookings for Mother's Day! So treat your mum and pick up the phone – 01494 489857 is the only number you need to show her how much she matters.

Falling on March 26th this year, don't miss out on the opportunity to raise a glass to your mum! After all, you're the reason she drinks. Or is that just mine?! Every mother will receive a treat from us too.

While we're on the subject of treating your loved ones, don't forget to book for Valentine's Day! Michael's special menu will put you in the mood for love - trust me, you'll be thanked for it!

But before mothers take centre stage, there's the little matter of the rugby Six Nations to get through first. The autumn internationals set things up for a cracking competition, and, building on the success of our screenings of last year's Rugby World Cup in our Room of Rugby, the side dining room has had a little bit of a make-over – thanks Tim!

All previous rugby matches shown have really been a dummy run for this year's Six Nations and we'll be showing all games in our newly converted Club Room!

Kicking off with Scotland against Ireland and England versus France on February 4th. Next up Italy v Wales on February 5th, and then the key weekends are February 11th/12th, 25th/26th, March 10th/11th and then finally, March 18th.

Try to make it and come and cheer while sharing a beer – although other fine beverages are of course available and that's no balls! Apparently the smart money is on Ireland – don't shoot the messenger and tell me to ruck off! And don't worry, there's plenty of space so it won't be a scrum or even a maul to get a seat, even when the pack are in and we've a full house.

You are of course always welcome to prop up the bar instead. Now Hannah is telling me I'm being a bit of a flanker and I haven't even used my hooker jokes yet! No offence meant (nope, that's American Football) and I hope none taken! See you up at The Pink soon!

Rodney Parker
Landlord

Lacey Green Windmill

In the last year our volunteers have built a new set of steps, a new handrail, and a new display explaining some of the 19th century mechanisation that was fitted to the windmill's original 17th century machinery. This is apart from the more regular cleaning and general maintenance of the windmill.

We are also very grateful to our volunteers who in 2016 opened the windmill to a total 1,070

visitors. It is always rewarding to show visitors the unique mid 17th century wooden machinery of the windmill, whether they have never been in a windmill before, or those experts who spend as much of their time as they can visiting mills across the country, and even across the world. I am always pleased to hear from anybody who might be interested in helping us open the windmill to visitors, as well

as show some of the work of so many dedicated volunteers who saved the windmill and started to restore it 46 years ago, in 1971.

Please feel free to contact me by email on contact@laceygreenwindmill.org.uk or telephone me on 01844 275871.

Michael Hardy

On The Farm

2017 – A new year with a definite chink of light at the end of a long haul. The dairy farm milk price has risen steadily since the summer, from a low of 18p litre. We are expecting 26p litre in January with more price rises to follow. With many dairy farmers on their knees this may be too late. With huge debts built up some will still throw in the towel.

Peace at Christmas

Christmas brought nice calm weather which makes life easier. It is always a worry that key machines might break down at a time when it is difficult to get parts or people to do repairs.

For instance, should the milking parlour be out of action and it cannot be mended within 6 hours we would have a massive crisis.

We obviously rely on staff working over Christmas and the New Year and are lucky to have a reliable team. To run the farm we have a minimum of 25 hours work a day. We are reminded that our business needs 24 hours, 365 days a year. Animals don't have bank holidays.

Gerald Bedford

We are all saddened by the passing of Gerald Bedford who had association with Stocken Farm for about sixty years. He worked with three generations, Dick, John and Richard, although he retired soon after Richard came back from college, so perhaps two generations was enough.

The changes in the agricultural world seem unbelievable from horses to the tractors of today. It

is difficult to imagine where technology will take us in the next sixty years.

Splendid silage

At this time we reassess our silage stocks and try to make them last until turn-out time. The cows are milking well now although not as well as last year when our silage was exceptional.

The daily yield per cow often peaks in January, mainly because they thrive on a consistent diet and that the silage made back in the summer is fully fermented and stable.

While the cows are housed we are repairing fences and improving water supplies. We have put the old maize field into grass for a while, so that will need refencing as it has not been used for grazing for a number of years.

Collective purchasing

Richard is currently a director of 'Orion Farmers'. This is a buying group for helping farmers to buy their inputs at the most cost effective price. It has over 300 farming members, based in 17 counties centred around Oxfordshire. It places orders for them.

Part of its role is giving contracts to feed companies to supply compound feeds. These are an important part of a cow's diet on many farms. This winter the feed committee will visit a number of feed mills - Heygates in Northampton, Mole Valley in Bridgewater and George White in Shepshed to audit them on behalf of the members.

These are some of the closest feed mills so they all have a long way to make deliveries. The mills buy raw materials that they then blend, mill and press into cattle nuts. It is fascinating to see the scale of these businesses. For example Heygates is producing 60 different feeds including for rabbit, alpaca, goat, horses and cattle.

They also have 3 flour mills to whom we sell much of our wheat. It is ground into 16 qualities of flour which all have different uses such as white, wholemeal and pitta breads, burger buns, biscuits and cakes. They also have bakeries in Banbury and Manchester supplying well known supermarkets as well as being farmers themselves.

Escapee sheep

Over the winter a friend has had his ewes on our grassland behind the farm. They have been running with the tups so will lamb in the spring. They do a good job for us as they eat the grass down low, so there is a clean start in the spring.

Sheep farming presents many challenges. One of them is keeping them confined in the field where you want the grass to be eaten. So thanks to all for the phone calls and texts letting us know where they are heading next and we hope they have caused no damage on their travels. These sheep are Herdwicks which are hefted, so maybe they are trying to get back to The Lake District.

Joan West

New Hands Cracking The Whip

I hadn't been into The Whip for some months so I was interested to hear that Nick and Julie had left and had sold the pub to a new owner.

The company that has bought the pub already owns two pubs in Central Wycombe, the Sausage Tree and the Bootlegger. These are successful, lively town centre pubs with a wide variety of UK and foreign beers and quirky grilled food. I wondered if the Whip was going to be rethemed like the other two pubs so I popped in to see....

I met the new landlord Kris and the new landlady Marie. This young couple have been managing the pub since a couple of weeks before Christmas. They assured me that the Whip is not going to change into a flash loud

cocktail bar and will keep the existing ethos. All the existing bar staff have stayed on with the new ownership and there is a strong feeling of continuity.

This is the first pub that Kris and Marie have run, though Marie comes from a pub family and has experience in restaurant kitchens. She is running the Whip kitchen and they plan to take on an additional chef to help out. Kris is in charge of the bar and front-of-house; he told me he has expertise making cocktails so you can try asking for your obscure favourite cocktails!

Their vision for the Whip is to build on its traditional strengths, keep the existing regulars happy and then build up business incrementally. Kris is keen to maintain the Whip's reputation

for a wide and interesting range of real ales at competitive prices.

Marie is intending to develop the food side of the business, whilst ensuring that all dishes are home made and good quality. They say they have no visions of becoming a GastroPub but will aim to do unpretentious food that has really good taste and value.

They have already made a few changes such as introducing music, WiFi and Meat Raffles. They are also planning quizzes - the first one will be on Tuesday 31st Jan.

They also plan to revamp the old Whip web site and start using social media such as Facebook to announce their latest offers and guest beers.

Mike Piercy



History of retail in our villages

An Ancient Incident

At Aylesbury Petty Sessions in April 1879 Alfred Ward was charged with having assaulted Mary Ann Ward. She had been sent to the Post Office/shop in Loosley Row for some barley meal and asked for the payment to be taken out of her husband's wages as a carpenter of Mr Ward. He said he would not let her have the pay in money but he might in goods.

She was accordingly going to take two pairs of stockings from the shop, having helped herself on former occasions. She put the stockings under her shawl, but the defendant tried to throw her down and tore her hat. In the scuffle, he upset a tub of butter and pushed her headfirst into it, cutting her lip and knuckles. His wife there at the time laughed and told her husband to throw Mary Ann out. He took her by the shoulders, pushed her out of the shop and threw her hat after her.

Cecil Ward aged 14, son of Mary Ann Ward said he saw his mother's lip cut and bleeding. Sarah Hickman said the complainant had come to her house and had butter all over her clothes. Sarah Barefoot, a nurse at Loosley Row, attended Mary Ann for 2 days. Doctor Warren was called and ordered hot fomentations and medication. Charlotte Claydon was in the shop and heard the dispute.

History Group

The Local History Group is putting on its website details of 40 odd retail outlets from 1800 onwards.

Jesse Ward had the above mentioned shop in 1841. He was a carpenter making coffins and doing general woodwork. His son Alfred became his partner and John, 10 years younger than Alfred also worked with them. They also had a grocery and Post Office. Mary Ann was John's wife. It is not surprising that by 1881 John, Mary and children had moved to High Wycombe.

Recent history

With the possibility of Entertainment House, Lacey Green, becoming a private residence, this property which has been a retail shop since it was built in 1924, hence its name "Wembley" will be covered from the time Harold Hickman built it, called it Hickman's Stores, gave it to Bert his nephew and then the subsequent owners.

More danger to report when Mary Lawrence at the later Post Office at Loosley Hill was threatened once by a gun and again with a knife. It is all on our website, this one under Post Offices.

Self Sufficiency

During the two hundred plus years we are looking at, the villages could provide everything. Several Post Offices, grocers, bakers, smoked fishmongers, butchers, shoemakers, sweets, wools, haberdashery, petrol, paraffin, smithies, ironfounders, wheelwrights, brickmakers, cut flowers, second hand books, watches and many carpenters.

The farms sold milk, eggs, locally made pies, cakes, honey, bird food and Christmas poultry. They also supplied hay, straw and manure.

There were deliveries made by the local grocers and milk and eggs from several farms, bread from the bakehouse, chicken feed and flour, newspapers, fish and chips on Fridays, also coal. Deliveries from town included fresh fish, meat, and transformer charging.

There was a taxi service in the 1900s, weekly doctor's surgery, resident district nurses, policemen, a café and numerous ale houses some of which have survived.

Modern times

But all is not lost. The foundry has a shop, the Village Hall has come to the rescue with a part time Post Office and shop manned by volunteers. Widmer Farm continues with its pet supplies, the complex on Woodway, originally a grassdryers now houses various outlets, Grymsdyke buildings are also developed. The carpenters have become builders. We even have a beauty parlour now.

If you can tell us more about the characters who were involved in our local retail world please get in touch. It would be much appreciated.

Find us on -

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

Joan West

Wildlife notes

Ring-necked Parakeets

It has been thirty years or so since red kites were reintroduced into the Chilterns and they are now such an everyday sight that we barely give them a second glance. But this morning I saw a small flight of birds that I've never seen in the village before and yet could become as familiar as kites in coming years: ring-necked parakeets.

Actually you more often hear ring-necked parakeets than see them because they normally go about in gangs and shout to each other with a startling, banshee-like scream, but even when they're being quiet their fast flight, green plumage, pointed wings and long tails make them very easy to recognize.

Their main claim to fame is that they are Britain's only breeding species of parrot. Their real home stretches from Africa in the west, through India to China in the east. One explanation for how they came to be here in the UK is that sailors returning from a long voyage would bring with them a parakeet as a souvenir, but when they arrived in port and realized that they would have to pay for quarantine they went off the idea and the unfortunate birds were just thrown overboard to fend for themselves.

This idea of parakeets starting out as one of Long John Silver's rejects might be quite an appealing image but sadly the truth isn't quite so exotic. For over an hundred and fifty years they have been imported and

sold in pet shops, so the ones I saw today are probably the descendants of captive ones that have either escaped or been abandoned.

However they got here, you might think that a tropical bird like a parakeet wouldn't last long in our chilly climate, but in fact the ring-necked parakeet is quite at home in the foothills of the Himalayas, so surviving in the Chilterns has been a doddle.

For many years their UK stronghold has been in and around London, where their roosts can contain hundreds of noisy individuals, but their range and their population have both grown steadily over the years and there are now reckoned to be nearly ten thousand pairs breeding in the UK (which is rather ironic as their numbers are falling in India, where huge numbers are still collected to supply the pet trade).

They seem to have reached Bucks in the 1990s, but it is still too soon to be sure what effect they might have on our native species. For example one concern is that they are very fond of nesting in old woodpecker holes and could easily push out smaller birds like tits, starlings and nuthatches that go for the same holes.

But whether the ring-necked parakeet proves to be a pest or just another interesting addition to our wildlife, it is almost certainly here to stay. They often come to bird tables and feeders in the winter, so watch out for a large, loud, bright green bird in your garden over the next couple of months.

Brexit for wildlife

This is the first time that I have written since the Brexit vote and, like the parakeet, it is too soon to say what impact leaving the EU will have on our wildlife and countryside.

On the one hand our government has a pretty shabby record when it comes to environmental protection and all too often it has had to be dragged into taking action by EU legislation, so there is a risk that leaving the EU will just let them off the hook.

On the other hand some EU laws, notably the Common Agricultural Policy, have themselves often had unintended consequences such as food mountains and wine lakes in many parts of Europe, often at the expense of their natural habitats.

We will have to wait and see whether on balance Brexit will turn out to be a good or a bad thing for wildlife. In the meantime all we can do is to ignore all those gloom-and-doom merchants who blame any bad news on Brexit and predict the end of the world as we know it.

As with the economy, shedding EU legislation is likely to create environmental opportunities and problems in equal measure and we just need to keep an eye (and pressure) on our politicians to make sure that they give our environment the protection that it needs.

John Tyler

Making the most of your camera phone

As we live in such a beautiful area and digital technology is at our fingertips, you may like to capture some scenes on your mobile phone. Here are a few tips to help you make the most of your camera phone. In this article all photos used were taken with a mobile phone.

▮ **Invest in a decent camera phone** and learn about its functionality (aim for a camera with at least 12 megapixels) and then learn how to use the standard camera app on your phone.

▮ **Look for a place to steady your phone.** Most photographers use a tripod to steady their camera and avoid blurred images. You don't need a tripod but look for something to place your phone on such as a flat wall or even the ground for a unique perspective.

▮ **Download a good app.** A large part of modern photography is the post processing. Eg adding filters, removing blemishes and adjusting various elements of an image. Try LightRoom, Snapseed or Pixlr.

▮ **Set your phone's camera to maximum resolution** - most phones will have various quality settings for images and video in order to control how much space is used etc. Set the photo quality to 'maximum'.

▮ **Forget about 'zooming'** with your phone as it reduces the quality of the image and increases the chances of the photo being blurred. If you need to get a closer shot of a scene/subject, for best results, physically move closer.

▮ **Use natural light** where possible to get the best from both your phone's camera and a scene. Phones aren't the best when it comes to taking photos in low light situations. The 'Golden Hour' (sunrise/sunset) offers great atmosphere that is very difficult to replicate artificially.

▮ **Avoid using the phone's flash** as this may 'wash out' the image or cause 'red eye' when taking portrait photos.

▮ **Set the focus** by tapping the area of the screen that you wish to focus on, it sounds obvious but is easily forgotten.

▮ **Eliminate distractions** from the background of a photo as it can (and usually does) spoil a great shot. e.g. an electricity pylon. If it can't be avoided, then it may be possible to remove it while touching up the image later.

▮ **Use the Rule of Thirds** - on most phones, camera apps will have an option to add a 'grid lines' overlay when taking photos. This is to help with composition using the 'Rule of Thirds'.

This involves dividing up your image using two horizontal lines and two vertical lines. Position the important elements in your scene along those lines, or at the points where they meet, as shown above.



You should try and put your subject in line with one of the vertical lines. If there is a vertical in your photo, it should be in line with one of the vertical lines.

▮ **Use panorama mode** as this allows the phone to 'stitch' multiple shots together (if not, apps are available). Put this feature to good use when taking shots of vistas, landscape photos or the interior of an interesting building such as a church or museum.

The more you practise photography with your phone the more you'll learn about the best techniques and tools to use. The best way to learn and improve is to get out there and start snapping - good luck!!

Barry Chignell

Barry lives in Lacey Green and is a semi-professional photographer who is happy to provide one to one tutorials or take commissions for photography projects. See his work at www.bscimages.com or call him on 07515 120538.



Windmill WI

We opened our October meeting with our AGM and a Quiz. Also in October we held our Jumble Sale. On the day we had masses of jumble and lots of customers which turned our jumble sale into the best ever. Several of our members attended the Group Meeting at Downley and enjoyed a very interesting talk by Malcolm Nelson talking about 40 years of catching smugglers at London Airport.

Our speaker for November was Leslie Grout talking about Windsor Castle and St George's Chapel. Leslie is an official Guide of Windsor Castle and told us many interesting stories.

Last month some members went to the Christmas Fayre at Stonor Park. There were more than 100 stands and everyone enjoyed themselves. One of our members attended a Glass Workshop and produced a beautiful angel.

At the beginning of December we had our Christmas Party. This was a lovely evening with a meal prepared by Zoe and Caroline. We had a Secret Santa and bursaries were won by two members. Our charity this year is Sightsavers - an international organisation that changes lives for the long term.

Last year several members helped with the Coffee Morning on a Thursday. We have also helped at the MacMillan Coffee Morning and will be organising it this year. We've had two successful Jumble Sales, many outings and good speakers.

There will be no meeting in January so our next meeting will be 8th February. You would be very welcome, we meet at 7.45pm at the Village Hall.

Forthcoming event - Jumble Sale March 11th.

A very Happy New Year

Ann Bartlett

Parish Councillors visit Air Command



Monday 3rd October eight local Parish Councillors visited RAF High Wycombe at Walters Ash to learn more about its functions.

Four Parish Councillors from Lacey Green attended – Cathryn Davies, Roger Craft, Liz Patient and Philip Suter.

Meeting at 3pm on a beautiful sunny October afternoon, after clearing security we were taken by minibus into the main base that you see from the Lacey Green to Walters Ash road behind the two World War II fighter aircraft.

We then proceeded to the bunker that many local residents will still remember being constructed over twenty five years ago. Here we were taken down to a briefing room and were given a presentation on the history of the site by the Station Commander. Apart from explaining the importance of RAF High Wycombe in today's world he also told us about its role in the Second World War and the fact that the base had been built to look like a village with the fire station resembling a church.

We then moved into NADOC control room and then left the present with a walk over to the Lancaster Block that houses the "Bomber" Harris room. Suddenly we were back in time and then went below ground to the tunnels leading the WWII bunker. Unfortunately, visitors

are unable to go in the bunker itself due to flood damage in the past, however after seeing photos of what it looked like and going down part of the network of tunnels to the door we were able to take in the atmosphere of the place.

We then got back into the minibus again and went to the Officers' Mess situated in Bradenham Woods Lane. We were given a tour of the building and refreshments and a final question and answer session with the Station Commander.

After looking out of our bedroom window for over 30 years at the red warning beacon on the metal tower you can see from Speen, it was very interesting to see what goes on in the area where it is located.

Cllr Philip Suter

St John's School

Theme Week

On our first week back to school after half term, the whole school took part in a very successful book-based 'Theme Week'. Each class focused on a different book creatively exploring the story.

Years 5 and 6 created scrapbooks based on characters from different periods ranging from Victorian times to the year 2016.

At the end of the week the parents were invited in to see the results of the children's hard work.

Remembrance

Our Remembrance service took place on Friday 11th November at St John's Church and included contributions of prayers from Years 3 & 4 and readings from Year 6. Children from Key Stage 1 made beautiful wreaths which were laid with a wreath from RAF High Wycombe. A representative from the Royal Air Force read the poem 'In Flanders Field'. Even the smallest children observed the 2 minutes' silence without a sound!

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre saw parts of the school transformed into a festive wonderland with a secret room for the children to choose gifts for their family and a magical grotto. Santa visited to distribute gifts and everyone



enjoyed partaking in the Year 6 games. Our PA and parent volunteers arranged a wide variety of stalls and did a fantastic job organising the event.

Lights, Camel, Action!

During December KS1 performed 'Lights, Camel, Action!' a colourful hybrid of the Nativity story and Strictly Come Dancing. With wonderful dances by the 'funky camels', innkeepers and ballet dancing angels, all scored by 'Caesar' (who closely resembled Craig Revel Horwood) it was a memorable start to the festive activities. The children's hard work preparing for the big day paid off and everyone thoroughly enjoyed each performance.

Hood Saves the Wood

Our Christmas performances finished with a memorable production of 'Hood Saves The Wood'. The play, written and directed by Mrs Thomas, was based on the story of Red Riding Hood - with a twist. As usual, it included cheesy rhymes; a handsome hero; a pantomime dame; a love story; some boys dressed as girls; and, of course, a dancing horse!

This year's narrators were the Holly and the Ivy who introduced us to the story of a little girl who was concerned about the Lacey Green wood being destroyed by lumberjacks in preparation for the HS2. On her way to her grandmother's house she met the wolf who decided he simply had to have basket of treats she was carrying. After a few musical numbers the wolf ended up as the saviour of

the wood - after all it is unheard of for wolves to live in Lacey Green! Both casts did a fantastic job and seemed to have as much fun performing as we did watching them.

On the last day of term the staff surprised the children by putting on a performance of the play themselves and displayed a previously hidden flare for the dramatics. Their comedic performance was a lovely end to the festivities.

Xmas Jumper Day

This year our pupil council chose to support 'Save The Children' charity. The whole school took part in the Christmas Jumper Day fundraising event. Prizes were awarded to the most festive person in each class and everyone enjoyed coming together for our school Christmas lunch in the hall.

Christingles

During our RE day at the end of term the Key Stage 1 children spent the day making and learning about Christingle oranges. In the afternoon with the support of some Year 6 pupils they visited the church where they held their own special candle lit Christingle service.

St John's School Office



Horticultural Society

Since our last Hallmark article we have enjoyed an inspiring talk by Edwin Rye on making up winter flowering baskets. Edwin has a stall in Risborough market where you can buy plants or the baskets themselves. They always look delightful and it is hard not to buy, or create your own with the plants he has each week.

We also enjoyed our Annual Pumpkin Competition and Supper. There were some excellent entries this year, a testament to our members horticultural skill! We enjoyed a delicious meal and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who contributed their expertise and assistance with the three course meal and in setting up and clearing away. There are photographs on the village web site courtesy of Stan McCabe.

With gardens covered in snow and frost there is not a lot we can do outdoors, but as soon as the weather warms up a little there will be plenty to do. The National Vegetable Society, of which our society is a member, provides a handy list of seasonal jobs.

In January and February you can plant bare rooted fruit trees and bushes and continue to prune established fruit trees, cutting out any dead and diseased wood. It is also a good idea to cut out any very weak growth and branches that cross and rub each other.

The vegetable plot should be dug by February and for early crops you can warm up the soil by putting down polythene, plastic or glass cloches.

The garden and plot should be tidied up and all weeds removed to avoid seeds from spring flowering plants spreading the minute there is some sunshine.

It is also time to sow some seeds inside now; onions, tomatoes and some annual flower seeds will benefit from an early start.

In March the society is trying out a new Spring Show. We have included the show schedules with this edition of Hallmark. If the show is a success we will make it an annual event, so we would really appreciate your support.

There are classes for children, teenagers and adults, so the whole family can join in the fun! There are opportunities for exhibiting flowering bulbs, shrubs and trees and also the domestic sections where you can show off your baking skills.

In addition to this there is a photography class, so plenty of opportunity for your combined talents to be displayed!

We hope you will join us and put the show in your diary now. Saturday 25th March is the day and exhibits can be staged from 12.30-1.30 with viewing from 3pm if you would just like to see the exhibits.

We wish you a very good growing year and look forward to seeing you at one of our talks or shows.

**Alison Shreeve
Chair**



Snowdrop Walk

Enjoy a walk in beautiful scenery and plant snowdrops in support of Child Bereavement UK, then join us for tea and cake afterwards!

West Wycombe Park, Bucks
SUN 12 FEB 2017, 11am - 4pm (last entry 3pm)

£2.50 adults | under 16s & concessions £1.50 (under 3s FREE)
Children's Treasure Trail £1
Unfortunately, only guide & hearing dogs permitted

01494 569049
childbereavementuk.org

Child Bereavement UK
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Our thanks to Sir Edward and Lady Dashwood for their support.

Clare Charity Centre, Wycombe Road, Sanderson, Bucks HP14 4BF
Charities in England and Wales 1060419 and Scotland SC042910

PHOTO: SLJL

Tennis Club

The shorter days and poorer weather inevitably mean that less tennis is played from November through to February. However, we still try and get out as much as possible and on Sunday 11th December 16 members braved a cold morning for our fun festive tennis match. The weather was fantastic with clear blue skies and afterwards mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed alongside the courts. Looking forward, we will be holding another friendly adult mixed competition and a junior competition during March.

Junior Tennis

Our new head coach Justin Cook, is now running the junior tennis coaching on Saturday mornings and the new times are:

8.30am for the under tens and 9.15am for the tens and over. Members can take advantage of a generous discount by paying in advance for the course of termly lessons.

If you or your family are interested in joining, we are offering 14 months for the price of 12, so if you sign up during February your membership will last until the end of March 2018. Apart from the significant social activities which we offer, there are also the health benefits to consider.

Secret to a long life

Researchers at the University of Oxford have discovered that people who play racket sports such as tennis, slash their risk of dying from heart disease and

stroke by 56%. No such benefits were seen in people who listed team sports or running as their main exercise as they tended to stop playing at an earlier age.

Even if you play tennis only once a week, researchers from Loughborough University found that this still offers significant long-term health benefits, lowering the risk of early death from cancer and heart disease. So what are you waiting for?

Further information about joining and all our activities can be found on our website: Clubspark.lta.org.uk/LaceyGreenTennisClub

Nigel Glenister



Trying to decide which photo to pick for Hallmark made me remember many enjoyable moments from last term, which are sometimes forgotten in the excitement of Christmas.

However, in the Autumn we had special visitor in our Imagination Station classes at 11.15am on a Friday: photographer John Hurrell, (www.radicaledge.com) showed us how his camera worked and then we made cardboard cameras and spent a very happy ten minutes clicking at the fluffy birds that had nested in our trestle trees.

The children then really enjoyed taking photos of each other using my mobile phone. I am always surprised how able children of 3 years old are with modern technology. Although I am pleased to say they still really enjoyed a visit from Ticklebird.

John took some really good informal photos of the children, which the parents were very pleased with.

We are looking forward to a visiting paramedic and hairdresser in the Spring term in Imagination Station (not the same person or the same week!) and a visiting accordion player and harpist in our Melody Minors Music classes. I am always overwhelmed at the generosity of so many people willing to share their talents.

Jenny Stothard



Black Horse

Happy New Year to you all.

What a year it was! Let us hope that 2017 is even better. We had the busiest Christmas we have ever had. Christmas meals started in November and they are still going on in January. We had new customers that had never been to us before, we had our regular customers, and customers returning to us. It was amazing, thank you everybody for your loyal support.

New Year's Eve was once again a great night with music dancing and fun. I think Ian and I got to our beds around 4 o'clock on New Year's Day waking up to a fully booked New Year's Lunch.

We have a few things to do in January; Burns Night as usual and Black Horse golf society AGM.

What news have I got to tell you all? We lost a very dear man and friend in December, Gerald Bedford. He was one of a kind; he played for my domino team for many years and taught me everything I know about the game. He had many friends in the Black Horse and of course the village and we will miss him.

I have a few birthdays coming up: we have Fern's 18th and Fred's 70th which is exciting. I hope they both have a great time. We are taking bookings for Valentines Day Meal For Two.

See our menu below and book a romantic table for two.

We now have a new web site www.blackhorselaceygreen.co.uk.

Ian and I wish the new landlords at The Whip all the best in their new venture.

The Beer Festival is booked for the weekend of August 5th and 6th. Bands are being booked as we speak. I look forward to seeing everybody this year.

Thank you once again for all the support you have shown me throughout the years I have been here.

Lynne and Ian

Valentines Dinner Menu Tues 14 Feb

STARTERS

Tempura battered prawns

Creamed garlic mushrooms with toast

Leek and potato soup with a warm roll



MAINS

Rib eye steak with all the trimmings

Salmon and crayfish fiorelli served with salad and garlic bread

Lamb shank in mint and onion gravy with selection of vegetables

Mediterranean risotto with salad and garlic bread

Choice of dessert

Plus a bottle of wine and coffee

£40 per couple 2 course

£50 per couple 3 course



MP's Update



As you may know, Bucks County Council have submitted a proposal to abolish both County and District Councils in Bucks and replace them with a single unitary authority - the kind of local government that already exists in Milton Keynes, Slough or Windsor and Maidenhead.

Now, the four Buckinghamshire District Councils have come up with their alternative proposal, for two unitary authorities rather than one, with the southern council covering the present Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks districts.

Both proposals have now gone to the Communities and Local Government Secretary, Sajid

Javid, for a decision. I'm glad that all our local councils are now in favour of a unitary system but it's regrettable that they were not able to agree on a joint plan.

It's clear even from the Districts' own analysis that if we look at financial considerations alone, the greater savings would be made by moving to a single unitary council.

However, the District Councils argue that the two council model would be more responsive and accountable to local people and as a result would provide better quality services.

The County Council replies that its one council model would involve devolving many decisions about the delivery of services to area boards which would include elected councillors from that locality and would consult parishes and local communities.

This choice is important. It's not some theoretical debate about bureaucratic structures but a decision with profound implications for local services on which we all depend.

For example, how do we ensure that any changes to the organisation of local government enhance rather than disrupt the increasingly close partnership between local authority social services (currently a County Council responsibility) and the NHS in Buckinghamshire?

Or what is the best way to structure local government to make certain that decisions about housing and planning are taken alongside those about infrastructure and economic regeneration?

We need to get this decision right. I want to understand the views of other key local public services, local business, parish and town councils and have asked them for their views.

Community groups and individual residents are also very welcome to email me at david.lidington.mp@parliament.uk or write to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

David Lidington MP

Childcare Malawi

If you have any unwanted Christmas presents that would be suitable as tombola prizes, or you are having a clear out of surplus clothes, toys or household items, please consider giving them a new lease of life

by donating them to ChildCare Malawi.

Laptops and mobile phones in good working order would be particularly welcome and could be used to facilitate family liaison visits or be sold in Malawi to help fund our projects.

Please visit our website at www.childcaremalawi.org.uk for more information or contact Clare Clements (clare@childcaremalawi.org.uk or 01844 343602) if you have any queries.

Village Shop

It was snowing on the morning I went to talk to the volunteers who run our village shop and the weather was a great reminder of how valuable this local resource can be.

The shop has been going 8 years and is open every weekday morning from 9.00 to 12.00. They have a wide range of long-life produce on the shelves, a fridge full of milk and dairy products, fresh eggs from a local farm, and a freezer with yummy Beechdean Ice Creams at a very competitive price.

They also sell freshly brewed coffee if you want to stop and have a chat. If there are items you would like stocked then ask them and they may agree to give it a try.

Every morning first thing the volunteers go shopping to collect the day's newspapers and stock up. They are happy to take orders the day before, so if you need anything bought you can place your order the day before. The newspaper service is well used, and much cheaper than getting them delivered from Risborough.



On Thursdays and some Mondays there is a Post Office service so you can send parcels, buy stamps and do other Post Office business. The volunteers are working with the Post Office to make the Monday opening a firm fixture.

The Click And Collect Library service is running smoothly. Anyone can go online to the Bucks Library Service, scan through the list of books they hold and request books.

The Library Service will then deliver your books to the shop for you to pick up. You pop them back to the shop when you are finished. What could be easier! A much greater range of books than the old mobile library and no need to visit at specific times.

On the day that I visited, Tony Molesworth was the volunteer running the shop. He told me that they have 15 to 20 shoppers each day so there is a regular turnover of goods.



The shop is staffed by a team of a dozen volunteers who each do a few hours per month. They find this rewarding as they can get out and help the village residents who don't go outside the village every day. As well as the pleasure of helping in the community and meeting new people, volunteers receive "Bucks Volunteers Reward Tokens" that can be swapped for local theatre visits or leisure activities. If you're interested in joining the helpers, then contact Tony Molesworth (contact details on inner back page).

Mike Piercy

Lacey Green Productions

In the deep mid-winter LGP is only just coming out of hibernation. With a yawn and a stretch we can now start to think about the year ahead.

Firstly, we are reviving our murder mystery entertainment "The Phetched Phantom" for performances in March for the WI in Great Hampden, for the WI in Winslow and for the Princes Risborough branch of the Rotary organisation in Whiteleaf. All of these performances will help others and LGP to raise money for charities. LGP's total raised so far is now over £60,000.

And then, for the rest of the year, we are really thinking deeply

about how we can involve more of you out there in our bid to entertain the local populace. At present we have a fantastically loyal, local audience for our shows, especially our dinner theatres at the end of November. And we always manage to make an annual donation to charitable causes.

But, we have probably neglected the publicity side of running a drama group. Lacey Green knows we exist, but do Naphill, Walter's Ash and Princes Risborough? We plan to expand our artistic and social activities, while not abandoning any of our present repertoire but adding to it. Some of our younger members have

new ideas about how to reach and be relevant to their own generation and we are keen to follow these ideas up. Please can you help us? Spread the word. Talk about us to anyone who lives within a dozen miles of Lacey Green. The more ideas, the merrier!

We have a meeting in early February to clarify these plans and we'll have more to say in the near future. If you have any ideas for us, then please do make contact either through our website www.laceygreenproductions.co.uk or phone 01844 344207.

Peter Brookhouse

Princes Centre Update

We wish a Happy and Healthy New Year to all our supporters, as well as our clients, our hard-working staff and our wonderful volunteers.

Our clients, some of whom would have spent most of the Christmas period alone, very much appreciated all the Christmas festivities and the little extras provided by the Princes Centre. Further funds raised from the Ladies Swish Evening were used to buy Christmas gifts for them.

Due to the superb work by the many volunteers who make the Kop Hill Climb such a wonderful event for all who visit it and such a benefit for all the local charities, we have recently received a grant of £5,000 from their proceeds. We will use this to upgrade the clients' toilet facilities in the upper hall entrance area. We have been very fortunate to benefit from this event each year and very much

appreciate their continued generosity.

Everyone is delighted with the new bus, and the recent sale of the old bus will ensure a healthier balance in the transport account now we are not faced with regular expensive repair bills.

The collection held outside Tesco in December raised £831 which, with the addition of Gift Aid, will total over £1,000. Many thanks to the Jingers who sang, and to the musicians who assisted during the morning; also to all the volunteers who stood outside with the buckets, and to everyone who donated. We hope that our next event, the Quiz evening being held later this month will also be successful.

In February the Rev. David Williams, one of our trustees, is hoping to raise further funds from a sponsored climb up Mount



THE PRINCES CENTRE
AWARD WINNING DAYCARE

Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa. Please consider supporting his efforts by either donating directly to our donations link -

mydonate.bt.com/charities/theprincesrisboroughcentreltd or signing a sponsor form in St Mary's Church or at the Princes Centre.

Our Jingers choir recently sang at the opening of the new Coop store in Bell Street and their management generously donated 4 laptops. Learning computer skills is one of the many activities we offer to our clients and is of great benefit to help them cope with modern living.

Maggie Wooster

Restoring the Record

On 1st January 2026, it will no longer be possible to use historic map and documentary evidence to claim 'lost ways'. Any path, track, alleyway, bridleway, cut-through etc. not registered on the Definitive Map could well be in danger of being lost. Even old and still well-used, but officially unrecorded, routes may be at risk.

What does this actually mean to those who walk, cycle or horse ride along our public foot-paths and bridleways? The basic message is stark – we take our access to the countryside for granted. We use routes for recreation and as a means of linking places together without thinking. But if we don't check what we already have or what has been used in the past and ensure that it is legally recorded, we could lose them forever. The ancient maxim on which many claimants have relied, in the past: *"once a highway always a highway"* will be history.

For example a small strip of land between a highway and the start of a definitive path might be unregistered. After 2026, a landowner could put a gate or fence across it and restrict all entry to the public – quite legally – thus permanently hindering access to the countryside because we have assumed, but not checked, that the Definitive Map is up-to-date and accurate. It will not be just our generation which will suffer but those who follow after us and is that the legacy we wish to leave them? Is it worth the risk?

The 'Restoring the Records' project is two-pronged with historical research being



supported by field work. Volunteers are needed to check maps, walk paths, do research, interview local people about their memories and get new links approved so there is something that virtually anyone can do to get involved.

No previous knowledge or training is needed since the project team have prepared a simple step-by-step guide which will answer most of the more common questions and will supply a PDF of the area showing its rights of way.

The Bucks Local Access Forum are attempting to recruit a volunteer[s] in every

Buckinghamshire parish to spread the load and speed up the recording.

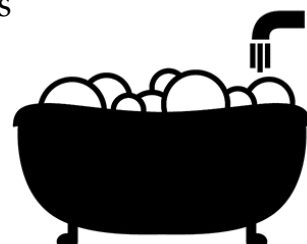
Currently there are volunteers in 91 [or 53%] of the 171 Parish Councils, Parish Meetings and Town Councils in Bucks. There is no volunteer yet from Lacey Green Parish.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this fascinating and very important treasure hunt, please contact the editor, Mike Piercy, and he will pass your details on.

Bucks Local Access Forum

BIRD'S BATHROOMS

- Bathroom Installations
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Gerald Bedford 1932 – 2016

Born at Holly Bush Farm, Walters Ash, later demolished for Bomber Command, Gerald grew up the second youngest of nine children. He started working aged fourteen for Dick West at Stocken Farm, Lacey Green. He retired fifty years later as farm foreman.

When I first met Gerald he was twenty-five, already the head tractor driver with a characteristic smile. It is with great pleasure that I give this tribute to a man who was a thoroughly skilled countryman, admired by those who worked with him, and who enjoyed the company of loyal friends and a close-knit family.

Gerald has spoken of the various horses he worked with when he started, the dairy bulls which could be bad tempered, the corn cut with a binder and stood up in sheaves, the rick building, threshing, and the grain to be bagged in two and half hundredweight sacks. He mastered the horse drawn implements to do the different field work.

Then came the tractor and bigger implements until in 1956 the first combine was purchased. The corn had already been cut and made into sheaves, so to give it a trial they fed the sheaves into the cutter bar and let it thresh them into the grain and straw. 1957 saw Gerald on the combine all day all through harvest. There were no roll bars or cabs in those days.

Gerald could lay a hedge to perfection and erect a fence strong and taut, both true skills. The students and part timers that worked on the farm hoped to be given a job with him for it would usually be an interesting one.

In the 1950's he lived in Louches Lane, Naphill, his parents' home. When the New Road was blocked with snow, a frequent occurrence in those winters, he went home on the tractor and next morning would

open the road for others waiting to get through. He became quite well known for that. In the mid 1960's he moved into 2 Stocken Cottages, a semi-detached house. John & I lived next door. The little kitchens were on opposite sides of the house but such were the rafters that in mine I could clearly hear him singing as he did his washing up in his. He had a lovely voice.

For relaxation he would go to the pub. When living in Naphill to The Wheel where he enjoyed a game of darts. He became great friends with Ken and Cis Fletcher, the landlords of Pink and Lily. He loved all pub games and he and his friends would always settle in the 'snug' there to spend the evening playing. When the breathalyser was introduced he never drank and drove, his licence was vital. The police were fond of waiting on Pink Road for those leaving the pub.

In his retirement he watched racing on the tele. daily. But his local was The Black Horse. Fifteen years ago the pub entered the dominoes league. He was much in demand for he was a strong player. It is said he liked to win. That is no surprise, his standards were always high. When he could no longer walk to the pub Lynne would fetch him, Mondays for dominoes but also Wednesdays and Sundays. She also took him to the hospital and doctors on several occasions. She was more than the pub landlady she was a friend. On his 70th birthday the pub presented him with his own pint handled beer mug. He always finished the evening with a scotch.

My thanks go to all those who have briefed me on their friendships with Gerald – Lynne and her staff at the Black Horse. The dominoes players, particularly Phil and Gordon. Memories from farm staff saying how much they learned from him and how he bailed them out if they got caught a bit short at the end of

the week. Dozens who gave me tales, too many to name but appreciated for adding to my picture.

In 1991 his neighbour Philip hanging out his washing spotted Sandra, Gerald's niece, sunbathing. They were married in 1993 and were to have three boys. It must have been very nice to have this family next door, becoming especially important to him in his later years.

When he was due to retire he didn't want a fuss and reassured that he could stay in his farm cottage went into hospital to have new hips. While he was away two things were done. Firstly his house was extended and made into two flats so that he didn't have to cope with stairs. Secondly a secret lunch was arranged at the farm. His family, the farm family, farm staff old and new and all the old farm students were invited. His brother Stan was taking him to his sister Margaret for lunch. Stan was in on the secret so when Gerald was unexpectedly invited to drop in at the farm to see an old friend persuaded him to do so, on the way. The reason I mention this is because those former students and staff came hundreds of miles to be there. Only one, farming in Eire couldn't get away. He hated the phone but nevertheless rang Gerald to have a chat and wish him well. The effort they all made to be there must speak volumes, more than I can ever say.

In his retirement he still kept an eye on the farm, always noticed what was going on. I appreciated that he signed my Christmas card "with love". All those who knew him must be the richer for it.

Joan West

Edited for length by M.Piercy

Happy Wanderers Trip Away



The sun shone on the righteous as 22 Happy Wanderers this year visited Swanage over a three day period from 10th to 12th October. This, in fact, was a return to Swanage after a three-year absence and our good friends at The Pines Hotel looked after us very well.

Having assembled in early afternoon after our respective journeys to The Pines, we took off on a gentle 2 mile walk from a spot close to the village of Kingston. The path of just under a mile to Swyre Head gives no clue to the 360 degree views that can be had on a good day. Indeed, we were able to see the Isle of Portland, the Isle of Wight, Poole Harbour and Salisbury Plain from the one spot. In addition, there are sweeping views over Kimmeridge Bay below. Swyre Head at 203 metres (682 feet) above sea level is the highest point for 150km. We couldn't have had a better day for it, as the air was so clear.

A good night's sleep and a substantial breakfast set us up for the walk from The Pines to Corfe Castle over the Purbeck Way, which we picked up near the

Ullwell Gap. Overall, this is about five and a half miles and is a fairly gentle ascent from Ullwell up onto the chalk ridge with its Neolithic barrows. There are excellent views from the top in all directions and we had to make several stops to take in the views – or that was the excuse given on the ascent. As it was a repeat of Monday's weather, we were not disappointed and was in marked contrast to our attempt to do the walk in mist and rain in 2012 (we did it without the views then). The view of Corfe Castle on the descent is most dramatic.

We had booked a room at the National Trust café at Corfe Castle and they could not have been more helpful and accommodating – even though the walkers managed to show up late (thanks to those views again). The hard core of non-walkers held the fort until we showed. Most of us returned to Swanage on the steam train – a must for a visit to the area.

On the final day, we had a pre-arranged guided visit to Kingston Lacy House near Wimborne. This National Trust property was home to the Bankes family from 1665 after they lost Corfe Castle to Cromwell due to their loyalty to Charles the First. Although an earlier house stood on the site, there is no trace of it now. The last member of the Bankes family died in 1981 and the house, extensive grounds and farms were taken over by the National Trust. Arguably, the most notable feature is the collection of paintings by old masters such as, Velásquez, Titian, Brueghel, Rubens and Van Dyck. The guide was both entertaining and knowledgeable. This proved a fitting end to our trip, just as a shower appeared.

David and Helen Cliff



Windmill Under 5s

It has been a busy start to the New Year at Windmills, but the children, old and new, have quickly settled into pre-school life.

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 Natasha Kann for organizing a fabulous event, and to the parents who helped at the party.

Shortly after this, rehearsals for the Christmas play got underway in earnest. The staff did an amazing job of teaching the children their lines and the words

to the songs. 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. A huge thank you to Angela, Louisa, Lucy, Annie, Keely and Joel 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 our Christmas party, which involved traditional party games and pizza for lunch.

The children all thoroughly enjoyed the singing, dancing and party games, and we were very lucky that Santa took time out

from his busy schedule to join us – thank you Santa!

We have welcomed eleven new children to the preschool this term, and welcomed back several families as they 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. We will shortly begin planning for future fundraising events, including the Summer Barbeque. In the meantime, we would like to invite people to join us for our Quiz Night on Friday 3rd February from 8 pm in St John's School Hall. Tickets are only £5 per person and there will be a cash bar available. No need to put teams together; just turn up for what is promising to be a great night.

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

Q

U

I

Z

NIGHT

Book the babysitter ...
Round up your friends ...
Google hard...
... make sure you're there!



Friday 3rd February

8 PM @ ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

Tickets £5 each

Cash Bar

Tickets available from Paula
on 07502 198405 or admin@windmillunder5s.co.uk

St John's Church

We started the Christmas season at St John's with Advent Carols and Lessons on 27th November.

On the 18th December we had our Service of 9 Lessons and Carols, which was very well supported by the Parish community.

The Crib Service on Christmas Eve was a delight with a full church and lots of children, some dressed in Nativity dress (lots of angels and some 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; for 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, and 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 15th January the Epiphany Carol Service took place. Another lovely service!

The attendances over the Christmas period were very good 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

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 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.



The Dating of Easter



This year, Easter Day falls on 16th April. Last year it was celebrated on 27th March. Next year, Easter Day will be on 1st April. So have you ever wondered why Christmas Day is always celebrated on 25th December but Easter Day is what is called a “moveable feast”?

The simple answer is that Christmas Day is based on the Roman calendar which is a solar calendar but Easter has its roots in the Jewish calendar which is based on the phases of the moon. But, look into the matter a little more deeply and we find it to be even more complicated than we might have imagined.

There have been four phases in the development of the process by which the date of Easter Day is computed. In the first phase a diversity of practice concerning the date of Easter existed at least as early as 120 AD. For the churches of the Roman Province of Asia the dating of Easter followed the Hebrew dating of Passover so that Easter Day was celebrated on the 14th Nisan in the Jewish calendar, whatever day of the week that was, whereas the Roman and Alexandrian Churches were by then ending their pre-Easter fast, according to Eusebius of Caesarea, “on no other day than on that of the Resurrection of our Saviour”.

In the second phase it was agreed that the great Easter festival was always to be held on a Sunday. The Council of Nicaea in 325 AD ruled that all Churches should follow a single rule for Easter computed independently of the Jewish calendar. But there were different approaches to how to calculate the date in the great centres of Rome and in Alexandria where a 19 year cycle was in use. The difficulties arose through seeking to reconcile the lunar calendar of the phases of the Moon by which the Passover is calculated with the solar calendar on which the days of the week are based. By the end of the 3rd Century, tables based on an 84 year cycle were widely in use though attempts were made to reconcile the Roman and Alexandrian tables resulting in a cycle of 532 years! It all seems very complicated so far, doesn’t it? But there is yet more to come!

The third phase of controversy in associated with the arrival of the Roman missionaries sent to Britain in the very late 6th century in the time of Pope Gregory the Great. They found that the British Christians, and the Irish missionaries who evangelised the English from the north, were adhering to a system of Easter calculation which differed from that of the Mediterranean world. The British Church was still using the tables based on the 84 year cycle whereas the Dionysian cycle had long been in use in the wider Roman Church. In 655 AD King Oswy, a “British” Christian, defeated the pagan King Penda at the Battle of Winwaed (Whinmoor) in what is now East Leeds and, indeed, the battlefield is located in Seacroft Parish, one of the parishes in which I was

formerly Rector. With the Northumbrian Christian Kingdom firmly established in the North, the differences between the “British” Church and the “English” Church became more significant, not least in the King’s household where Oswy’s wife Eanfled, raised in Kent, followed the customs of the “English” Church. This meant that there were occasions when the King would be celebrating Easter whilst his Queen and her followers were still observing the Lenten fast. And that plainly could not continue! And so King Oswy summoned the Synod of Whitby in 664 AD to bring about a reconciliation of the British and English Church practice. These matters were decided in favour of Roman principles but not without some considerable bitterness and regret amongst the Celtic Christians.

The fourth phase to the controversies concerning the dating of Easter arose from the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar in 1582 - with 10 days deleted in October of that year as part of the implementation process – and with the churches of the West adopting the new dating but most of the Eastern Orthodox Churches continuing to use the calculations based on the Julian Calendar. In 1997, the World Council of Churches proposed a reform of the method of the calculation to try to bring eastern and western churches together but this has still to be implemented and I am not holding my breath!

Tony Bundock
Vicar of St. John’s

Community Planning Group

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all residents.

Lacey Green Stores

The Hallmark editor has put in a separate note about the shop elsewhere in the magazine.

Paul Rogerson, who is one of our volunteers, and thereby earns Time Credits, had an interesting experience with these when visiting London recently. He had taken some Time Credits, hoping to use them at St Paul's cathedral, but this was closed at the time. Instead he visited the London Museum, which is nearby. Entry was free, but a separate section about the London Fire was charging £11. The alternative was to pay using 2 Time Credits!

Coffee time

Something that we do have available is fresh coffee at 90 pence a cup. Do give it a try next time you are in the car park or simply just passing. We will even provide this on a Thursday morning, but only until 10.00, when the WI arrive in the main hall.

Click and collect

A few people are using this service to obtain books from the Bucks CC library. To order a book, you need to do this on line from your own computer, or tell the volunteer in the shop what you want, and I will place the appropriate order for you. Our laptop is no longer operational, and so we can't do the ordering directly from the shop.

Post Office

We were instrumental in getting the Post Office service installed way back in the mists of time, and are concerned that the service is not being provided regularly on Mondays and Thursdays. It is not technically part of the Stores, and we have no control over the postmaster. However, we have contacted the Post Office authorities to see if anything can be done to improve the situation.

Welcome pack

We are in need of spies! Do tell me if you know of anyone moving into a property near you.

Tony Molesworth

01844 344975

Happy Wanderers Cont.

Penn Walk

On a crisp and sunny November day fifteen of us gathered at the pond at Penn.

We set off through the fields and woods towards Beaconsfield and were met by a group of unusual but friendly pigs.

Having arrived at Forty Green we completed the circular walk back to the Red Lion where we received the warm welcome of a log fire and a roast lunch.

Liz and Ronnie Lewin



Heavenly Bodies

As winter thaws into spring, Orion the hunter loosens his steely grip on the night sky, giving way to Leo the Lion, Virgo and other sparkling delights. During the the graceful exit of Orion into the evening twilight in a few weeks' time, there is a fascinating 'dance of the planets' to witness. And it's not long before the clocks go forwards – hurrah!

Right now, you may have noticed a brilliant bright light in the southwest just after sunset, which is Earth's sulphuric twin Venus. It's incredibly bright, but is just a 'crescent' as only the right-hand side of the planet is being lit by the Sun. Nearby, at about the "10 o'clock" position is the dimmer orange dot of Mars. These two have appeared to be gliding closer to each other each night, and reached their closest on 2 February. They then begin drifting apart during the rest of the month. The 'Love' and 'War' planets are joined by a delicate crescent Moon on 1 March to form a triangle, and a straight line the following evening (see chart 1), and should be a memorable sight.

The King of the Planets, Jupiter, is also swinging into view and can be seen rising from the eastern horizon at about 11pm in mid-February, and at about 10pm from mid-March. If you watch for it on 14 March (and 10 April), you'll be treated to the fabulous spectacle of the Moon rising closely alongside the mighty planet (see chart 2). It's amazing to think when looking at them both that although the Moon appears to dwarf Jupiter from our vantage point, several thousand of our Moons would fit inside Jupiter. The Earth is currently 'catching up' with Jupiter on the orbital carousel, and will be closest to it for the year on 7 April when the planet will be at its biggest and brightest.

During March, the daytimes here seem to very quickly become longer, and it's no optimistic illusion either. This is the time of year when our part of the world gets busy tilting forwards, so the Sun soon appears higher in the sky and sets later and later. Days and nights become equal length at the spring or vernal equinox on 20 March. The clocks go forward an hour on 26 March, which is also



Mother's Day. There is a full Moon on 11 April, which means that Easter Sunday will be on 16 April. This is because Easter Day is usually on the first Sunday after the first full Moon occurring after the spring equinox.

By mid-April, Venus has disappeared from our evening skies, has orbited to the other side of the Sun and so rises just *before* the Sun. Human early risers can look out for it towards the eastern horizon at about 6am or a little earlier for a darker sky, but make sure you look before the Sun has risen. On 22 April, the Lyrid meteor shower is expected, so keep the peepers peeled when it gets dark to see some 'shooting stars'!

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.com
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	Leigh Axe	345216	leigh@laceygreen.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	richardsp44@btinternet.com
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
Freshly brewed coffee for sale (not Thursdays)

COFFEE MORNINGS

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

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Clive Hodghton (Chair)

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

LACEY GREEN WINDMILL

In 2017 the windmill will be open from 2 pm to 5 pm on Sundays & Bank Holidays from 2nd April until 24th September. Admission is £2.50 per adult, and £1 per child (aged 5-15).

For National Mills Weekend we will be open on from 2-5 on Saturday 13th May and 11-5 on Sunday 14th May.

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 2017