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The Lacey Green and Loosley Row Magazine



ISSUE 251 AUGUST 2019

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Welcome to the August edition

This edition we have a focus on St John's school.

Many of you will remember that in June last year the current Headteacher, Mrs Grimsey died suddenly from cancer. The Deputy Headteacher Mrs Rodbourne stepped up and took the Headteacher role for the next two terms and did a fantastic job of keeping the school running during the interim period.

After a lengthy selection process a new Headteacher, Ian Newton started at St John's in April this year. We have an interview with Mr Newton on page 40.

Mrs Rodbourne saw through the transition to the new Headteacher and then decided that she wished to retire - after 40 years at St John's. Her retirement party is covered on page 26.

Over the past couple of years we have followed the design and build of an innovative new school Music Pavilion by architecture students loosely based at Grymsdyke Farm. I am delighted to say that this is now complete and in full use; the opening ceremony is described on page 9.

Many of us had been sad when the traditional Strawberry Tea ceased due to lack of energy to run the event. We were then delighted when Sarah and Tim Halliday resurrected this to raise funds for school gardening, a full report is on page 7.

The school has also been giving energy back to the community, and in early July children from the school gave a massive boost to the village litter collection to clean up the village. You can see the pictures at page 24.

We mustn't forget the key point of the school - to educate the pupils! The governors and school leadership team prioritise instilling social values and providing a wide curriculum with science, music and sports. However all parents look at the examination statistics because they want to know that their children are learning well and continually improving.

We were therefore very pleased with the latest SATS results which came out a couple of weeks ago. Though one needs to take care interpreting the statistics we can see that the composite results for Key Stage 2 (age 11) have improved in each of the past 4 years and are now nearly 10%



above the national average. More details on page 42.

The School also had an inspection from the Oxford diocese last term and received a glowing report.

Finally thanks to the Year 6 pupil who produced our front cover artwork.

Leaving school matters, Hallmark still needs a new Distribution Manager to coordinate the delivery team.

It only takes a few hours 4 times per year, so if you would be prepared to take this role please let me know.

Mike Piercy
Editor

Parking at the Village Hall

When the Village Hall is let for a function the hirers often have many visitors and the car park rapidly fills to capacity. Cars attending the function are entitled to use the whole car park and have first priority.

This becomes a problem if local residents also try to use the Hall car park for their friends and visitors. The Village Hall Committee are happy for local residents to use the car park occasionally for extra guests visiting or building work taking place at their homes etc.

However they should not use it at peak times.

PLEASE check with Karen Hodghton, the booking secretary (07922 184 886) first before parking any vehicle at the Hall and do not leave your car there for an extended period.

What's On

Tues 13 August

WI Summer Lunch at
The Black Horse

Sat 31 August 7.00 pm

Retro Party Night
Speen playing fields marquee

Sat 7 Sept 4.00 pm

Horts Club Show
Village Hall

Thurs 26 Sept

MacMillan Coffee Morning .
Village Hall

Sun 6 Oct

Church Harvest Buffet
In the church after Evensong

Sat 12 Oct 2.00 pm

WI Jumble Sale
Village Hall

Sat/Sun 2 & 3 Nov 10.00 am

History Group Exhibition
St John's School Hall

Sat 16 Nov

Church Christmas Fayre
Village Hall

Wed 20 Nov

Horts Club Pumpkin Supper
Village Hall

28, 29, 30 Nov

LGP "The Ladykillers"
Village Hall

THE WINDMILL WI JUMBLE SALE

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**Sun 25 Aug, 29 Sept, 27 Oct
10.30am**

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Phone Liz Lewin 01844 274961

Parish Council Meetings

Mon 2 Sept 7.30 Speen Hall
Mon 7 Oct 7.30 Lacey Green Hall
Mon 4 Nov 7.30 Lacey Green Hall

MacMillan Coffee Morning

26th Sept 9.30 to 12 noon

On Thursday 26th September we are again holding our coffee morning in the Village Hall to raise money for the MacMillan Cancer Fund.

The entrance fee of £3 will include a coffee and a cake or biscuit.

We will have our usual stalls selling cakes, produce, crafts, 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 563966



SPEEN FESTIVAL 2019

Retro Party Night

Saturday 31st August
7pm till 11pm
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Speen Playing Fields

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Tickets available from the Festival Box Office

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Diary Date



Black Tie Dinner & Dance

Saturday 19th October 2019
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Drinks Reception at 7.00pm

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Carriages at Midnight

History Group 2019 Exhibition

Village Memories

November

Sat 2nd 10am – 4pm

Sun 3rd 2pm – 4pm

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Bette Tyler's Farewell Tea

I am delighted to report that the Strawberry Tea at Loosley Dene in memory of my mother really could not have gone better. The sun shone, the jazz band played and well over a hundred people turned out to enjoy tea, cakes and chat, set against a spectacular view in Sarah and Tim Halliday's delightful garden.

There were Kunekune pigs and miniature donkeys to stroke, herbs and roses to sniff, a gruffalo to hunt and a den for the children to hide away in. Who could ask for more!

It was a marvellous afternoon, and particularly appropriate because for many years my mother had helped to organise the annual Strawberry Tea at a string of different venues around the village and I know that she would have loved this one, surrounded by so many of her dear friends.

As well as being a hugely enjoyable afternoon, thanks to everyone's generosity we raised over a thousand pounds to support St John's School's wildlife garden, and I am sure that she would have approved of that too as she always enjoyed being with children (she served as a 'Tuck Shop Operative' at the Youth Club until she was nearly ninety!).

So I would just like to say a large 'thank you' to everyone who did so much to make it such a wonderful and memorable occasion. To Sarah and Tim for coming up with the idea in the first place, and for the hours of hard work that went into organising it. To all the ladies of



the WI catering corps who tirelessly made and served all those delicious cakes. To the lads in the band, whose music did so much to make the occasion so special. To whoever it was who arranged for the rain to pause just long enough for us to enjoy the afternoon and get home before it started again. And last but certainly not least, to all of you who came along to support us. It was a perfect village day.



St John's C of E Primary School would like to say a big "Thank You" to all the people who attended the Strawberry Tea in memory of Bette Tyler at Sarah Halliday's beautiful garden. The day was a great success, with the weather holding out and everyone enjoying the delicious cakes and cream teas provided by the WI.

Sarah very generously donated all of the entrance money to regenerate the school's Wildlife Garden, known as Hogan's Hideaway. The money is going to be used to purchase plants and materials to make the garden useable for all the children at the school to access.

The idea is that children will go in and explore the wildlife, through pond dipping, bird watching in a hide and observing the insects attracted by the different variety of wild flowers. Watch this space for updates and pictures.

Mrs Freeman



Building a silage clamp **On the Farm**

© Robert West

The Chiltern Farm Cluster group has continued to develop. This spring we have had two more bird surveys done. They found a total of 46 species; the notable ones for us were Corn Bunting, Tree Creeper, Wheatear and White Throat. Attention has started to turn to Fauna. Some farms have had tremendous displays of wildflowers. This cluster group is really opening the eyes of local farmers to what they have on their farms, often without realising.

Charlotte has completed her year with McDonald's on the Progressive Young Farmer Programme and is now back on the farm until her next term at Harper Adams starts. This programme finished with all the participants giving a presentation about their year on the programme. It is clear that McDonald's has really high standards and expectations from their farmer suppliers. It is a good company to work with as a farmer and a real supporter of British agriculture. A real eye opener and something many of their customers just wouldn't realise.

While the cows are grazing during the summer we have been renovating their winter

accommodation. This year we have improved several feed troughs, re-concreting them and coating them with resin floors which are easy to clean and smooth to lick by the cow. We have also replaced a number of water troughs with rapid emptying ones, so they are easy to keep clean and the water fresh. Cows are very aware when food and water are not as fresh as they could be and as a result their intakes drop. I am sure our intake would drop if we never washed up our plates and mugs! We have also been busy conserving forage to feed the cows this winter. So far we have done three cuts of grass silage, made wholecrop barley silage and are about to cut lucerne for the second time. The maize is looking good after a slow start with plenty of sunshine and another rainfall.

There are some people who ring and when you see the number on caller display your heart sinks, as straight away you think the cows are out as that is the only time they ring. They either quickly explain that they have another reason to call or confirm what you already believe is inevitable. This is the phone call that every livestock farmer

dreads. It can come at anytime of day, sometimes when its easy to get some help, sometimes not, sometimes we are not even at the farm. The first thought is damage limitation. The quicker we can get to the scene the less damage is done, the cows will have gone less distance and they may not all be out. We have had several instances this year.

We have several cases of cows being spooked and breaking out of their fields, which we are putting down to being chased by dogs, but with no evidence of that. One lot in a block of land between Clappins Lane and Stocking Lane in Naphill burst through their fence and just kept running, unusually they split into three groups, one group stayed in the woods, another ran up North Dean near Speen, the last group went over to Naphill Common and on to Downley, a distance of over four miles. We are very grateful for the help of local farmers who helped us to return the cattle to their fields, once we located them.

Another call we received was slightly different. We had another case of photosensitivity in a cow, like we did last year, this time in a field in Naphill. A member of the public rang and said they thought we had a cow that had been attacked by a dog, but it was a case of photosensitivity where the cow's white patches of skin go very dry and crack open, she is now recovering indoors away from direct sunlight. But looking at her you could see why the person thought how they did, and we appreciate her concerned phone call. *Cont'inued opposite....*

Building in Harmony

On Thursday 11 July, St John's school officially opened the stunning new community-built, environmentally friendly Music Pavilion. The lively event celebrated five years of hard work, driven by the wonderful Clementine Blakemore who designed the building.

After enjoying a school-wide picnic, a group of children began the ceremony by drumming from within the pavilion. Headteacher Ian Newton thanked everyone involved and hoped the building would help to inspire the musicians of the future. All of the children performed Siyahamba in both Zulu and English, and Reverend Tony blessed the building. The green ribbon was officially cut by Clem and two children from the reception class.

A large laser-cut wooden plaque was installed inside the building, listing many of the people and organisations that made the project possible.

Another plaque marked the rose planted near the building to remember Gill Grimsey, former St John's Headteacher, as she was a great lover of music. Finally, a twenty-year time capsule with letters to and from current St John's children was buried.



More about the building can be found at <https://www.clementineblakemore.com/project/music-room-phase-2/>

Photo willscottphotography.com

Sara O'Connor

On the Farm continued

On July 18th we had the biggest breakout of cows that we have probably ever had. That could have turned out so much worse. Our high yielders were coming back from the fields behind the farm for breakfast when they spotted a gate that had accidentally been left open after a delivery. This was just too interesting for a cow to resist.

The cows are a bit like a union.. all in or all out... so in a matter of minutes over 100 had got out into Kiln Lane, up to the main road where they turned left down the main road. There were numerous parked cars as it was school sports day. At the bottom of the straight someone turned them into the sports ground, where, like the kids they had a quick race and did a 100 metre

sprint to the tennis court area. We were eventually able to get them back into a field which had the low yielders in, so later we had to sort them out. But the main thing was that they were back in a field. Apart from a few agricultural deposits being left, we are unaware of any serious damage being done to date ...which is miraculous. Although in unusual circumstances it was nice to meet neighbours whom we hadn't met before.

Many thanks to everyone who helped get them back in, even those of you who we do not know, and for the understanding of our neighbours and lastly a special thanks to the girl on the bus who took a video and sent it to the Bucks Free Press.

Richard West
stockenfarm@gmail.com



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Windmill WI

At the beginning of May a group of us went to the Waterside Theatre at Aylesbury for our Annual Council Meeting. This is always a very interesting day with nearly 1,000 WI ladies attending. There were several very good speakers including Simon King OBE. Simon is an aficionado of the natural world and as a passionate conservationist, he specialises in capturing it in wildlife documentaries.

In the May meeting we discussed our resolutions which would be voted on at the AGM at Bournemouth. The two resolutions were 'A call against the decline in local bus service' and 'Don't fear the smear' We all voted for these two resolutions to go forward. We then enjoyed a quiz and a glass of wine. Some of us enjoyed a lovely lunch at The Peacock at Henton. Lovely food and company.

In June our speaker was Paul Deacon who is a Toast Master and told us many tales from the top table and the interesting personalities he had met. Paul is a professional International Toastmaster, Master of Ceremonies and a past President of the National Association of Toastmasters.

Some of us helped with refreshments for the Village Litter Pick. We made cakes and served tea and had a very entertaining afternoon. We also attended Bette Tyler's Strawberry Tea and Jazz at Loosley Dene. It was a beautiful afternoon and a lovely garden.

Our knitting group has now made 30 baby jumpers which we



Tea at Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

are sending off to Knit for Peace. We are now having a break until September.

At the end of the month we had a lovely visit to the Hearing Dogs at Saunderton. We had a very interesting tour around the kennels and saw a dog demonstrate his skills, we then had a lovely cream tea.

Our July speaker was Maralyn Jenkins talking about Pets as Therapy. She brought her two chihuahuas with her who showed us many tricks.

The charity enhances health and wellbeing in the community. We also had a member from Penn and Tylers Green WI giving us a report on her trip to the NFWI Annual Meeting in Bournemouth.

We meet at Lacey Green Village Hall, the first Wednesday in the month (except January) at 7.45 pm. If you would like to join us you would receive a very warm welcome.

Ann Bartlett



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District Council News

The Wycombe District Local Plan, which is expected to be adopted by the end of summer, allocates around 2,500 homes in Princes Risborough, mainly through a major expansion west of the town. The Local Plan sets out that the Council is going to prepare a Capacity and Delivery Plan to provide further detailed guidance for the expansion of the town. The Council is consulting on this draft detailed guidance, now referred to as Princes Risborough Expansion Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) until Sunday 21st July. More information is available on

www.wycombe.gov.uk/risborough-expansion

Apart from local ward matters I have additional responsibilities as the Cabinet Member for Community Services. It is a diverse portfolio that includes the open spaces, the five leisure centres, the town cemetery, health and wellbeing, safety, Wycombe Lotto, tourism and some other items.

Street Wardens

Many residents have been concerned by the number of people begging in Wycombe town centre and the response has been to recruit a new team of three Street Wardens to patrol the town centre and supplement the activities of Thames Valley Police.

In the first two weeks a significant number of minor incidents have been logged and assistance given including first aid, safeguarding, begging and prohibited street drinking. This very new initiative is already making a difference so if you are in the town centre and spot a WDC uniformed Street

Warden please give encouragement and say hello!

I am very pleased that our three major open spaces, Hughenden Park, Higginson Park and The Rye have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag status again this year. It is a tough standard to meet and the team that manages all the open spaces and the cemetery are to be congratulated for doing an excellent job keeping them in first class condition.

New Crematorium

My role includes sitting on the committee that is responsible for the Amersham Crematorium that is jointly owned the WDC, Chiltern and AVDC councils. A new mutually owned crematorium has recently been opened at Bierton, on the north side of Aylesbury and it should provide some relief to the Amersham facility that was the busiest in England last year.

New Council

The development work to form the new Buckinghamshire Council on 1st April next year continues at great pace. After taking over 3 years to make the decision to have a single unitary council, the government allocated just 10 months to merge the four Districts and the County Council.

The 'interim' Shadow Executive has been formed and is meeting regularly, as are the teams heading up the numerous strategic work streams to harmonise the varied systems of the 5 Councils into a single authority. It is a huge undertaking and it is consuming significant time of the officers. As an example, five financial systems have to be transformed into one. The Community Services roles of the District Councils are similar but not the same, so much work is being done to create a single vision for the future. It should be a seamless transformation!

Graham Peart



Graham with the 3 Street Wardens & team leader



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History Group Exhibition

The History Group are planning an exhibition on November 2nd and 3rd in St John's School. A large part will be a retrospective look at past exhibitions, playing DVDs and showing photos of Village Days, Sheaf to Loaf day, street parties and houses around 1950.

We will also show albums of the wedding dress exhibition, the WI (both day and evening), histories of Church and Kiln Lanes and Coombes, the chapels, WW1, the Air Force and the Suffragettes. Also many photos of people, places and things that we have in our archive. Once again we will show village family trees.

We keep adding information to our knowledge and more photos are being given to copy. Please keep lending us documents of Loosley Row and Lacey Green so we can record them. Originals are always returned.

With an exhibition of photos and family trees much personal information is on public view. If you do not wish your family or house to be mentioned please let us know.

The development from virtually nothing to our villages as we know them today is incredible. A map of 1823, a defining moment, gives a good example.

Lacey Green and Loosley Row together with Speen were classed as the Upper Hamlets of Princes Risborough. We were part of the Manor of Princes Risborough. Everything belonged to The Lord of the Manor and everything was let except for his house and farm down in the town. It was a Royal Manor belonging to King Harold even before William the Conqueror took control so the monarch was the Lord of the Manor, the rents funding the royal coffers.

This arrangement continued for over 600 years until there was a major blip. In 1628 King Charles I, having considerably overspent himself, sold it to the City of London. From then on the Manor changed hands purely as a commercial transaction. For the tenants very little changed.

The manor controlled the woods, common grazing and arable land. The best grazing was deep in Princes Risborough which included the site of the Manor Farm, but that whole area was prone to flooding. Generally speaking the people walked their cattle up and onto the Common on the poorest land which included the upper part of Loosley Row and virtually all of Lacey Green. The local people dubbed it "The Waste" as they had no rights to it.

The common arable land lay from Culverton as you leave Princes Risborough heading east along the 4010. It was all divided into strips which stretched north from that road (the Turnpike) right across Woodway Road as far as the back road down to Risborough, passed Brimmers Farm and as far as Little Wardrobes Lane to the east. The Manor dictated exactly how and when you had to work it. This had been the system for centuries. In 1823 all that was changed with the Enclosures of Princes Risborough.

By 1805 The Lord of the Manor was financially in a mess. As the Napoleonic wars dragged on, he, along with many others with wealth, was being bled dry and were on the verge of bankruptcy. Gradually he sold off the farms. There were still a few people from very wealthy families elsewhere who were in a position to borrow money. They now appear in our

history as they see the opportunities of a buyers' market.

Most prominent hereabouts was Lord George Henry Cavendish, a member of one of the richest families in the country. But there were others too, Sir William Lawrence Young being another and also some of the Oxford colleges. By the second decade of the 1800s they owned all the sizeable farms and the campaign for enclosure was on, all farmers having to agree.

Risborough Church was the only church for the whole Manor. The Vicar threw his weight behind it too, clamouring for a chapel of ease to be built at Lacey Green as the people here were such a heathen and ungodly lot. He managed to get a grant towards that. The Enclosures of Risborough became law. The benefits of this became apparent as farming practices moved from strip farming to fields managed by the tenants of the new landlords (none of whom lived here). But there were also disadvantages and in some respects things were distinctly worse. The vicar did get his chapel by 1825 which became a fully registered church in 1851.

At the exhibition we will have maps of Lacey Green, Loosley Row, and the Darvills Hill, Turnip End and Flowers Bottom area, showing the ownership both before and after that date in 1823. They have to be seen to be believed.

To find out more go to www.laceygreen.com and click on history. Please keep information coming to any member or ring Rosemary on 08144345863.



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Community Tennis



Prior to finishing his old job, our new coach Dan had spent a lot of time over the summer term providing tennis taster sessions to local pre-schools and primary schools. Flyers promoting our open day on 13th July were distributed to parents and it has really paid off. An amazing 74 adults and children came to sample tennis, from tots right through to adults! We were kept busy all day and it was lovely to meet so many new people. The feedback has also been really positive, both verbally and via Facebook. We look forward to welcoming back the juniors and adults when Dan starts full time in early August.

Tennis For Kids £29.99 – 6 Lessons, T Shirt, Racket & Ball Set!

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is heavily promoting their “Tennis for Kids” initiative which is amazing value and Dan will be offering courses commencing in September.

It is for children aged between 4 and 11 who have little or no experience playing tennis. The courses will be packed full of games and drills to get kids active and it also gives the parents a chance to join in too! If you are interested, type “tennis for kids” into your search engine and complete the online form. Places are limited and we are expecting a lot of interest so it is advisable to get in early.

More and more research shows the huge health benefits from exercising, and tennis provides an all-round workout to help you stay fit. Cardio tennis for example, allows you to burn off around 600 calories in an hour hitting lots of balls to live music. You don’t need to have had any experience either! Just turn up and have fun. Dan will be running 3 sessions per week including one at 9.15 am on Thursday mornings which will appeal to parents after school drop off.

As we look towards autumn, we are raising funds to enable us to have a small tennis cabin with glass double doors. This will enable parents to have a warm and comfortable seating area to watch tennis and provide members with a welcome shelter too. It will complete a busy year of capital expenditure with court 3 having been resurfaced and re-fenced in early May. I hope you like our purple/green format....it is certainly popular amongst the junior members!

After the successful open day in July, I am pleased to say that we will be running an extra one on Saturday 28th September. There will be various free tennis taster sessions for the whole family and free coffee and cake! Come down and give us a try.

You can follow us on Facebook, Instagram and also find lots of information on our website.

Nigel Glenister





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Village Hall Access Project



Most of us take the running of the Village Hall for granted and know little of its operation and costs. The Hall is in fact managed by a committee of 12 trustees all of whom are unpaid. They are also responsible for production and distribution, four times a year, of 570 copies of this Village Magazine of some 40+ pages and maintenance of the very comprehensive village web-site which provides details and pictures of the village hall at <https://www.laceygreen.com/Sections/vhall.php>

There has been a Village Hall in Lacey Green since the land was donated in 1942. It belongs to the local villages and exists to provide facilities for us. This it does regularly for such things as Archery, Amateur Dramatics, Coffee Morning, Fine Art Society, Walking Group, Horticultural Society, Dance classes, Karate, Lace-makers, Pilates, Short-mat Bowling, University of the 3rd Age, Windmill Artists, Women's Institute, Yoga and the Youth Club.

It is available as an emergency evacuation shelter included in the WDC emergency plan and for the Village School.

There are numerous ad-hoc uses such as voting and training, as well as weddings and parties. The hall has Internet access and caters for the hard-of-hearing with a hearing loop. All this is done on a non-profit making basis, indeed income could be greatly improved but for total agreement in prioritising local groups at reduced rates.

In 2017, after 10 years without change, the committee increased its rents but it still remains competitive with surrounding halls.

In 2010 a not for profit community shop was opened in the room to the left of the front recess. As well as some general provisions it also currently hosts a post office once a week and provides a library service also run by unpaid volunteers.

You can see the car park has a few issues with holes and migration of stones. This limits some elderly, infirm and disabled people from using the hall as well as rendering it unusable for any other purpose. Efficient car parking is impossible as spaces cannot be marked and high heels are not recommended.

Our solution is a new rustic resin bound gravel surface similar to some of the new roads in Wycombe. This is porous and rainwater soaks through, which eliminates impact on the environment and public systems. Trip hazards and all the other issues are eliminated.

However the not-for-profit basis means that funds are limited. A contingency fund is maintained for unexpected events not covered by insurance. Several thousand pounds have been accrued over a number of years but it is nowhere near enough for improving our car park - estimated at around £80,000. We are applying for grants from various places but these will be greatly enhanced if we can show that the villages are in full support.

We, the committee, are therefore asking for donations, of any amount, via the village shops or bank transfer to Barclays account no. 30557900: Sort code 20-85-73 ref VHcarpark. Thank you in anticipation for your support.

Leigh Axe

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Horticultural Society

The weather as usual has defied all expectations, with cold and wet conditions making it slow growing, followed by prolonged hot spells when the water butts are empty and plants thirsty.

However, gardeners manage to produce excellent results in spite of these challenges. I visited the Bledlow Ridge society's summer show and although fairly small in its range of classes, there were excellent floral exhibits and fruit of a very high standard. One of our members, Linda Taylor, won first prize with her pot plant, a bright red begonia. Bledlow are very welcoming to their neighbours, so well worth checking out what they have going on!

Although our own society doesn't run a summer show, the Millennium Hall again hosted the Chiltern Sweet Pea Society annual show. The season for sweet peas is very short, but they benefit from being picked and will flower longer the more you pick, so are very rewarding to grow. Those grown for exhibition are grown on cordons, the side shoots being removed as the plant grows, leaving the leading flowers only, which will produce larger and more flowers per stem. 4 is the normal number needed for show blooms, but five on a stem is not uncommon in flowers grown this way.

This year has been spectacular for roses. I have seen plenty of beautiful climbers and bush roses in the villages and my own rose, Kiftgate, which is very vigorous and grows readily high up into trees, has been splendid (see photo above). Its scent fills the garden on calm days and it is



joined slightly later by the jasmine which creates a heady mixture. Gardening is surely one of the most fulfilling of hobbies, providing pleasure for all the senses in spite of some of the hard manual labour required.

The society are continuing to support the school's gardening club. They showed a vase of sweet peas they had sowed in the autumn and planted out in spring. There are vegetables and fruit in the beds which we hope will be ready for picking after the summer holidays when the children return. This is such an important activity for children, being able to grow and eat their own produce, understanding what goes into producing the food we eat.

We had a very stimulating visit to John Branham's garden in Wingrave. John is one of the top vegetable growers in the UK and he opens his garden

to members of the National Vegetable Society each year. John grows for everyday eating as well as showing at several key shows. His garden is beautiful and we saw the planning and organisation which lies behind the champion onions, leeks, (see photo below) potatoes and peas, amongst other fruit and veg which fill the garden. Although the weather was absolutely appalling and it rained heavily, about 30 people enjoyed the garden and cheese and wine under the cover of a large shed, or several umbrellas! This is one of the benefits of belonging to our society which is affiliated to the NVS and the RHS, we get to see things most people don't!

The events coming up are of course the Annual Show on September 6th. The schedules were circulated in the last Hallmark, but if you can't locate one they are also on the village website, or contact a member of the committee. Our Pumpkin Supper is on November 20th and booking is essential. We hope to see you at one of our events in the near future.

Alison Shreeve



40 years at the chalkface

Ex-teachers at St John's from the past decades gathered in the vicarage garden last week to give a rousing send-off to Jo Rodbourne who was retiring after 40 years teaching at St John's. A folk group entertained from their gazebo and ex-pupils presented her with gifts from the school and teachers.



She joined St John's after teacher-training and stayed there throughout her working life, with a couple of spells of part-time

working when her two sons were born.

She will have taught over a thousand village children in her time and they will have memories of her caring style and her famous trips to Swanage for Year 5 pupils.

She also used to run the netball team training sessions at St John's and although she doesn't do that anymore she attends every Saturday tournament which St John's play at, no matter the weather, to cheer the girls and boys on.

Her final year was one of the most challenging as she had to take on the Headteacher role after the death of the previous Headteacher. The Chair of the Governors gave a speech to



commend her on how well she had handled this challenge and thank her for commitment to the school over the years.

Mike Piercy

Billy Backwoods

BackWoods founders and Bucks boys, Ed Corble and Billy Stott, wanted to share their love of the outdoors, nature and good wholesome outdoorsy fun.

After many conversations, often involving a drink and a campfire, the idea for BackWoods was born in late 2018. The aim: to teach people a range of outdoor skills, help people to have fantastic new experiences and most importantly, fun!

Billy, from Lacey Green, owns and runs Stotts Nursery in Stokenchurch, which is situated in beautiful Chiltern woodland. This is the site where BackWoods experiences and workshops are now run, in a

purpose-built classroom and in the woodland surrounding the nursery. Some of the workshops even involve using parts of the nursery for teaching. There is a campfire cooking area, herb and veg garden and plenty of grassy open space. Billy runs some of the horticultural workshops, such as Plant Propagation and Willow Wreath Weaving.

Ed, originally from Bledlow Ridge, works full time in London and is a scout leader in Kent. He has over 20 years experience in the outdoors and he and Billy were scouts together in Naphill. Ed is the campfire king and runs the Campfire Cooking days, also being on hand at many of the other workshops.

There are a range of workshops available at BackWoods, including: Campfire Cooking, Plant Propagation, Willow Wreath Weaving, Wreath Making, Family Natural Art Days and Craft Spirit Tasting and Talks. More workshops and dates are always being added, so keep an eye out!

To find out more, visit www.BackWoodsExperiences.co.uk, follow on Instagram; @Backwoods_Experiences or find on Facebook; Backwoods Experiences.



Black Horse

Well summer is upon us; where does the time go? It's frightening. It will soon be time to get the Christmas menus out!!!!!! It doesn't seem 5 mins ago we were doing them.

As I am writing this I am trying to organise our beer festival for August. The bands are booked and the gin and beer has been finalised so I think it is all go. All we need now is nice weather.

The Aunt Sally league is well into its season and we have actually got points this year and a full team with Lisa in control. It is played on a Friday night.

Summer league of darts has started. This is on a Thursday night and is run by Kim; if anybody wants to join please

give me a ring we can always take new players.

I want to say thank you to all my staff who in the last few months have worked so hard at the Black Horse as we have had a few very busy months and difficult ones. I would like to say, without them the Black Horse would not be what it is today. Many of the staff have been with me many years and hopefully they count themselves as part of a family.

We have had a new bar fitted, it is amazing, thank you so much Mark Carter for arranging and doing it for me and must not forget Wills for helping.

The hanging baskets are now up at the front of the pub let's hope they are as good as last years.



I am still on look out for toys for the play area. Hope you all have a good summer.

Lynne

Jane Brown leaves the village

Jane, her husband Andrew and her mother Doreen de Grey have been in Lacey Green for more than 30 years.

Jane first took part in village activities as a Soprano in Lacey Green Singers. She was already a very experienced musician and singer, and quickly became one of the most valuable members. She moved from the Soprano section to support the Altos when Madeline Cleaver was no longer able to sing. From 2007 - 2008 Jane stood in as Conductor, when no one else could be found. Now that Jane has gone, Lacey Green Singers find themselves in the same situation again, and would be happy to hear from anyone who might be able to help.

Over the years, Jane also acted as Treasurer, Librarian and Chairman.

After retiring from her post overseeing school finances in Birmingham, Jane served on the Village Hall Committee, and as Treasurer for the WI, where her mother was a member. She also helped out with the church choir and assisted in the distribution of Hallmark.

She and Andrew had long promised themselves that they would retire to Yorkshire, and

they finally moved in early June this year. Jane will be greatly missed. Volunteers like her are few and far between, and very difficult to replace.

Rosemary Mortham



Parish Council & Village Litter Pick



There was tremendous support from the villages for the Lacey Green and Loosley Row Litter Pick on Saturday 11th May. Thanks go to the WI as well, who provided teas, coffees and yummy cakes to all the volunteers, and to St John's School, who provided the hi-vis jackets for the children.

Thank you also to the 30 or so residents, who joined us in giving their time to litter pick. The sun shone for us and a huge amount of litter was collected from the verges around the village - from the more usual cans, crisp packets, wing mirrors and hub caps, to the more unusual - a plastic Christmas tree and an American Civil War re-enactment photo album! (see below)



Another litter pick next year is planned to tie in with the National Litter Pick Day in April.

The closure of the Wigan's Lane dump at the end of March this year has resulted in an increase in fly-tipping and this will likely continue to increase. Please report any rubbish that is left next to litter bins, or if you see any fly-tipping to :-

Bill Chapple at bchandle@buckscc.co.uk
Carl Etholan at cetholan@buckscc.co.uk and
Simon.Anthony@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk

The three District Councils have a combined waste management programme.

The more people who report incidents, the quicker something is likely to be done.

Anyone who has visited the other dumps 'close by' - High Heavens, Aston Clinton or Rabans Lane, Aylesbury will know that charges have been imposed on almost everything one takes, and the hours of operation have also been reduced, in some cases to only three days a week. If you want something done, help make it happen!! It won't happen without protest! *Continued...*





LACEY GREEN Parish Council

The Parish Council, along with our County Councillor have had meetings with TfB regarding traffic congestion and safety around school opening and closing times.

Several suggestions have been made:

A. That double yellow lines could be put in place to stop inconsiderate parking at road junctions within the village and measures to stop or restrict parking in the de-restricted zone between Lacey Green and Walters Ash.

B. Hatchings could be painted where the school bus stops, both for parking and children crossing and roundels would be repainted at the entrances to the village at both ends.

If the Church, School, Parents of the school children or residents of the village have any ideas, we would really appreciate your input. The school end of the village is suffering increasing accidents and incidents and the Parish Council is desperately trying to find a solution!

The Motor Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) have been popping up in various places across the parish. Have you been made aware if you have been exceeding the speed limit???

Volunteers in the villages are doing all the work to place and move the signs and collecting and collating the information. Data from the machines is being compiled and standardised and will be published in the next issue of this publication.

Many thanks go to the intrepid MVAS elves!! If anyone feels they could give a little of their time to share the work needed, it will be gratefully received: contact Cllr. Tim MacGillivray at the Parish Council for more info.

There are only 8 months now until the new Unitary Council takes over in Bucks, so if anyone has a wish list of projects they would like to see, don't hesitate to contact your local Councillors, District or County to see if something can be done.

Leave it until the end of March and it will be too late - they will all be vying for their jobs and be too busy to think of the people who pay their salaries!

Miv Hughes

Speen Helping Hospices Summer Retro Party Night 31 August

Speen Helping Hospices are organising a Retro Party Night on Saturday 31 August launching Speen Festival 2019 and will take place in the Marquee on Speen Playing Fields from 7.00pm.

The evening will include bingo and all the best music from the seventies. Tickets are £15 per person and are available from the Speen Festival box office at <https://www.speenfestival.org/>

So, grab your dabber, learn the bingo lingo and join us for party food, seventies music and a cash bar at a glitterball disco.

Speen Helping Hospices (SHH) was founded in 2001 with the aim of raising funds for local

hospices by putting on local events. To date we have raised over £83,000.

Every penny of the profits donated is directed to each of the four hospices supported by the group:

Florence Nightingale House –
Helen & Douglas House –
Rennie Grove Hospice –
The South Bucks Day Hospice.

With limited government funding the hospice charities rely heavily on organisations like SHH to raise funds necessary to care for people with life limiting conditions and give support to their families.

To begin with, and for several years, the events were small relying on just village support, but we now run larger events for which we need to reach a larger audience. So, don your party gear, join the fun and raise funds for great local causes.

Look out for our 10th very successful Annual Christmas Market on the 16th November at the Chapel in Speen.

Find out more at www.facebook.com/speenhelpinghospices/events

Grainne Suter

Lacey Green Singers

Happy July everyone! We have had a very busy term preparing for our summer concert: Zimbel!, which was held on Sunday 30th June in St John's School Hall.

We were joined by a choir of children from St John's School and 5 very talented musicians who formed our band. The sound produced by us, the children and the band was fantastic! I was in the back row of singers and it sounded great, so I can only image how it sounded to those in the audience. It was the sort of performance where I was beaming from ear to ear when we finished. All the hard work (and it was very hard work for many involved) paid off.

We included a donation to Florence Nightingale Hospice in our ticket price this time and I am very pleased to say that we will be donating £110 to the charity. Three dedicated hospice nurses were with us for the concert and the money donated is going into the collection pot as sponsorship for their forthcoming walk of the Great

Wall of China; an amazing feat! They are an inspiration to us all and we wish them all the very best success with their adventure.

We are saying farewell to our Musical Director, Jack Insley, this term. Jack is off to study music at university in September and we wish him lots of luck and send our love with him. He is the fourth generation of his family to be heavily involved with our choir and we have thoroughly enjoyed working with him over the past year.

This leaves us with a vacancy for a Musical Director when we start back in September. This is a paid position and we warmly welcome applications from anyone with a musical background. Please do share this vacancy far and wide. If you, or anyone you know, is interested, please contact us at laceygreensingers@hotmail.com or 01494 488278 to find out more information.

Billy Stott



P.S. here's a snap of Roger and I before the concert! We were supposed to be paying attention, whoops!

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Happy Wanderers

Spring Walk

On a cloudy, but dry morning fourteen walkers and two dogs started the walk from the Rose & Crown Pub in Stone village. We walked down a picturesque lane with thatched cottages and pretty gardens full of spring flowers. We passed through an unusual stile, which was two upright metal posts which were parted to step through then closed and held together with a bar across the top. We entered a field, the dogs loved this as they just ran and ran. Crossing two more fields we passed through a farm, some members stopped to look at newly born calves.

We skirted the River Thame for a short while before reaching a road. Walking about half a mile up this road, which was free from traffic, we turned into fields again it was quite breezy crossing these fields.

After just over four miles of an enjoyable circular walk ending back at the pub, sixteen of us stayed for lunch.

Phyl Bloomfield & Rita Bryant



Early Summer Walk

The end of May saw the group on Coombe Hill - this you will know is the highest point in the Chilterns with views for miles. Although many of us older folk consider the hill daunting it is just about taking your time.

We set off from the Shoulder of Mutton (where we later had lunch) and it is uphill right off from there to the first bend in the road where we carefully crossed (there is just one spot you can see both ways) onto the path up to the Boer War monument. There are in fact two paths up from here and we took the steepest one because the climb is over with at the halfway point. One advantage is that you can turn round at any time and it's downhill all the way back. Stopping about three times and waiting 30 seconds after the last caught up, everyone got to the half way point without difficulty. From here the incline is so slight it's easy, you just have to turn off through a gate at the right point or you miss the monument.

Everyone who set off, including one with a walking aid, made it up and with the weather smiling on us we spent several minutes admiring the views. How really sad that vandals had destroyed the viewing aids.

The return trip involved a walk along the top for half a mile where we decided that we would all take the second short cut back or be late for lunch. Downhill all the way to Bacombe Lane and back over the A413 bridge and left back to the Shoulder of Mutton.



Spring Walk

Albums and Records

Earlier this year it was decided that, for safe keeping, all the walking club's photographic albums and other records should form part of the LG & LR Local History Group's archives which are deposited in a secure location.

For 25 years the albums have been carefully compiled and produced each year by walking club and history group member Rita Probert of Loosley Row, to whom we are greatly indebted. They are displayed at every walking club AGM for members to peruse.

These invaluable records contain numerous photographs taken during walks and "days away" over the years, with descriptions of each walk, places visited, names of leaders and, not least, the public houses frequented for Sunday lunch after each walk! It is hoped that these will be of much interest to future generations of the Happy Wanderers Walking Club and the village in general.

The Secretary

Leigh Axe

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St John's Church

Christmas Tree Festival at St John's Church

St John's Church will be hosting its inaugural Christmas Tree Festival from 4 – 8 December, concluding with the Christingle service at 3.30 pm.

The festival's theme of 'Village Life' will allow local organisations to use their creativity and imagination to decorate a tree depicting their role in our villages.

Visitors to the festival will be able to enjoy the decorated trees and soak up the festive atmosphere whilst enjoying a light lunch or tea and cake. So, put the dates in you diary, begin to think about decorating your trees, and watch out for further details.



Enquiries to Caroline Gulliver or Margaret Gray

SUMMER FETE

We had an excellent day on the 22nd June, the weather was beautiful. The Vicarage Garden looked beautiful and had been decorated with bunting, balloons etc. We had many visitors and they enjoyed both the burgers and sausages as well as the cream teas. It was a fun day for all as these photos show.



REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) every Sunday

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

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

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

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



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MARY LAWRENCE 1940 - 2019



Mary was born on 3rd September 1940 in 'Hillcroft', the cottage at the top of Loosley Hill, where she remained for over 78 years. She leaves a brother Basil and sister Jean, who were of tremendous support throughout Mary's final illness. Also, a niece, nephews and their families, residing in Wiltshire. Mary always said that Jean had been like a mother to her and was her best friend.

First a pupil at St John's School, Lacey Green until 11 years old, Mary then attended Hatters Lane School, Totteridge leaving at the age of 15 to work at Loosley Row Post Office, where her father John Lawrence was Postmaster. In the early years Mary helped him deliver mail, milk and groceries around Loosley Row, as well as assisting her mother in the Post Office and general store.

When Mr Lawrence retired in 1970, Mary officially took over as Postmistress on 1st February and remained as such for 27 years. It is known that she received many accolades from the Royal Mail for her loyal and dedicated service.

After her father's death in 1983 Mary purchased the property, only closing the Post Office after

a second attempted armed robbery and several break-ins at night. Mary obviously became very nervous working on her own and reluctantly decided it was time to finish. She loved her work, so it was an extremely sad day when Mary finally locked the door for the last time. It was the end of an era for another of the village's services.

Mary's partner and good friend was Syd Saunders. She said they first started courting when she was 21 years old, their friendship lasting for over 40 years until his death 16 years ago. Many people will remember Syd who came from Bradenham, but eventually moved to Loosley Row and, with Mary, joined in many of the village activities.

Until Mary became ill, she greatly enjoyed tending her garden where she spent much time and was one of the original members of the Horticultural Society in Lacey Green. She was a very good cook, particularly proficient at baking cakes. In later years, Mary became a member of the Lunch Club at The Black Horse. Mary also enjoyed Patience Strong poems and verses, one of which entitled "Immortality" was read at her Service of Thanksgiving, at Amersham on 18th June.

There have been so many tributes to Mary - a very kind, thoughtful, discreet and loyal friend, who would never pass on an unkind word about anyone or break a confidence. It is understood that lonely parishioners living on their own would often go to the Post Office to buy a few stamps or sweets just for the opportunity of having a chat with Mary, who



greeted everyone with a smile and was always ready to listen and offer sympathy or advice, but would never engage in gossip.

Before her passing on 2nd June at the Fremantle Care Home, Stoke Mandeville, Mary asked her sister Jean to convey her sincere gratitude to all friends and neighbours who had helped throughout her recent illness. Mary, being very modest and unassuming, was truly amazed, but delighted, with the number of cards and letters she had received. She appreciated too, the visits from so many relatives and friends and was grateful to the doctors and nurses, who were there for her at the most difficult of times towards the end of her life.

Mary's brother Basil and sister Jean would also like to express their sincere thanks to all those who sent them messages of sympathy on the passing of their beloved sister and to each and everyone who had supported her in so many different ways during the last few months of her illness.

Mary will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

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County Council News



Further to my last report, The Buckinghamshire (Structural Changes) Order 2019 for one Unitary Council from 1st April 2020 gained royal assent and became legislation on 22nd May.

The first meeting of the Shadow Authority took place on 3rd June at Adams Park where all 202 councillors (236 seats) from all 5 councils were summoned to attend. As this meeting was web casted, it can be viewed on line.

https://shadow-buckinghamshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/425270

Meetings of the new Shadow Executive are now taking place in shaping the new "Buckinghamshire Council".

The Shadow Executive is made up of 9 councillors from Bucks County Council and two from each of the District Councils making a total of 17 members.

Officers for the Shadow Authority are headed up by the following:

- Interim Head of Paid Service – Rachael Shimmin, Chief Executive, Buckinghamshire County Council;
- Interim Section 151 Officer – Richard Ambrose, Director of Finance and Procurement, Buckinghamshire County Council;
- Interim Monitoring Officer – Catherine Whitehead, Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy, Wycombe District Council

The Shadow Authority together with the Shadow Executive and these officers will look to ensure a seamless transition to the new Buckinghamshire Council.

All 5 councils, the County and the four District Councils will be abolished on 31st March 2020 with the new unitary council operational from 1st April with the elections taking place on 7th May .

There will be 147 councillors which equates to 3 per current County Council division.

For those who have not heard the latest news about the Queens Birthday Honours list published in early June, my District Council colleague Cllr Graham Peart for Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens has been awarded with a British Empire Medal for services to the community and I think you will all join me in congratulating Graham.

If you have any other matters or concerns relating to the County Council such as Roads, Adult Social Care, Children Services, Education and Libraries for example that you need some assistance with, please don't hesitate to either email me cetholen@buckscc.gov.uk or by telephone 01494 564771.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Carl Etholen

Advertising rates for Hallmark

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1/4 page Black and white £58 Colour £74

1/2 page Black and white £105 Colour £136

3/4 page Black and white £131 Colour £157

Full page Black and white £157 Colour £200

Contact; karenadvertisinginhallmark@gmail.com

Speen Tiddler and Toddler Playgroup

The playgroup has a busy atmosphere with new families with toddlers and tiddlers joining us every Tuesday morning at Speen Chapel hall, many of these families coming from Lacey Green and the surrounding areas as well as Speen and North Dean.

The highlight for the children this term was a visit from the Reception and Year 1 children from Speen infant school who came down to provide us with some beautiful singing. The toddlers also enjoyed singing a few nursery rhymes with them too!

We have also been enjoying playing in the sand, making spaghetti from play dough, planting seeds, making Father's Day cards, funny foot prints and much more!

We finished the term with a party, where we say goodbye to those children who will not be coming back in September, as they will be starting at 'big school'. Luckily, this year we won't be losing any mummies from the group as there are still younger siblings who will be coming back!

We also look forward to welcoming some new babies to the group next term with a few tiddlers becoming big brothers and sisters!

After the summer break, the playgroup will be starting again on Tuesday 10th September at 9:30 am.

We welcome any new families with tiddlers or toddlers who would like to join us, so do tell your friends about us. We meet



every Tuesday morning in the Speen Chapel Hall, 9:30-11:30 during term time at a small cost of £3 per family. Come along or drop me an email for more information.

Natasha Kann
(Group Leader)

spennorthdeantoddlers@gmail.com

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Princes Centre

We are still basking in the pleasure of having received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service but are not standing still. We continue to give as much input into the Princes Centre as possible and are very grateful for all the support we get from the community.

Our wonderful choir, the Jingers, recently gave another inspirational concert at St Mary's Church during Festival Week. The trustees are very appreciative of the skills of Sue Newton, one of our staff, and also of the many volunteers who help her with this activity which provides such a good link with the local community. The Jingers also visit nursing homes and day centres to entertain others.

During the last few weeks, some of our clients have been out and about to various places. These included a trip to the Green Dragon Eco Farm where our younger clients met up with the animals there and had a picnic.

They have also been going regularly to play bowls at Hazell's Bowls Club in Aylesbury. They are really enjoying this activity.

Others are attending the Adult Learning College for cooking sessions. Some clients have had a 'Lads Day Out' going by train to Aylesbury and enjoying a pub lunch.

Georgia, a Psychology MA student from Stirling University, and her assistant Gabby, have begun a virtual reality 'Swimming with Dolphins' trial with some of our clients who enjoy swimming.

Those not venturing out have enjoyed a visit from 'Elvis' who entertained everyone, including our Bourne End clients who were brought over for lunch and to share the afternoon's entertainment. We've also had the Blue Grass Band to entertain the clients and everyone thought they gave a very good performance and created a wonderful atmosphere.

The reconstruction and refurbishment project taking place in the Lower Hall area is coming along well with work progressing on the new porch, entrance area and toilet block. The contractors are currently installing a new staircase to enable the loft space to be used for storage. We will hopefully have it all sorted by the end of the year at the very latest, although it may well be possible to use it sooner. The outside shelter area has been completed and the trustees are looking to getting a new security system installed.

The trustees are very grateful for grants received from the Sherling Charitable Trust, the Shanly Foundation and a pledge from the Edward Gostling Foundation which are all being used to help with the funding of the Lower Hall project.

Maggie Wooster

Useful numbers

Bucks County Council	01296 39500	Electricity emergency	0800 7838838
Wycombe Council	01494 461000	Power cuts	105
Trading standards	0845 4040506	Gas emergency	0800 111999
Fly tipping hotline	0845 3301856	Water emergency	0800 7834444
Waste bin issues	01494 586500	Police non-emergency	101
Neighbour disputes	01494 520821	NHS Direct	111
Pest control	0844 4828348	PR Library	01296 382415
Meals on wheels	01296 383204	Childline	801111
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Women's Aid Refuge	0808 2000247	Crimestoppers	800555111
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Princes Risborough Art Group

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PR Baptist church hall Weds 12-2pm

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Windmills Preschool

As the term draws to a close we get ready to say goodbye to our school leavers, which is always emotional for all involved. The teaching team has done an excellent job getting them ready for 'big school' and will be sending them off with lots of happy memories. The achievements of our school leavers will be celebrated at the end-of-term tropical beach party, where the children will be enjoying some 'Musical Mayhem!'.

We have enjoyed many activities over the last term including a wonderful outing to Green Dragon Eco Farm, where the children particularly enjoyed feeding the goats and wallabies! It was lovely that so many parents were also able to join us.

Thank you to Dan Smith, the tennis coach from Lacey Green & Loosley Row Tennis Club who gave the children a fun tennis taster session which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

Our annual sports day was a huge success and the children were all brilliant! Younger siblings, mums, dads and even grandparents were also given the opportunity to demonstrate their sporting prowess, much to the delight of the children! After their exertion, the children were rewarded for their efforts with a trophy. Following the races, many families enjoyed a picnic and ice creams on the sports field.

We've been busy this term working with the local community to improve the preschool. We were delighted at the turn out for our Environmental Clean Up in May, where over 30 members of the Horticultural Society, families of the preschool, Alex Stallwood



and local villagers helped to clear branches, leaves and waste from a neglected corner of the field.

By courtesy of the TK Maxx/Homesense environmental grant and the Sports Club, we are able to transform this space into a new outdoor wildlife area with extendable fencing. We hope to complete the work one weekend in September – date to be confirmed!

We were also very grateful for the 11 members of local M&S stores who joined us during their national Volunteer Week in June to help with a spot of TLC. In the space of a few hours they managed to repaint, pressure wash, clean and tidy more of our outdoor area than we as parent volunteers with small children (almost always) in tow would have managed to achieve. We're continually grateful for the support we receive as it's invaluable in helping our village preschool thrive in these financially challenging times.

Our main fundraiser of the year was our family BBQ Brunch. The children had a fabulous time bouncing on the bouncy castle, lucky dipping, having their faces painted and playing with their friends, whilst enjoying a BBQ breakfast bap. Thank you to the committee for organising the

event, Andy Kann and Laura Chapman for cooking and serving the food, and everyone who came along to support the preschool.

A large portion of the fundraising came from the sale of raffle tickets and we would like to thank the many local businesses which donated prizes (Beauty Barn, Hen on the Shore, The Black Horse, The Whip, Helen Isaacs Holistic Therapies, Art & Office, Risborough Springs, La Crepe Escape, LG & LR Tennis club, Dukes wine bar, Princes Pets, Quicksilver, Wainwrights, Tesco, Musical Mayhem, Risborough Springs, The Cook Shop, Peterley Manor Farm, Costa).

Windmills would not be the fantastic preschool that it is without the excellent teaching team, our business manager Rachael, who keeps us all organised, and our very committed committee and wider parent group, who do a huge amount for Windmills in their own time.

We will enjoy a well earned rest over the summer and look forward to starting the autumn term in September.

Natasha Kann
Chairperson

(windmillschair@gmail.com)

New Headteacher: Ian



Ian Newton took over as Headteacher at St John's at Easter. I caught up with him to learn more about his first half-term in Lacey Green. (His responses to my questions are in italics).

Q: What is your background?

I was brought up in Coningsby, in Lincolnshire. There are similarities to Lacey Green and the surrounding area as there is a big RAF community located there. I'm biased but Lincolnshire is a beautiful place to grow up! We now live in Widmer End, having convinced my wife that we needed to move out of London!

I'm married to Georgina and we have two beautiful children, Emma and Oliver.

I can be often found cycling around the area as way of keeping fit and getting exercise. Most of my time at home now is taken up with activities centred around the children, but I love all sports and used to play cricket quite a bit. Music is a big part of my life – I can play the piano and organ and have taken up the ukulele in recent times which has been great fun!

Q: How did you get into teaching, and where have you taught?

I came into it by accident – as part of my music degree, I went into schools delivering music lessons to small groups of pupils and really enjoyed it. I originally aspired to write music for radio and TV adverts but it is an uncertain industry, so I went with the teaching and the rest is history!

I have taught mainly in Ealing, Hillingdon and Slough in six schools in total. I have been in every OFSTED category! Perivale was my fondest time in teaching as I learned so much as a teacher and we achieved an outstanding grade. I love teaching writing, music and PE.

Q: What were your first impressions of St John's?

My first impressions of St John's is that everybody cares deeply about the school. I have been given a very warm welcome by everybody, which has helped enormously.

My previous school was much larger - it had 8 forms of entry! There are unique challenges faced by village schools. There are fewer staff to delegate to so you are more hands-on. It does mean that I have seen more of the pupils than I expected to which is a great bonus as ultimately we are accountable to them.

At St John's the pastoral and personal development of pupils is impressive. Their conduct, especially outside of school is commented upon wherever we go! Staff care and want the best

for the pupils. The grounds are inspiring too.

Q: What are the current threats to primary education?

I think it is too obvious to look at funding. Yes, schools are under the cosh but they have to be outward facing and work together. OFSTED and the DfE need to have sensible conversations with each other regarding accountability. OFSTED rightly, want the whole curriculum to be the focus for schools but the league tables and pressure to meet government targets mean that most schools will 'narrow' their curriculum to ensure better results.

Q: What is your vision for the future?

Working in partnerships with other local schools and schools in the MAT is the way forward. This way we can share expertise and raise standards by benchmarking ourselves with other high performing schools.

The values of St John's will always be our moral compass – we want high standards and know what this looks like in terms of government figures. It is possible to achieve this by carefully timetabling lessons and developing our teaching methods to enable pupils to reach their full potential.

I'd like St John's pupils to have a learning environment to be proud of and staff that embrace research and share expertise to create a vibrant school that is at the heart of the community in which it serves.

Editor



Lacey Green Players

I am sure you have seen posters in Lacey Green, Princes Risborough and the surrounding areas as we have been auditioning for our annual dinner theatre production in November.

We are delighted that we have attracted some new members to LGP. We are especially keen to attract anyone interested in helping us with lighting and sound and we would be delighted to hear from them. Also If you know of anyone who wants to help backstage or front of house please ask them to contact us. These are all great opportunities for anyone interested in amateur dramatics.

We have a new LGP website planned and have agreed our logo (shown above) which will feature on all our publications. Thanks to everyone who was involved for their help and creativity.

Murder Mysteries

We were delighted with the invitation to perform 'The Plumstone Cowboy' at the Hampden WI on a Saturday night in May and Holmer Green WI the following evening.

A great time was had by all and we were delighted that the audiences on both nights got into the spirit and dressed up. Sausages, potatoes in various guises and baked beans were on the menu in true cowboy style. The feedback was great and to give you a flavour we received this message from the secretary of Holmer Green WI.



"Everyone enjoyed the evening very much and were full of admiration for the hard work and enthusiasm you and all members of the group put into making it a successful evening. I felt there was a really good buzz in the hall, one of fun, friendship and enjoyment of a good play. I hope that came across to you all and that you enjoyed the evening too.

The Lacey Green Players are a talented and charming group of people and we thank you all for a great evening in Holmer Green and wish you continuing success with your charitable donations."

The good news is we are writing a new Murder Mystery now for performance in 2020 so watch out for more details on our website. This is another invitation to join us to help write the play or help with the performance; please get in touch if you are interested.

What's on:

Our next Dinner Theatre will be held in Lacey Green Village Hall on Nov 28, 29 and 30th. The play is 'The LadyKillers', a classic black comedy written by Graham Lineham, Irish playwright and author.

The plot is based on the 1950s Ealing comedy film of the same name. It was first performed in 2011 in the West End and had very good reviews. We hope the same will apply to LGP.

The menus have been chosen for the dinner theatre on Friday and Saturday nights so preparations are underway. Please put the dates in your diary as it will be a fun night. Further details will be available on the website: www.laceygreenplayers.co.uk.

Please look out for our posters, check out the new website and we hope to see you in November. We really appreciate all your support.

Jane Hervé



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St John's School SATs results

Children in English schools take Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) twice during their school career. The tests are used by teachers as an assessment to measure how well schools have been teaching their children and also to measure progress.

The first time is in Key Stage 1 (age 7), when children have tests in year 2 and then again at the end of Key Stage 2 in year 6 (age 11). Children are tested in mathematics, english reading and english grammar, punctuation and spelling.

St John's is delighted to share its results for 2019, which once again are excellent and, in most areas, significantly above national averages.

The results are a great testament to the dedication and expertise of the teachers in all years across the school. It should of course be remembered that results will differ between cohorts. Whereas for some year groups 100% achievement of age related expectations would be considered a minimum, for other year groups, where there may be children with special educational needs of varying degrees, a lower percentage may still be considered a tremendous achievement.

To that end, governors pay great attention to the amount of progress pupils make and the staff work closely with all children to enable them to achieve their full potential.

Of course, at St John's we recognise that it is not only academic results that are important. We aim to nurture the potential of all children so that they develop and grow into independent learners and well-rounded citizens, able to approach the next stage of their education with confidence and enthusiasm. At the leavers' service in July we present awards to individual children who excel (in terms of ability, performance or commitment) in sports, music, singing, art, science, maths, creative writing, environmental, computing, performing arts and citizenship, demonstrating what a truly rounded education the pupils receive.

Caroline Gulliver
Chair of Governors

Year 2	Reading	Writing	Maths
School EXS	93%	83%	90%
National EXS	75%	70%	76%
School GDS	43%	20%	30%

EXS – expected standard; GDS – greater depth standard

Year 6	Reading	Writing	Maths	RWM
School EXS	85%	79%	85%	74%
National EXS	73%	78%	79%	65%
School GDS	38%	43%	36%	13%

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denture provider for the local area. Many happy customers have passed through these doors since our launch in February 2018."

One such customer from Hughenden Valley commented, "I had heard about Oakview Dentures and was really keen to talk to them since my old dentures looked terrible and were really uncomfortable. Oakview Dentures is easy to access and has plenty of parking,

so appointments were no worry and Roy was so patient throughout the whole process, it made things very easy. As for the dentures they have made, they are absolutely marvellous – they feel like my own teeth again!"

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Heavenly Objects

Thanks to an uncharacteristic spell of good behaviour, this author now co-owns a clever new telescope which can see the Sun in quite literally a new light. Before this, I could see its surface through a 'white light' filter (special tinfoil-looking film covering a telescope lens) which shows sunspots and the granular surface detail. The new telescope has different filters fitted within which allow only the hydrogen from the Sun to be seen. This reveals the seething plasma swirls on the surface, majestic prominences on the edge, filaments, spicules etc etc. Please see the images on this page which I've taken comparing the two different 'views'.

The timing of having this new telescope is very fortunate. The planet Mercury is due to glide across the face of the Sun as seen from Earth in November. The white light image below shows the previous Mercury transit from 2016. Please remember to never look directly at the Sun without a proper sun filter or solar eye protection.

Let's see what the sky has in store for us over the next six months.

August: A beautiful sight awaits on the 9th when the Moon sits in between Saturn to the left and a very bright Jupiter to the right. The bright orange star lower right to Jupiter is Antares, the main star of the constellation Scorpio. Three nights later, the 'Glorious Twelfth' is also the time for the peak of the Perseid meteor

shower. This is due on the night of the 12th into the early hours. Moonlight will dim the display but there will still be the uplifting scene with the Moon having moved left so that Saturn and Jupiter sit to the right.

September: The Autumn Equinox occurs on the 23rd when day and night are of equal length. On the 19th, look out for the Moon forming a triangle with the 'Seven Sisters' star cluster (high above the Moon) and Aldebaran, the brightest star in Taurus.

October: A very thin crescent Moon will be above Venus at twilight (5pm-ish) on the 29th. Mercury will be to the lower right of Venus, and a pair of binoculars will probably be needed to spot it. The following twilight, the Moon then moves in between Venus and then parks very near Jupiter on the 31st.

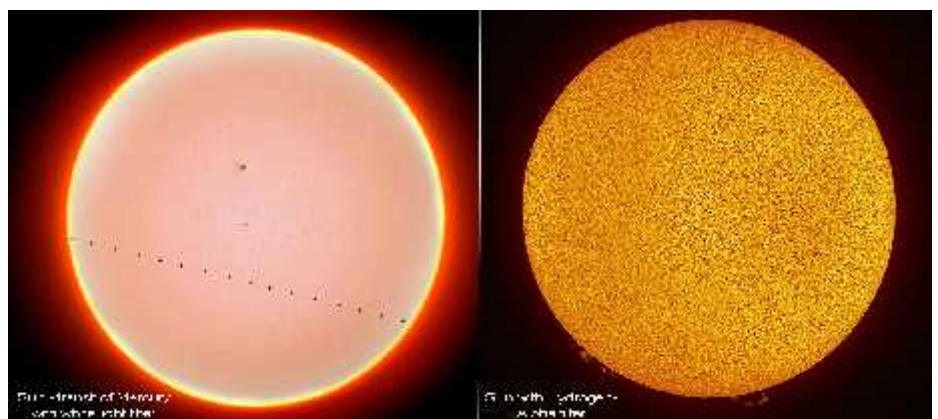
November: The transit of Mercury! This happens during the day on the 11th when the tiny planet drifts in front of the Sun (view *only* if using proper filters/eye protection) from 12.35pm until sunset. On the 13th, the Moon will again be between the Seven Sisters and

Aldebaran and will move in front of several bright stars, blocking them out for a while. Venus and Jupiter will be close together low in the south-west at about 4.30 pm on the 24th, while the Moon will be between Venus and Jupiter on the 28th.

December: Earth's evil twin Venus starts to climb higher in the southern sky this month. A good date to start looking for it is on the 11th when it will be just below Saturn (4.30 pm). Venus then gets a little higher each successive night, with Moon below it on the 28th.

January: the New Year brings the Quarantid meteor shower although the Moon may spoil things. Venus is at its furthest west of the Sun on the 6th and easily visible from 4.45pm. On the 10th, the Moon will dim slightly (mostly at 7.10 pm) as it goes through the Earth's penumbral shadow which is weaker than the Earth's umbral shadow which can turn the Moon a red hue from our vantage point. Happy sky-gazing! Heavenly Bodies returns in February.

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
Speen & North Dean Toddlers	Tuesday 9.30 Chapel Hall, Speen Church in term time	Natasha Kann		Speennorthdeantoddlers@gmail.com
LG Singers	Thursday evenings in term time at St John's School	Denise Kinnard		laceygreensingers@hotmail.com
Lacey Green Players	Theatre, drama, and sometimes food			info@laceygreenplayers.co.uk
Windmill Under 5s	Mon-Fri 9.00-12.00 (or 1.30 with lunch). Tues & Wed can be extended to 3pm	Natalie Jane	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	Yvonne Axe	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
Scouts (Naphill & Hughenden)		Peter Byerley	01494 565955	peter.byerley@capgemini.com
Parish Council		Frank Post		clerk@laceygreen-pc.org.uk
LG Windmill	Sundays & Bank holidays 2 to 5 pm April to September	Michael Hardy	275871	contact@laceygreenwindmill.org.uk
Millennium Hall		Clive Hodgton	07751 541222	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

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01844 275908 Email karenadvertisinginhallmark@gmail.com

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 Hodgton (Chair)

Sue D'Arcy (Secretary),
Leigh Axe (Treasurer),
Karen Hodgton (Booking Sec.),
Yvonne Axe, Cathryn Davies,
Stella Boll,
Karen O'Shaughnessy
Gill Mortimer-Biggs
Jane Herve, Mike Piercy

LACEY GREEN WINDMILL 2019 OPENING TIMES

In 2019, the windmill will be open to the public from 2 pm to 5 pm on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from Sunday 7th April to Sunday 29th September.

Bank Holiday Monday Open Days: 22nd April, 6th May, 27th May, 26th August. (all 2pm - 5pm).

For National Mills Weekend: Open on Sat 11th May (2pm - 5pm) & Sun 12th May (11am - 5pm).

Admission Charges for 2019: Adult £2.50, Child (5 to 15) £1.00. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

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