

HALLMARK

The Lacey Green and Loosley Row Magazine



AUGUST 2017

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Welcome to the August edition of Hallmark

Letters

Dear Editor,

Many thanks for including the Anti-Slavery Concert at Chipko on 24th June in the May edition.

We managed to get an audience of about 75 into our house to hear the wind quintet, and raised £ 5,000.

Members of the audience and supporters who are Hallmark readers may like to know the result.

Thanks for your help.

In friendship,

Andrew Clarke

Our two dominant themes this month seem to be playgroups and history.

The playgroup topic is driven by the move of KinderGym from our Village Hall to Monks Risborough Hall. Hopefully the LG & LR mums will be able to stay with Jenny despite the move to new premises. We wish her good luck in the new hall.

I was amused to receive Helen Cliff's article looking at the history of LGP (see page 25). I remember many happy years helping out with the productions in Stocken Farm barn with about 20 primary-school age kids running around all over the place. A modern Health and Safety inspector would have a fit!

On two beautiful Summer Saturdays I very much enjoyed visiting the Open Garden at Loosley Dene (see page 20) and



the Inauguration of the Art House Pavilion at Grymsdyke Farm (see page 22). When I visited the Pavilion the set up of the exhibits had not been finished so I did not get the full experience, but it will be interesting to see how the Pavilion evolves over the next few months.

Mike Piercy

Councillor Vacancy

A vacancy has become available at Lacey Green Parish Council for a Councillor.

To be eligible for this role you must be over 18 years and a qualifying citizen of the Commonwealth, the European Community or the Republic of Ireland and an elector, occupy as owner or tenant any land or premises or have a principal place of work within three miles of the parish boundaries.

For full terms and conditions of eligibility, please contact the Town Council Office. You do not need any formal qualifications to be a councillor; however, these are the attributes the council looks for in a councillor:

- A desire and commitment to contribute to the local community.
- A willingness to stand up and be counted.
- A good sense of humour and a lot of patience.
- Ability and willingness to attend meetings of the council (or the meetings of other local authorities and local bodies when required) in the evening and other occasional events in the evening and at weekends.

If you would like to serve as a Councillor please apply, in writing or by email, to the Clerk (details below), providing brief background details and stating why you would like to join the Council.

Contact Information:
Jayne Mylchreest – Parish Clerk,
Lacey Green Parish Council
The Princes Centre,
Clifford Road,
Princes Risborough
Bucks HP27 0DP
T: 01844 275912 E:
clerk@laceygreen-pc.org

Closing date for applications
30th September 2017.

What's On

Sat 2 Sept

Sports Club Summer Event
see p21

Sat 2 Sept

Horts Club Annual Show
Starting at 1.30pm

Wed 20 Sept 8pm

Horts Club Talk:
"Kew Gardens"

23 - 24 Sept

History Group Exhibition
see this page

Thurs 28 Sept 9.30

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Sat 14 Oct

WI Jumble Sale

Wed 18 Oct

WI Village Quiz

Wed 15 Nov 7pm

Horts Club Pumpkin Supper

Sat 18 Nov

Church Christmas Fayre

23-25 Nov

LGP Dinner Theatre see
p13

Happy Wanderers

We would welcome you to
join us on one of our walks:

Sun 27 Aug and Wed 13 Sept
both at 10.30.

Phone Liz Lewin on 01844
274961 for more details.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

28 September 9.30am to 12 noon

On Thursday 28th September we are again holding our coffee morning in the Village Hall to raise money for the MacMillan Cancer Fund.

Entrance will be by donation of £1.50 and we shall have coffee and biscuits. Cakes will be on sale to have with your coffee.

We will have our usual stalls selling cakes, produce, crafts, cards, books and jewellery. We will also have a raffle and a bottle/jar tombola. Items for the stalls are always gratefully received.

Please come and spend an enjoyable morning meeting friends and supporting this very worthwhile charity.

Ann Bartlett - 01494 562455

THE WINDMILL WI JUMBLE SALE

AT LACEY GREEN VILLAGE HALL

ON SATURDAY, 14 OCTOBER AT 2pm

Bric-a-Brac, toys, books, cakes and good quality jumble!

If you have any jumble that you wish to donate please bring it to the Village Hall after 10am on the day of the sale

LG & LR History Group Exhibition

**THE BODGERS AND OTHER
ASSOCIATED LOCAL CRAFTS**

Sat 23rd September from 10am to 4pm, and Sun 24th September from 2pm to 4pm in St. John's School Hall.

On Saturday only there will be live demonstrations and an exhibition of furniture etc. made locally, and teas will be served.

Entrance fee £2.00, and £1.00 for schoolchildren, to be donated to school funds.

Parish Council News

I would like to start off with a thank you to the councillors on the Parish Council. We all seem to be attending meetings concerning matters surrounding and near to the parish, arranging for street furniture to be replaced and offering advice on clearance of ponds in the village.

There are several wooden benches in the village, and as you will all appreciate, wooden benches do not last forever, especially exposed to the elements. We have therefore embarked on a programme of replacing all the benches with maintenance free, recycled benches, all in brown. The replacement benches will carry a plaque confirming the original reason of their placement.

The new benches are maintenance free, they do not require painting, and they are vandal proof. As I am sure you will all appreciate, maintenance is very expensive and we are

mindful of the charges that would have to be passed onto the residents of the parish should we replace like for like.

The Pond in Kiln Lane is in need of some attention. We have contacted The Chiltern Society to ask for help and advice and they have suggested a clear out of some of the reeds and plants and have asked for volunteers to help. So if you fancy going for a paddle in the pond, please contact our clerk who will keep you informed of dates, times etc.

We have been attending meetings concerning the housing developments of nearby Princes Risborough. Whilst this does not have an immediate impact on our village, extra housing will have an impact on the doctors, dentists and supermarkets that we all use, and possibly the use of Main Road as an alternative route away from the congestion of the A4010.

We would ask residents to look at the plans, and comment if they wish. We need to remind both Princes Risborough and Wycombe District Council that we are interested, and our voice should be heard to ensure that our concerns are considered.

We are also still looking for a councillor to make up our numbers. Ideally we would like the candidate to represent the ward of Lacey Green.

If you feel you could give up an evening a month for Parish Council and an occasional evening to represent the parish, we would welcome your contacting us.

Cathryn Davies
Chairman



Hi Everyone, we are sad to be leaving Lacey Green Millennium Hall at the end of this term. We have been here for about 15 years and have loved every minute.

Kindergym measures its success in terms of happy parents and children, and fulfilled staff; not in terms of financial profit. Therefore, unfortunately we cannot afford the raised prices

the hall committee have levied in order to maintain the village hall.

We are continuing to work on a Friday, running Kindergym, Melody Minors and Imagination Station in The Scout Hut, Courtmoor Close, Monks Risborough, where we already work on a Wednesday. I believe as many people as possible will move with us (It takes me 9 minutes via the Pink & Lily).

I would like to thank all the parents who have supported me over that time, all the volunteers who have given their time for free to help me when we could

not afford all the staff necessary, and Karen and Clive Hodgton for their personal help with helping me solve day to day problems, and Mike Piercy for his patience with my often late Hallmark entries.

I hope to see many of you over the Summer. We are at Monks Risborough for our stay and play sessions and at my house in Lacey Green for the 3 days where they can be left on their own. See the program for all our activities and bring your friends! Happy Holidays,

Jenny

District Council Update

Much water has passed through the metaphorical mill since my last notes so here are a few updates.

All the activity regarding the proposed Modernising Local Government reorganisation is on hold. The document produced jointly by the four District Councils in Bucks proposing two Unitary Authorities and the alternative proposal by Bucks County Council for a single Unitary Authority were independently presented to the Communities and Local Government Secretary, Sajid Javid in January. The promised decision by the end of January, then by the end of March, did not materialise. Then the surprise election intervened to further delay matters and as we have no decision and do not expect one soon as the Government is busy on other matters, your Council happily carries on with its work as before.

There appears to be a similar outcome to the proposal to move the Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens Ward into the Chesham and Amersham Parliamentary Constituency. That is also on hold. So regarding the proposed reorganisations, we are as before.

However there is a lot of other activity within WDC. The Local Plan for housing development is on track to be delivered to the Government for assessment this year. All four local authorities have co-operated to produce a plan that works for Buckinghamshire and an agreement is in place for some of the required housing numbers

for WDC to be built in the Aylesbury Vale District.

There are no sites specified for development within our Ward, however there is an allowance termed as 'windfall' describing housing to be built on small sites that are anticipated to be built in the villages.

In April there was a mid-term shuffle of cabinet positions and I have now moved on to assume the role of Cabinet Member for Community Services. It is an honour for me to accept this more challenging role, working with a team of 25 people to develop and deliver the strategy for a very diverse portfolio including responsibility for the four leisure centres, open spaces, parks and woodlands, community safety, community well-being, tourism, the cemetery, the crematorium, skills and employment support and the new WDC Lotto that was launched a few weeks ago.

I recently attended the opening of the Risborough Springs refurbished wet changing areas, the opening of the brilliant children's play area in Hughenden Park and the moving unveiling of the memorial at All Saints Church. The memorial is to Second Lieutenant Fred Youens, born in Wycombe and one of only two First World War soldiers from Bucks to be awarded the highest military honour of the Victoria Cross.

Under the well-being role the WDC team of employees and members are receiving training to enable the Council to qualify as being Dementia Friendly.

This is important as there are many thousands of residents in Bucks with some form of dementia. There will be follow on work to encourage shops and other retail businesses to make simple investments in time to make it easier for those with dementia to visit their premises.

Taxi drivers who are trained will wear the Forget Me Not badge to indicate being dementia friendly too. The Handy Cross Leisure Centre is also working to become dementia friendly.

And finally, for the first time in many years, all three of the local major open spaces, Higginson Park, The Rye and Hughenden Park, have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award. This scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world. We are fortunate in having these great open spaces and I am looking for ideas for major events that could be held in our parks, similar in scale to the innovative Pub in the Park food event held in Marlow last May.

Have a great summer!

Graham Peart

Councillor for Lacey Green,
Speen and the Hampdens

01494 488327
graham.peart@wycombe.gov.uk

On The Farm

It is mid July and naturally our thoughts turn to the harvests ripening soon, but more of that later.

Milk prices on the rise

First equally important at this time of the year is the dairy herd, which is the major enterprise here on Stocken Farm.

We have had two disastrous years, with our milk price down to 18p litre last summer, when our cost of production was around 28p litre. There was a steady price rise this spring and we hope more in the autumn. Recently Radio 5 interviewed the UK managing director of Arla, one of the UK main processing dairies. He said he thought that butter and cream would be in very tight supply by Christmas and if that is so the price of these products will be rising.

Already the dairy commodities market has risen from this time last year. Butter from £3,050 a tonne to £6,000 a tonne, cheese from £2,200 a tonne to £3,222 a tonne and whole milk powder from £2,118 a tonne to £3,022 a tonne. The supermarkets will currently all have contracts with the dairies, but as these run out and need to be renegotiated there will be pressure for prices to rise.

Butterfat

Why specifically butter and cheese? Well, butterfat is in general short supply for several reasons. Dairy farmers have had very bad years for some time, not just the last two. Unable to increase the price return, the thing to do is to cut costs if you want to try to keep going.

Reducing the concentrates being fed (primarily grain which usually has to be purchased) will reduce yields, this also probably reduces fertility which effects production the following year.

When cows eat lush grass it tends to reduce fat levels. Diets with more fibre would push up the fat level but can at the same time reduce yields. So the butterfat countrywide has reduced, at the same time the cost of production will have dropped somewhat.

Our cows' breed is Friesian Holstein and these give an average of about 4% fat content. Whole milk in the supermarkets is sold at 3.6% fat which is interesting because if you buy a product, say a biscuit with less than 5% fat it would be promoted over the packaging as 95% fat free. So whole milk is 96.4% free. Sounds a pretty healthy drink to me, and there's no added sugar or artificial sweetening.

When we select a bull for breeding with our herd, one of the selection criteria is the percentage of butterfat that will be produced by its offspring.

The genetics of each cow within the herd can affect her butterfat, some being higher than others. We test the milk from all the cows once a month for this as well as protein and other health traits.

However, some breeds are dramatically different. Jersey and Guernsey cows for example probably produce 30% higher butterfat than Friesian Holstein.

Renovations

At this time of the year the grass growth has slowed down and it can be a worry keeping enough grass in front of the grazing animals.

While the cows are out in the summer we have been renovating the winter housing to improve their comfort. Trying to improve ventilation, repairing floors and replacing some of their mattresses. Happy, comfortable cows are productive cows.

Cereal harvests

Neighbours have harvested winter barley, 10 days earlier than usual, with reasonable yields and quality reported.

Our wheat harvest is imminent. Its price is creeping up on reports of drought conditions in part of the USA.

We still buy in concentrated feeds and cereals and their prices are also on the move. We have bought most of our requirements until April 2018.

The maize, grown for silage, has had good growing conditions so far. We like to think knee high by 4th July. This year by 14th July some of it is over head high.

When I first wrote for Hallmark in 1976 there were many thousands of dairy farmers in the UK. Year after year they have given up. Latest figures for England and Wales are: 10 years ago 15,000, a year ago 9,538, today 9,390. And that is definitely the one sure way to reduce your costs!

Joan West

It's Barbeque Summer up at the Pink

The eagle-eyed among the esteemed readers of Hallmark will have noticed some exciting – although I guess that it depends on your definition of that word – changes up at your fabulous, friendly local - The Pink & Lily!

The craters in the car park have vanished and have been replaced by a smoothly gleaming gravel surface that's kind to cars and people alike! No longer do our visitors risk stepping in puddles right up to their middles like the good Dr Foster of the nursery rhyme.

The inside of the pub has also had a facelift in order to match its newly beautified exterior. More than that we must be the only pub in Bucks to have had a much-delayed staff Christmas

Party all-nighter involving paintbrushes and pizza!

So come and check out the changes – we hope you like them as much as we do!

Whatever else there is to complain about with the state of the world at the minute; at the time of writing the weather is behaving and at least we are having a decent summer.

So in order to celebrate the season, every August Saturday lunchtime will be a barbeque. Relax in our garden and let the chef take the strain! Our playground is once again a thing of joy so there's plenty to occupy the little ones while you relax with a drink or two. And in the evenings, "Movies Under The Stars" returns so check the pub

noticeboards for details of the upcoming attractions.

Remember, when the weather is hot we're now serving our own Pink & Lily ice-cream – the flavours change regularly – we've got way more than just one cornetto for your delight and delectation!

And if the weather turns a little chillier in the evenings don't forget our heated patio – or for real summer lovin' you can always snuggle up under one of our fine blankets! What's more you can now book in on Opentable (Opentable.co.uk) to make life just a little bit easier – we've always got your best interests at heart!

The Pink & Lily
01494 489857

Windmill WI

At our meeting in May we discussed the resolutions to be voted on at the National Federation of Women's Institutes Annual General Meeting. The two resolutions were 'Alleviating Loneliness' and 'Plastic Soup; keep microplastic fibres out of our oceans'. Sue Parslow represented us at Liverpool.

After this discussion Liz Elliott from the charity 'Work Aid' spoke to us. This is a charity based in Chesham which collects unwanted tools from across the country, refurbishes them and then distributes them to vocation training projects in East Africa.

In May ten of us went to the Annual Council Meeting at Aylesbury. This is an excellent day out meeting up with all the WIs in Bucks. We had excellent

speakers including Lindsay Boswell, Chief Executive of Fareshare. The highlight of the day was Giles Brandreth who kept us entertained with his tales of meeting with royalty.

Later in May sixteen of us visited Chenies Manor in Rickmansworth. The Manor is a beautiful Tudor House and we had an excellent guide to show around. Henry VIII had stayed here also Elizabeth. We had lovely tea and homemade cakes then wandered around the beautiful gardens.

Our speaker in June was Rosemary Hillyard. Rosemary talked about Type 1 Diabetes and we all agreed that we learnt a lot from her talk.

In July our speaker was Roy Collis talking about 'What does a Deputy Lord Lieutenant do'. This was really interesting as Roy is Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire. Also in July three of us won a ballot to go to Hall Barn Beaconsfield for a Pimms and Ploughman's lunch. Hall Barn was a beautiful old house with lovely grounds. We were greeted with a Pimms then sat down with 100 ladies for a lovely Ploughmans lunch. We then listened to a selection of songs then had a lovely walk around the grounds and lake. The afternoon finished with tea and cake on the terrace.

We meet every first Wednesday in the month at Lacey Green Village Hall at 7.45 pm

Ann Bartlett

LGP

Lacey Green Productions members have been exhibiting at 3 fetes this summer. The first one was at a cold and blustery Longwick at the beginning of May. The second was at a warm and calm Naphill Napfest in June. And the final one was at an absolutely baking Princes Risborough Festival in July!

Appearing at these fetes was all part of our attempt to recruit new members and to spread the word about LGP to a wider audience. The theme for the Longwick fete was "May Day", which, for us, meant the "emergency" word.

There was a common theme for both Naphill and Princes Risborough which was "A Day at the Seaside". For us this meant that we had to dress up as pirates, with the full regalia of parrots and swords. We also entertained the people at the fetes with free games of "Hook a Duck" and "Splat the Rat".

Our "Oldest Member" also appeared at each of the fetes. No, this wasn't Brian Panter, but a dummy with a model head on it. She was named April Day - May Day's sister - and her photo is shown here.

And, amazingly, LGP was the winner at Naphill Napfest of the "Best Dressed Adult" class - don't ask!

We also ran photo caption competitions. The photos are from past LGP productions and some of the captions that amused us the most are shown on the right of the page.

By the time you read this, our "Open Sunday Showcase" will

have happened at the village hall. This was the finale of our recruitment drive where we invited people to come along and chat to us about what we did, how we did it and how we could fit them in as actors, back stage crew, front of house, publicity or indeed any role that would keep LGP's show on the road.

And, finally, you may soon hear LGP on "Wycombe Sound" radio station. We have just been invited (not definite yet) to adapt one of our Murder Mystery entertainments for a radio performance. We'll have to develop our sound effects of rattling chains and spooky noises but it could be an exciting project for us all to work on.

You can always contact us via www.laceygreenproductions.co.uk and you can see us on Facebook and Twitter.

Peter Brookhouse



"April Day"



"What DOES she look like."



"After a hard night's partying, Jeremy Corbyn actually realises that he has lost the election"



"Are you sure that you want to call ANOTHER election, Mrs May?"



"I only gave her a little push"

Black Horse

The Summer season is now upon us. It comes round so quickly. Cricket teas are half way through, rugby breakfasts are finished, and we just have the beer festival to do. Bands are booked, beer is booked, and I think we are ready to go. In the next Hallmark I will let you know how everything went.

Some of my staff have finished their school days and are now off to university or work; I shall miss them. But I have told them they have to be back for Christmas. Lauren Whipp has now left me after working nearly full time on the bar for many months with a travel time in the middle. A big thank you to her for all the hard work she put in putting up with my outbursts and grumpy chef. Good luck in your new job.

I feel so old as all my girls were not even born when I started here. Good luck to Amy when she finds her new employment, Laura who is going to college, and to Fern when she goes to university. Well done.

I had the great privilege to go and support the girls and boys of Princess Risborough school in the Young Enterprise of the Year. Ellie O'Shaughnessy and Ali Titmus who work for me were a big part of this. They did a dragons egg made it all themselves and sold them to businesses and customers. They were called Solid Light. It was amazingly well done, all the



business plan done, all the dragons eggs made, totally by them. They went to the regional finals at Reading where I had the privilege to be a guest. They came runners up, so well deserved. A big well done to you all, so proud.

Well done to Adrian Morris for getting his MBE for his services in the RAF. (I hope Tracy has got her hat for the Queen).



Well done to the Black Horse A dom and crib team for coming runners up in the league; and an extra well done to Kim and Diane for the darts team and of course for all the team that won the Princes Risborough darts league.

I am glad to say Monday nights are carrying on with dominoes and crib in the winter; so if anyone fancies playing on a Monday night let me know. Next time in Hallmark I expect I will be telling you my Xmas menu, how scary is that. Have a good summer everyone.

Lynne

Happy Wanderers- May Walk



On a dry, humid but slightly cloudy morning we met at the Red Lion Pub in Little Missenden for the start of our walk. Twelve happy wanderers and one dog set off through this picturesque village; crossing fields, we stopped to take photos of Alpaca and baby goats.

We passed the lake which attracts Canada geese and ducks and had a lovely view of Shardeloes House high on the hill to our right. We continued

across fields then through woods, which was a welcome relief as the sun had come out by then.

We were too late to see a carpet of bluebells at their best, but had a lovely view of the village from the downward path back to the pub where some members stayed for lunch, after an enjoyable walk.

Phyl Bloomfield

Garden Photography

To capture wonderful nature photos, you really don't need to trek into the deepest darkest corners of the countryside. Great shots are easily achievable right in your own garden with a bit of thought, planning and creativity. Here are a few pointers on getting the most from garden photography.

Equipment - A DSLR camera with a macro capable lens (about 105mm is ideal), a compact camera with macro function (and changeable lenses if possible) or, if you haven't got a camera, your smartphone.

A tripod or steady platform to place your camera on, a kneeling pad, notepad and pen.

Tip: Get a piece of kitchen foil (about A4 size is plenty) as you can use it to reflect light from behind or the side onto areas of your subject that would otherwise be shaded.

Don't limit yourself to one season - all seasons offer different opportunities. The first flowers of Spring (particularly bluebells in the Chilterns), the full bloom of Summer, the golden colours of Autumn and the frost and snow in Winter are just a few examples of the new and interesting subjects that each season brings.

It's in the detail - getting close-up to flowers, wildlife and plants offers a different perspective and exposes details otherwise missed or ignored.

Use a macro lens or function to enable you to achieve clear close-ups. A tripod and camera self-timer may be required to steady the shot and avoid blurring.

Take a burst of photos (multiple shot function) if your camera allows, to afford yourself more choice when it comes to processing them on your PC.

Watch the weather - keeping an eye on the weather not only allows you to avoid a drenching, but also affords you the opportunity to properly plan for a shoot. Cloudy weather is perfect for practising black and white photography. Rain adds a shine and 'freshness' to a scene as well as the smaller, but equally important, element of water droplets which offer added interest to any shot especially if you use a macro lens or function.

Take a walk - stroll around your garden and look for potential shots. Frame scenes in your mind, look at things from different angles, examine textures, patterns and colours and study how different times of day affect the light. Note down details and observations of interest so you don't forget. You can even take some preliminary test photos with your smartphone.

Divide your garden into sections - splitting your garden up into smaller, more manageable sections enables you to focus on specific areas rather than trying to cover everything at once. You could split the garden up into the types of photography that you feel would best suit it. Some areas may be more suited to macro photos while others might be a haven for insects.

Get out early - early morning often offers the calmest time of day. Not only is the light softer and the world untouched but

there's also a better chance of capturing the local wildlife. Bird photography is a genre that early mornings lend themselves to in particular. Patience (and the ability to sit still!) will reward you with some lovely photos of the local bird life. If you're lucky enough to have kites nesting in the trees within your garden then all the better!

Change perspective - take photos from different angles, switch between landscape and portrait orientation and remember to take 'establishing shots' (wide-angles), zoom in a little (medium shots) and close-up (macro) photographs.


Fill the frame - 'frame' refers to the edges of your photograph. Filling the frame with your subject not only includes as much detail as possible but also removes unnecessary distractions. Including extra detail in the image often distracts the viewer from the subject and creates an image that is too 'busy'.

Garden photography isn't limited to your own garden. Friends and neighbour's gardens, and even locations like Waterperry Gardens in Waterperry or The Lyde Gardens in Bledlow offer further photography opportunities.

See more images at bscimages.com

Barry Chignell

*Thanks to Barry for providing this month's gorgeous cover photo...
Editor*



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Kindergym leaving Lacey Green

It is with great sadness that local parents learned that Kindergym has to leave Lacey Green. Unfortunately it is no longer able to afford the recent rent rise in the village hall and continue classes in our community space.

It has been an amazing experience on our doorstep for almost 30 years and a number of us wanted to express our **heartfelt thanks to Jenny, Gabby and the Kindergym team** for all they have done over the years.

Jenny is the very epitome of community spirit and has fundraised enthusiastically in order to build our community and the facilities it has available to offer us all. Her ideas, teachings, discipline and influence, have been invaluable in our children's (and grandchildren's) development.

Kindergym has given a great sense of belonging to many new families in the community moving here over the years.

It offers the opportunity for babies and toddlers to develop self-confidence, creativity and physical co-ordination through singing classes, gym equipment and imagination workshops.

Jenny is so enthusiastic, positive, encouraging and caring that the children look forward to going each week. So much so that several help out with classes they used to attend, even though they are at school or university now.

It's lovely to know that staff even recognise their old Kindergym goers, when their paths cross later in life, such as in school science lessons!

Those of us with babies are saddened that they will not have the same chance to be part of the Kindergym family in Lacey Green.

We're grateful that we've been able to stroll along Main Road to enjoy our time here, rather than always needing to get in the car.

We will continue to support Kindergym in its new home in Monks Risborough on a Friday, and wholeheartedly encourage others to do the same.

We're all so sorry to see you go but delighted to have shared so many happy memories with you. Your passion and dedication for what you do is heart-warming.

(Written and contributed to by your Kindergym fans.)

Your Local Playgroup

For a great many years now a friendly little parent-led playgroup has met at the North Dean Village Hall on Tuesday mornings during school term times. It offers an opportunity for the grown-ups to make friends and catch up over a cuppa, whilst the little ones play together with a wide range of toys and enjoy healthy (and sometimes-not-so-healthy) snacks. Many of the local villagers in Lacey Green and Loosley Row have supported this 'Speen & North Dean playgroup' over the years, and many children in our villages have made friends there.

Recent years have proved tough for a small rural playgroup to keep going – run largely on the generosity of parents setting up, bringing snacks, entertaining the little ones and, most importantly, turning up!

What started out as the Speen & North Dean playgroup almost 20 years ago now serves a much wider local community and in recent years has been led by

mums in Princes Risborough, Loosely Row and Lacey Green.

In the hope of bringing new people to the group and continuing its presence across our villages in the years to come, we're moving home to the beautifully renovated Chapel Hall at Speen Church from the autumn term. We're grateful to Rev. Heather and her volunteers for this wonderful opportunity, not only to keep this much-loved playgroup in existence, but to make the most of this fantastic new community space in our neighbouring Speen. We bid a very fond farewell to North Dean Village Hall, and thank them for their support in keeping our playgroup in a beautiful (and incredibly picturesque) home all these years.

We'd love to encourage anyone to come and join us, be you a mother, father, grandparent or carer. It's a wonderful and very relaxed setting where the children have access to play together with



a wide range of toys and undertake crafts and messy play, building their confidence, independence and communication skills.

If you'd like to know more, please get in touch at spennorthdeantoddlers@gmail.com We hope to see you in September.

Rachael McComish





Open Gardens

Sarah and Tim do the gardening themselves with the help of local gardener, Matt Pidington, 2 days a week.



As she cleared up after hosting her daughter's wedding reception in the garden of her Loosley Row home, Sarah Halliday thought about how she could let more people enjoy her beautiful garden.

She set her sights high and aimed to join the National Open Gardens scheme and open up to visitors from across the country.

6 years of hard work later, she achieved her goal and opened her gardens twice this Summer.

Sarah, her husband Tim, and their family live at Loosley Dene in Lower Road. The property is on the hillside looking out over views towards Bledlow and Thame. The sloping garden is divided into a variety of different areas, with formal terraces, lawns, hedges, a parterre and a wooded area for children to roam. This is finished off with a large vegetable garden and areas for chickens, ducks and pigs.

The garden was open on two occasions in June and July. They had 330 visitors and managed to raise a total of just over £2,500 for the NGS charities.

Sarah is now planning for next year and has further improvements and new features in mind. She is planning which dates to open and we will have details in Hallmark. Perhaps we can even persuade her to host the Strawberry Tea!



Mike Piercy



Sports Club News and Info

The Cricket Season is well underway at the sports club and weather permitting there is a game played every Saturday. The two teams alternate home games and they are usually very well attended. We would love to welcome any cricket fans down to support our teams on a Saturday from 1.30pm.

The Tennis section has made amazing improvements to the tennis courts and its members are enjoying the benefits.

This year Friday Night Club (our family friendly social evening) is running alongside the Cricket Club's Cricket on the Green – Youth Coaching initiative. Just-for-fun cricket coaching for boys and girls age 7+. Look out for the adverts or follow the Facebook page www.facebook.com/CricketOnTheGreen

The boys and girls have been really enjoying Friday night training sessions, while their parents have been enjoying the beautiful outlook and a chat at the bar.

How can you support your local club? Attend our social events!

Friday Night club

After the success of last two years our Friday Night club is running from 2nd June to 25th August – the bar is open from 5.30pm, please pop down and enjoy the sunshine (hopefully) in a beautiful setting and relax with a drink at the bar while the children play.

End of Season Summer Event Sept 2

Its back.... our end of year summer extravaganza - Music, Marquee, and FISH AND CHIPS. Tickets and further info will be available soon. Like our Facebook page to keep up-to-date.

We have lots of other events in the pipeline please follow us on Facebook (see Lacey Green and Loosley Row Sports Club) or look out for posters at the club.

Join one of the sporting sections

We are actively looking for new members to play cricket and tennis. The cricket club 1st and reserves teams are **LOOKING FOR PLAYERS** – contact Jonathan Dell – 07786 386912.

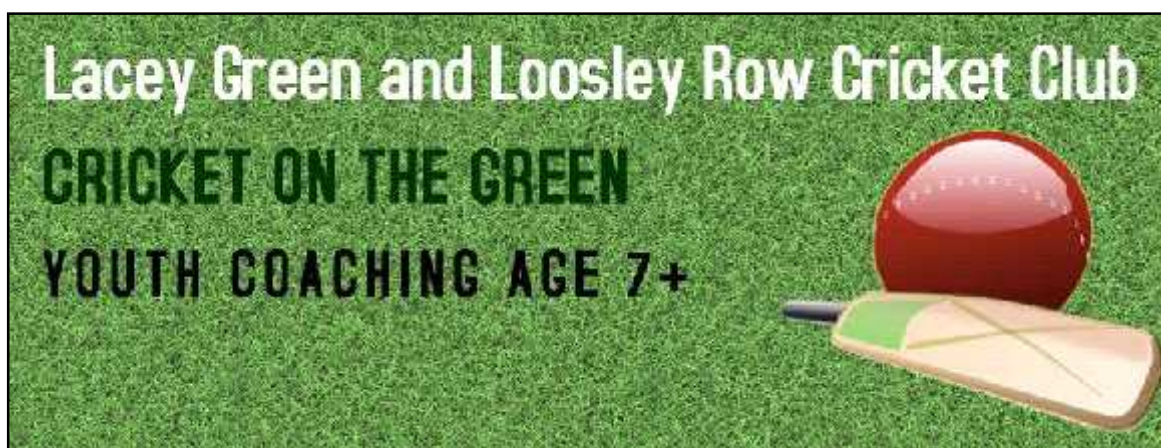


Become a social member

If you are not a member of any of the sporting sections you can become a social member. Over the summer months cricket is played every Saturday from 1.30pm and the bar is open in the afternoon and on a Friday evening from 5.30pm.

Social membership is only £5 per person, per year and it's a great place to meet, watch sport and enjoy a drink in the sunshine (if you are lucky). If you would like to become a member or renew a social membership please contact me on lglrsportsclub@gmail.com (07768 831196).

Stephanie Dell



Grymsdyke Pavilion

The Art House Pavilion was initially conceived by RCA architecture students Alex Dickie and Christopher Kelly, as their final MA thesis project.

Funded through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding from Wycombe Council, the exhibition space in a disused barn at Grymsdyke Farm in Lacey Green serves to celebrate and promote local craftspeople living and working in the area.

This inaugural exhibition features textile designer Karina Thomas, and furniture designer Jack Chivers, who are working on Phase Two of the St. John's School Music Room in Lacey Green – an ongoing project led by Clementine Blakemore. Their work is displayed in two exhibition 'pods', which will remain in situ throughout the summer. Visitors are welcome to view the space via appointment by emailing clem@clementineblakemore.com.

Jack Chivers is a furniture designer currently working for Ercol – one of the area's last remaining furniture

manufacturers. His interest in prototyping and material research led him to become a resident at Grymsdyke Farm in 2015, where he has taught and assisted students on a range of innovative and experimental projects. Earlier this year, Jack started his own business where he collaborates with other local makers on a diverse range of commissions.

Jack and his team will be producing the furniture and storage for the Music Room, including an integrated bench with faceted cupboard fronts that reflect the geometry of the timber framed structure, and a series of pegs for storage.

The turned ash sample pegs on display explore a range of different sizes and profiles.

Karina Thomas challenges the way we see textiles through use of scale and knitting techniques to produce sculptural one-off and batch produced pieces. Trained at the Royal College of Art, and a tutor at Buckinghamshire New University in High Wycombe, she is currently based in Lacey Green

and specializes in window treatments.

Karina is designing and fabricating a series of sliding panels for the Music Room, which will be installed behind glass doors. As well as improving acoustics, they will help keep the space warm in the winter, and cool in the summer when they can be used to shade the room from direct sunlight. Additionally, they can be integrated into performances.

The sample piece on display is 100% lambswool with aluminum rods, and knitted with varying degrees of density to create a play of light and shadow.

Both photographs were taken by Alex Dickie.

Clementine Blakemore



Tennis Club

Despite the ever increasing competition, the march of the thirtysomethings goes on at major tournaments. 35-year-old Lopez won at Queen's Club and Federer at Wimbledon played like an 18-year-old to lift the gold cup for an amazing 8th time. I could go on, but the point is that due to the superior training regimes, players are able to compete at the highest level for longer than ever.

The same is true at club level. The Lawn Tennis Association is finding more people playing into their seventies and eighties, and there is even a 95-year-old in South Wales still regularly playing! So, it is never too late to start playing tennis, and we want to encourage more of you to start playing.

Membership starts at just £5!

We recognise that there are a number of families in the village who do not want the full membership benefits, but just want to play with their children. We have listened, and have introduced parent membership and made junior tennis more affordable than ever: under-sevens is just £5, 7-11 £15 and 12-17 £25. Parent membership starts at £20, so a parent and their 6 and 9 year old children can join the club for just £40 per annum.

The membership is tiered too, so that if parents enjoy playing, they



can upgrade their membership to join in with rusty rackets and hopefully some will eventually be encouraged to take up full membership. Full details of the different membership packages are on our website: "Lacey Green Tennis".

West Cup

We have generally been fortunate with the weather over the summer and Sunday 11th June was no exception. Encouraged with the prospect of coming away with a silver jug, we had a record 22 members competing that afternoon. Pairings were randomly chosen and in the end Philippa Lane and Peter Morris came out victorious. It was a great afternoon of tennis and was followed by a BBQ by the courts.

It is a busy time for tennis. The club has 3 teams in the Aylesbury Summer Leagues and internally members are competing in the singles tournaments. Finals day is on Sunday 10th September.

Looking forward, our main priority is to floodlight two courts so that we can play more tennis over the winter months. In particular, we want to expand junior tennis and for the first time ever we are offering after school coaching to include the autumn term at St Johns.

Exciting times lie ahead and I hope more of you will come down and play.

Nigel Glenister



Lacey Green Productions - In the Beginning

Early in 1983 the owner of Stocken Farm, John West, was approached by members of St. John's Church Choir to see if they might stage a musical in a suitable barn. The choir mistress, Julia Beaumont, accompanied by Lynda Longhurst hoped to produce a show. This was the birth of Lacey Green Productions.

The grain storage barn would be empty in early July, but would need a lot of extra sweeping for their purpose. It even had a catwalk from which lighting and sound could be worked and an adjoining barn for dressing rooms and stage entrances. The setting was ideal. People packed the barn to listen to one of the world's most popular musicals —“Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat “.

This first show was a family affair for the Beaumonts, with Julia and Mike organising the singing and stage lighting whilst son Julian shared the part of Joseph with Stephen Eastham. Three generations of Putnams were involved: Grandfather, Mother and daughters Sarah and Fiona.

Initially members of St John's Church Choir and congregation swelled the numbers, plus their neighbours and friends. There were about twenty children altogether and in consequence many parents discovered new skills as a lot of expertise was needed for stage sets, lighting technicians, musicians as well as aspiring actors. Nell Panter provided professional guidance as the show's director.

Joseph was a very popular musical at this time and the catchy songs led the story. Bikes, dreamcoats dipped in blood and a Pharaoh

complete with sunglasses all added to the atmosphere.

From this initial success Lacey Green Productions was formed and grew alongside its first cast of children. At the same time, younger siblings and other local talent joined and this led to the next show; The Wizard of Oz.

LGP's shows in the barn continued on alternate years with “Village Day “. On Village Day colourfully decorated floats representing all the village clubs and societies processed the length of Main Road on tractors and trailers. Bunting, waving flags and stalls lined the road, as everyone, so it seemed, turned out to walk and talk. Then, the following year, several performances were put on by Lacey Green Productions, entertaining many people. These events brought a great feeling of fellowship and community to Lacey Green and Lossley Row.

From its early beginnings the entertainment by LGP continued , moving first to the old village hall and then to the new Millennium Hall. Dinner Theatre was introduced, Theatre at Home followed and now Murder

Mysteries are performed both in Lacey Green and taken “on tour” to other villages.

The first children have grown up, moved away and have children of their own, but Lacey Green Productions continues. A lot of the group have been close friends for twenty and, in some cases, over thirty years.

The profits from Joseph were given to the church guttering fund, beginning the tradition of donating to charity every performance. At the present time the total raised for local, national and international charities is £62,456 - a magnificent achievement.

There will be more news from the archives in a future edition of Hallmark. If you have photographs or memories from this time please send details to me, Helen Cliff, hm.cliff@gmail.com.

With thanks to Joan West, Rosemary Mortham, Michael Putnam, Brian Panter and Pat Syrett for providing material.



Windmill Under 5s

I write this as the end of another successful academic year at Windmills draws to a close, but despite this the preschool remains as busy and lively as ever. Topics over the last half term have included Life Cycles and Growing, Under the Sea and Pirates. The children have also been making the most of the better weather and have spent plenty of time outside with Joel, burning off their seemingly inexhaustible energy!

Our annual sports day was a huge success and saw the return of the Windmills version of the egg and spoon race (spud on a spoon). The children were all brilliant – even the youngest managed to collect plates, bowls and cutlery onto a tea tray and race for the finish line. After their exertion, the children were rewarded for their efforts with a trophy.

Younger siblings, mums, dads and even grandparents were also given the opportunity to demonstrate their sporting prowess, much to the delight of the children! Following the races, we all enjoyed a picnic and ice creams on the playing field.

Our main fundraiser of the year was our family barbeque held a couple of weeks ago. The children had a fabulous time bouncing on the bouncy castle, lucky dipping, having their faces painted and generally running amok and playing with their friends, whilst the adults enjoyed a BBQ breakfast bap and glass of Bucks fizz (or three!). Thank you to Laura Chapman for organizing the event, Andy Kann and Gary Davies for cooking their hearts out on the BBQ and everyone who came along to support the preschool.

The term ends in a few days time, and the achievements of our school leavers will be celebrated at the end-of-term tropical beach party, which will be followed by the presentation of leavers gifts to those moving up to “big school”.

I am sure that I speak on behalf of many parents when I say that there won't be many dry eyes in the house, and that the day will be one of mixed emotions – with sadness that their children's time at Windmills has come to an end, anticipation of what lies ahead at school and an enormous sense of gratitude to the wonderful staff at

Windmills for caring so well for all of our children during their time at the preschool. I am certain that the children will leave with many happy memories of their time there, and a secure foundation for all that lies ahead.

Unfortunately we will also say a sad farewell to Louisa at the end of term. After 9 years at Windmills Louisa is leaving to take up a position at a local school. On behalf of all the parents, I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Louisa for all of her hard work and commitment to Windmills over the years – you will both be sorely missed by the children and parents alike.

The end of the academic year will be particularly poignant for me as my time as Chair is coming to an end. Windmills truly is a special place, and it has been an honour and a privilege to have worked with the fantastic staff and families at the preschool for the last three years.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me during my time as Chair – have a great summer holiday and see you in September.

If you would like your child to join Windmills, please contact Johanna (admin@windmillunder5s.co.uk) for the most up to date information about our waiting list.

Victoria Geenes



Lacey Green Farm - Have You Heard Of It?

In 2000 Dennis Claydon received a letter from Stuart Martin of New Zealand enclosing a letter dated 11th November 1845, referring to Lacey Green Farm. His curiosity had been raised. It came from his Indian born grandfather who later emigrated to New Zealand. There appeared no British ties. It reads -

“On the 6th September last we wrote to you, to say that unless the business was forthwith brought to a close Mr Brown would lose the season for sowing, etc. and if such were the case it would be owing to the vendors delay and they would have to make Mr. Brown compensation for the loss he might sustain.

Mr Brown has just been with us and informed us that since Michaelmas last the lands and premises have been wholly neglected and unproductive, and that the late tenant Mr Douglas is carrying away the wheat, straw and chaff therefrom and not bringing back manure in return, which is contrary to the rules of good husbandry and that the gates, fences, etc. are being destroyed and taken away without check or hindrance on the part of the vendors.

Now if the vendors contemplate Mr Brown paying interest under his contract they must of course in discharge of their duty so long as he is out of possession, properly cultivate and manage the estate themselves so as to promote and secure to him the due and proper benefit thereof. And it is also their duty to see that their tenant does what he ought to do in reference to his

late tenancy and according to the rules of good husbandry and the custom of the County.

With respect however to the vendors themselves entering upon the cultivation and management of the estate, we would suggest that Mr. Brown be at liberty immediately to enter thereon for that purpose. And if eventually the contract be put an end to, that in such case the vendors should repay to Mr. Brown all monies which he shall have spent on it.

We shall be glad to hear from you in reply to this letter, and to the suggestion with the least possible delay, and remain Sir, your obedient servant, Parker and Sons, High Wycombe”.

Unfortunately The History Group could throw no light on how Mr. Martin came to have this letter, but it is interesting from how far our enquiries and information comes.

Had you heard of Lacey Green Farm? For those who have not, do not imagine you can find it, for it has disappeared. Of course the land is still there. It lies on the left hand side of the road as you go to Walters Ash, between Slad Lane and the next crossroads. There were 4 cottages and a barn, never a farmhouse. All that remains are a few trees.

In 1796 it was purchased by Thomas Dell (1736-1811). This was unusual because most of the land here belonged to the Manor of Princes Risborough. Loosley Row, Lacey Green and Speen were the three Upper Hamlets of the parish of Princes Risborough

at that time. Thomas had first come here when he bought Vine Cottage in 1775 and set up shop. He then rented Stocken Farm from the Manor, farming it, his own Lacey Green Farm and Speen Farm (also purchased). He took out loans for everything, all of which he paid off.

All Thomas Dell's property was left to his widow and eventually inherited by his son Thomas, living at Speen Farm. Things got bad for Thomas, jnr. He took out mortgages in 1828, 30, 31, and 34. In 1837 the mortgagees foreclosed and everything was auctioned off including the farming contents of Speen Farm. Was Charles Brown the purchaser of Lacey Green Farm at this auction?

For more on the Manor of PR, the various farms, properties and people mentioned go to our website laceygreen.com/Sections/History

The History Group

Lacey Green Windmill

Two years ago I wrote about the work done to the windmill in May 2015, when we made extensive repairs to many of the windows and painted all the windows and doors. At the same time we also painted the sails which is quite a daunting task, especially as they had not been done since 2009.

The other main task in the 'decorating' category for a smock windmill, is the painting of the smock, or body of the mill, as well as the cap including its roof. This had not been done since 2008, so after 9 years the windmill's weatherboarding was looking in need of attention. Traditionally, weatherboarded buildings would have been tarred, but for some years tar has been classified as a toxic substance, so other products have been developed for historic weatherboarded buildings. They mainly have a very limited life, requiring repainting every year or two. We decided to use a bitumen based product, which should give a more traditional look, although it still has to be used with extreme care.

During the 1970s restoration of the windmill 4,500 feet of 6 inch

feather-edged tanalised weatherboarding had been supplied by the Crown Estate at Windsor Park. Incidentally, our records show that it cost 6.5p per foot. The boards were fitted to the windmill in 1980, since when they had been treated with a variety of different coatings. In May this year it was decided that the residual mix of paints that had partly survived on 5 walls should be scraped off as much as possible, which was a very dusty operation taking considerable time and effort. The other 3 walls face North and the previous paints had stayed on far better, as that paint does not get baked and cracked by the sun.

After scraping and brushing, the 8 walls of the smock and the cap roof (which is coated in metal) were then given two coats of paint. All the woodwork on the cap was given three coats of paint. Most parts of the cap are difficult to access, with the ridge of the cap being 40 feet (or 12.2

metres) above the ground. Access was made possible by hiring a Boom Lift, commonly known as a Cherry Picker.

Whilst we had this machine some other work was also done, with various repairs to the fantail mechanism, some done by our millwrights, and others done by our volunteers. All the windows were painted outside and inside, as well as the exterior of all the doors.

I am very grateful to all of our volunteers who helped us over a total period of nearly three weeks. 14 people helped us in total, of which 9 were from our village. Naturally, some can do more time than others, and some prefer different tasks and working at different heights.



Lacey Green Singers Widen Their Repertoire



This year has seen LGS widen their repertoire to include more contemporary pieces. For example, the very well-received Spring Concert on 18 March in St John's church included a *Mamma Mia* selection, a Bob Dylan song and an interlude by a young jazz quartet.

A similar variety applied to the Summer Medley on 16 July at St John's school. The concert, which began at 3pm, again received a rousing reception from the audience who were then treated to tea and cakes afterwards.

This time the programme featured songs from Coldplay

and the Beach Boys alongside *Adiemus* and Howard Goodall's *Psalm 23*. What's more, in addition to the choral numbers there were some solos, a duet and altos-only numbers.

Coincidentally perhaps, we have been delighted to welcome several new and enthusiastic members this year to our ranks and continue to do so, though of course as always we are short of men.

Unhappily, we have recently had to say our sad goodbyes to Sue Putnam who passed away at the end of May. In 1982, Sue was a co-founder member of LGS along with her daughters Sarah and Fiona, both of whom began their education at St John's. Her husband Mike also helped with the choir and just six months before she passed away they celebrated their golden wedding.

Throughout her life Sue was very active in the village and was, for example, a founder member of Lacey Green Productions. In 2010, she retired from her position at Bradenham Manor to

concentrate on what meant the most to her – her family and singing with the choir. She also enjoyed walking with the Happy Wanderers and was an enthusiastic member of NADFAS.

For 35 years, Sue put her heart and voice into all the choir did and is already very much missed by all her friends.

A few weeks after her funeral, a moving 'Service of Remembering and Thanksgiving' was held at St John's at which LGS, led by her daughter Fiona, beautifully sang a short programme of Sue's favourite melodies, including two songs from *Zimbe* by Alexander L'Estrange and *Ev'ry time I feel the spirit* by John Rutter.

Fittingly, her daughter, Sarah, granddaughter Elizabeth and son-in-law, Matt, sang with the choir, and two of her grandsons, Jack and Toby, played in the jazz quartet that together provided a perfect closure to the uplifting and memorable service.

Alan Lewis

Lacey Green Windmill continued

I will not list all the names here, but I do have to express my special gratitude to Mark Jeffery who used many of his holiday days to be on site for about 10 days throughout the work. He had volunteered to lead the proceedings for some days, which meant I could have the occasional day off, for which I was very grateful. Organising such a project involves a lot more than the work days themselves, probably involving me for about 2 months in total.

We are also very grateful to "Amersham Decorating Supplies" www.amershamdec.co.uk who supplied the 100 litres of black paint that we used on the windmill. Also, we hired the Boom Lift from "Helpful Hirings" www.helpfulhirings.co.uk of Towersey, who are always very obliging and seem completely unworried about putting their 10 ton machinery in the hands of a complete amateur such as myself.

In the first 3 months of our 2017 open season, we have had over 600 visitors. We will be open until 27th September, on Sundays, and Bank Holiday Monday 28th August from 2pm to 5pm. Bring your Chiltern Society Membership cards for free entry. For further details, please see our website, or contact Michael or Betty Hardy by telephone or email. (See p42)

Michael Hardy

St John's Church

We have just had a very busy time preparing for the annual Summer Fete in the Vicarage Garden which took place on the 15th July.

Sadly the weather was rather wet in the morning but it brightened up by lunchtime and everyone enjoyed an excellent barbeque, handicraft, bric-a-brac and book stalls. A raffle, a tombola and a Silent Auction were well supported.

Teas, cakes, scones and strawberries revived the visitors later in the afternoon and the children were well looked after with games and a Bouncy Castle! In addition The Black Dog band provided continuous entertainment throughout the afternoon.

After a few weeks break during August, we will be planning the next events. We will be hosting the Deanery Confirmation Service on the 24th September in St John's Church at 6:00pm.

We will celebrate Harvest on the weekend of 30th September/1st October and the Harvest Lunch will take place in the School Hall on the 1st October, following the 10:00am Harvest Service. Everyone is very welcome to join in!

Date to note:

November 18th: Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall.

Look out for further advertising!

**Pat Rushmere
Churchwarden**



REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (1662) every Sunday

10 am 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.

Heavenly Bodies

It's the holiday season, and the perfect time to enjoy the night sky in warmer temperatures, whether in the UK or abroad. For those who'll be in the USA on 21st August, do enjoy the jaw-dropping spectacle of the total solar eclipse!

Back here, we are being treated to the exclusive summer view of the Milky Way flowing over our heads. The night-time Earth points to the brightest part of our Galaxy at this time of year, but gradually shifts its gaze away so the famous river of stars disappears from sight by the end of autumn. So make the most of it, and point any pair of binoculars at the Milky Way and see countless stars burst into view.

As mentioned in the last issue, Saturn appears 'in' the Milky Way during the coming weeks. It's low in the southern sky after sunset, and the Moon will be close by on 29th August (see graphic), 26th September and 24th October to help you spot the ringed planet.

The bright orange star Antares in Scorpius is nearby and highlights an attractive colour comparison between it and the pale yellow Saturn.

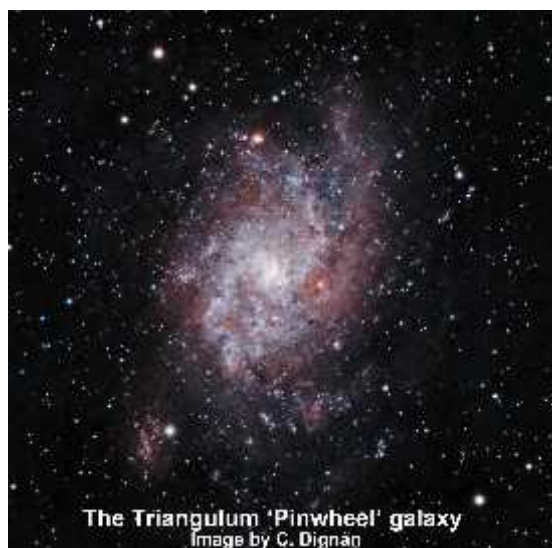
The annual Perseid meteor shower is due on 12th August, but the Moon will take the shine off the display. So watch out for the Orionids meteor shower instead on and around 21st October. The autumn equinox arrives on 22nd September, and on that night the bright 'star' to the right of the Moon will be Jupiter.

As it gets dark earlier over the next few months, it's easier to see the Universe in the evening. Zooming out of our Galaxy, two of our neighbouring galaxies glide into view during October. The Andromeda and Triangulum galaxies are part of our Local Group, at about one and three million light-years from us respectively. Or put another way, if you could travel at the speed of light – 670 million mph – it would take you three million years to reach the Triangulum, or 'Pinwheel', galaxy.

But even so far away, they can still be seen from Earth – even with the naked eye for those with perfect vision in dark locations. They can certainly be seen with telescopes, as shown by the image of the spiral Triangulum galaxy I took last year. The reddish-pink speckles within it are regions where new stars are being born. Our Milky Way and the Andromeda galaxy will merge in the distant future, and scientists have discovered recently that their outer-most regions have already started to interact with one another.

I am obliged to point out that the clocks go back an hour on 29th October (sorry!). So here's a distracting fact – your head ages faster than your feet. It's because of Relativity Theory which states that time moves slower as gravity increases – and has been proved correct. Since your head is slightly further away from Earth's gravity than your feet (when standing), time passes relatively more quickly at head-level. To age at the same rate for both ends, lie down! So now you know.

Chris Dignan



New Orleans and the Birth of the Blues



In May of last year, my wife Pat and I were able to go on our “trip of a lifetime” by way of a Saga holiday tour of New Orleans and the Deep South of the United States of America.

Our visit to New Orleans coincided with the city’s annual Jazz Festival which takes place in the open air at the “Fair Grounds” horse racing track located in the area known as mid-city. According to the official “Jazz Fest” website, “the Festival celebrates the indigenous music and culture of New Orleans and Louisiana, so the music encompasses every style associated with the city and the state: blues, R&B, gospel music, Cajun music, zydeco, Afro-Caribbean, folk music, latin, rock, rap music, country music, bluegrass, and everything in between. And of course there is lots of jazz, both contemporary and traditional!”

Throughout the history of New Orleans, it has been truly a multi-cultural city in which the music and art of various European and African sources have come together to create a cultural stewpot, or “gumbo” to use the local term, and a social ethos in which sacred and secular sit happily alongside each other.

No-one can say beyond doubt where and when Jazz and Blues music began, but it is plainly the case that this indigenous African-American folk art is deeply imbedded into the DNA of so much of today’s popular music.

It is a tragic irony of history that the music owes its origins to the scandal of the slave trade by which many millions of African people were forcibly transported from Africa to the “New World”. Estimates of the total numbers of those captured and transported to the Americas range from 9.4 million to over 14 million.

Slavery in the USA was ended by the American Civil War which lasted from 1861 to 1865. Tragically, it is the case that more Americans died in the course of the Civil War than lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars combined.

It is another sad and tragic irony of the history of the African-American enforced diaspora that, rather than the anticipated “Jubilee” of freedom and release of the captives, the ending of slavery marked the beginning of even greater black exclusion and, for many people, even deeper levels of severe poverty and violent abuse. It is primarily out of this experience of acute human suffering that the essential ingredients of Gospel Music and Spirituals, Jazz and Blues, came into being.

Elements of African music which survive into music of African-American origin include rhythmic complexity and syncopation; free improvisation around traditional forms; the so-called “blue notes” which

some say arose from a “blurring” of European music scales and the African pentatonic scale; an oral rather than written tradition, male singing in the falsetto range; the blurring of sacred and secular in African dance with “holy dance” seemingly a blend of African spiritual traditions and 19th century charismatic outpourings; and adapted instrumentation especially drum, banjo, mandolin and steel guitar (the latter possibly inspired by the Hawaiian musicians of the Vaudeville circuit).

On the matter of musical instruments, it appears to be key to the development of jazz music that a plethora of military brass band instruments discarded after the Battle of New Orleans and the Civil War was available to the jazz musicians of New Orleans and some other parts of the Deep South.

Intriguingly, many people consider that the essential quality of Jazz and Blues music is best described by a Spanish term associated with flamenco, “Duende” and is loosely translated as “having soul”; that is to say being gripped by a “heightened state of emotion, expression and authenticity”. Some would go so far as to say that this is in the end a matter of divine inspiration!

I end (for now) with a quote from an African-American Christian theologian, James H. Cone:

“I am the blues and my life is a spiritual. Without them, I cannot be”!

Tony Bundock

Community Planning Group

Welcome pack

Five Welcome Packs have been delivered so far this year, but there should be several more, once the new occupants have actually moved in. There seem to be quite a few properties that have been sold, although the new owners have still last minute hurdles to overcome. Please let me know when you find that you suddenly have a new neighbour.

Princes Risborough future development

There was a meeting on 13 July at which the proposed Princes Risborough Town Plan was presented, as part of the Wycombe District Local Plan. It includes the provision of 3200 new houses to be located mostly between the railway line to Aylesbury and Lower Icknield Way. These are to be built by 2033, and therefore make a substantial increase in the size of the town.

There will be a new relief road, although this is not a true by-pass since it is likely to run through the middle of the new housing development, and will not be dual carriageway. The existing A4010 will be improved but appears to include nine

roundabouts, at least one 20 mph zone, and an extension of the existing 30 mph zone to the North.

Other infrastructure developments include new schools, a new local shopping centre but not a large supermarket. The Local Health Commissioning Group has suggested that no additional GP accommodation is required, which by implication means that one or both of the existing GP services must expand, possibly also involving a relocation.

It is a major construction project and it is by no means clear just how it is going to be funded. This point was not covered during the meeting.

One of the objections raised by members of the audience was that there were no new jobs in the area and therefore new residents would be working elsewhere, thus creating increased traffic flows. It is likely that this would have an impact on Lacey Green.

There was some criticism from the audience at the Town Council for not adequately representing the views of the electorate.

The potential effect of other local plans, notably in the Aylesbury Vale area, could force changes to the Wycombe Plan, as could actions by the County Council and the Government.

Lacey Green Stores

Our team of volunteers continues to keep the stores running, but we are all getting older. If you are not already doing anything for your village community (and even if you are) please consider joining the team.

One morning a month would be very helpful, and will have minimal impact on your existing routines. You receive a Time Credit for every hour of volunteering, which can be spent in a variety of outlets.

We seem on a steady move towards a cashless society, but as true Luddites, we only take cash in the Stores. I noticed the other day that to use a London bus you cannot now use cash. I have no experience of this myself, but what do other people think?

Tony Molesworth

01844 344975

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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
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 and evenings	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		Jayne Mylchreest		clerk@laceygreen-pc.org
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.

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VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Clive or Karen on 01844 274254 (answering service)

LACEY GREEN POST OFFICE

Open 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.),
Yvonne Axe, Cathryn Davies,
Stella Boll, Jane Brown,
Karen O'Shaughnessy
Gill Mortimer-Biggs
Jill Gosling, Mike Piercy

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 NOVEMBER EDITION
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