

HALLMARK

The Lacey Green and Loosley Row Magazine



Issue 255

August 2020

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Welcome to the August edition

We're back to normal schedule now after the lockdown delays.

Residents are still deeply engaged in charitable activities. The cover shows the garden of one of the Loosley Row gardens that were involved in fund raising for the air ambulance, see page 21. We have an update from Loosley Row sewers on page 4 and the Speen mask makers on page 5.

The village groups to support the housebound are still continuing, with one story on page 17.

It was great news to hear that both the Black Horse and the Pink have reopened, though with tight hygiene controls to ensure that staff and diners are safe. Let's hope they can make a business of trading with higher overheads and restricted customers. I was sorry to read that Lynne and Ian at the Black Horse have decided that it will soon be time to retire, see page 9 for details.

The Village Hall remains closed for the moment, so no Jumble Sale or Coffee Mornings. However we anticipate that regulations may allow us to start to resume normal activities in September see page 9. The clubs that use the hall seem to be taking a cautious approach before restarting classes.

The Village Shop and the Post Office are considering when to open. Please help them to gauge demand by filling in the survey reply slip on page 4 and sending it back.

We still have no What's On column, but there will be a junior tennis tournament on August 22 - see page 12.

The Windmills pre-school is looking for a new Treasurer. If you are interested see the article on page 25.

Hallmark Helpers

Last month's appeal for volunteers to help with delivery went well, thank you for stepping forward. However we have a new challenge in that our advertising manager is retiring and we need to find a new member for the team.

The position of Advertising Manager involves a few hours of administration over a few days leading up to the (4 deadlines per year) publishing of the magazine. This is spent contacting advertisers when their yearly subscription is due and sending invoices. Also coordinating any changes to existing adverts and liaising with new advertisers. All details are then sent to the Editor. After publication there is the sending out of the magazine to all advertisers and subscribers. Most contact is by email.


The current manager will be happy to spend time with the new volunteer to help with transition!




We postponed our annual door-to-door collection in May because of lockdown. We plan to do this in November, hoping that social mobility will be easier then.

Best wishes

Mike Piercy
Editor



**COVID-19
APPEAL BY THE ROTARY
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During the current crisis the *Rotary Club of Princes Risborough* continues to help those in need in the local area and we have recently donated in excess of £9,000 to local charitable organisations and schools needing help dealing with the crisis. However, as with many things our fundraising activities have been severely curtailed and now our reserves are nearly exhausted. There are still many Covid-19 related initiatives which have been set up by volunteers to meet local needs, and which urgently require financial support. We are therefore asking individuals and organisations if they could donate to a Fund to enable us to continue supporting your Community. If you feel you are able to help please donate through:

justgiving.com/campaign/rotaryclubofprincesrisborough

Some of the Donations to Local Charities and Schools over the past Months:

The Princes Centre	Risborough Baskets
Ducks Young Carers	The Youth Enquiry Service
Blood Bikes	Risborough Cupboard
OneCanTrust	Princes Risborough Pre-School
Hughenden Valley Community Shop	Hughenden Primary School
Aylesbury Food Bank	Rennie Grove Hospice Care

Loosley Row & Friends Sewing

As the world starts to re-open our busy sewing bees are winding up their projects and we can be hugely proud of our wonderful community achievements.

235 pairs of wonderful scrubs lovingly made and delivered all over the country, received with great joy and worn with pride. 100s of bags, headbands and scrub caps, as well as wonderful knitting for the baby unit at John Radcliffe.

Vicki from Potatstic has made some wonderful mementos for everyone involved. To make sure you get yours please call Kate on 07970 547999.

We have also raised in excess of £500 for Rotarian Covid Charities and this continues to grow as we sell the wonderful face masks that the group have produced. Masks are still being made so please do let us know if you would like any.

Many thanks for your support - it's been a wonderful adventure.

Kate and the Loosley Row & Friends Sewing Group



Welcome back to St John's Church

We had our first service on Tuesday 14th July at 9:30am and the first Sunday service will be held on the 19th July at 10:00am.

We are operating under the Diocesan guidelines and therefore there will only be these 2 services each week as the Church has to be sanitized between services or alternatively we have to leave a 72 hours gap between services.

No singing is permitted and face masks should be worn. Social distancing is 2m and hand sanitizers will be available. A disposable service sheet will be handed out at each service as prayer books cannot be used. You can of course bring your own if you wish.

Holy Communion will take place in a different format but advice will be given on the procedure on the day.

The Pewsheet will continue to be distributed by email and the Zoom service will continue for the foreseeable future, but at a later time of 11:00am.

Both Schools have had services in Church this week. St John's School leavers had their service on the 16th July and Speen School on 17th July. There were approximately 45 leavers from St John's School – as always some sadness but many happy memories!

Pat Rushmere

Speen Helping Hospices

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who bought face masks from Speen Helping Hospices. We had a great response from Loosely Row and Lacey Green following our article in the last edition of Hallmark. We have now raised £4,400 and that's a lot of masks!

When we had run out of customers in Speen and North Dean, advertising in Hallmark opened up a new source of custom in Lacey Green and Loosely Row. People in Ireland, Scotland, Staffordshire and Lancashire as well as Berkshire, Bedfordshire and Bristol are also suitably attired to go on public transport, visit the GP surgery and shop safely. Many thanks

also to those of you who threw in the extra odd £5 and £10 notes. Much appreciated!

We will continue to make masks whilst there is a demand. The masks come in 6", 7" or 8" elastic lengths for round the ears. Most women find the 7" suitable and 8" for men. We also make them with ties. Please call 07778803260 if you want to place an order.

And just to remind you of our purpose...

SHH is a small charity run from Speen and North Dean to fundraise for four local hospices - Florence Nightingale, Rennie Grove, South Bucks Hospice and Helen House, the hospice

for children in Oxford. The hospices provide a range of palliative and end-of-life care services to people in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and south Bedfordshire.

The hospices receive limited funds and are increasingly reliant on local support from communities like ours to continue to provide the specialist care of inpatient and day hospice services. We keep overheads down to an absolute minimum to ensure that the money raised goes directly to the charities.

Grainne Suter

Lacey Green Stores and Post Office

As you are all probably aware our Shop and Post Office have been closed since March. After 11 years of opening it was not the decision we wanted to take but was taken to comply with Lockdown criteria to protect the volunteers, most of whom now find themselves in the over 70 range. A big 'Thank you' goes to Kay Pallister for helping keep the shop stock available to those who needed it.

We hope, given favourable conditions, to be able to reopen later this year and provide the

services we did prior to lockdown. We are very much aware that many of our customers have, understandably, had to make alternative arrangements for shopping and may well wish to continue with these rather than return to us.

To help us review the demand for the reopening we would ask all those that either wish to return or use the shop for the first time, to let us know well in advance so that stock can be ordered and arrangements

remade for daily papers, milk, bread etc. We hope to be able to have contactless payments available to avoid the use of cash.

You can reply to us via email paulrogerson1@btinternet.com or by completing the reply slip below; a collection box will be provided outside the shop at the Hall. Replies by the end of August would be helpful.

Paul Rogerson
Treasurer

Lacey Green Stores – Millennium Hall Reply Slip

Please state your name, email and contact phone number:

Please circle the items you would like to order / buy

- I would/would not use the Village Stores for: Papers / Milk / Bread / General Goods
- I would/would not use the Village Stores for: Post Office Services
- I would like to Volunteer for serving in the shop

Other Comments





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Safe Breathing

I'd just like to thank all those people who have done their bit for the community since lockdown. Too many to list them all, which in itself speaks of a thoughtful willing community whom as far as I know, and touch wood, have kept free of this blessed virus.

As Jeremy Clarkson would say - here's what I think:

Rules are made for the guidance of intelligent people and the strict compliance of fools.

They are not made to be broken as often quoted, however, there are rare occasions when breaking rules can lead to a better outcome for all concerned. Be warned, get it right and you are superman, get it wrong and no one looks past the fact you have 'broken the rules'.

Then there is the question of interpretation. Staying one metre away means you must not get nearer than one metre - it is not a required distance. Out here we have space and I'm sticking with the two metres and here's why:

When we breath out we project water vapour. You can see it on cold days. When we talk it goes further and if we sneeze or cough, well two metres is not enough.

Fortunately most of us use a hand or hanky to prevent projection and also turn our head.

Two metres allows for gravity and air movement (especially outside) to stop someone else's vapour reaching us.

If one metre or closer is unavoidable then facing away will help (consider air movement here), or a mask. There is confusion over masks but the government is now telling us to wear them in shops and public transport. Read up on them on a site that is not selling them and if necessary get an appropriate one for your circumstances.

See the 'Which' information on the subject:
<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/face-masks/article/face-masks-where-to-buy-them-and-how-to-make-your-own>

Then there is touch: Anything that anyone outside your home has touched is a threat - the post, shopping, petrol pumps and door handles. There is no evidence of transfer via paper but why take the chance.

Touching alien objects is not the danger. It is us then touching our face - this virus needs an orifice - ear, nose, eyes, mouth or a wound in the skin - hence the need to wash hands.

Finally the support bubble: Single adults living alone - or single parents with children under 18 - can form a support bubble with one other household.

Fantastic but think! Weigh up the risk - is the child attending school? Are the adults doing what you have been doing to stay safe?

I spent a morning with my son, his wife and their two kids. One of the children is back at school and so no one came within two metres. It was somehow better than on-line. We sat and did a catch-up out in the garden.

It's all about constant awareness and being sensible. You don't have to listen to me but two metres is not a bar to conversation, as I've found on my travels round the village. It's working so let's keep doing what we are doing where we can.

Stay Safe

Leigh Axe

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Due to Covid 19 we are postponing the Coffee Morning until 4th March 2021. So all those knitters and sewing ladies please keep working for then. We will keep you informed nearer the time.

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The Black Horse

We are open at long last - everything is in position to be safe for everybody. All the COVID guidelines are in force and so is the track and trace. We have screens around the bar for safety and have taken out tables to make the distance correct.

Our opening day was fairly quiet, but a big thank you to all who came in to have a drink and a bite to eat.

We are doing bookings for inside tables as there are not so many in the pub now, and you can book the outside as well. This does not stop you just coming in if you haven't booked.

We still are keeping the same hours for food and drinks. Sunday lunches will continue as normal, bookings needed for this. We are doing a small takeaway menu in the evenings while the distancing is on.



Just ring on the evening to order your food. The menu will be on Black Horse Facebook page or Lacey Green Site page.

If you have a container you can take beer home too or a bottle of wine etc. Take away hours 6 till 8pm Tuesday to Saturday.

It has been really hard for Ian and myself this last year and with the Covid on top we have had a long discussion and sadly we have decided that we are not renewing our tenancy at The Black Horse. It has taken a lot of thought and discussion but we just don't think we can carry it on. It has been a fabulous 25 years of my life here and I will be heartbroken to leave.

I will still live in Lacey Green and hopefully will have time to chill. We have our tenancy to the end of March next year so depending how things go we will keep in charge till then. We will keep you all up to date with progress.

Hope to see you all back to The Black Horse soon. My best wishes to everybody.

Lynne

Village Hall

What a different world we find ourselves living in. Despite all of the negatives, we can find so many positives. For me, and hopefully many of you, living in Lacey Green and Loosley Row during this challenging time has been a comfort. It has been reassuring to know that everyone had a contact number of a local resident. All requests were dealt with, from shopping to collecting prescriptions or simply a chat. Our beautiful countryside has allowed those that are able, to explore, either on foot or by cycling, to enjoy all that our villages have to offer.

The Village Hall closed its doors on March 19th. Since then it has been deep cleaned and checked on a regular basis to ensure that everything is safe and well.

Moving forward, it is our intention to reopen in September, following the government guidelines.

These are currently fairly rigid. Social distancing must be maintained, numbers are limited, no air-conditioning or hand driers can be used. Cleaning between all users is essential.

As a consequence, some large organisations that meet at the hall have taken the decision not to return until 2021. Sadly, traditional events such as the art show have also been cancelled.

For now, this is the new 'normal' and I know that everyone will do their very best to follow the new guidelines.

Please remember that there are still many vulnerable people in our villages, as well as those that are anxious about this different world that we are living in. Please keep looking out for your neighbours and remember, a quick phone call can make someone's day.

As a central part of village life, the village hall is looking forward to opening its doors once again!

Stay safe and well

**Karen Hodghton
Booking Secretary**



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Obituary for Heather Couper

Though she wasn't born here, Heather was an adopted daughter of the Chilterns. After her parents moved from Wallasey to Ruislip, the young Heather loved to take the train and bus to West Wycombe, and walk the Chiltern ridge.

She studied astrophysics at Leicester University, which is where she and I met. Subsequent research at Oxford was too academic for her taste, and Heather instead followed her instincts and became a leading populariser of astronomy. Appointed Senior Lecturer at the Greenwich Planetarium, she burst onto television, first on Patrick Moore's *The Sky at Night*, and then presenting two major astronomy series on Channel 4.

Heather was also elected President of the British Astronomical Association - the first female to hold that position, though she was always miffed she was only the second youngest! As well as her media appearances, Heather gave copious public presentations both in the UK and abroad: her favourite was being guest astronomer on board *Concorde* in 1986, to view Halley's Comet as the plane flew supersonic to New Zealand.

By this time, Heather had gone freelance, and there was no reason to stay in Greenwich. Her heart was drawing her back to the Chilterns, and in 1990 she fell in love with the ideal property in Loosley Row - a pair of joined brick-and-flint cottages, with an inglenook fireplace, exposed beams and the most sensational view over the vale. When the previous owner opened the door for the viewing, Heather thought "what's that woman doing in my house?"



For Heather, the focus of the village was the Pink and Lily. She loved the historical associations, particularly with Rupert Brooke, and had her favourite seat in the Brooke Bar. She regaled every visitor with Brooke's ditty "Never came there to the Pink/ Two such men as we, I think...." And she delighted in showing them Ring the Bull, swinging the copper ring over the hook in the wall. On her father's first visit, she said "Daddy, this is really hard"; swung the ring, and hooked it first time!

Heather learnt dominoes in the Pink, and was delighted to be asked to join the pub's team in the local Crib and Dominoes League. She was delighted when Geoff Baker, the blacksmith, declared "Coups, you're a local now" - having lived in the village only ten years. And she was immensely proud when the team won all the trophies over two consecutive years.

During this time, Heather was appointed to the Millennium Commission, as the only scientist among the nine commissioners, and was responsible for seeing through the Eden Project in Cornwall and the National Space Centre in Leicester. After she'd pointed out the dilapidated state of our village's old hall, she was delighted that the Commission agreed to fund our new Millennium Hall.

Inspired by the home and the view, Heather penned around 20 books on astronomy, produced television documentaries for the production company we'd founded, and presented countless radio shows and series. For the 30-part series *Cosmic Quest*, she persuaded the BBC producer to come out here to record her. It was spring-time and the birds on the terrace were active: her producer, a keen ornithologist, warned of potential interference with the sound recording: "Heather, we could have a problem with your great tits!"

Heather had a passion for nature, especially wild flowers, and was a lifelong vegetarian. She loved the countryside of the Chilterns, especially the carpets of bluebells under the beeches. Her favourite walk was to the Pyrtle Spring, where a small stream gushes out of the chalk and flows down to Culverton.

When she passed away after a short illness earlier this year, Heather's wish was to be buried in the Chilterns. We laid her to rest at GreenAcres woodland burial park near Beaconsfield, under an old oak in the wild-flower orchard.

Nigel Henbest



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Community Tennis

Like everywhere else, it's been a strange couple of months. Normally we would be extremely busy with league matches, junior tennis, adult group coaching and plenty of social activities. But obviously none of that happened and yet we have been extremely busy!

Membership numbers have rocketed this year, as tennis was one of the first sports to be released from lockdown. I think the virus has brought home to many families the need to keep healthy, stay slim and improve fitness levels.

Tennis also has the advantage of being one of only a few sports which you can play all through your life, so if you can learn the skills (a bit of social chat along the way helps too!) then it's a great investment. We are so pleased to see so many new faces around the courts, and all our efforts on social media are paying dividends, as people get to know our offering better.

This has helped Dan our coach who has been fully occupied with 1-1 lessons. Before he went on paternity leave last month, he was

doing 35 hours a week, coaching members from the ages of 4 to 70. He even had some of his previous clients driving over from West London!

He has also been kept extremely busy off court with the birth of his second daughter Maeve. Congratulations to Dan and Hannah and daughter Phoebe. Members were keen to contribute to a gift and we were able to present him with £220 of John Lewis vouchers to go towards the new nursery. Or perhaps we got that wrong? Vouchers for a good night out for the tired parents might have been more appropriate!

Thankfully things are slowly getting back to normal. Junior tennis will be resuming very soon, and we will be holding some junior tournaments on Saturday 22nd August. From 2pm -3.30pm, adults can play with their children (year 5 and below) in a friendly format using mini-nets and soft red balls.

After that, at 3.30pm we will be hosting a junior tournament for children between the ages of 11 and 16, with separate prizes for the boys and girls. It is just £2 per entry

(members free), so please do bring your son or daughter along.

Non-members can also now use the courts on weekdays between 9am and 5pm and on Saturday mornings. The cost is £10 per hour and bookings can be made online via our website.

For the autumn term we will be offering a full programme of coaching, although currently adult groups are limited to 5 plus Dan. For league matches we will be completing last winter's matches before going straight into this winter's league. With the higher membership numbers we are also planning on putting out more teams.

Looking further ahead, our men's annual trip to La Manga in Southern Spain is obviously doubtful, but hopefully our Christmas booking on Friday 27th November at the Black Horse will be on – fingers crossed!

Nigel Glenister



Horts Soc - Growing for Food

In this second Hallmark edition published under the Covid epidemic regulations I thought I would write about the benefits of growing your own food. It tastes better than bought and you know it won't have pesticides on it. You think differently about how you cook when you plan around your available veg and you eat more of it! Better for you all round.

You don't even have to undertake the backbreaking labour of digging. There is plenty of information online for the system known as 'no dig' cultivation. You need a good layer of compost in the autumn and cover it to prevent weeds growing. In the spring you can sow or plant directly into this without having to dig.

You can get more than one crop off your vegetable plot in the year. For example, if you have purple sprouting broccoli which you harvest in the spring, you can then plant up with a summer crop such as courgettes. When these have finished you can plant autumn sown broad beans which will be ready in May/June, thus maximising the productivity of the space you have.



Alison's vegetable garden



If you are really into growing you might need an allotment and these are available in Lacey Green, though you don't need a lot of room to start growing. Buckets and grow bags are a good starting point.

To encourage you, Simon Bolton will now describe how he has proven the point for growing in a small space.

Alison Shreeve

No space to grow

Before Covid I worked in Central London in a large office by St Paul's and throughout a normal year I would take in any surplus home grown produce and ask people to help themselves.

It was a delight to hear people enjoying home grown veg compared to supermarket veg but a few comments got me thinking.

"I live in a flat; I've only got a balcony", "My garden is tiny and I share it with other people". "We only have a few flower pots but would love a veg garden". I started to think about what produce you might grow in a container and how much you could fit in with minimum maintenance (except watering).

Simon's container

I had been given an old wooden planter by my mum which measured 100cm long, 50cm wide and 50cm high. I lined it with an old plastic sack I found and put in a £4.00 bag of bog-standard compost, to see what and how much we could grow. In the back of my mind I wanted the planter to feed a working couple with busy jobs, as a fresh boost to their weekly shop.

It might be a bit tricky to see everything in this photograph but within the lockdown weeks it managed to sprout up: Shallots (two), Fennel (three), Coriander, Parsley, Chard, Cos Lettuce, Salad Bowl Lettuce, Spinach and Radish. In all that's 9 different veg and a couple of cut and come again salads and some herbs.

So, when I am back in London and the conversation turns to "I don't have the space to grow anything" I am going to show them this issue of the Hallmark! Stay safe everyone.

Simon Bolton

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Lacey Green Virus Action Group



As we move into the next phase of managing this pandemic and we all adjust to the 'new normal' the Virus Action Group has been relatively quiet.

The number of Lacey Green residents needing our help has thankfully remained small. We have collected a number of prescriptions and walked a couple of dogs as well as continued to shop for those who do not have family or friends close enough to help.

Melissa Summerfield of Greenlands has been providing a vital helpline to John and Carol Balchin of Roundlands since the beginning of lockdown in March and has shopped for them each week ever since. (pictured)

As we begin to learn more about the effects of Covid 19 and the impact of the illness on certain sectors of the population it is worth bearing in mind that in our community we have a considerable number for whom contracting the illness would be very serious.

We have worked well as a community to protect each other and especially those who are vulnerable. We need to continue to do so. If you need help to stay safe and avoid contact with the virus please do not hesitate to get in touch via your Street Rep.

Our partnership with the Risborough Basket initiative started with a good response from both Lacey Green and Loosely Row residents and many of us enjoyed the fruit and vegetable deliveries.

Our thanks must go to Graham Roberts and Kay Bolton who took on the job of delivering our goods to us, with a smile and a friendly word.

The Town Council has recently taken the decision to suspend the fruit and vegetable deliveries as the town takes up the weekly market once more. It is still possible for the time being to order from the other shops participating in the scheme. For up to date information go to www.risboroughbasket.org.uk

Finally a reminder to everyone that we have a telephone befriending service for those who would welcome a chat to wile away the hours that do sometimes tend to drag.

Thank you to all who are participating in any way, large or small, in the Virus Action Group. Please continue to stay safe and take care.

Eileen Rowlands
01844 275940

Happy Wanderers

Our last meeting was the AGM in February, well before the Covid19 had raised its ugly head. Within a short while we realised that the walks programme could not be implemented. The joy of walking and talking as we walked across the Chiltern Hills together was banned in order to meet the Government regulations.

Our traditional roast lunch following the walk was also off limits and we had to accept that for the present The Happy Wanderers had to close down – the first time in nearly 30 years.

We are delighted that we are now able to start our walks again, at a social distance of course.

As it is not possible to follow our walk with a Sunday roast lunch in a pub, we are hoping if the weather is kind enough to have a picnic instead.

New members are always welcome; please contact Liz Lewin (01844 274961) for more information.



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On the Farm

In the last article we mentioned we were beginning to need some rain. Since then we have had some decent rainfall, the maize has picked up and the grassland has also improved. We try to get the best out of our crops by planting productive varieties, applying nutrients, controlling weeds and looking after the soils that we grow them in. But most of the success is down to having the correct mix of weather, which is totally out of our control. Our cereal harvest that is coming up is not expected to be a barn buster with most of the winter wheat looking at best average after being muddled in last autumn in many fields. There are gaps which have had to be patched up with spring wheat where the winter crop establishment was particularly poor.

Wheat is the main crop for the UK with many uses such as animal feeds and to produce flour for biscuits and bread making. We already import wheat from Canada, in particular for bread making but this year we will be importing more, I expect.

When we make a cropping plan we decide which crop to grow in which field, for the following season. This needs doing ideally before harvest, as seeds need to be ordered. We generally rotate crops around although some crops like maize you could grow continuously for quite a few years. Others like oilseed rape (which is a brassica) should only be grown once in five years. If wheat is grown after barley we cannot control any barley that grows in the wheat, (from dropped barley grains at harvest) so it would contaminate a bread making wheat sample rendering it only good for animal feeds. Growing wheat after a grass ley, oilseed rape or maize has good potential for decent crops.

Generally arable farmers try to maximise their wheat area. We are a mixed livestock and arable farm so have to prioritise forage production before growing cash crops like wheat to sell.

When selecting which variety of wheat to grow we firstly approach our chosen end destination for the crop, often Heygates, to see which varieties they want to buy. They create over 50 different flour blends for their customers. For instance they supply McVities with flour for digestives. All wheat varieties will have different flour qualities so Heygates have various varieties they prefer to use.

We then look at the variety's agronomic qualities and we can find this out by trial work done throughout the country. Important factors would be disease rating, standing ability, pest resistance, earliness to harvest and probably most important, yield potential. We have varieties we prefer, but they only usually last about five years before their disease resistance has slipped, leading to more fungicides being required to keep it healthy or a better variety has been bred by the plant breeding company.

Plant breeding is an expensive process. We have to pay a royalty to the plant breeder for every acre of their variety that we plant, even if we save seed from the previous crop we have grown. All the plants we grow have been bred including grass and maize. When we plant a grass ley we will plant a blend of at least four varieties.

The Farm Cluster group has been doing bird surveys and butterfly surveys in the last month.



This year there were some tremendous displays of hedgerow flowers particularly Honeysuckle, Foxgloves and Dog Roses, always nice to see. We are sure we spotted a Green Sandpiper one wet afternoon, which is a new bird to us, enjoying the wet area behind the farm where the roof water has made the ground wet.

July through to September are very busy for us, we will generally be hoping for settled weather. We have to harvest our crops and dry them if necessary, collect the straw we buy from neighbours, and prepare for planting next year's crops; the maize will be harvested in late September. We are also expecting over a third of the herd to calve so this will keep everyone busy, and most of the new heifers will come into the herd during this time.

Richard West





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Loosley Row Open Gardens



In December last year, our group of Loosley Row keen gardeners decided to hold a fund raising event in aid of the Thames Valley Air Ambulance Open Gardens scheme.

The plan was to open gardens to members of the public at Beggars Wood, Lane Cottage, Green Pastures, Ramoth, Grannies, Field End, Bergamot, and Loosley Dene. The children and horticulture club at St Johns school were keen to join in too.

The date was decided, the TVAA fliers were printed, and our proud and willing garden owners organised their gardening schedules!

Then, a few months later, sadlywe all know what happened next.....'LOCKDOWN'!

Like most other summer events this year, our 'open garden' event was cancelled too.

Despite the amount of concern and worry we all had over the shocking consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic, we were all very disappointed to have our event cancelled.

So, with gardening plans already in place, seedlings sowed, and 'green fingers' getting greener, we continued working in our gardens, hoping that we could do something on the day.

Fortunately, the lockdown period, and glorious weather, gave us all the extra time to spend gardening. We decided to hold a 'village plant sale' instead.

On 20th June we hosted 7 plant sales, at 7 garden venues, with an array and variety of potted-on seedlings, plants and vegetables from our own gardens, and some kindly donated by other keen gardeners in the Horticultural Society.

The day was a huge success, with perfect warm sunny weather. Local neighbours and visitors came from local villages and further, budding

new gardeners, experienced gardeners and plant experts alike.

People enjoyed walking around the 'garden trail', tasting refreshments, whilst buying plants from 'a safe distance', and many of our visitors were able to see parts of, or go into some of the gardens too.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the day chatting about plants and exchanging gardening tips and stories, but, the 'icing on the cake', was having raised well over £1,000 for the TVAA charity.

'Thank you' to all the garden owners, their friends, families and plant lovers who contributed and helped on the day.

Now we've had a taster of how the event runs, we definitely intend to hold it again next year! Please look out for the date, to be arranged, and come and support us next summer. Until then, 'happy gardening'!

Sarah Halliday



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Lacey Green Players



Hello from Lacey Green Players, we hope you are all well and have coped with the lockdown measures during the pandemic. We have missed you all and hope our lockdown planning will come to fruition soon so we can perform and continue to raise money for charities and good causes.

We had hoped we could arrange our annual theatre in November 2020 but decided we couldn't be one step ahead of the large national theatres, so we have taken the decision to delay all performances until 2021. As you can imagine we are very disappointed but want to keep everyone safe in these uncertain times.

As we mentioned in our last Hallmark article we are still looking forward to rehearsing "The Ghost Train" by Arnold Ridley, who played Godfrey in Dad's Army. This play, a thriller, was written in and is set in the 1920s; it has been made into film several times over the last century. This will be our annual theatre production next year.

Ideas from lockdown

The committee and members of LGP have had their artistic heads on during lockdown and these are some of our thoughts for now and the future. We would value some feedback from you, please send these to info@laceygreenplayers.co.uk.

Would you like to join the LGP Words Exchange? We would like to email you a poem or short passage from a book or play, every 1 – 2 weeks. These pieces will vary in mood, style and period, but will always aim to be engaging and entertaining. You could also send us pieces that you like. Some of these could be re-circulated to the whole group. We will circulate on a blind copy and no names will be mentioned. Let us know if you would like to receive a piece, or email us your favourite now.

Another thought is rehearsing small plays within family groups that could in time be staged in gardens to small groups, once social distancing measures allow. If this is something of interest please get in touch.

In future we may be able to hold a mini open air festival so these playlets are not lost; watch this space!

Given that the world is using technology in innovative ways we are also considering what we can do through this medium. We have some ideas but these need more discussion before we can share. Please look out for more information on our website and in future Hallmark articles.

Did you know the old superstition of no whistling on stage comes from the time when theatres used to hire sailors as stagehands and riggers, and cues were called using whistling commands. Whistling a happy tune backstage could be taken as a cue causing an accident or early curtain call!

We continue to want budding actors, lighting and sound specialists or anyone wishing to hone their skills and experience generally to join LGP. For more information please email: info@laceygreenplayers.co.uk.

Jane Hervé

Windmill WI



*The Windmill WI - 2012
Celebrating our 25th Birthday*

This is a very short report as we have not had a meeting since March. We are hoping to organise an afternoon tea at The Black Horse on 5th August, socially distancing of course.

We will have to postpone the Jumble Sale in October but hope to be able to organise one on the 13th March 2021. Until the Village Hall reopens we cannot say when we will start our monthly meetings again. STAY SAFE & WELL

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Windmill Under 5s Preschool

As 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' throughout the challenge of lockdown, and will be sending them off with lots of happy memories.

A wonderful time has been had by all in our newly finished outdoor wildlife and gardening area. The children have loved our new barked area with the log circle for outdoor snack and story time whilst watching the birds and squirrel feeding from the new bird feeder.

Thanks firstly to The Co-op and our Local Pioneer Miranda Gomm, for enabling us to be their 'local cause' and earn the funds to transform this neglected space into something usable. To the Sports Club Committee for their agreement to neaten up this little area and ongoing support. To the parents, villagers and team of volunteers from the Horticultural Society for clearing the area. To Alex Stallwood for his tree trimming and landscaping skills and Darren Peters for some wonderful new raised beds! To Rachael for leading and everyone else who's supported this project – the team and children are absolutely delighted with the results.

We are grateful too to the Early Years Team at Buckinghamshire Council who have offered ongoing support throughout this challenging time, and awarded us a grant to replace our rotten pirate ship with an amazing new outdoor obstacle course and climbing frame, which the children have spent a lot of time using.

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 parents, who do a huge amount for Windmills in their own time. We'll enjoy a well-earned rest over the summer and look forward to starting the autumn term, hopefully back to normal, in September.

We are on the lookout for a new Treasurer to join us. If you would be interested in supporting our

local preschool or know someone who would, please get in touch.

We currently have spaces for children 2-5 years old, if you are interested get in touch with Tracey on 07502 198405 or manager@windmillunder5s.co.uk

Natasha Kann

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We're back in The Pink

By God, it's good to be back! We missed you all during our long break – and hope you all stayed safe and well - but we're back with a bang and better than ever!

But before I get into the changes that have been going on at The Pink, it's really important that I emphasise that we are fully Covid compliant. We have made all of the necessary changes – and I have to say that since we re-opened the atmosphere hasn't been affected!

We have introduced a one way system with the entrance through the car park and the exit through the main door, the toilets are on a one-in, one-out basis, hand sanitiser is readily available and much used by the staff as well, NHS Track and Test forms are given to each party

and social distancing is fully in place. We are also now closing on Tuesdays for a full deep clean.

As always you can book tables by calling 01494 489857 or going online at pink-lily.com and we really would encourage you to book in advance to avoid disappointment on the day. Having said that we obviously will try and accommodate you if we can – but do book if possible, even if only drinking and not eating!

Now on to the positives – we have had a facelift! Not me – I couldn't afford it on what I'm paid – and nor should you think I need it – cheeky! But our grand old lady has been spruced up. She's been painted throughout and is looking mighty fine!

We also have fab new marquees in the garden – pink of course – and in most exciting news – are now offering take-away on Fridays through Sundays.

Summer is here, Luddy is cooking up a storm in the kitchen, things are looking brighter and can only get better we're re-united and it feels so good! Can't wait to see you all – the only way is up!

See you soon,

Shirley Abbot
01494 489857
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One Can Trust - Foodbank

A short update on the activity at your local food bank.

The demand for food parcels has sadly remained at historically very high levels through this summer. Soon after lockdown occurred in March, requests for help more than doubled compared to the same period last year. Demand continued to rise until the end of May when parcels were dispatched to feed over 600 people in a single week around South Bucks.

The number of people currently needing our help with a food parcel has remained steady at just under 400 each week, requiring food donations to the value of around £25,000 to fill the parcels each month.

The Covid emergency meant that all operating procedures had to be changed. Many of our volunteers were over 70 years old and had to retire and self-isolate. About a half of all the food parcels had been self-picked by the recipients at Wesley church in Wycombe and that had to cease too. The other half were delivered to drop off centres that were mainly churches that were all asked to close.

With demand rising sharply, over 100 new and younger volunteers stepped up to collect the food, sort and store it, pick it into parcels and deliver them. All food parcels are now home delivered to the door step, a new departure.

To add to the challenges, most of the donated food came through the dump baskets that are situated in all the main supermarkets in the area. With fewer supermarket visits being made, the volume of food donations reduced substantially so a new initiative was required.

Over 100 Street Heroes were recruited in key geographical areas to become the local One Can food drop centre. This has proved to be so successful that around 80% of food donated now comes through the magnificent Street Heroes. We have also been able to secure local supplies of basic fresh produce including vegetables, fruit and eggs to improve the offering significantly.

One Can Trust has continued to meet every request for a food parcel from those in real need and has reorganised to ensure that it will be able to meet the needs of those in need of temporary assistance for the foreseeable future.

The team at One Can Trust are very grateful for the magnificent support and send a huge thank you to everyone who has donated time, food or money to One Can Trust. The charity could not have continued to serve the community without your help.

Visit www.onecantrust.org.uk to see how you can help or simply to listen to the tribute from the Top Notes Choir! Regular updates are also on Wycombe Sound on Fridays at 10:30 am.

Graham Peart
Chair of Trustees
One Can Trust

Buckinghamshire Council

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the new Council met for the very first time remotely on Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 15th July with nearly all 196 councillors dialling in. This has been webcast for residents to view if required.

Also the new North West Chilterns Community Board met remotely for the first time on 9th July which looked to set priorities for the local residents.

Gradually on guidance from the government, facilities are beginning to be reopened by the Council, from libraries to household recycling centres.

Carl Etholen



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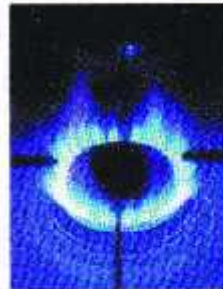
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Heavenly Bodies

Mars is coming. Right on cue, the night sky starts to get darker to show off the Red Planet after its two-year absence as well as Saturn and Jupiter which make history this December. The patterns of stars gradually change, as summer constellations like Cygnus give way to winter's Orion. Here are some of the highlights to watch out for over the next six months:

August: Saturn and Jupiter can be seen in the same field of view, low down in the south when it starts to get dark at about 10pm. Bright Jupiter is to the right of Saturn which is 15 times fainter but easily visible. On the 1st, the Moon will be below Jupiter and then below-left of Saturn on the 2nd. When you see them, it's worth bearing in mind that Jupiter is almost half a billion miles from us, while Saturn is twice as far away. If want your first glimpse of Mars, it can be seen rising in the east around midnight and the Moon will be near it on the 8th and 9th. The Perseid meteor shower on the 12th/13th will be washed out by the Moon.

September: Mars brightens significantly during the month as the Earth catches up with its orbit. It climbs high in the southern sky and glows an intense orange-red. The Moon appears close to the planet on the 5th and 6th and will glide across to Saturn and Jupiter on the 24th and 25th. For late-night revellers and early-risers, Venus



starts to make a dazzling appearance at 4am and continues to dominate the pre-dawn skies over the next few months. The autumn equinox is on the 22nd when day and night are equal.

October: This month has two full Moons – on the 1st and 31st – the second one is known as a 'Blue Moon'. Mars is at 'opposition' – its closest to Earth – on the 13th when it will be just 39 million miles away and at its biggest and brightest to us Earthlings. It rises in the east at about 7pm before climbing much higher than the other two planets every night. It outshines everything else in the night sky except the Moon. Also look out for two meteor showers – the Draconids on the 8th and the Orionids on the 21st/22nd.

November: Mars continues to put on its fiery show, while the star patterns like the Pleiades (the 'Seven Sisters') and Hyades in Taurus speckle the dark skies. The Moon is above Mars on the 25th and a thin crescent Moon is below Saturn and Jupiter at 5.30pm on the 19th.

December: This is the month Jupiter and Saturn make history! On the 21st (the winter solstice), they will appear so close together that they'll almost look like one planet with the naked eye. This 'Great Conjunction' will be the closest the two planets have been since the 1600s! You need to be quick before they disappear under the horizon, so look towards the southern horizon at 5pm and watch the planets set 'as one' together. The Geminid meteor shower on the 13th/14th is predicted to be a good 'shooting stars' display.

January: A good view of Mercury will be possible for about a week from the 20th. The tiny planet can be seen above the western horizon after sunset from about 5.15pm. Binoculars can be helpful to spot it initially.

Enjoy your star and planet-gazing. Heavenly Bodies will return in February next year.

Chris Dignan



Lady Elgiva - a strumpet?

As I have said previously, local history research nearly always leads to surprises and my research into the origins of Lacey Green and Loosley Row has proved to be no exception.

My research had taken me back to the Domesday Book where the Risborough Hundred is clearly identified as including the land which is now occupied by Lacey Green and Loosley Row although the names of these hamlets are not mentioned in the Book specifically.

This encouraged me to carry out further research into earlier Anglo-Saxon times to see if either hamlet was mentioned in any document during those turbulent times. It was during this research that I came across the will of Lady Elgiva (this is the Latinised version of her name which in Anglo-Saxon was spelt "AEfgyfu" but please do not ask me to pronounce it!)

She was a significant land owner in Buckinghamshire and in her will she left "her lands at Risborough", which academic historians seem convinced included the hamlets of Lacey Green and Loosley Row, to the church together with the manumission (liberation) of the slaves on this estate – very worthy! So, she owned the land on which our village is built.

However, her earlier life was somewhat more interesting. She was the daughter of a nobleman called Elfric and his wife Ethelgiva. She married King Edwy (Eadwig) who had been adopted by Elfric and Ethelgiva after the death of his parents. Edwy became King in 955 and is thought to have married Lady Elgiva shortly before he was crowned at Kingston on the 27th January 956 by Archbishop Oda. All went well until the King, (thought to have been about 16 years old at the time)

left the coronation banquet to enjoy the company of his new wife and her mother who, by Anglo Saxon custom, were not present at the coronation. The whole company felt insulted and Oda suggested that a delegation be sent to bring him back. At first no one wished to incur the King's annoyance but finally they chose the "two most firm of spirit", Abbot Dunstan and Bishop Cynesige, who were both of the house of Wessex. After some altercation, Edwy returned with them and the immediate crisis could have passed if Dunstan and Cynesige had been able to keep quiet. They could not and the story lost nothing in the telling. The King was said to have thrown his crown on the floor and to have been found not just enjoying intimacy with his wife, as was probably expected, but with her mother, who was therefore guilty with Edwy of both

adultery and of something approaching incest!

Mmmmmmmmm – the mind boggles!

It is thought that the marriage was declared void in 957, King Edwy died in 959 at the age of 20 years and Lady Elgiva died in about 972.

Chroniclers at the time described Lady Elgiva as a "strumpet" but I am not sure if this is fair – unusual maybe by today's standards!

One thing is certain – if you research your family history and find a distant ancestor with the name Elgiva then I strongly recommend that you do not tell your neighbours!



**Laurence Rostron
Village History Group**

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	Jane Herve		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
Bucks 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	
Parish Council		Frank Post		clerk@laceygreen-pc.org.uk
LG Windmill	Sundays & Bank holidays 2 to 5 pm April to September. Closed in 2020	Michael Hardy	275871	contact@laceygreenwindmill.org.uk
Millennium Hall		Clive Hodghton	07751 541222	clive@laceygreen.com
Millennium Hall bookings		Karen Hodghton	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 (after 5pm booking service)

LACEY GREEN POST OFFICE

Open Monday and Thursday 9.00 to 10.00

LACEY GREEN STOP

Village Hall 9.00 am - 12 noon every week
day Freshly brewed coffee (not on Thursdays)

COFFEE MEETINGS

Held in the Village Hall 10am-12 noon
Thursday. Friendly chatting with tea or coffee.

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 will not open in 2020

Although Coronavirus Lockdown restrictions are being relaxed in the middle of May, it is certain that "Social Distancing" will continue for a very long time. It would be impossible to adhere to "Social Distancing" inside the windmill, so the decision has been taken to keep the windmill shut for the whole of our normal open season (April to September). This is in the interests of all our volunteers and our potential visitors. Michael G Hardy Windmill Manager The Chiltern Society www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk

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