

the Clarion



Your official Parish Magazine with news, views, ideas and real-life stories from Bolter End, Cadmore End, Lane End, Moor End and Wheeler End



**View from
Lane End to
Booker, 2010**



**View towards
Booker...
the future?**



This image has been digitally altered to show what a stadium and hotel might look like at Booker airfield. It is not to scale or based on official documentation

Stadium proposal: what next?



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From the Editor

The editor of the Bucks Free Press has stated that he is sitting on the fence over the stadium issue. I make no apology for the fact that I'm firmly in the 'NO' camp.

I was recently donated some Clarion back issues including the very first one from February 1976. The then editor, also the chairman of the parish council, had some wise words which resonate today:

"A recurring theme of this magazine is the need for us as a parish to stand up for ourselves, and to be quick to guard our identity, our rights and our wants. If we are weak, we shall surely become nothing more than a vassal of High Wycombe, and effectively disappear from the map, as have so many other former villages around High Wycombe." Mr H Clark

With the current threat of the Booker stadium development looming large, it is more important than ever that we come together to ensure our voice is heard. Our local councillor, Jean Teesdale has included an insert which she asks us to fill out and return so that she and her colleagues have evidence of our views. Turn to p10 for stadium news.

On a lighter note—Merry Christmas! Best wishes for a happy New Year.

Katy (editor) katyjdunn@btinternet.com 01494 883883
Aldersyde House, Finings Road, Lane End, Bucks HP14 3EY

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laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Clerk ♦ **Hayley Glasgow**

Tel: 01494 437111

clerk@laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

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Bucks HP12 4LG

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Cllr Callum Stewart

Cllr Jane Osborn

Cllr Allan Simmons

Cllr Lorraine Smith

Cllr David Crichton

Website Survey

In September the Parish Council launched its new-look website and gave every Parishioner the chance to take part in a competition to win £250. We are delighted to announce that the lucky winner was Mr Caine of Chalky Field—congratulations! Please continue to visit the website for up to date information regarding events, Parish Council activities and planning applications.

Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting

On Monday 11 October the Parish Council held a Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting about the Wycombe Community Sports Project. Lane End residents showed their support to the community and over 250 people attended the meeting to listen to a presentation from WDC.

The first phase of the consultation process has now ended and WDC will announce the location for the Stadium in January. The Parish Council will continue to have this as a standing agenda item at all Parish Council meetings for as long as is needed, please come along and let us know your views or ask any questions.

Winter advice

As winter begins to set in you might be interested to know the government has issued new guidelines about clearing snow and ice from pavements yourself. There's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally

responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully. Follow this advice on clearing snow and ice safely: direct.gov.uk/en/N11/Newsroom/DG_191868

For more information check out the parish council website:

laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings

Have your say! Anyone can turn up to Lane End Parish Council (LEPC) meetings to hear what's being discussed. There's some formality to keep things on track, but Graeme, the Chairman, invites questions and anyone can voice their concerns or suggestions. LEPC meets at 7.30pm on the first Monday of each month in the Sycamore Room of the village hall. If you can't attend the meeting, but want to know what went on, look up the minutes on the LEPC website: laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

Christmas in The Village 2010

The Parish Council is delighted to announce that it has joined forces with the Lane End Youth and Community Centre and the Twinning Association this year to hold an exciting Christmas event for all residents. Christmas in the Village 2010 takes place on Saturday 4 December 2010 at the Lane End Youth and Community Centre.

Meet Santa and his elves, enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, browse the range of trade and table-top stalls for Christmas presents, and join the Twinning Association at their

stall for 'vin chaud' and tasty French nibbles. Doors open 2pm-6pm. Entry is 50p on the door for adults and children get in free.

Village Green tree-planting

The Parish Council would like to thank Lane End Village Pre-school for donating trees to replace the ones on the Village Green that have died. The PC would also like to thank Gary Moore (and son Michael) for their continued work in maintaining the Village Green and for removing the two dead Hawthorns.

A small tree planting ceremony was held on 20 November. Residents who live around the Village Green gathered to dig the seedlings in, drink hot mulled apple juice and wish the trees a long and happy life.

Moorend Common Award

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that Moorend Common has been named Overall Winner in the Chiltern Conservation Board Wildlife and Landscape Awards. Moorend Common is owned by the Parish Council and managed by voluntary wardens.

What do you think?

The Parish Council works on your behalf. If you have any comments or suggestions, the Parish Council wants to hear them. Contact the Parish Clerk, Hayley Glasgow on:

clerk@laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

News and Views
from our
Community



The lowdown

Letters

Most of the letters we received this issue said similar things about the stadium development at Booker.

There isn't enough room to print them all, so rather than choose a few, turn to p10 for a précis of the latest info. The letters page will be back in the next issue, so please continue to write letters for inclusion in The Clarion on any subject (including 'pro' stadium ones!)

Have your say

Write to the editor:

katyjdunn@btinternet.com
Aldersyde, Finings Road, Lane
End, HP14 3EY

Christmas Services

in Lane End and Cadmore End

Thursday 16th December

7.30pm Carol singing round Lane End
starting from the Village Hall

Sunday 19th December

4pm Carol Service, Elim Christian Centre

6pm Methodist Wives Carol Service, Holy Trinity

6pm Carol Service, St Mary le Moor

Christmas Eve

5pm Christingle Service, Holy Trinity

11.30pm Midnight Mass, Holy Trinity

11.30pm Midnight Mass, St Mary le Moor

Christmas Day

9.30am Joint Parish Communion Holy Trinity

10am Family Service, Elim Christian Centre

11am Parish Communion, St Mary-Le-Moor

Boxing Day

9.30am Parish Communion, Holy Trinity

11am: Parish Communion, St Mary-Le-Moor

4pm: Family Service, Elim Christian Centre

Come and join us this Christmas!

Hambleden Valley Gardening Club

Report by Janet Collins

We've started our new calendar of events for 2010/2011 and have a full and varied list of talks and excursions planned. We started in October with an excellent talk from Timothy Walker, Director of Horticulture at Oxford Botanical Gardens on 'How to be a 21st century gardener'.

Our usual dates for talks are the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Skirmett Village Hall. The next talk will on Tuesday, 2 November and will be given by Nick Holton on growing and caring for roses. (Please see the What's On Page for a list of our events for the rest of this year.)

The annual fee to join our club is £10 and there is a door charge of £1 when attending a meeting.

New members are most welcome. Please call 01491 638690 or 01491 638691 for further details.

Lane End Players

Report by Alan Rimmer

Shiver me timbers, it's nearly Panto time again and Lane End Players invite you to come sailing the high seas with Robinson Cru-

soe in Lane End Village Hall.

Written by John Morley, this exciting, adventure-packed Panto traces Robinson Crusoe's voyage to Tobago where he hopes to locate the hidden treasure shown on the map given to him by Old Jim.

Blackpatch, the Pirate, stows away on board, and later enlists the help of Jack Boot and his band of blood-thirsty Pirates in an attempt to steal the treasure. Lots of excitement and laughs abound. Add some fantastic toe-tapping songs, lots of audience participation, Mrs Crusoe, Man Friday, a good Fairy, and Kenny Crusoe's pet, 'Monkey' and you have all the ingredients for a fabulous fun-filled family theatrical event.



Performances take place on Fridays 14, 21, 28 January at 8pm and on Saturdays 15, 22, 29 at 2.30pm and 7pm.

Tickets for Friday 14 are priced at £7 (£5 concessions) and for all other performances they are £10 (£7 concessions). The Box Office will be open every Saturday from 4 December from 9.30am-12pm in the Lane End Village Hall.

Alternatively, call the **Box Office** on their new number:
07706 426320.

Footpath Update

Report by Margaret Adnitt

We have a new permissive footpath linking LE 9, the path from Rackleys Farm, to LE10 over Hano-ver Hill. This is a great addition to our footpath network because it prevents the necessity of walking on the Fingest Lane road. There are no signposts signalling this path at present but there are plans to remedy this. Our thanks are due to Ross Osborn for initiating the idea of this path and to The Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers for their superb expertise in carrying out the work.

Over the summer there has been much undergrowth on all our footpaths, especially stinging nettles and brambles. (We shouldn't be too harsh on the latter because the blackberries have been superb this year!) I am extremely grateful to the small band of volunteers who have worked so hard to keep the paths clear. In two cases there were reports of large trees falling across footpaths: LE 1 in the Chequers Valley and LE 22 in Widdenton Park Wood. Bob Cheesewright was alerted and with his chainsaw the problems were soon put right.

We are so fortunate to have such beautiful scenery on our doorstep and I'm sure we all appreciate this. Our many footpaths are the means of enjoying the countryside around us – do go and use them.

Lane End Lions Football Club

Report by Katy Dunn

Unfortunately, Lane End Lions football club has had to withdraw its teams from the leagues due to lack of support and commitment. It seems such a shame when so much work has been put in by the organisers over the past four years to revive the teams.



All it takes is enthusiasm—committed kids and supportive parents—to make this club great again and to have a football team Lane End can be proud of.

'If we can get help with funding then there is a strong possibility that there will be an U11's team next season and possibly an U15's. We still have kits and training equipment but we will need to raise funds for affiliation, registration and to renew first aid certificates and insurance,' says club secretary Anita Hanson.

'But if we start now, we can build some great squads and be a force to be reckoned with in the leagues next season,' she continues. Call Anita on 880045 to join in the fun and put Lane End on top of the leagues again.



Lane End Evening WI

Report by Christine Jennings

As usual we have a varied programme beginning in January with a talk by a former member of the CID. In February we will be transported to Peru and in March will hear about Nursing in the Fifties and Sixties.

Visitors are always welcome to join us on the last Monday of the month in the Sycamore Room at the Village Hall. Meetings start at 8pm.



The Woodland Service

Report by Tony Speight

Do you know that Wycombe District Council has a Woodland Service? We work all over Wycombe District including the Lane End area. As part of our extensive events programme, we lead walks from both Wheeler End and Lane End several times a year, highlighting interesting natural features as we go. See our website: wycombe.gov.uk/woodlandservice to find out when the next one is.

Walks are, of course, not the only thing we do. We work with many local community groups including Surestart, local schools, cubs, beavers and have helped the Moorend Common wardens with their conser-

vation work. We have been involved in a variety of tasks over the years including bird box building, mini-beast hunts and pond dipping but the mainstay of our work is woodland management.

We have more than 20 woodland sites to manage and with only four of us to manage them, we rely heavily on input from local volunteers. Tasks include coppicing, footpath widening, step building, scrub clearance, tree felling, litter clearance and more besides.

So, if you are involved with any community groups, school, local business that you think would benefit from a day, half a day, or even just an hour or two working with us then please get in contact.

We provide light refreshments and any tools that you may need, you get to do something different that is great for morale and can work towards some of those badges you are after (I am thinking of cubs/scouts and brownies/guides and not multinational companies, but if you're desperate for a badge I am sure we could sort something out!) and we get some much needed work done that benefits local people and wildlife.

Hopefully this highlights some of the work we do. To book a place on one of our events, to organise an activity with your group or for further information on any of our sites, please contact us: woodland_service@wycombe.gov.uk.
Tel: 01494 421825
wycombe.gov.uk/woodlandservice

Holy Trinity Pastoral Group

Report by Judy Taylor

A group of people from Holy Trinity Church would like to offer support to anyone in or around Lane End who, because of infirmity and/or loneliness may be unable to meet up with others for companionship.

As members of Holy Trinity Pastoral Group we are all aware of the needs of an ageing and increasingly isolated number of people in the village. Whilst we try and support those who are known to us, we are aware that there may be others who live alone and have little contact with other people. We are happy to visit anyone who is referred to us

and would listen to and arrange the visits with them to suit in terms of time and frequency.

The various backgrounds of our members range from teaching, nursing, social work and pastoral work and all are committed to the respect and confidentiality of anyone they visit.

If you know of someone who you think may like a visit, please call **Judy Taylor 01494 881655** who will be happy to take details.

Finally, we are of course a group of Christian people but we would like to reassure that if we are invited into someone's home, we will be there to listen, maybe offer some practical help also, but we will not in any sense be 'preaching' to them!

CURIOSITY




Here's a picture of Marlow Road looking up towards the High Street. It's not dated, but judging by the lady's long skirt and parasol it could be from the Edwardian era. Let the editor know if you know anything about the postcard and please forward any interesting old pictures you may have of our parish and its people. Thanks to James Bowley for the use of this postcard.


CORNER


Ask the: Osteopath

with Ian Luxton 



Question  I've got painful swollen knuckles, have I got arthritis?

 Osteoarthritis (OA) presents with a steady or intermittent pain in the joint, possibly with some swelling and tenderness, and stiffness after sitting or in the evenings. Most commonly the hips, knees and small joints of the hands and feet (often the big toe) are affected. It is a degenerative condition characterised by loss of cartilage in the joint spaces. Older people tend to be more susceptible, but trauma or repetitive impact to the joint can also be a cause.

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Stadium Proposal

What next?

Report by Katy Dunn

Lane End residents showed their strength of feeling when more than 270 people came out on a chilly October evening for the Parish Council's Extraordinary Meeting about the stadium proposals. The development group has stated that Booker airfield is the site they want and all evidence points towards

Booker being the favoured—arguably the only—site under consideration by Wycombe District Council (WDC).

At the meeting, WDC's Head of Planning Jerry Unsworth gave a short presentation outlining the various options for the scale of the development:

Option A—staying at Adams Park

B—new stadium

C—new stadium plus supporting facilities (ie. hotel, bars, retail)

D—Sporting village (hotel, restaurants, retail, indoor cricket centre, badminton and squash courts, hockey pitches, athletics track etc.)

- Major housing development

Most significant for us as a village is the scale of 'enabling development' that would be required to 'pay' for each of these options (ie. WDC owns the land the airfield is on—it would sell off a proportion of the land for housing development and

use the money to pay for the stadium project). This could be anything from 500 to 2000 new houses for the Sporting Village option D. That's a housing development 25% bigger than the

A housing
development bigger
than the whole of
Lane End popping
up on our doorstep



whole village of Lane End popping up on our doorstep.

The knock-on effects for us as a village were brought up by members of the audience at the meeting in Lane End:

- Massive traffic congestion

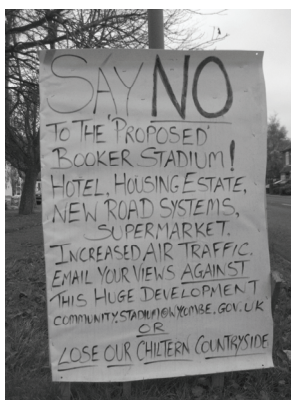
And not just on match-days—more than twice the number of houses

means more than twice the amount of traffic on roads that are already too busy.

New access roads onto the site would have to be built, possibly including a new link road from Handy Cross through Marlow Bottom. The busy B482 from Marlow to Stokenchurch through Lane End and Cadmore End would obviously bear the brunt of the increased traffic and Lane End High Street is always going to be a bottle-neck.

- Threat to our village identity

An urbanisation of the views from Lane End would be inevitable (see cover). In a 2002 Character Survey of Lane End, WDC itself stated that 'special care must be taken to ensure that the views into and out from the Conservation Area are not spoilt'.



Reviewing the 'Core Strategy' for planning to allow the airfield to be built up could pave the way for 'development creep' so that we essentially join up with Booker and Cressex and become another suburb. Who could blame the land-owners for cashing in if changes to the planning regulations meant they could sell off the land for a very healthy profit?

- Loss of countryside

There's also a bigger issue at stake here, and that's the loss of our countryside. The proposed 'enabling

development', mainly housing, would cover between 16 and 63 hectares. When you consider that one hectare is approximately the size of a rugby pitch—that's a lot of concrete over our local countryside.

- Stadium light and noise pollution

Part of the business plan of any new stadium is diversifying its use and rock concerts are a big money-spinner. Booker airfield is on an elevated plateau, the noise would be heard for miles around. Likewise, a 2008 Technical Assessment for WDC states that the stadium height would likely be around 13.5m high (think three double decker buses stacked one on top of another) but stadium and car park lighting would be more like 43m (11 buses high). Will it ever get dark again around here again?

- House prices

Yes it's NIMBY, but it's also a very real concern to those who are trying to sell their houses at the moment in the area potentially affected by the stadium development. There is already evidence that the threat of development is having an effect—there are first-person reports of an offer on a house being retracted because the potential buyers wanted to see what was happening with the stadium before committing to a purchase. Other people must have heard similar stories. →

- Loss of airfield businesses

Some people in the area are plagued by the noise of helicopters and powered aeroplanes and believe that a stadium is the better option. Think again. It's extremely unlikely that all air traffic will cease (only the quiet ones like the gliders—you'll have seen the gliding club's stickers [see below right] around the village).

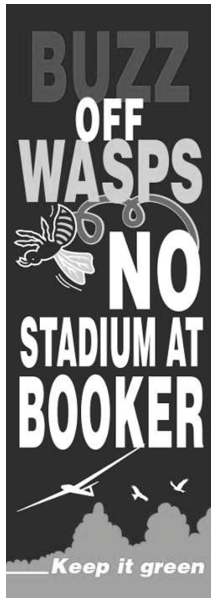
Nothing has been decided on the fate of the airfield businesses, but those 'in the know' say under discussion at the moment are a helicopter training base, an instrument training base and or reverting to being an uncensured aerodrome. All are agreed that light aircraft and helicopter traffic would increase considerably, some fixed wing would decrease due to the gliding going and tugs make up for about 16-26% of movements at Booker. However obviously, much of the noise is generated by helicopters.

- Heathrow jets

There has been speculation that the removal of airfield to make way for a stadium would mean that jet liners would start flying over Lane End on their way to Heathrow. It would be a good story and add weight to our case, but it's not true. It just so happens that we're not on the Heathrow flight path. White Waltham has

an airfield and it is on the flight path, the jetliners simply have to stay above 2500ft so as not to interfere with the smaller air traffic.

These are all issues that affect us as people living locally to the proposed stadium development, but there are issues here that the wider public should also be concerned about.



- Public consultation

In some people's view, the public consultation for the stadium proposals was at best flawed, at worst deliberately misleading.

Allegations include:

- ✎ Public money has been wasted on a sham. £750,000 has been earmarked by WDC for public consultation, of which a third has already been spent. The public consultation asked people to express a preference between three shortlisted sites when there was never the possibility of any site other than Booker being chosen. WDC was commissioning detailed technical assessments on the site as far back as 2008.

- ✎ The public consultation period should have run for 12 weeks, when in fact it ran for six.

- ✎ WDC deliberately avoided holding consultation meetings in the areas most affected by the stadium

proposals. It was only due to pressure from Lane End Parish Council and Booker residents that anyone came to address us.

➤ Officials at Wycombe Wanderers matches 'helped' people fill out consultation forms and forms were handed out to students at Bucks New University students to drive up 'yes' votes.

➤ Wasps supporters who live nowhere near Wycombe were canvassed by Lawrence Dallaglio to fill out 'yes' forms.

- Finances

WDC has said that the Council Tax payer will not foot the £88m bill (at a conservative estimate) for the stadium, but what about all the infrastructure that goes with it? The

new roads, bridges and footpaths have not been costed into WDC's financial plan.

Wycombe Wanderers and London Wasps currently run at a loss, they pull in around 5 to 6,000 spectators per match. A 20,000 seater stadium is being planned. Has the 'build it and they will come' strategy worked for other clubs? (Darlington Arena, anyone?) Are we looking at the conception of a White Elephant?

- The Community says No

WDC says that the new stadium will benefit the whole Community. It will certainly benefit the owner of London Wasps and Wycombe Wanderers to have a stadium built for him by WDC, but how much will the Community really benefit? →

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Has WDC run any feasibility studies to see whether any of the proposed facilities are actually required? Or whether Council funds could be better used to upgrade existing sports club which would suffer still more from the competition of shiny new facilities at the stadium.

The Community, as a Bucks Free Press poll recently showed, is overwhelmingly against the stadium project. Record-breaking numbers (4799) voted, and 87% of them voted against.

Many of Wycombe Wanderers' fans are even against the move,

concerned that rattling around in a 20,000-seater stadium will produce no atmosphere whatsoever.

Eighteen different groups including parish councils, residents associations, sports clubs and conservation groups have joined together to share information in a coalition: GASP (Groups Against the Stadium Proposals) and are working hard to stop the project getting off the ground.

History tells us that when Commerce, rather than the Community, is at the heart of a project like this, that project is doomed to fail.

What can I do?

- Fill out and return Jean Teesdale's votes to the collection boxes in the Post Office and LEYCC
- Participate in a village referendum in January
- Don't just complain amongst yourselves—complain to the people who are making the decisions. Write to Lesley Clarke:
- Stand up for your village in person. Join protest marches—the next is on 13 December 2010 at the next WDC council meeting.
- If you've got information or expertise (eg. Legal, technical, public relations, or perhaps you know a local celebrity who could put their name to the cause) which could help those fighting the stadium proposals at Booker, contact me on katyjdunn@btinternet.com and I'll put you in touch with the right people
- Find out the latest information on these websites and newsgroups:

Lesley Clarke
Leader of the Council
Wycombe District Council
Brooke Lodge
Ford Street
High Wycombe HP11 1YU

notobooker.com

notbackingbooker.com

nostadiumatbooker.org.uk

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GASP_News/

www.wycombe.gov.uk/council-services/planning-and-buildings/planning-news/wycombe-community-stadium-and-sports-project.aspx



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Property developments update

Report by Katy Dunn

The Old Sun site

Don't worry, The Old Sun is not turning into Tesco! The site was sold for redevelopment after the owners could find no buyer for the pub as a going concern. A small-scale local partnership with a reputation for sensitively redeveloping historic properties, Henley Renovations, has bought the site.

This will be the fifth local project for Henley Renovations—most recently it has restored and extended The Cottage in Frieth (opposite the village hall) which dates in parts to the 15th century.

With regards to The Old Sun: 'We have the deeds dating back to 1690 and a photo of from around 1900,' says Stuart Beavis, main contractor for Henley Renovations. 'Ideally we'd like to take the pub building back to how it was as a house and create a small terrace or a couple of brick and flint semi-detached houses in keeping with the character of the area. It's a wonderful position and we'd like to create an asset for the village.'

Essex House site

This is the site where SMR currently trades as you come into the village from Stokenchurch direction. Michael Shanly Developments owns

the land (but not the Culver Graphics site behind) and has applied for planning permission to convert Essex House into two flats and to redevelop and remove some of the workshops behind to create four houses.

Culver Graphics site

The entrance to the Culver Graphics site is next door to SMR and you may have seen lorries and activity around here recently. No news on the site itself, the traffic is for the water tower, which is being repaired and upgraded.

Elga site

It's never pleasant to see buildings boarded up in a village and the Elga site has stood empty since 2007. As a consequence, there was guarded enthusiasm around the village when Ashill Developments announced a public exhibition mid-November of their proposed redevelopment (see pic below). It wanted to get feedback from residents before it prepares the planning application for submission in the new year.

A lack of interest in the site from commercial buyers means that Wy-



combe District Council has conceded that a mix of residential and commercial use is more appropriate. It's now the ratios that are under negotiation. Ashill would like to see a higher proportion of residential development allowed as houses are more easily sold.

The suggested provision at the exhibition – though this is no guarantee of what will end up being there – is for six 1 or 2-bedroom flats, 34 three or four-bedroom houses and 10 single storey warehouse units. New vehicle access is suggested onto Simmons Way and a diversion of the existing footpath through the alley by the photographic studio to instead pass through the site.

Some villagers are lobbying for an

older person's care home as the commercial element of the site as this would not only be a facility for older people in the village, but would also potentially be a major employer for younger people. It is something Ashill has looked into, but the Council says that in planning terms a care home is classed as 'residential', does not constitute an 'employment use' and so could not count as the commercial element.

'Ashill is keen to make the most of this real opportunity to make efficient use of a site that has been neglected for a number of years with a sensitive development designed to reflect the character and style of the village,' says a spokesperson at Ashill.

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A tender tribute to your loved one's life

Lane End Youth and Community Centre

Report by Emily Davis

Christmas in The Village 2010

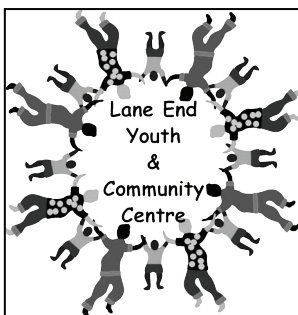
Roll up to the Lane End Youth and Community Centre for an afternoon of festive cheer on Saturday 4 December 2010 from 2pm. For the first time in history, LEYCC, Lane End Parish Council and Lane End Twinning Association have joined forces to host an exciting new event – Christmas in the Village 2010.

Meet Santa and his elves, enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a delicious mince pie, enter our Christmas raffle and 'guess the weight of the plum pudding competition (the pudding is yours if you win!) Browse our range of trade and table-top stalls for Christmas pressies, or join the Twinning Association at their stall for 'vin chaud' and tasty French nibbles. There's something for every budget. Entry is 50p on the door for adults, children go free. Doors close at 6pm.

Please call Emily at LEYCC on 01494 883878 or 07932 326046, mail leycc@hotmail.co.uk

A great venue for events

The Lane End Youth and Community Centre is light, bright and modern and offers facilities for sport, recreation, entertainment, education and information. It is provided for the benefit of all members of the community. If you are looking for a venue for a special occasion, event or meeting, please get in touch. We are competitively priced and offer discounts for local residents and businesses. For more information or to arrange a viewing of the centre please call Emily on 01494 883878 or 07932 326046.



*Lane End Youth & Community Centre,
Edmonds Road, Lane End, High
Wycombe, HP14 3EJ
Tel: 01494 883878 / 07932 326046
Email: leycc@hotmail.co.uk
Charity Number: 1101360*

LEYCC Vacancy

Lane End Youth & Community Centre was officially opened in March 2006. It is an integral part of the community and is entirely self-funded through private hire and regular fund-raising activities organised by volunteers on the Management Committee.

There is currently a vacancy for a key member of the voluntary committee, the important role of Secretary. We are looking for someone with administration skills, who is willing to attend an evening monthly meeting, take and distribute minutes and occasionally volunteer for some of the fund-raising events. If you are interested in exploring this post further and wish to become more involved with your local community please contact Emily at the LEYCC

on leycc@hotmail.co.uk 07932 326046 or 01494 883878.

The Drop-In at LEYCC

Every Thursday between 12-2pm, the LEYCC offers a lunch drop-in where tasty soup, filled rolls and delicious desserts are available to buy at really reasonable prices. We are looking for volunteers willing to help serve up on the day, so if you have some time to spare, would like to get more involved with your community and make some new friends, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Alternatively, if you are a dab hand at soup or dessert-making and would like to contribute in this way from time to time we'd love to hear from you, please give Emily a call on 01494 883878 or 07932 326046.

Computers at the LEYCC

Every Thursday from 11.30am – 2pm LEYCC offers a completely **FREE OF CHARGE** drop-in session. It's not a computer course, more of an informal learning club. We are sponsored by Wycombe High School who provide equipment and a facilitator to help you learn whatever you like, at your pace. For example if you're interested in tracing your ancestors, designing your own greetings cards, getting on the internet or even creating a digital photo album then all of that (plus much more) is available. Computers @ the Centre is all about starting with something simple and building confidence from there.

Contact Emily at the LEYCC on 07932 326046 leycc@hotmail.co.uk

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Lane End & District Horticultural Society

Report by Trevor Perrin

At our last show we came to the conclusion that no matter what weather precedes it, there are those who will always grow and show excellent produce. August's show reflected their skills, bravo to each of them. The arts and crafts along with the culinary sections displayed that same expertise, leaving us all well pleased.

With the rain in full force, our 119th show was opened by the Mayor of High Wycombe, Jane White, and upon her command, it promptly ceased, allowing the hall to become packed with viewers who quickly purchased the contents of the cake stall and later became vocal bidders in our auction and variety of raffles. No matter what your participation, we sincerely thank you all.

From all of us here in the Potting Shed, we raise a glass and wish you all a lovely Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.



Lane End Conservation Group

Report by Clive Lumbers

The Group's AGM held on 12 November was an enjoyable evening with an excellent attendance. The chairman highlighted the fact that the long-running parish Paths Partnership has come to an end due to the cutback in funding from Bucks County Council. This had been a major source of income for LECG for many years.

After the formal business, we were given a most informative presentation from John Shaw who is team leader for the Wycombe District Council Woodland Service. They manage the biodiversity at 19 sites in collaboration with the local community, that form an oasis of wildlife in both urban locations and rural situations.



Do keep in touch via the website, it is constantly updated. Input from members is very welcome, please contact Pauline MacTavish on 881948 or email ajmactavish@tiscali.com



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Moorend Common

Report by Katy Dunn

We've won an award!

Moorend Common has been named Overall Winner in the Wildlife and Landscape category of the Chiltern Conservation Board annual awards. It is in recognition of the work that has been done to restore the rare acid grassland areas of the Common and rescue this important biodiversity habitat from disappearing under secondary woodland.

The management plan and the Wildlife Enhancement Partnership agreement with Natural England (NE) is held up as an exemplar of best practice in the region and is

seen as a blueprint for other Commons to follow.

The contract with NE still has a couple of years to run and the next phase of secondary woodland clearance is on North Meadow. This work will open up the acid grassland area once more and reduce the size of the copse which has self-seeded and extended and effectively divided the meadow in two.

It's always sad to see trees come down, but opening up the meadow will create a more valuable habitat. Important trees have been tagged and will stay and the extra light and space will allow them to develop more fully into veteran species. You only have to look at Middle Meadow to see how quickly these areas recover and regenerate.



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At the recent AGM of the M40 traffic noise group, local MP Steve Baker pledged his support to the goal of reducing traffic noise on the M40.

Mapping by DEFRA shows that 3% of noise hotspots on England's non urban motorway network are located on the stretch between Jn 3 and Jn 8 of the M40 – a mere 1% of the motorway network.

Mike Wilson, regional director of the Highways Agency also supports the work of the group and hinted that the M40 should be treated as a priority as part of DEFRA's Noise Action Plan to address the need for noise mitigation measures.

Holy Trinity Website

Report by Katy Dunn



Lane End's Holy Trinity Church has a wonderful new website:

holytrinitylaneend.org.uk

The website is bright and clear and very easy to navigate, taking you straight to the information you need. Find out about weddings, baptisms, service times and church events at Holy Trinity or explore the history and architecture of the church itself.

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with Paul Rubens 

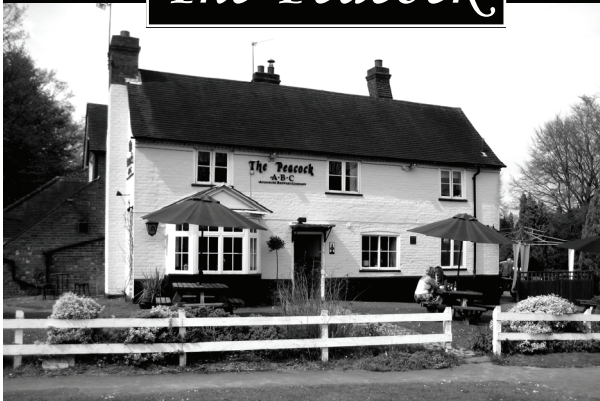


Question  I heard on the radio recently that criminals may be able to read my email or access my bank details by parking near my house and hijacking my internet connection from their car. Is this true?

 If you use a wireless Internet connection in your house and have not switched on wireless encryption, then anyone parking nearby could connect their laptop to your home's Internet service. Although your banking activities would probably still be safe it is quite possible that they could then read your email and some of the contents of your computer.

To prevent this happening make sure your wireless Internet connection is set up to use what's known as "WPA" encryption (and not the older "WEP" encryption, which is not secure.) Please feel free to contact me if you are unsure whether your wireless connection is using WPA encryption or if you need help switching WPA encryption on. (Paul: 881635)

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What's On?

Mondays

Tuesdays

Wednesdays

Thursdays

Fridays

Saturdays

Sundays

Simply Walk—10am Meet Lane End Playing Field's car park. Walk and chat for 1-2 hours
LEOPAG (50+)—10.30-12.30am coffee pop-in Lane End Youth and Community Centre (LEYCC), Edmonds Road, Lane End. Tel: 883878

Speech & Language guidance drop in, 9.30-11am first Monday of the month, Lane End Primary School. Tel Sure Start 447110

Dinky Dancers—10.30-11.15, Lane End Primary School Tel Sure Start 447110

Gentle Exercise for over 60s—2-3pm LEYCC

Baby Welfare Clinic—2-4pm Lane End Village Hall

Lane End Parish Council Meeting—First Monday of the month, 7.30 in Lane End Village Hall

Lane End Evening WI—Last Monday of the month at 8pm in the Sycamore Room, Village Hall

Mustang Country Linedancers—7.30-9.30pm LEYCC

Bridge Club—7.30pm Lane End Village Hall

Bumps, Babies and Toddlers—10-11.45am, Holy Trinity Church, Lane End. Contact Helen Vincent 883647 or email:vincenthelenf@btinternet.com

Parent & Toddler Group—9.30-11 Lane End Primary School. Tel Sure Start 447110

Lane End Day Centre—Every Tues, Thurs and Fri 10-3 in the Elim Centre, Edmonds Road, Lane End. £7.50 per day including lunch and transport. Contact Carol Hunt 883350

Youth Club—for 13-19 years, 7-9pm LEYCC

Bingo—7.30pm Lane End Village Hall

Music & Movement—9.30-11 Lane End Primary School. Tel Sure Start 447110

Bridge Club—2.30pm Lane End Village Hall

Junior Youth Club—for 8-12 years, 6-8pm LEYCC

School of Traditional Medieval Fencing—7.30pm Lane End Village Hall

Simply Walk—10am Lane End Playing Field's car park. Walk and chat for 1-2 hours

Coffee Stop—Village Hall 10-12noon. Coffee and chat. All welcome, run by Methodist Church

Physical Fun—9.30-10.30 Lane End Primary School. Tel Sure Start 447110

WHS Computers@The Centre—11.30-2pm LEYCC

The Drop-In (Social lunch) - 12-2pm LEYCC

Four Ends Flower Club—Fourth Thursday of the month 2pm in Lane End Village Hall. Visitors £4.50. Contact 01494 883096

Circle Dancing—First Thursday of the month at 2pm in Lane End Village Hall. Contact Mary Williams 01235 520608 marywilliamsox14@yahoo.co.uk

Lane End Day Centre (see Tues entry for details)

LEOPAG—First Thursday of the month 2-4pm LEYCC

Methodist Church Wives group—2nd Thursday of the month 2-4pm LEYCC

Citizens Advice Bureau—12-3pm, Lane End Primary School. Tel 07717 652302

Baby Sign & Rhyme —9.30-10.30, Lane End Primary School, Tel Sure Start 447110

FSFH Circuit Training—9-10am LEYCC

Lane End Day Centre (see Tues entry for details)

Coffee Shop—every other weekend, 10-12noon Village Hall, check calendar overleaf for details

Lane End Conservation Group Action Day—10am First Saturday of the month (4 Sept, 2 Oct, 6 Nov, 4 Dec) meet Car Park by the surgery

Parish Communion—9.30 Holy Trinity Church Lane End (crèche first Sunday of the month)

Elim service—10.30 am at Elim Christian Centre, Edmonds Road, Lane End

Sung Eucharist/Family Service—11am St Mary's Church Cadmore End

Morning Service (Methodist)—11.15am Holy Trinity Church Lane End

Evensong—6pm Holy Trinity Church Lane End

To include your club or group meeting (free) email: katyjdunn@btinternet.com
Please also be sure to inform me of any changes

Your calendar of
one-off events in
December to
February



What's On?

December

January

February

Sat 4	Christmas in the Village , 2-6pm, produce stalls, mulled wine, mince pies and Santa at the LEYCC Tel 07932 326046
Sat 4	Lane End Conservation Group Action Day , meet in Lane End car park (by Doctors surgery) at 10am. Tel 882090
Tues 7	Hambleden Valley Garden Club AGM , 7.30pm Skirmett Village Hall. AGM followed by talk on hollies and mulled wine/mince pies. Tel 01491 638690 (Evening) WI Senior Citizens party , afternoon
Sat 11	Hambleden Valley Gardening Club , floral Christmas decorations workshop at Skirmett Village Hall. Tel 01491 638690 Royal British Legion Christmas Dinner Dance , 7.30pm Lane End Village Hall, Tickets from Tom Nixey on Tel 881436

Tues 4	Hambleden Valley Gardening Club , 7.30 Skirmett Villgae Hall talk from Mr Hilary Newman about pests and diseases. Tel 01491 638690
Fri 14, Sat 15, Fri 21, Sat 22, Fri 28, Sat 29	Lane End Players Pantomime, Robinson Crusoe , performances take place on Fridays at 8pm and on Saturdays at 2.30pm and 7pm. Tel 07706 426320
Sat 15	Holy Trinity Coffee Shop , 10-11.30am Lane End Village Hall. Open to all, just turn up for a cup of tea, coffee and snacks

Sat 5	Lane End Twinning Association Coffee Shop , 10-11.30am Lane End Village Hall. Open to all, just turn up for tea coffee and snacks Lane End Conservation Group Action Day , meet in Lane End car park (by Doctors surgery) at 10am. Tel 882090
Sat 6	Twinning Association Coffee Shop . 10-12noon Lane End Village Hall
Sat 12	Charity Group Jumble Sale , 2pm Lane End Village Hall
Sat 19	Holy Trinity Coffee Shop , 10-11.30 Lane End Village Hall
Fri 25	Holy Trinity Whist Evening , 7.30pm Lane End Village Hall Tel 881623

The next Clarion will be coming out at the beginning of March—please send your calendar dates for March, April and May by 1 February to:
katyjdunn@btinternet.com

Safety and Security

with PC 2272 Danny O'Driscoll

Crime Information

Compared to the same three-month period last year, burglaries are down (11 to 6), robberies—where there is violence or threat of violence—are up (0.3 to 0.7) vehicle crime has (5.7 to 10), violent crime is up (9 to 12) and anti-social behaviour is down (35 to 29).

Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is down because of extra patrols in key places such as Millennium Park in Lane End. The police also engaged with young people over the summer, both in a positive way at events and by dealing with those who misbehaved, eg by climbing on Lane End Primary School roof. Social networking site arranged events are becoming more frequent and the team are currently looking to target event organisers and prosecute.

Offenders brought to justice

Lane End man fined for using a vehicle without a valid MOT.

Lane End youth cautioned for numerous thefts from motor vehicles in the village.

Lane End youth cautioned for assault.

Lane End woman driving without a licence or insurance.

Lane End man charged with Perverting the Course of Justice.

Parking and Speeding

These issues remain a priority and WDC officers have been paying attention to Lane End High Street with the effect that persistent parking problems have reduced. Please report any abandoned vehicles or those causing obstruction. The speeding team has been targeting Finings Road and by the number of tickets that were issued, there is clearly a problem at this location. Speed enforcement will continue.

Fly Tipping

We have been informed of numerous incidents of Fly Tipping and have been working together with the council to find out who is responsible and take action. A Lane End man has recently been reported. Please inform us of any incidents so that we can stamp it out.

The team would love to hear from the public regarding any positive or negative feedback that you may have. Tel. 0845 8505 505. For more info visit: thamesvalley.police.uk/journh-tvp-pol-area-N231

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Summer sees the launch of our 'Friday night is Ladies night!' with 'Buy one Get one free' cocktails from 7pm. This offer runs until late August!

Some weekly diary events may subject to change - please call to check before visiting!

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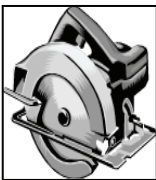
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Rainy harvest means wet grain

In the last issue of **Clarion** the summer drought was mentioned, with an average rainfall of less than 30mm in each of the growing months of April, May, June and July. At that stage we had not realised that in the harvesting month of August, when ideally the weather is hot and sunny while farmers are harvesting and other folk are away on holiday, we had 124 mm of rainfall.

This is more rain than the preceding four growing months put together. So that made harvesting difficult, with many of the days so wet that the combine harvester could not be used, since it would have become clogged by wet straw wrapping around the thrashing mechanism.

But the aim in a wet and difficult harvest is to get the grain harvested and put away in the grain store whether or not it is sufficiently dry to

store. Once the grain is under a roof it must then be dried down to a moisture content of less than 15 per cent in order for it to store safely and to be saleable.

At Kensham Farm we use ventilated floor driers, in which there is a cavity below the floor, covered with alternate hardwood and perforated metal strips. The perforations are of a size that allows airflow with-

out being so large as to allow the grain to fall through. The grain trailers are driven over these floors before tipping and the grain is piled up to a height of 8-10ft. The drying fans in the air tunnels connected to the floors of the grain store cavities are about 3ft in diameter, each powered by a 25 horse power motor, with a second fan boosting the air flow of the first fan so that the dry air will be forced upwards through the grain.



This type of grain drier works on the same principle as drying laundry on the washing line on a bright windy day - it is the flow of dry air that does the drying. On the brightest days there is no need for any additional heat, although on the duller damp days a Calor gas heater provides enough heat to dry the air, without significantly heating it. But it is a slow process which can take several weeks to bring very wet grain of 20% or 25% moisture content down to the level of 14 or 15 per cent at which it will be saleable and safe to store.

At Myze Farm, on the A40 road between West Wycombe and Piddington, there is a “continuous flow” drier. That is a different process, dependant on an oil fired furnace with a fan which forces hot air through a sloping tray of moving grain. This is more like a cooker than a washing line, but it is the best method if the grain comes in from the harvest field with excessively high moisture content.

In financial terms the low yields and wet difficult conditions of the 2010 Harvest have not been a disaster, since the harvest in Russia was so disappointing that exports from Russia to other countries have been stopped for a two year period. This has led to fear of shortage on the world grain market, and the

marketing principles of supply and demand has caused the value of grain to increase. The value of the milling wheat in a standard loaf of bread has increased from about 9p in Spring May 2010 to 14p this Autumn, meaning that a loaf of bread at the Supermarket should not have increased in price by more than 5 pence.

Fortunately the breadmaking quality of the wheat from the English



2010 harvest has been better than in the rest of Europe. In the first week in November 1,000 tonnes of milling wheat was collected from Kensham and Myze Farms, 35 lorry loads of 29 tonnes each, for export from Portbury Dock

near Bristol to go for breadmaking in Morocco, but some of the remaining 4,000 tonnes from the August 2010 harvest may not be collected from the farm until May or June 2011.

Bryan and Alison Edgley moved to the 102-acre Kensham Farm in 1955. Since then the land farmed has grown to around 2,300 acres on which Bryan still manages the diversified enterprises of craft and light industrial workshops, let cottages and flats. There are also DIY livery, private riding trails and manege facilities for horse owners. Their son, Charlie Edgley manages the farming side of the Partnership in which the main crop is wheat.
www.kenshamfarms-horseriding.co.uk/

Bus times

NB changes to service

2A Lane End—High Wycombe (via Cressex)

Monday to Friday only

Lane End (The Row) 7.51, 8.57,
9.33, 10.33, 11.33, 12.33, 13.33,
14.33, 15.33, 16.33, 17.44, 18.10.

Takes approx 25 mins to reach Eden
Centre bus station. (For Cadmore End,
catch the bus outside the school and
minus 5 mins off the times listed)

2C Lane End—High Wycombe (via Stokenchurch)

Monday to Friday only

Lane End (The Row) 7.31, 8.45
9.50 10.52, 11.52, 12.52, 13.52,
14.52, 16.24

Takes approx 30 mins to reach Eden
bus station (For Cadmore End, add 5
mins onto the times listed)

340/32 Lane End—High Wycombe (via Sands)

Monday to Friday only

Lane End (Village Hall) 7.30, 9.19,
9.50 then at 50 til 13.50, then 16.43,
17.48, (No. 32 Simmons Way only)
19.10, 20.04, 21.04, 22.04, 23.04

(At Cadmore End 6 mins earlier, Sim-
mons way 3 mins later. Takes approx
20 mins to Eden bus station)

Saturdays

Lane End (Simmons Way only) 7.52,
8.52, (Village Hall, then Simmons
Way), 9.50 then at 50 past til 16.50
(No. 32 Simmons Way only) 19.04,
then at 24 past til last bus 23.04

Sundays

(No.32 Simmons Way) 10.06, then at
06 past til (last bus) 20.06

2C High Wycombe—Lane End (via Cressex)

Monday to Friday only

Eden bus station 7.10, 9.30, 10.30,
11.30, 12.30, 13.30, 14.30

Takes about 20mins

2A High Wycombe—Lane End (via Stokenchurch)

Monday to Friday only

High Wycombe (bus station) 9.00,
10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00,
15.00, 16.00, 17.10, 17.35

Takes about half an hour—45 mins in
rush hour

340/32 High Wycombe—Lane End (via Sands)

Monday to Friday only

Eden bus station 10.15, then at 15
past til 15.15, 16.05, 17.10, 18.15
(no. 32) 18.42, 19.40, 20.40, 21.40,
last bus 22.40

Takes approx 20 mins, 25 mins to
Cadmore End

Saturdays

Eden bus station 9.15, 10.15, then at
15 past the hour til 17.15, (no.32) 18.40,
19.40, 20.40, 21.40, last bus 22.40

Sundays

(no.32) 9.40, 10.40, then at 40 past til last
bus 19.40



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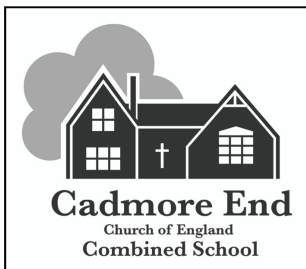
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Schools



With Christmas just round the corner, it's a busy term for all at Cadmore End School. The children are all busy preparing for Christmas performances and the Church Carol Service.

Back in September we had an Ofsted inspection. The report was very positive and shows that the school has moved on considerably since the last inspection in March 2008. We were judged to have no weaknesses and to be "Good" in 16 areas, with our children's behaviour judged to be simply "outstanding". We are a small school with less than 100 pupils and our caring, supportive ethos has enabled our children to reach and exceed the expected levels at the end of their schooling with us.

As a church school we also had an exciting visit from the diocesan inspectors, their report found that

our pupils enjoy coming to school and they and their parents value the happy, caring, supportive atmosphere where children are encouraged to work hard and have fun. The commitment to develop each individual's talents is seen in the many extra-curricular activities on offer. The pupils' excellent behavior is supported by a strong programme of social, moral, spiritual and cultural development across the whole curriculum.

Cadmore End school PTA would also like to thank everyone who came and supported our fire-works extravaganza. We would also like to thank these local businesses for their great help and support: Aspect Carpentry, Mr Signs, JHC Electrical Services and SMR Vehicle Care. Also special thanks as always, to all at Lacey's farm.

Our Christmas Fayre is to be held on Saturday 27 November , doors are open 12-3pm.

We would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and best wishes for the new year.

Please contact the school office if you have any queries about Cadmore End Church Of England School on (01494) 881460.
Emma Spencer, School Governor

Lane End Primary School

This year is our 40th birthday

and we have been delving into the archives to see what life was like in the school all those years ago. The old school logs are a mine of information and it is amazing to see just how much things have changed.

Noteworthy events ranged from visits from the Hygiene Officer who was looking for foot infections to the delivery of oil. The head teacher seemed to make endless trips to the hospital with a whole range of injuries and calculate the attendance percentage for the week. It was very different.

We have asked anyone with recollections of the school to send them in to make a wall of memories. The children have done some celebratory art, each class will plant 40 bulbs and we are to also plant 40 trees. We will be doing a number of '40's' during the year.

The school has completed its first half term of extended school clubs. Our after-school club is proving very successful and we are contemplating taking on extra staffing so we can take on more children. The breakfast club is a real hit with working parents and it is a lovely start to the day for the children who attend.

Our nursery now also has a waiting list. The quality of the care and provision now stands as one of the best in the area. All our consultants and experts are now singing our praises. It is well worth a visit. We have terrific plans for the outdoor area and hopefully by the time you read this the project will be completed, contractors and weather permitting.

There is lots more to tell, we have a new maths scheme which is working very well. The children are dealing confidently with all the new concepts and look forward to doing the subject – even division!!

We have been able to have a 'Give Racism the Red Card' day. The football legend – Luther Blissett came to the school and worked with a group of children. They had a great day and it was a good way to reinforce school values.

We have a fantastic learning support department. The rooms are set up to support a range of programmes which address pupil needs. The staff are fantastic and the results are outstanding.

There is so much going on that we are going to have an open day after the Christmas break. So watch out for the details and come in and visit, you will be blown away by the quality of work on display, the beautiful art and the learning ethos that permeates the building.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Denise Starr, Headteacher



Lane End Village Pre-School



LEVP has had an overhaul! Karen, Julie and Steph (Leader, Deputy and Chair of the Committee) have been working really hard this term to tighten up procedures and make LEVP an extremely safe, structured and fun learning environment for the children.

The kids, of course, are blithely unaware of all the behind-the-scenes work for their benefit and have been busily drawing and cutting and sticking and crafting at the art table; running and jumping and climbing and riding in the garden; learning num-

bers and letters and understanding language in small focus groups with a staff member; baking and icing and sprinkling and eating!; dressing-up and stretching their imaginations in role-play games; listening to stories and asking questions and satisfying their endless curiosity. How great to be a pre-schooler!

Themes this term have included: weather, the seasons, light and dark, Road Safety Week, Hanukkah and Christmas. We're hugely looking forward to the nativity play on 8 December and we parents are washing our tea-towels and dusting off the angel wings in readiness!

LEVP welcomes children from 2yrs, please contact Karen:
07703 926196 or email:
info@laneendvillagepreschool.co.uk

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Gardening

with Dave Dunbar 



Send me some of your top tips via katyjdunn@btinternet.com. Here are mine for the winter:

Seasonal Top Tips:

Make sure any exotics are wrapped up with fleece to prevent frost damage. You can get this at most garden centres. Plants in open areas exposed to wind will suffer more than those planted near buildings or close to other plants.

If there are still leaves on the lawn collect them up or they will rot and leave unsightly patches where weeds and moss will grow. Put the leaves in a compost bin and in a years time it can be recycled back into the borders to add soil structure and nutrients.

Our wet winters seem to be encouraging moss on lawns much more than I remember in the past. Keep it in check or it will take over, especially in shady areas. Products such as sprays, granules or lawn sand which will achieve results. Check on the label for application times, some may have to wait until spring.

Finally if we get any mild weather and the grass starts growing during the winter, give it a light trim (but not

too short) or that first cut in spring could be heavy going!

Favourites:

Don't tuck great winter flowering plants away in the shrubbery. Put plants like the Witch Hazel or Iris reticulata in full view near the back



window, or in the front garden where you pass everyday. Witch Hazel has

spidery yellow flowers around the end of Jan. This purple iris flowers at the same time and if the bulbs



were planted underneath the Witch Hazel—what a winter show!

Dave's Mystery Plant:

I am a delicate, rare deciduous shrub flowering in winter, slow growing to max 6ft. My petite bell-like flowers are yellow and sweet smelling. I may be mistaken for Corylopsis, but I'm afraid that's just not me.

Chimonanthus praecox. (Winter Sweet)



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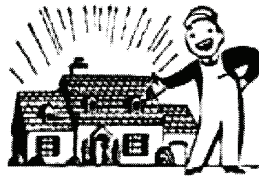
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Ask the: plumber


with Bill Blake 





Question  I'm the one asking questions this time in the hope that it will help you survive the winter without plumbing disasters.

 Where is the main stopcock for your house and does it work? If you're not sure then please have a good look around and find it.

 If you have outside taps, do they have isolation valves? (An isolation valve is a means of turning off the water just to that tap from inside the house.) If they do, then turn off the isolator and turn on the tap to drain off the water to prevent splitting.

 Are you going away this winter? If your house is going to be left unoccupied then turn off the water at the main stopcock. You may also want to drain the loft tank (if you have one) by opening the cold tap on the bath when the mains water is off.

 If you have a condensing boiler (and you'll know if you have) make sure the condensing pipe is protected from frost if it goes outside the house.

 How many of your water pipes are in unheated areas? Make sure these pipes are well insulated.

Do look after yourselves this winter. Most importantly, stay dry!

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Volunteer!

Lane End Youth & Community Centre

LEYCC is a registered charity, entirely self-funded through private hire and fund-raising by volunteers. If you want to get more involved with your local community then why not volunteer to join our enthusiastic and energetic Management Committee? There are several vacancies available, please call 01494 883878 or 07932 326046 for more details.

The Drop-In at LEYCC

Every Thursday between 12-2pm we offer a lunch drop-in where fresh home made soup, filled rolls and desserts are available to buy at very reasonable prices. However the Drop-In is now looking for volunteers who are willing to help with making soup and/or serving on the day. If you would like to do something for the community and make some new friends, we would love to hear from you. Please call 01494 883878 or 07932 326046 for more details.

Conservation Work

This could include anything from litter picking to laying a footpath. You get hot and sweaty and often muddy, but it's such fun and you learn new skills. It's very sociable and extremely satisfying to see what a difference you've made. The Lane End Conservation

Group meets monthly on the first Saturday of the month. Contact Robert Briggs on 882090 / rbbrigg@aol.com

Lane End Day Centre

The Lane End Day Centre always needs general helpers, drivers and cooks for one day a week or more. Come and make new friends and do something for the community. (Tues, Thurs and Fri at the Elim Centre.) Call Carol Hunt on 883350.



Volunteer of the month:

Katy Donaghue is Acting Chair of the LEYCC Association and has worked tirelessly for the committee for more than five years. Katy is also a Clarion distributor and releases hedgehogs back into the wild for St Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital. People and hedgehogs of the parish say: thanks Katy!

Milk Men

with Will Lacey 



Who's in charge here?

When it comes to writing this article I'm never sure what you will find interesting, so I've come up with an idea! I'd like to base future articles on the things that you would like to know about. It could be the cows, the farm, milking, whatever you decide. Drop a note with your suggestions in at the farm shop, or through our facebook page [facebook.com/laceysfamilyfarm](https://www.facebook.com/laceysfamilyfarm) and hopefully I'll be able to answer your questions. But today I'm going to tell you about milking—it's a major job on our farm and takes up a large amount of time.

We milk twice daily, EVERY day of the year, starting at 5.30am in the morning and 4pm in the afternoons. Luckily for me I'm just the relief milker, meaning I milk every other weekend and holidays, but Uncle Gideon is the one that has to brave the winter mornings whilst everyone else is still tucked up in bed.

Milking cows is a job that has been done for hundreds of years, but in the last few years in particular things have really changed, and this is as apparent on our farm as any.

In 2005 we moved in to our new milking parlour. It was carefully designed and built for our farm and our cows and meant that we could go from 8 in the parlour at one time to 20. Not only did this speed up milking but also improved cow handling, so the cows prefer it as well.

We milk every day of the year, but each cow is not in milk for every day. Ideally, each cow will have a calf once a year, the calf will be either a Guernsey (hopefully a heifer) that can be reared to join the herd in two years, or the calves will be crossed with a beef breed such as Aberdeen Angus or Limousin and these will be reared for meat.

Before a cow calves (gives birth) she is dried off, this is effectively a two month holiday when she can focus her energies on growing a strong calf rather than producing milk. Shortly before calving we'll bring her back to the farm to keep a close eye on her and adjust her diet so she has everything she needs for an easy calving. Once she calves she'll start producing milk again and when we are happy that mum and

baby are fit and well she can rejoin the herd. The milk a cow first produces after calving is called colostrum, this contains antibodies to protect the newborn against disease, as well as being higher in fat and protein than ordinary milk and it is very important that the new calf gets this milk.

When mum rejoins the herd she will get back in to her daily routine of milk production. Cows are creatures of habit; we try and keep their days to a pattern, so the cows know what's going on and they can be relaxed and at ease. Milking in the morning starts early, so the cows are milked at fairly consistent intervals, every 12 hours throughout their lactation (period of milk production). When a cow walks in to the parlour she is fed though an

automated feed system, and her teats are wiped clean, cleansed and then wiped again.

The milking units are like little 'suckers', these are put on to each teat and draw the milk from the cow in the same way as milking by hand would. The milking machine is a clever piece of kit and knows when the cow has given all the milk she can. When the whole line of cows is milked we do a final check, before dipping each teat again for hygiene purposes and the cows are let back out to graze.

If for some reason we are late getting the cows in (even by only a few minutes) then they will be stood at the gate as if to say: 'Where are you, it's time for milking!' So I think it's fairly clear who's in charge!

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We welcome news or diary dates from community organisations and letters from individuals. The next copy deadline is 1 Feb and the next issue will be out at the beginning of March.

Send copy to katyjdunn@btinternet.com

Or call Katy on 01494 883883 for more info

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