

HALLMARK

The Lacey Green and Loosley Row Magazine

ISSUE 253 FEBRUARY 2020

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Welcome to the February edition

Christmas now seems a long time ago, but there is still time to thank our Chairman Clive for his excellent Christmas decoration of the Village Hall flag pole. Many people commented on how well it was done and at a fraction of the price and effort of installing and decorating a real Christmas tree.

We've had a few newcomers move into our two villages recently and have delivered them our Welcome Packs full of local information. If you know of any new residents moving in, or old ones moving out, let me know and I will get them a pack.

Thanks very much to Barry Chignell (again) for his splendid cover picture.

We recently received the annual update from the team running the village shop. We were pleased to hear that business is still going well and they are breaking even. The shop is run by a team of 11 volunteers who do around two shifts a month. If you would like to help out and meet more villagers then drop into the shop one morning and have a chat with the staff.

The Village Hall committee are still working in the background on fund-raising to raise enough money to resurface the hall car park. If you know of any potential sources of finance please let us know. Unfortunately it is a slow business since donors do not see a car park as a priority - even though it does affect the usability of the hall.



If you would like to hear more about this, and other matters, then come along to the AGM on March 10 at 8pm. We will even greet you with a glass of wine (or other drink) to make the evening even better.

Mike Piercy
Editor

Windmill WI

At the end of October several of us went to a Group Meeting at Liston Hall, Marlow. We thoroughly enjoyed the Marlow Ukulele Group (sixteen players and sixteen different ukuleles) who were very entertaining.

Our speaker for November was Janice Cross from The National Garden Scheme. Janice has been Assistant County Organiser (Volunteer) for the Bucks NGS for a number of years. She described her role, the charities the Scheme supports and showed slides of many of the open gardens in the area. A very interesting talk.

A group of us went for an Indian meal at the Rhudani in Princes Risborough and a very good

time was had by all. December was our Christmas Meeting and Meal. Lynne and Ian from the Black Horse provided a choice of two hot dishes and desserts which were delicious. We had a 'mystery present' and a draw for two Bursaries. To round the evening off we had the Amersham Brass Band play carols to us. A very enjoyable evening to start the Christmas celebrations. This Christmas we supported Diabetes UK, a very worthy cause.

St John's Church Lacey Green held a Christmas Tree Festival and we entered. We had a white tree which was tastefully decorated in the colours of the WI (green and mauve).

We didn't win but were very pleased with our tree. The Church looked beautiful with all the different trees.

We do not have a meeting in January so our next meeting will be Wednesday 5th February when our speaker will be Virginia Deradour talking about 'A Year on the Farm'.

If you would like to join us we meet at Lacey Green Village Hall the first Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm, you would be very welcome.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Ann Bartlett

What's On

Sun 23 Feb 10.00 am

Pancake Breakfast in the Church

Tues 25 Feb 13.30 pm

Pancake races at the School
Contact Fiona Insley at the school

Fri 28 Feb

Church quiz evening with Fish & Chips
St John's School Hall

Wed 20 March

Horts Club AGM followed by talk on
garden birds

Sat 30 March

Horts Club Spring Show
staging of exhibits 12.30-1.30pm

Wed 22 April

WI Village Quiz

Sat 25 April

Sports Club Fun Day

Sun 12 May 11am - 5pm

National Mills Weekend
Horts Club plant stall

Happy Wanderers Walks

Phone Liz Lewin 01844 274961

Sun 23 February 11.30am AGM and
local walk from LG Village Hall

Sun 29 March & 26 April walk 10.30am

Parish Council Meetings

Mon 2 Mar 7.30 Lacey Green Hall

Mon 6 Apr 7.00 Lacey Green Hall

THE WINDMILL WI

JUMBLE SALE

AT LACEY GREEN VILLAGE HALL

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please bring it to the Village Hall after 10 am
on the day of the sale.

Holy week and Easter at St John's

April 5 PALM SUNDAY

8:00am Holy Communion BCP

10:00am Parish Communion with Liturgy
of the Palms

April 6 Monday of Holy Week

7.00pm Compline with Meditation

April 7 Tuesday of Holy Week

9:30am Holy Communion: Lady Chapel

7.00pm Compline with Meditation

April 8 Wednesday of Holy Week

7.00pm Compline with Meditation

April 9 MAUNDY THURSDAY

6.45pm Agape Supper followed by

8.00pm Holy Communion followed by
stripping of the altar

April 10 GOOD FRIDAY

2.00pm Last Hour and erection of
Cross in Church Lane

April 11 HOLY SATURDAY

6.00pm Easter Liturgy

April 12 EASTER SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion BCP (with
Easter ceremonies)

10.00am Family Communion

6.00pm Festal Evensong

On the Farm

I always seem to write about the weather. So this article I decided not to write about the 15+ inches of rain since September and the effects of it. I am not going to write about the waterlogged fields, the fact we have planted about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the area of wheat we intended to plant and half of that is waterlogged and has probably rotted rather than grown. I will not write about the extra amount of slurry and not being able to cart manure out to fields without dragging mud on to the road. I cannot remember it being quite so wet, hopefully a dry spell is just around the corner. The nights are drawing out and it feels like we're on the right side of the shortest day.

On the positive side we did manage to establish over 100 acres of new grass leys before the rain started, these look well. These will be kept for two seasons to be cut regularly to make silage for the dairy cows over the winter. We have sold all the arable crops that we produced last year. It was mostly milling wheat that we sold to Heygates at Tring to make into flour. Every load passed for quality with particularly high protein levels, this is the effect of sunny weather last June and July when the grain was forming and ripening. The milk price paid by ARLA our milk buyer has remained remarkably stable considering the UK had one of its most productive years in 2019 for milk production.

People who walk the footpaths behind the farm may have seen our wild bird feeders that are about the farm. These are part of the farm cluster group's activities. 17 farms in the local area have taken about $\frac{1}{2}$ tonne of bird seed

each to feed birds to help them through winter, and hope to increase the diversity of the bird population on the farm and in the area. The Bucks Owl and Raptor Group (BORG) are also going onto the farm putting up owl boxes, we are expecting them on farm before long. In 2019 75 species of birds have been recorded in the cluster group. The Hughenden ringing group have set up a long term ringing project on 3 of the farms, aiming to net and ring birds once a month between November and April across the 5 years of the project. See pictures of a corn bunting and a yellow hammer.

During the winter nearly all our cattle are housed. We have one group of beef cross yearlings out on stubble turnips (stubble turnips are established after a cereal crop and used before a spring crop, like maize, is planted) and a little grass, which is ok on free draining ground. We also have some sheep on the farm, this is helping someone out who has not managed to establish stubble turnips last summer as it was so dry and they are short of keep. These are pregnant ewes, they do a good job of reducing grass cover without treading up the ground. As we don't usually have sheep, most of our fields do not have sheep proof fields, so temporary fencing has to be put up.

We are also doing some management on some of our hedges, where elder is taking over. We are taking it out and replacing it with hawthorn and holly which makes a better stockproof hedge in due course.

Farming is often affected by political decisions. The new agricultural bill is about to be



reintroduced. This will be a significant piece of legislation that will have quite an effect on the direction of UK agriculture for the next few decades. Hot on its heels will be the new Environmental Bill which will no doubt also have implications for agriculture particularly in relation to soil, air and water quality. It feels like as we move into a new decade we are moving into a new farming era, presumably we will leave Europe and go away from the Common Agricultural Policy. It is difficult to predict where we will be by the end of the decade. Hopefully still producing foods for people who like to consume them, but this may not be the case, food maybe produced out of thin air and created in factories by then...

Richard West



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PR Baptist church hall Weds 12-2pm

Contact Ann on 01844 343042

When in Lacey Green - Drive like Miss Daisy!

Some of you may have noticed the Movable Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) that has been rotated in 8 locations in Lacey green, Loosley Row and Speen in recent months. It's part of a speed monitoring programme the Parish Council have been conducting over the last year.

The unit serves two primary purposes - one is to flash the speed limit to drivers who may not be aware as they pass through the village at a speed higher than the 30mph limit, and the other is to capture speed data. It is not a speed camera, so it doesn't take pictures of cars!

An additional benefit is that it also captures data on the amount of traffic passing through the village. Since the unit has been in operation we have been able to analyse the data. Highlights are:

- On average per week 15,000 – 17,000 vehicles go through Main Road, Lacey Green, with over 40% (that's 6,000 cars) traveling at 35mph or more when passing Slad Lane. Of this figure over 400 drivers a week are recorded as traveling over 45 MPH!
- Over 1,000 cars per week travel at over 40mph coming up to the Whip Inn crossroads, heading towards Princes Risborough
- 3,000 go through Speen with 7% over 35mph
- 4,000 go up Pink Road, where the speed limit is 40mph. 15% of drivers passed the entrance to Widmer Feeds @ 45MPH or over.

- Speeding is not limited to a time of day, however between the hours of 8-9 am in the week the speeds at Main Road are reduced due to the congestion around the school at this time – which as we know presents a different set of problems.

We have now purchased a second unit for long term placements at St John's School and just before the crossroad at The Whip heading into Risborough.

We hope that the flashing speed limit and request to slow down will help to remind drivers to reduce their speed when coming into the village.

We have also passed our data to the relevant authorities for consideration as to whether any further activity is required in the speeding hot spots.

Lastly, thanks to our volunteers, Charles Mitchell and Shelley Jennings who have been willing to help, through rain wind or shine, to ensure the unit is in the right place and fully maintained. Our thanks too to Paddy Woods Ballard whose skilled analysis work brings this all to life. It would not have been possible without them all.

If you would like more details on our work, or would like to volunteer to help please contact us clerk@laceygreen-pc.org.uk

Road markings and signage review

In addition we have been working with Transport For Bucks to address the problems on the Main Road including:

- The markings outside St John's School where the school bus parks are incorrect/in the wrong place.
- The dragon's teeth and roundels entering the village from either end have been tarmaced over and not repainted.
- Parking at the junction of Kiln Lane and Main Road, the junction of Slad Lane and Main Road and along Main Road on the bend between the School and Slad Lane.
- How to encourage parents to use the Village Hall and Village Pub car parks that have been so generously offered for use at drop off times.

All of the above and more are being put together in a consultation document that will be presented by TfB for all to comment on. As soon as we receive it, we will post it on the Lacey Green Parish Council website and also on the Lacey Green & Loosley Row website for your comments.

We hope that you, the readers and residents of the village are pleased with the efforts that your Parish Council is making towards managing both the speed of traffic and parking of vehicles within the village. If you have any comments please email the clerk.

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Nordic Walking



I realise that a lot of residents in Lacey Green and Loosley Row walk for a variety of reasons; being part of local established walking groups, to make the most of the countryside and wonderful views, or walking the dog. I wanted to provide a different dimension - that of Nordic Walking.

Nordic Walking is an enhancement of ordinary walking – it makes something we can all do... twice as effective! Nordic Walking uses poles to in order to add two major benefits to walking. The use of poles means the upper body muscles are used as well as the legs. The poles help to propel the walker along – this means he/she works harder than usual yet the support given by the poles makes it feel easier!

Nordic Walking is a specific fitness technique and is not to be confused with trekking, hill walking or trail running as the poles are not planted in front of the walker/runner but in a specific way that increases the use of the upper body.

It can be done by anybody, anywhere and does not require expensive equipment or clothing.



There are several of us who already nordic walk and can vouch for the benefits. One Lacey Green resident tells me that having joined a group in Princes Risborough she felt much better after a few weeks and it improved her stability.


As we get older, we begin to lose muscle and bone strength which can affect our balance and our balance gets worse. Muscle weakness and poor balance are also the two most common modifiable risk factors for falls, which can lead to injuries like hip fractures and make us more likely to end up in hospital or to need social care. Nordic walking will help with maintaining muscle strength and improving stability. The social aspect is fantastic and a really good way to meet like minded people. What more do you want than a chat while taking in the sights and sounds of the Chilterns.




I Nordic walk with 'Harmony Nordic Walking' a group based in and around High Wycombe and led by Adele Howlett. There are many walks throughout the week, fast walks covering about 5 miles to medium and slower paced walks for those new to nordic walking or inactive or new to exercise or older people. I also help with a weekly 45 minute gentle walk in Princes Risborough which aims to build up confidence and improve health. There is also a 10 minute session of Tai Chi Movements for Wellbeing, a specially-developed sequence of movements which promotes physical and emotional wellbeing.

I hope this has been of interest and if I have wetted your appetite or interest please check out the website www.harmonynordicwalking.co.uk Hope to see you on a walk in the future.

Jane Hervé





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Black Horse

Happy New Year to everybody. I hope this year all your wishes and hopes will come true.

The last few months at The Black Horse have been very busy and difficult but we have managed to get through Christmas and the New Year without a hitch. We did our normal number of Christmas meals and parties. I am very grateful to my staff who came home from university and came back to me to fill my empty slots and there was a few of them. And a big thanks to Jack who has helped me out in the kitchen and bar through the busy time. I am very lucky to have such good staff all the time

I know I mention them in every Hallmark but people do not realise what it is to have staff that are reliable, trustworthy and hardworking. To say thank you I took 25 of the little darlings, (some not so little) and some not so young to The Kings Arms at Stokenchurch for our Christmas Party. I am not so sure if I should have put the bottles of wine on the tables, but hey-ho it's Christmas. What a night we had, great fun, plenty of dancing, drinking and merriment. The meal was good the disco was good and the company was good. One downfall was a cheeseboard not as good as Laura's at The Black Horse.

Then it was New Years Eve. We did the normal children's disco and then the adult disco. Where did all the children come from, it was rammed! Then the adults arrived and STAYED till LATE, it was a great night. Then it was New Years Day and we did nothing, just opened up for survivors of the night before.

It has now got slowly back to normal, and we can rest a little bit. I must say to end this, a big thank you to Ian who worked as much as he could while feeling pretty poorly throughout all this Christmas period.

THANK YOU.

Lynne

Speen Toddlers Playgroup

We are back and running again at Speen Chapel Hall every Tuesday morning during term time, 9:30 -11:30am and welcomed lots of new families just before Christmas.

Last term we were busy making lots of Christmas decorations and enjoying singing Christmas songs! We were lucky enough to have a visit from Speen Infant School during our end of term party, who put on a short Nativity play, with costumes and songs! The toddlers thoroughly enjoyed the story and were happy to join in with the songs that they knew! The children from the school then stayed and enjoyed some party games with the toddlers and played with them creating beautiful pine cone decorations.

It has been a lovely autumn term, where the grown-ups have been able to enjoy a nice cup of tea or coffee and a chat, while the children played together and then enjoyed a fabulous selection of healthy snacks.

There will be no toddler group on Tuesday 18th February (half-term) and our last session of the term will be on Tuesday 31st March, when we will be having our Easter party!

We welcome any new families with Tiddlers or Toddlers who would like to join us, so do tell your friends. We have lots of fun at a small cost of £3 per family and it is a great way to meet other families in the local area. Come along or drop me an email for more information.



**Natasha Kann
(Group Leader)**

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Community Tennis

On the weather front it has been a shocking autumn and early winter! The rain was relentless and resulted in league matches being postponed, club sessions being cancelled and major disruption for our coach Dan.

We were hopeful that we could run the children's Christmas party down at the courts on Friday 19th December, but mother nature had other thoughts! Fortunately, the gales and rain were well forecast in advance and Dan was able to secure the use of the main hall at St John's School.

19 children had a great morning playing lots of fun games, such as "messy bedroom" -something I'm sure all parents are familiar with! Many thanks to the school for coming to our rescue.

To cater for these larger events, the club now has four teenage, qualified tennis leaders who can support the running of the tennis programme. These additional resources will be extremely useful during the busier periods such as holiday camps, and the plan is to further encourage them to qualify

as level 1 coaches once they reach 16.

At least the daylight hours are now clearly lengthening and to coincide with the hopefully better weather, Dan will again be offering the tennis for kids programme starting on Wednesday 26 February.

This is for children who haven't been on the course before and gives 6 hours of tuition learning the basics of tennis. In addition, they receive a racket, ball set and T shirt all for the price of £30! At the time of writing, we are the only club in the area to offer this and places fill up quickly so why not give it a try? You can sign up online via our website.

For the adults, cardio tennis is proving extremely popular, particularly with those that have no previous experience of playing tennis and just want to get fit and train with friends. You can burn 600 calories in an hour and the sessions are filled with lots of fun games which everyone enjoys. First session is free too!

Off the tennis courts, we will be hosting our annual Gin & Fizz night at the Sports Club on Friday 27th March. This is a popular event and as ever is open to non-members. A variety of gins will be on offer to try as well as a traditional bar, substantial nibbles, quiz and raffle.

Looking further ahead, the Sports Club will be hosting a fun day on Saturday 25th April. The idea is to give children the chance to play cricket, football and tennis with free coaching thrown in. There will be a BBQ, bouncy castle and the bar will be open for the adults.

On the tennis side, Dan will be offering a variety of coaching sessions to appeal to all ages and abilities, including parents, so please come down and try it out. In addition, at least one court will be free so that you can enjoy a game of tennis with rackets and balls provided too. Look out for the special new membership offer on the day as well!

Nigel Glenister





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Windmill Under 5s Playgroup

The autumn term was one of great excitement at Windmills in the run up to Christmas. There were Christmas crafts aplenty! We enjoyed building a sleigh, a Santas' Grotto and an Elves Workshop; where the children posted letters to Santa, made playdough cookies and wrapped some presents.

The children also designed and wrote cards for their families as well as creating decorations for the tree which they entered into the first St John's Church Christmas Tree Festival competition. With over 20 entries, their hard work paid off! The children and staff of Windmill Under 5s were so delighted and proud that they won the competition! Thank you to all the supporters who voted for our tree and thank you to the Church for organising a wonderful event! Well done to all the staff and children who decorated such a fabulous tree, which reflected life for the children living in the village.

There was also lots of hard work involved in rehearsing songs and lines for their nativity play, which they performed for family and



friends in the village hall at the beginning of December. It is an enormous task for the staff to get the children (more or less) in the right place at the right time! And even harder now with the increased numbers of younger two year olds.

We are all so appreciative, because there is absolutely no better way to start Christmas than a stage-full of under 5s proudly singing their hearts out to Jingle Bells. The play finished with a very special visitor, who gave all the children a gift. Thank you to Father Christmas for coming to see us! We ended the festivities with a Christmas party, with games, crafts, party food and more songs!

Many, many thanks...

We also held our Christmas raffle, with over 40 donations from local families and business. As always this is an amazing fundraiser for the pre school and this year was no exception. Over £500 was raised for new resources and staff training. We would like to say a big thank you for all the generous donations from; The Black Horse, The Whip, Lacey Green & Loosley Row Tennis club, Natalie Jane Dance, Hen-On-The -Shore, Risborough Springs, Musical Mayhem, Special Days, Dukes Wine Bar, Tesco, Princes Pets, The Princes Risborough Cookshop, Costa, Art & Office, First Class Barbers, Fonehouse and La Crepe Escape.

We must also say a big thank you to all our local supporters who chose Windmill Under 5s as their members charity at the local Co-Op. We have now received our final payment from the Co-Op, bringing our total raised to



£3,500! This money will go towards finishing our outside area in the Spring term.

What's to come...

This term we are focusing on Winter. This will include learning about what arctic and woodland animals do in the winter, what clothes we wear and winter weather! Some snow this term would definitely enhance the learning too!

We are also looking forward to our annual Easter Bunny Hunt at the end of the term and have many more fun activities planned over the following weeks.

If you would like to arrange a look around the preschool or enquire about a place for your child, please call or email Tracey Winfield (Preschool Manager) on 07502 198405 or email manager@windmillunder5s.co.uk

Natasha Kann
Chairperson

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Horticultural Society

Since the last edition of Hallmark the society has hosted its annual pumpkin supper with an Italian themed meal served to nearly 70 members and their guests. The meal was excellent and the pumpkins ranged in size and beauty! Winners from several categories received prizes for their efforts – well done everyone! Full details and pictures can be found on the Lacey Green web site.

The annual show held in September was again a triumph for local growers. The standard of entries was very high and competition fierce. Some of the winning vegetable exhibits would have held their own in national contests. We were delighted to have some excellent exhibits from our younger members who excelled at growing and at cooking too. We also presented the Junior Challenge Trophy for the first time in September. There was very hot competition for this but

Oliver Davies pipped Olivia Bolton to the cup by one point.

The coming year has some exciting horticulturally related events for the society. We tried a Sunday afternoon workshop in December where we made festive willow wreaths (see pictures). We will be running this again in December 2020 but we also hope to run some more workshops on a Sunday for those who are not able to get to the Wednesday evening events.



Children accompanied by an adult are always welcome to take part, so we hope to see some of you over the course of the year. Please contact one of the committee if you are interested in finding out more.

The next big event is the Spring Show on 28th March. The schedules are included with Hallmark and are on the Lacey Green web site too if you lose your copy.

At the time of writing it is hard to know what the weather will bring, but it appears to be mild and buds are beginning to show. We hope to see you with some of your flowers, handicrafts or baking on the 28th and at our annual plant sale in conjunction with National Mills Week on May 10th when bargains are there to be enjoyed!

Good growing and enjoy your gardening in the coming year.

Alison Shreeve

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History Group

The Local History Group held an exhibition last November at the school. We were very glad to have so many visitors, nearly all in the afternoon it has to be admitted, as the odds were stacked against us. The date clashed with the annual art exhibition, coffee and lunch in the village hall, and the final of the Rugby World Cup in the morning. Then to make matters worse the weather was atrocious. I've often said that our villages turn up trumps when it comes to giving support. It did. We appreciated it.

We showed: DVD's from our collection of Village Day Processions, Sheaf to Loaf Day, and Street Parties, to name but a few; old photographs from our collection; reports of research on numerous subjects; local family trees, some going back into the 1700s; maps from 1700s and the Enclosures Act 1823.

A group from Loosley Row complained bitterly to me that Loosley Row had lost many important places in favour of Lacey Green. They cited things like the Windmill, the Church, the Village Hall, the Post Offices, the grocery stores, the pubs. It looked like they had a good point. However it was not a conspiracy of Lacey Green's.

Most of the changes occurred because of the enclosures of the Manor of Princes Risborough of 1823. The Manor was a massive estate that stretched from beyond Longwick to include Loosley Row, Lacey Green and Speen. It belonged to the Lord of the Manor, a privately wealthy man. It had belonged to the crown from before William the



Conquerer until King Charles I overspent himself and sold us off. All the land and cottages were tenanted and run in a medieval system.

Loosley Row was established long before Lacey Green. The land was more fertile, being lower and much of it was made into farms. The remainder was divided into arable strips, allocated out by the Manor which controlled everything. Lacey Green mostly consisted of a vast common for the use of Princes Risborough to graze their cattle. Not for the use of Lacey Green. There was no running water in Lacey Green. There were a few farms. There were vast areas of parish woodland where people could collect fallen wood. The main track (road) was from Speen along Highwood Bottom to the pond behind Windmill Farm then down to Woodway. The only building on the Common was the Windmill. There were no through roads in Lacey Green, just tracks between the handful of houses.

In 1823 the Enclosure of the Manor of Princes Risborough

was passed in parliament and all the land was divided up and became privately owned. The commissioners designated new roads so every property could be accessed. One result of the new roads was that the windmill was now in Lacey Green not in Loosley Row as the road was the boundary between the two villages.

With the roads now established all over Lacey Green and the massive common divided into fields and suitable for building, and the woods privately owned the village grew rapidly. It was relatively flat as opposed to most of Loosley Row which was on an escarpment. The flatter land consisted of farms. The first Post Offices, shops and pubs were in Loosley Row but from 1823 nearly all the new building was in Lacey Green often created by people living in Loosley Row.

Now in 2020 the only new building possible is extension, replacement or infilling in what had been obligatory garden designated in 1823.

Joan West
Local History Group

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Spring Awakenings at The Pink!

Although as I write this the wind is whistling around the pub, the temperature has plummeted and the rain is lashing at the windows, it won't be too long before the nights start lengthening and we start to see the first green shoots of Spring!

We had a fabulous festive season here at The Pink, there was goodwill and plenty of cheer being spread around our little corner of Lacey Green. But while we're looking forward to warmer weather and the rosé season, we still have a little celebrating to do this winter.

The Feast of St Valentine will soon be upon us and our superstar chef Luddy has put together a stunning menu to tempt and tantalise the most jaded of tastebuds!

Greeted with a glass of prosecco on arrival and with a choice of four fabulous dishes for each course – menus are available at the pub and online – Valentine's Day will certainly be a feast if you spend it with us!

Booking is advisable as Luddy's reputation for fantastic food is spreading far and wide; so if you don't want to be in the doghouse for the rest of the year, pick up the phone and make sure that you've got your booking guaranteed. Then you can relax and get in the mood for love!

On the subject of making reservations, if you don't want to let down the other woman in your life – your marvellous mum – make sure you book early for Mother's Day. In case you haven't realised, it's on March 22nd and we are already taking bookings. It's bound to be a sell-out – so pick up the phone to The Pink and make her feel special. After all you only have one mum and she deserves the very best.

And as we like to be all things to all people, the Six Nations kicks off on February 1st. Now it's not up to me to pass judgement on England's performance in the final in Japan but let's hope they can redeem themselves by

nailed this tournament! And if they fall at the final hurdle then we have plenty of choice of beer and wine not to mention the 29 gins we stock, to thoroughly drown any sorrows that may need it! And hey, if they win, we have fine fizz to celebrate with.

We'll be showing all matches whether you wear the rose, shamrock, thistle or daffodil – and our European friends are always welcome too.

Wales – Italy are first up at 2.15 on the 1st, followed by Ireland – Scotland, before England take on France on Sunday 2nd at 3pm.

So as the dog days of winter draw to a close, see the seasons change with your friendly, fabulous local – and get in the pink with us!

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Heavenly Bodies

It's time for some 20-20 night vision! Supermoons and spectacular planets will grace the constellations for the next six months, topped off by the majestic Milky Way in the summer.

February: You may have already noticed a brilliant 'evening star' in the southwest sky just after sunset. This is in fact the planet Venus which glows brighter and moves higher over the next few weeks, appearing to blaze away in the evening sky. On the 9th, the first of four 'supermoons' appears – though April's is the best. Look out for the poetic pairing of the Moon and Venus from the 26th-28th. They re-visit each other around the same date during the next few months.

March: Another supermoon on the 9th! The spring equinox on the 20th is followed by delicious views of the Moon and Venus wafting near the 'Seven Sisters' (Pleiades) star cluster and through Taurus on the 28th and 29th.

April: If the skies stay clear on the 3rd, there will be a magical sight of Venus nestled within the 'Seven Sisters'. I've never seen

this before and think it is quite rare. It should look amazing (about 9pm). Five days later, on the 8th it's time for this year's biggest and brightest supermoon to shine. This one will be a massive 30% brighter than fainter full Moons – at just 357,000km away. It's worth looking out for some dramatic shooting stars on the night of the 21st/22nd as the Lyrid meteor shower is given a moonless sky.

May: This year's final supermoon is on display on the 7th. Fast-forward to the 21st, look for Venus just after sunset and see if you can spot tiny Mercury below it. At the same time the next day, eagle-eyed gazers will see that Mercury has moved to the right of Venus.

June: Saturn and Jupiter have been steadily swinging into view as the Earth catches up with them. They stay low in the southern sky and don't rise until late. If you really want to see them close together, you'll need to be up at 1am on the 9th when they will be above the Moon (Jupiter is the brighter of the two and will be to the right of Saturn).

July: If you missed the gas giants in June, see them again on the 5th (slightly earlier at 11.30pm) when the Moon will act as a 'pointer' and be below them again. Both planets are at their closest to Earth ('opposition') this month.

During the summer, one of my favourite sights is at its best – the Milky Way (*see picture above that I captured*). Seeing the soft glow of our galaxy helps put our location in some sort of perspective. The ribbon of tightly-packed stars mottled by huge clouds of gas and dust is awe-inspiring. These are just a fraction of the 200-300 billion other stars in our galaxy, and it now seems likely that most of them have their own planets orbiting them. Perhaps someone or something is looking at the Milky Way back in our direction not noticing our Sun as it is drowned out by all the stars.

Watch out for August's edition of Hallmark when the Red Planet visits our skies for the first time in two years.

Chris Dignan

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St Johns Church



We began Christmas on the 1st December with a Toy Service for the Salvation Army. Numerous lovely presents were supplied by our parish which were gratefully accepted by the Salvation Army.

Our first Festival of Christmas Trees was a great success. The Church was adorned with 21 Christmas trees, provided and decorated by local individuals, clubs and some businesses. Everyone was completely different but the overall aspect was quite wonderful!

The Winner was Windmill Under 5s Preschool (see p15), second was the Youth Club and

third was the Tennis Club. Well done everyone; an event which will definitely be repeated!

On December 8th we had a Christingle Service in aid of the Children's Society. This is always a lovely service and was enhanced by all the Christmas trees lit in the Church.

In time for Christmas another figure arrived from Italy to add to our Crib – an Ox to replace a very old damaged one.



We had a lovely range of Christmas services, all of which were well attended. The highlights were the Crib Service which was attended by lots of families and children and was a very happy experience. This was followed later that evening by the Midnight Mass of the Nativity which was naturally attended by a wider age group of parishioners.

REGULAR SERVICES

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10.00 am All Age Worship Communion
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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 Risborough

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

As we entered Epiphany there was a Choral Evensong on the Eve of Epiphany and the following week an excellent Epiphany Carol Service.

A big 'thank you' must go to Rev Tony Bundock and Graham King who tirelessly led the many services, to our choir for their diligence and lovely singing over the Christmas period and last, but not least, to all who helped in any way at the many services attended.

Pat Rushmere



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Happy Wanderers

27 October

As last year's walk along the Thames between Bourne End and Marlow had been badly affected by unseasonably wet weather it was decided to repeat this walk and hope for better conditions. This year the conditions were perfect and attracted a large number of our members.

Two routes were on offer. The shorter one was led by Jo Clee while Peter took the majority along the same route as last year, starting from the Spade Oak Public House near Bourne End. The first section consisted of a level walk along the Thames path towards Marlow. After a short distance the "short walkers" peeled off and re-crossed the railway line heading for Little Marlow. They then made their way back to the start point via fields and the lakeside nature reserve.

Meanwhile, the remaining dozen walkers enjoyed a fine stroll along the Thames bank almost to the outskirts of Marlow before turning to cross the railway line and follow a path through wooded areas parallel to the Marlow bypass. Glimpses of gravel lakes could be seen through the trees and the ground was covered with crisp autumn leaves.

A further turn to the east took us back on a hard track towards Little Marlow, passing Westthorpe House which has undergone transformation from a private property to a development of individual apartments. The walk continued to Little Marlow and we were all attracted by its village atmosphere and picturesque properties. There is also a fine church which would merit a visit on another day.



From the village we set off across open fields before turning onto a path through the trees which lead to another lake, bordered by a nature reserve.

This took us back to our start point in the public car park and we were re-united with our "short walkers" and several other members who had come to enjoy the traditional Sunday lunch.

Peter Clee

Weekend Away, 6 Oct

Despite a rather wet autumn, the Happy Wanderers were fortunate to have good weather for the annual trip away. We were based at New Alresford which is on the River Itchen just 6 miles east of Winchester. The group arrived on Sunday lunchtime at The Swan, an 18th Century inn at the heart of a charming and historic former wool town. Alresford is also noted for its watercress production and location on the northern fringe of the South Downs National Park.

Having checked in and lunched, the group went on a short circular walk starting in Avington Park with views over the lake, Avington Pond, which is now a trout farm. The pond's construction is immortalised in

the folk song about the 'mud plumpers of Avington Pond'! The walk took in the River Itchen, part of the King's Way path, Itchen Abbott and the charming hamlet of Avington itself. Despite being just over two and a half miles, the walk is full of interest.

The following day's walk took the group from the hotel on a five-mile circular walk into Old Alresford, past the watercress farm towards Abbotstone, then past Fobdown farm and back towards Alresford along the Wayfarer's Walk path. The last section along the River Itchen takes in the old eel hatcheries and a popular local spot for feeding ducks – probably a record duck population! The ducks are exceptionally tame and present a good photo opportunity.

Dinner on Monday night included watercress soup – what else?

Following check-out on Tuesday morning, the group visited Hinton Ampner house and estate. This National Trust house is a time capsule of the 1930s and well worth a visit. The group found it fascinating.

Those who managed to avoid the temptations of the café undertook a three mile walk through the estate while enjoying great views over the South Downs. The walkers then reached Kilmeston hamlet and returned via Hinton Ampner village, close to the site of the Civil War battle of Cheriton.

David and Helen Cliff



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Lacey Green Players

A Happy New Year from the Lacey Green Players and

here's to another successful year and decade. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the years and we hope you will continue to do so. We continue to raise significant money for charity.

In November our annual dinner theatre performance of *The Ladykillers*, a classic black comedy by Graham Linehan was very positively received by our audiences on all three nights which was fantastic. The cast were excellent and did the author proud! The lighting and sound were challenging but the skilled individuals responsible did an amazing job with perfect timings each night. We were delighted that we were able to attract some new 'players' who brought a different and very positive perspective to the group.

Ticket sales this year were excellent and we filled both Friday and Saturday dinner theatre nights. This all helped to



ensure we raised £1,750 for our nominated charities: Aylesbury Church Christmas Lunch for the homeless; The Waterways Experiences, who provide boat and canal trips for the disadvantaged; Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway; and Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis.

The Bar continued the theme of offering different options for our audience which went down well. We have a few more ideas for next year as we seem to get different requests for drinks each year. It keeps us on our toes but it's good to be flexible and open to new ideas. For those of you who read the last article the 'bubbly' and G&T went very well!

Our next Murder Mystery entertainment is being written and it sounds intriguing.

We are planning what we can perform at the next annual dinner theatre on Nov 26-28. Once the play has been decided we will begin casting so if you want to get involved please contact us.
info@laceygreenplayers.co.uk

As ever if you know of anyone who is keen to join a friendly local amateur dramatic group we would love to hear from them.

This can include budding actors, lighting and sound specialists or anyone wishing to hone their skills and experience generally.

Jane Hervé





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PINK & LILY

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District Council News

At close of play on Tuesday 31st March, Wycombe District Council will cease to exist, along with the County Council and the other District Councils in Bucks. On the morning of April Fool's Day, the brand new Buckinghamshire Council will emerge into the sunlight blinking, and seamlessly take on all the duties of local government as a Unitary Council based in Aylesbury. There will be some new names alongside the many excellent long serving officers who have been chosen to run the new authority.

Similarly, the District and County Councillors remain in place until 31st March and will be available after that date to deal with ongoing matters only until the election. The election for the 147 councillors for the new Council, 3 for each of the 49 wards, will be on Thursday May 7.

In practice, all the existing Council offices around Bucks will be open for business as usual on 1st April. It will take some time for the various departments to be merged into their planned 'slimmed down' format and the full reorganisation completed so don't expect to see too many immediate changes.

I have been honoured to work as your elected member for the Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens ward for the past term of nearly 5 years. For the first 2 years, I also served as Deputy to the Cabinet Member

for Finance followed by the role of Cabinet Member for Community Services.

Part of the current ward will be in Ridgeway West and part in Ridgeway East and as I will not be standing in the election for either of these wards, please forgive the indulgence in looking back at the progress that has been made by your District Council in the current term. The members kept tight control of the element of Council Tax reserved for running WDC with only two tax rises in the last 10 years, so that Wycombe has the lowest Council Tax in Bucks and one of the lowest in the entire country.

This has been achieved by careful management of costs and an excellent record of making prudent long term investments in property in the District that give a good return on capital employed. This has allowed further investments and upgrades to facilities from existing resources without recourse to borrowing. Your council remains debt free, a notable achievement.

Examples of capital projects planned include the Risborough Springs Leisure Centre extension that is now open, the Court Garden Leisure Centre refurbishment that is under way, the new Rye Boathouse project that will be completed in early summer, planned work on the new cemetery at Hazlemere that will commence in the spring, purchase of the Brunel Shed by Wycombe Station for

refurbishment and extension and purchase of some unoccupied shops in the town centre for refurbishment and letting.

We now have street wardens in Wycombe town centre that has much improved the management of the area. There are many other examples of forward thinking projects that are under way or have been completed recently.

Locally on planning matters, a handful of new houses have been approved and some completed, many extensions approved and a number of enforcement notices issued. The collection of waste has generally been satisfactory, green bin emptying remains charge free. Open spaces owned by WDC have been well kept, retaining the coveted Green Flag status for Hughenden, the Rye and Higginson Park. Traveller incursion in the parks was a problem for a while until an injunction was won at High Court.

There have been a few occasional glitches in service levels, apologies for that, but usually they are resolved quickly to the satisfaction of most. Pot holes are a matter for BCC!

Thank you for your support, it has been much appreciated, I have enjoyed serving you immensely.

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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
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	Tracey Winfield	07502 198405	manager@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

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

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Karen O'Shaughnessy, Jacaranda, Main Road Lacey Green, HP27 0QH (near old Baptist Chapel)
01844 275908 Email karenadvertisinginhallmark@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Karen on 01844 274254 (answering service)

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LACEY GREEN STORES

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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 Hervé, Mike Piercy

LACEY GREEN WINDMILL OPENING TIMES

In 2020, the windmill will be open to the public from 2 pm to 5 pm on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from Sunday 5th April to Sunday 27th September.

Bank Holiday Monday Open Days: 13th April, 25th May, 31st August. (all 2pm - 5pm).

Please note that we will not be open on the VE Bank Holiday on Friday 8th May.

National Mills Weekend: Open on Saturday 9th May (2pm - 5pm) & Sunday 10th May (11am - 5pm).

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

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