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From the Editor

What a year! I expect we're going to be hearing this a lot in the coming month as we reflect on the maelstrom that was 2020.

It started stormy. I don't know if you remember, but there was always a Brendan, Ciara or Dennis whirling through our weekends at the beginning of the year.

We then progressed through vague acknowledgement of a faraway virus in China, through inability to comprehend that it could be a threat to us, to fear and confusion when our hospital admissions started to rise.

Many of us have suffered personal difficulties, tragedies even, over the past year. But as a collection of villages, I think we've weathered the storms rather well.

We've followed the rules, taking pleasure in nature and zoom calls and quizzes. We stepped up as a community in the first lockdown, showing kindness and consideration to those who needed it. Our local shops and businesses have demonstrated their resilience and willingness to adapt to the needs of their customers in a crisis. I, for one, am proud of to be part of our community of villages—the five 'Ends'.

Katy Dunn, editor. katyjdunn@btinternet.com

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Your Parish Council



laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Clerk Hayley Glasgow Tel: 01494 437111

clerk@laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

PO Box 1616 High Wycombe Bucks HP12 9FS



Chairman: Cllr Michael Detsiny

Vice Chairman:

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Cllr Mandy Dunning

Cllr Colin Harries

Cllr William Hunt

Cllr Tim Nolan

Cllr Jane Osborn

Cllr Mandy Sarney

Cllr Callum Stewart

Cllr Keith Wright

Up-coming Meetings for 2021

Due to Covid, parish council meetings are taking place via Zoom until further notice. Please contact parish clerk Hayley Glasgow on clerk@laneendparishcouncil.org.uk if you'd like to attend.

No meeting in January Monday 1 February Monday 1 March Monday 12 April

Covid

It has been a difficult year and one that no one envisaged when we rang in the new year of 2020. The Parish Council has been working with several groups during the pandemic. These small community groups proved to be a lifeline for some who were shielding and could not get to the shops and also for many who have struggled during this time.

As we are looking towards the end of 2020 and starting a new chapter in 2021, the Parish Council would like to sincerely thank the many volunteers who have helped people during this difficult time. We really do appreciate everything you have done to help your community.

Facebook

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with relevant information about

what's going on in the Parish.

https://www.facebook.com/ LaneEndParishCouncil/

Website

We have recently launched our new look website which is much more user friendly. Visit –

www.laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

Allotments

We have 3 allotment sites: Chalky Field, Marlow Road. Bunkers, Church Road. Sandyfield, Marlow Road.

We have a waiting list for allotments. If you are interested in taking on an allotment plot please contact the Parish Clerk.

Prices of plots range from £21 - £40 per year, depending on size.

Planning Applications

The Planning Applications relevant to the Lane End Parish Council are updated on the Parish Councils website

www.laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

Whilst the Parish Council does not have the power to determine applications its local knowledge is sought on each and every application.

Street lights

To report a faulty street light please note the column number, the road where the street light is situated and the nearest property and report to the Clerk - Hayley Glasgow 01494 437111 /

clerk@laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

FixMyStreet.com

If you want to report anything to the council such as things which are broken, dirty, damaged or dumped, go to <u>FixMyStreet.com</u>. You can also report things that need fixing, cleaning or clearing, like graffiti, dog fouling, potholes or street lights that don't work.

All you have to do is type in a post-code and describe your problem.

Talk to the parish council

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Lane End Players

Report by Georgie Brooks and Ceri Nicholson

Like many groups, the members of Lane End Players have been trying to keep in contact by having various Zoom activities, such as quizzes and play readings.

Our summer shows are always popular and sold out, so we have produced a virtual 'Summer Show' which you can see on our website www.laneendplayers.com. We recorded our own contributions on video in our own homes which were then sent to some of our more technically-minded members who combined them altogether with a great deal of wizardry!



We have received many compliments about it, and hope you will enjoy it too! As it seems it will be many months before we can perform even the smallest production to a limited number of people, and the hopes for a panto are long gone, we are currently preparing

a 'Christmas Show' in the same way and we hope it will lift the spirits a little as winter starts.

We hope all our faithful audience members and everyone in Lane End are keeping well, and will manage to have a good Christmas!

Georgie Brooks

Nativity Play on the Church Green
4pm Sun 20 December

During these uncertain times it is difficult to plan ahead for village events and many of the usual Lane End seasonal activities have already been cancelled.

But hope springs eternal and the Lane End Players, in conjunction with Holy Trinity Church and supported by the Parish Council, are very much hoping to stage an open-air Nativity Play at 4pm on the afternoon of Sunday 20 December on the land surrounding the Church.

The short Nativity play, lasting approximately half an hour will incorporate elements of the Christingle service usually held in the Church on Christmas Eve. It will be a free performance and all proceeds from the sales of Christingles will go to the Children's Society.

The whole event will be socially distanced and Covid Risk-assessed according to local Government guidelines.

The date and time of the event may change according to prevailing weather conditions! There are too many ifs and buts at this point to go into further detail but closer to the time more information will be posted on www.laneendplayers.com and the Lane End What's Happening and When Facebook Page.

Ceri Nicholson

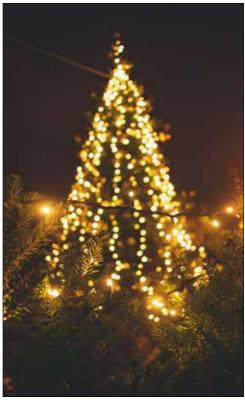


Photo by Anna Hunko on Unsplash

Lane End

Conservation Group

Report by Pauline Cavell-Northam

We are very sorry that, because of the Coronavirus, we are unable to hold our Annual General Meeting this year. We hope to be able to hold it in November 2021. All those who are members of the Group will have received emails keeping them in touch.

Our group has been active throughout the year and most especially on the Action Days, meeting on the first Saturday of the month at 10am, usually in the main doctors' car park.

Footpaths have been cleared, litter picked up and the lovely Harris Garden maintained and looking beautiful throughout the year.

Some of us joined a group cutting and clearing the grass on Ditchfield Common which had been carefully roped off to protect the Bee Orchids which flowered there this year.

Some also joined the group of those who live around the Village Green to beautify the area, even putting plants on the side of the bus stop.

One of the winter projects will be to



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update footpath way-marking arrows, as well as keeping the drainage ditches by the footpaths, especially on Wheeler End Common, open.

We now have two new benches to replace those at Four Fields and at Hatches Pond (Cadmore End Common) and hope to install these in the next few months.

The trees we planted beside the motorway are in pretty good order. We have lost a few, but not too many and rest are growing well.

It has been good to welcome new people who have joined our Action Days and we look forward to next year, hoping that the Coronavirus will be less of a threat and that things can gradually get back to normal.

Lane End Conservation Group

ACTION DAYS

In normal times, we meet 10am in the 'doctors' car park on the first Saturday of the month

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Lane End Evening WI

Report by Ann Carter

What a strange anti-social year this has been and I am sure very lonely for many people as a result. We are very sorry that our annual

Christmas tea party will not be taking place this year. It is always a good occasion to meet up with old friends, many that we probably haven't seen

since last year and there is always plenty of news to catch up with. Let's all hope that 2021 is a happier time.

We are sad to have lost two of our

stalwart members this year - Janet Meakes, who was a founder member, and Alison Edgley – a stalwart committee member. We shall miss them both greatly and are thankful for their friendship and support through the years.

It would be nice to think that WI

meetings could take place as usual next year but, like all the other village organisations, we must wait and see when this will happen.

INSPIRING WOMEN We hope everyone is keeping safe and well and that

the Festive Season is perhaps a chance for celebration, however small. Our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

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✓ Village Green refresh

Report by Katy Dunn

One Sunday in mid-September, a group of residents who live around the village green on Finings Road got together to smarten up the area.

Children, teens and adults brought spades, buckets and brushes along. They scrubbed the bus shelter and post box, rubbed down, oiled and painted the bench and edged the footpath. Plant boxes were attached to the bus shelter and the parish council has arranged for all the bus shelters in the village to be painted a more sympathetic colour next year.

Wooden posts were purchased to replace the white metal posts along the boundary of the village green along with a planter installed behind the turning area.

The metal posts proved to be very deeply embedded in the ground and despite much hard-digging, team problem-solving and ingenious use of a car jack, by mid-afternoon only four or five posts had been laboriously replaced.

Fortunately, rescue came in the form of Ed Lacey, who kindly came along the next day with a tractor and chain to remove the metal posts in less than an hour.

Thanks to Ed, and also to Alastair Broom and Sam Johnson for organising the day.



Royal British Legion

Report by Andrew MacTavish



Lane End faced this year's problems with determination when it looked as if Covid would ruin everything.

First, British Legion Headquarters said there would be no poppy collection. No one was to go house-to-house. Then they relented and said we could put boxes in shops and pubs, and local people bought their poppies there. Our collectors missed seeing old friends on their usual rounds, but we all made a very good contribution to the Poppy Appeal.

Remembrance Sunday was the real problem. We knew we couldn't have the usual parade due to social spacing necessities and a lack of scouts.

If we couldn't hold the service in the restricted area at the village hall, why not move to the large open common in front of the church? We needed a centrepiece: a table with a poppy tablecloth would serve for this. People needed to hear: the church has a PA system. And then the church was locked down - and re-opened - and locked again. We were ready to rely on the power of the human voice when, mercifully, the church was re-opened.

The Oxford diocese decreed that no

priest should attend any Remembrance service, so the chairman stepped in. The Royal British Legion ordered that no bugler should be on parade to sound the Last Post, so we arranged for the PA system to play it — and it could also play the National Anthem at the end and 'Nimrod' at the beginning. (That's the very moving piece the Guards' band plays at Whitehall). And as our noble PA man happened to be a bell ringer, he could ring the treble bell before everything started.

One thing worried us: was our gathering going to be illegal? Headquarters didn't know and neither did the police. Many other Remembrances were called off. Then, on the Thursday before, the Government published an order stating that Remembrance services on Remembrance Sunday were exempt from the ban on gatherings, providing the six foot rule was kept. Phew!

And the fifteen minute service went brilliantly. The bell, the music, the calling of the names, the Last Post - all echoed clearly over Ditchfield Common and, indeed, over the graves of nine of those names called, lying close by in our churchyard. It was moving, as it should be, and moving in that so very many in the village came and spaced themselves all over the Common. It was the one village event that we in Lane End managed to hold in this *annus horribilis*. Ultimately, a triumph!



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→ Hambleden Valley Gardening Club

Report by Janet Collins

I am so pleased to be able to tell you that we have managed to start some sort of meetings for this winter season. With the great help and support of Plant Heritage, we were able to present our first Zoom webinar to our members in October. Plant Heritage is a National charity that ensures that the cultivated plants we grow now will be available to future generations. This is done through the National Plant Collection scheme, Plant Guardians and local group network. So, it was with their guidance we ventured forth!

Our speaker was Jonathan Hogarth who spoke about miniature hostas of which he has a national collection. Jonathan has exhibited at Chelsea and Hampton Court and so is very knowledgeable on his subject. He provided us with such a relaxed, passionate and knowledgeable talk, he was not in the least fazed by a 'remote' audience! We were equally pleased that we had such a good show of our members logging on and joining in. It really was most enjoyable.

So flush with taking this first step, we had a second Zoom booking for 3 November and this was a talk presented by Timothy Walker,

a very entertaining speaker who is well known to our club. Timothy was Director of the Oxford Botanical Gardens until 2014 and now lectures biological sciences at several Oxford Colleges. His talk was entitled 'Paradise lost and restored. The history of gardening in England'.

We have also booked Jane McFarlane Duckworth who will present her topic of Xmas flower arrangements also by Zoom on 1 December. Jane is a local florist who works with locally grown flowers. She will give us a practical demonstration of how to achieve some wonderful displays. Sadly, our much enjoyed Christmas mince pies and mulled wine will have to wait till next year! We have planned some more Zoom meeting for the New Year, see the events page for details.

We are really pleased that we have been able to keep the club active though these strange times and our members have certainly backed us up. Happy Christmas to all and keep gardening – it really is what has kept many of us sane!





Lane End Twinning Association

https://www.laneendtwinning.co.uk





@laneendtwinning



So Much More Than Just a Sign

From Oléron

Report by Terry Dennett

The mood is very sombre here on Oléron for all residents as I write this At the end of the half term holidays, the French President, Monsieur Macron imposed lockdown. It will last the whole of November and may impact on Christmas. Sadly other incidents in France have meant that the Church of Saint Pierre in the middle of St Pierre has to be guarded by police when open to residents, visitors and for services. What a shame it has to come to that. Of course it is also All Saints weekend when all the French visit the graves of their relatives for acts of remembrance and for the placing of chrysanthemums on the memorial stones.

On a lighter note, I do hope that you all managed to see the Island bathed in bright sun with a powder blue sky at the beginning September for the 'Tour De France' on ITV. The event went really well and despite Covid, many people lined the route to cheer on the riders. In fact the whole event was so well received by the French that there was a huge surge in holi-

daymakers to Oléron up until mid-October. Hotels, gites and camping sites were all full. I think the French had forgotten about the sea, beaches and hospitality of the Island so the 'Tour' refreshed their memory.

For you visitors and in particular drivers, if and when, you come to Oléron, please be aware that the viaduct to the island now has 24 hour TV surveillance fitted in September; so no speeding folks! Also when visiting, the local council has introduced five new bus routes which are free to help walkers and the like to explore the island with ease. The introduction has proved to be very successful. The other innovation this year has been the Tourist Office opening the 'Chateau de Bonnemie' in the middle of St Pierre to visitors and staging displays in the main hall.

I do hope that everyone in Lane End is keeping safe now that you are in Lockdown aswell. It may be some time before we see you in Oléron, but may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and safe New Year.

PS.I saw Wycombe win for the first time in the Championship yester-day!!!!



Report by Ben Smiley

Get involved and learn new skills

What a year this has been! The sport of cricket has actually had a much more fortunate year than many other activities, and Frieth Cricket Club has been able to start 14 matches of the 15 that were scheduled, and only lost one to rain after the game had started.

The Club's thanks must go to those players, officials, committee members, regional cricket boards and national governing bodies for working so hard to enable cricket to be played around the country. As a result of our playing these matches, we have been able to recoup some of the lost revenues from the Spring, and the Club remains in a strong position to make good progress both on and off the field next season.

I like to think that I am an optimist, and throughout the challenges that have presented themselves since March, I have been a pain in the neck of family members, friends and colleagues when speaking of the opportunities that have revealed themselves during lockdown.

At the Club, these have been numerous, and many of these opportunities have been tested, reviewed and are ready to become more permanent features of cricket at Frieth Cricket Club. Things such as players providing their own food for the traditional match tea, fewer face to face committee meetings and less talking and more action are all things that we hope to adopt into the future.

The most significant of them all is actually the players providing their own tea, which saves one or two people spending at least an hour each making 50-odd sandwiches, sourcing cakes and other things like that. Given that it was usually the same two or three people involved in the tea-making, they're particularly grateful!

When I last wrote in the Clarion, I opened an invitation to anyone who might have some unexpected time

on their hands to get in touch.
COVID-19 has touched many
people in a huge number of ways,
and our condolences go to everyone
who has been impacted by this
pandemic.

It is right that so much is being done to resource the treatments and vaccine projects, and to support as many jobs as possible during the lockdown, and it is my personal hope that this will continue for as long as is necessary. The forgotten cohort, as I see it, are those people who have lost their jobs and may not be able to access new work straight away. It is you to who I write this next bit.

If you are struggling because of a lack of contact with people, because you're finding yourself with 'too much time' on your hands or because you're not sure what to do next, we can help.

Frieth Cricket Club is a grassroots club: We're run by volunteers and we're always looking for new people with different approaches and fresh ideas to join the Club. We can't pay you for your time, however we can fund your training in the fields of groundsmanship, match officiating, cricket coaching and a number of other areas, and we firmly believe that we can enter into a mutually beneficial relationship with many members of our community.

To find out more, please do email us at friethcricket@btinternet.com or call on 07879 855353.

If you don't have time to offer us in person, we totally understand. You can however generate donations for us at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/friethcricketclub, and hope that you might access any online shopping sites that you're using for Christmas via this link.

By doing so, you'll generate donations for Frieth Cricket Club at no extra cost to yourselves. Recent donations raised via EasyFundraising include £2.33 from John Lewis, £2.69 from Argos, £15 from uSwitch and over £26 from Booking.com. These donations to all add up, and we've now raised over £522 for the Club.

We are certain that 2021 has a lot to offer, despite the challenges that will undoubtedly present themselves in the coming months. Frieth Cricket Club is ready to face them head on, and we are here to help you face them too.

Please stay safe this festive period, and enjoy what is bound to be a different Christmas and New Year. On behalf of everyone involved with Frieth Cricket Club, thank you for your support of the Club during 2020. We look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Face masks for charity

by Sylvia Chadwick

Stokenchurch Community Transport volunteers are making face masks to help support the charity in these uncertain times. They are made from a double layer of cotton in a variety of colours and designs.

They are £3 each or 2 for £5. Available from Sylvia Chadwick. Tel: 07549 838 773 for collection.

A plea from Dudley



I enjoy snuffling in the rubbish that some humans leave on the ground, in the hope that there is some food for me. But I have a complaint.

Not long ago I stepped on a piece of broken glass and cut one of the pads on a paw. My owner was quite upset to see how much this cut bled and took me to see Dr Vet and I ended up having an anaesthetic and stitches and a great big bandage on my paw.

I played this injury for all the sympathy that I could get but nevertheless it is not an experience that I want to repeat. My owner feels the same way as, although I am insured there was an excess to be paid.

My plea is to those residents who do leave litter on the ground, do try to pick it up if you have dropped something by mistake and don't just throw anything down, especially glass or any other items that could harm both pets and young children.

Thanks for donations in Janet's memory

Janet Meakes

6 March 1933—6 February 2020

Reg Meakes would like to thank everyone for their donations of more than £1200 to Holy Trinity Church in memory of Janet.

Your kindness and generosity are appreciated by all the family.



The social care sector and especially care homes have been faced with an unprecedented challenge as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Tasked with caring for one of the most vulnerable groups in society, care homes have not only protected older and elderly people, but allowed them to thrive in this difficult time.

At Gracewell of High Wycombe, our care home has shown immense bravery, professionalism, and humanity over the last few months. Our team has taken an 'all hands-on deck' approach to the pandemic.

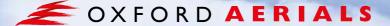
Some of our team members have turned hairdresser, training cook, and arts and crafts organiser.

Maintaining contact between residents and their families has worked remarkably well with video calls, letters and cards. Residents are missing their weekly visit from Sunshine Montessori so were delighted with some beautiful pictures from the nursery children. Many residents have created and sent cards back to the nursery in return.

Rozina Ali, General Manager at Gracewell of High Wycombe, said: 'I would like to extend my heartiest thanks and gratitude to all our lovely residents, family members, staff, their families and the local community for supporting us during this difficult time.' Hayley Devereaux



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Call for volunteers

Report by Community Impact Bucks

The Buckinghamshire Volunteer Matching Service is calling for Bucks residents to sign-up as volunteers to help support local people and communities during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

The Volunteer Matching Service, which is run by Community Impact Bucks in partnership with Bucking-hamshire Council and The Clare Foundation, matches registered volunteers to roles where they are most needed in the county. It is looking for volunteers from across the county but in particular for volunteers from the High Wycombe area.

In Spring 2020, more than 1,800 people from Buckinghamshire signed up to volunteer via the Buckinghamshire Council's website to support local communities during the height of the coronavirus pandemic. Many have now been matched with charities and voluntary organisations, while others are now no longer available. As a result, we are looking for new volunteers to step forward to support COVID-19 response activities.

'It has been amazing to see so many people offer their time and skills to help others during the pandemic,' commented Katie Higginson, Chief Executive of Community Impact Bucks. 'Building on this, we now need more volunteers to be available to fill key roles – from adhoc, one-off tasks such as PPE delivery to longer term positions like regular supermarket collections, mentoring young people and providing ongoing support for vulnerable people. If you are 18 or over, and have some time or specific skills to offer, we would love to hear from you.'

Frances was matched with the Wycombe Food Hub and currently volunteers two days a week there: 'The whole Food Hub is run by volunteers and we make a huge difference to our customers, some of whom have literally nothing to put on the table. There's no bureaucracy, no barriers, no discrimination – the Food Hub is open to anyone who needs to find food. I love volunteering there - I go in feeling great and come away feeling even better.'

To find out more about the Volunteer Matching Service, search Bucking-hamshire volunteer matching service on the internet and register on the membership page.



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Lane End Sports Association update

by Stewart George

Described by many as the 'best kept secret in Lane End', the playing fields in The Row are slowly but surely attracting a wider circle of visitors. As the name suggests, the playing fields are a 'green space' available, for leisure pursuit, with football and other ball games being the most popular. Then there's the bar......

For the benefit of more recently

arrived residents, the Playing Fields were bequeathed to the Parish Council and they, in turn, gave a lease to an organisation run by residents – that organisation being LE-SA (Lane End Sports Association). LESA's team of volunteers is responsible for managing the facilities, to the benefit of Lane End residents.

When the facilities were opened after the first lockdown, a lot of individuals and families used the playing fields to picnic and have their own 'green space' activities going on for their children. In that sense the Playing Fields became more than just a couple of football pitches. Then, for the evenings and at weekends, the bar was opened to members and



their guests, as much as the availability of trained staff would allow.

There is no doubt that the facilities provided a safe place where children and their families could enjoy the balmy weather. If you haven't seen what funding from the Parish Council has provided, just take a stroll to The Row and see the valuable open space on your doorstep. There'll be even more changes once Covid 19 restrictions are removed.

Once lockdown has been lifted, please check opening times for the bar via the Lane End Playing Fields Facebook page. Please cooperate with the bar staff to ensure your safety under the ever changing Covid rules.

Dogs are allowed, but only on a lead – remember that the Playing Fields are first and foremost for people to exercise, not dogs. In the early spring, a team of volunteer dog wardens was recruited to raise awareness of the issue of dog fouling on the fields.

The response from the dog owners has been fantastic and what was a major problem, is now virtually eliminated. Help us keep the Playing Fields clean and safe for those old and young who play there.

LESA were delighted when a new Lane End football team emerged, with an enthusiastic group determined to put their team on the map.

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There are now two Sunday football teams - Lane End and Wycombe Athletic. We also have Wycombe Ladies U18s playing their home games on Saturdays. So, within the legal restrictions imposed by Covid 19, there are now regular home matches at weekends. The bar opens at 12 noon for every home match.

The all weather football pitch has been in high demand particularly for both training and for 6 aside games - more than half the usage is for junior football coaching and training. The bar facilities may also be hired so long as Covid allow and rules are followed.

For more information/bookings call Anita Hanson, Playing Fields Manager on 07775 535542, or email LESA on

laneendsports@yahoo.com. .

To view fixtures and other information go to Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pg/Lane-End-Playing-FieldsSports-Association-1662079363840921/posts/.

LESA are proud that by active management of the Playing Fields they can support the view of the retired basketball player, Michael Jordan:

Practice like you've never won. Play like you've never lost

We look forward to welcoming you to the best green space in Lane End.

Lane End Sports Association update

by David Vance

The sports club has been going very well considering these hard times we are all dealing with. It's open on a more regular basis and has some good support by the regulars who go in for a drink, especially the football team.

Everyone sticks to all the COVID-19 rules by wearing masks, signing in and being seated before taking masks off. There's also table service to keep our villagers safe

Lane End football team started a little shakily, shall we say, but with a good attendance on a Wednesday training and their Sunday morning match, they have started winning games. The team is doing very well under Wes their manager, and may the winning continue. Good luck for the next matches.

The playing fields are looking very tidy and well kept, the dog fouling problems seem to have virtually disappeared. Thank you to all the responsible dog owners who use the playing fields considerately.

On a personal note I would like to say a big thank you to Delaney Hanson and the whole team for doing a minute's clapping for my wife Carol, who I sadly I lost on 23 September.



I'd also like to say a big thanks to E & R Meakes who put the star up on the day of her funeral. She was a nurse for 33yrs. I've had great support and offers from so many in the village I would like to say thank you from bottom of my heart.

Everyone is welcome at the Sports Club. Membership is available for only a £1 and the bar prices are very inviting. We have a lovely big social area outside which was used very well in the good weather.

It's a great shame we find ourselves going into another lockdown as the club has been doing so well over the last couple of months. Stay safe everyone and hopefully we will see you all in December Please be sure to check with the organiser that these events are going ahead

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

Church Services

For church services at Christmas (or any other time) please search up 'South Chilterns Team Ministry' on the internet and read the blog for the most up to date information.

Parish Council meetings

Due to Covid, parish council meetings are taking place via Zoom until further notice. Please contact parish clerk Hayley Glasgow on clerk@laneendparishcouncil.org.uk if you'd like to attend.

No meeting in January Monday 1 February Monday 1 March Monday 12 April

Hambleden Valley Gardening Club

Zoom meetings with presenters.

Tues 1 Dec 7pm. Florist Jane MacFarlane Duckworth on flower arranging for Christmas.

Tues 5 Jan 7pm . Professional speaker Roger Askew on Saville Gardens Windsor.

Any queries call Celia Warren on 01491 638691

Lane End Youth and Community Centre

Report by Emma Savory

Like so many others, the Centre and its hirers have had an incredibly difficult year. Financial struggles are something that almost everyone is facing, along with loneliness and isolation.

The Centre's facilities within our community is as important as ever but this pandemic has prevented us for offering these services. We send everyone positive vibes to help you get

through these extraordinary times and will do everything we can to reopen when it is safe to do so.

Please do not struggle alone, if you need help with getting essential items please email leycc@hotmail.co.uk and we will help as much as possible.

Take care and thank you for your support.

Lane End Youth & Community
Centre manager,
Emma Savory



Birdlife by Jerry Gray

Buzzards ~~

We are lucky to have a pair of buzzards based in Finings Wood. The birds favour small woods and small fields laced with hedgerows. We see them soaring over Golden Guff and the fields 'out the back', sharing the skies quite happily it seems with the red kites.

The buzzard is now our commonest bird of prey, pushing the kestrel into second place, and breeds in every county of the UK except Northern Ireland. It has made a comeback since the 1970s owing to the banning of certain pesticides and more enlightened attitudes from the gamekeeping fraternity. Despite its size, the buzzard is not a major predator, preferring a diet of carrion and earthworms, although a buzzard may take rabbits and birds up to the size of a wood pigeon.



Buzzards are highly adapta-

ble, surviving in habitats from lowland farms to high mountains: indeed, there are records of buzzards taking puffins from seacliffs! It may build up to 20 nests of twigs in its territory, choosing a fresh site each year, lining the chosen nest with green foliage before the female egg-lays and settles in for incubation. I think 'our' buzzards fledged a youngster this year, as I have

Footpath report

Report by Julie Wetenhall

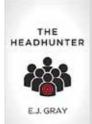
seen a very pale-coloured bird which is probably a juvenile.

British buzzards are largely resident, but further north, many fly to Africa to avoid cold winter weather. They don't like too hot either, and are replaced in Eastern Europe by their cousin, the long-legged buzzard.

Buzzards are basically scavengers and lazy, which is why they prefer carrion, although the consequence of this is a vulnerability to poison baits put out for foxes. They have never been popular with falconers, because they cannot be bothered to fly at live quarry!

Their Latin name is *Buteo buteo*, not to be confused with the hobby, *Falco subbuteo*, after which the table-football game of the 60s and 70s was named: time to bring it out for Christmas!

Thanks to Bob Brewer and Unsplash for the photo.



Lane End resident
Jerry Gray is author
of a darkly humorous
satirical novel set in
the recruitment industry. He's also a
keen birdwatcher.

Colour! I love this time of year. Outside we are surrounded by so much colour. I hope whilst you walk you enjoy the wonderful autumn colours.

One of the few positives of Covid-19 is there seems to be many more walkers. But this can be a problem with some paths being heavily used. As we go into the winter months, the paths are already getting very muddy.

You may have noticed that we are slowly trying to improve the worst points on our paths and would like to thank Sarah and Tony Lawrence for their kind donation of ballast. If you have spare sand, gravel or ballast, perhaps surplus from a building project, please let me know and I will try and arrange to use it. (Contact: julie.wetenhall@gmail.com)

Another path project I plan to do is physically number the footpaths and bridleways, by using clear stencilled numbers on to the footpath stakes. I have a comprehensive footpath map with all the correct numbers. I think then it will be easier for cyclists and horse riders to be sure they are on a bridle way, and not a footpath.

Enjoy the walking and please let me know if there are any problems along the way.

The Frieth dormouse nut hunt

Report by Alan Gudge of the Frieth Natural History Society

Dormice are a rare and vulnerable species in the UK, protected by law. They're not often seen as they have an unusual life style. They are nocturnal, feed in trees and hibernate for about seven months of the year.

Frieth Natural History Society has been surveying local woods for many years. In 1997 the presence of dormice was detected in Hatchet Wood and the adjacent Hill's Wood in Frieth. The finds of an occupied hibernation nest and a lot of hazel nut cases with the tell-tale marks of dormice on them resulted in the Society setting up a monitoring project.

One of the members obtained a dormouse handling licence from Natural England and the Society set up 50 nest boxes, inspecting them



monthly each summer.

We were delighted to find that dormice were using the boxes and at peak, we recorded well over 20 dormice on one inspection. The results of the monitoring were sent in to the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme.

The project continued until 2016 when the team were dismayed to find that there was Glis Glis in both woods. This is an alien species introduced near Tring in 1902 which has since spread throughout the Chilterns.

They are twice as long and eight times as heavy as the native dormouse and they compete with them for food, nesting places and are a predator of young dormice. In our woods Glis started to damage our nest boxes and then we started finding them inside boxes which had previously contained a litter of young Hazel dormice.

We stopped our project and removed the nest boxes, believing that it would be better if the dormice reverted to using natural holes in trees where they would be less likely to be found by Glis.

Now that the Society is unable to organise its usual events due to Covid, we are taking the opportunity to renew the search for dormice in our local woods. This will need to be a 'distance project' but anyone can

take part.

The first thing is to pick a local wood or hedgerow containing hazel trees. Look round on the ground under the trees to find hazel nuts. You may find it useful to use a stick to brush leaves away.

If you find a nut with a round hole, keep it and make a note of where and when you found it. Wood mice, bank voles and dormice all make round hols when eating hazel nuts so the next job is to identify 'who dunnit'!

Squirrels also eat hazel nuts but usually shatter the shell. Take a good look at the hole and see how it matches the examples illustrated in the guide over the page. You may need a magnifying glass to do this.

Decide which rodent has made the hole and write it down. You may find you end up with quite a few 'not sures'.

Check out that the tooth marks in the edge of the hole run parallel to it rather than up and down across it, so the rim looks smooth. And there may be a few small tooth marks around the hole on the surface of the nut. These are the signs of the dormouse.

If you have any which you think might have been made by a dormouse, get a little excited, but not too much! It is easy to make a false diagnosis so your find needs to be checked. Please email katyjdunn@btinternet.com with a close-up photo and she will pass it on to Frieth Natural History Society for verification.

If the check turns out positive and there are several from the same location, the Society will send the record to the Bucks and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre (BMERC) crediting you with the find.

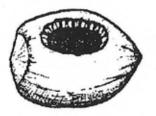
Finding Dormice Field Signs



A dormouse nut: a typical dormouse-opened hazel nut will have a regular, smooth round hole, with tooth marks on the nut surface (often spiralling off from the hole). The inside cut edge of the hole will be fairly smooth, as the dormouse first makes a small opening in the nut, then enlarges it by turning the nut round and scooping the hole with its teeth to make it bigger.



A wood mouse nut: wood mice also leave a roundish hole with marks on the nut surface; however, the hole is not usually so regular, and will be transversely marked across its cut edge by the mouse's gnawing teeth, not scraped smooth like the dormouse nut.



A bank vole nut: bank voles leave a similarly-gnawed cut edge to the hole as wood mice do, but do not usually mark the nut's surface with their teeth. They also often open a hazel nut from the end rather than the side.



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→ What is that pain telling you?

Report by Lilli May, Registered Homeopath

Health and illness are at the forefront of many people's minds at the present time: understanding the mindbody connection can be helpful if we want to understand why we become ill, and to take control of our health.

In our everyday language there are many examples of how our bodies react to emotional stimuli, such as 'I was sick with worry', 'my legs turned to jelly', or 'my heart missed a beat'. Our body sometimes seems to speak to us symbolically: a bad shoulder can mean that we feel overburdened or IBS could mean that we are feeling knotted up inside.

However, we often ignore what our bodies are telling us, other than perhaps acknowledging that our physical symptoms may be a sign of stress. We usually feel frustrated and powerless when things go wrong with our body.

Modern medicine is very good at dealing with acute problems, but despite its increasing sophistication, it is sometimes less good at treating chronic conditions. We may need to take increasingly strong medication to keep symptoms under control, often with unwanted side-effects.

Complementary and Alternative

medicines, such as acupuncture, cranio-sacral therapy and homeopathy, understand that the body's natural state is one of balance with the ability to heal itself, given the right conditions.

These therapies view symptoms as a sign that something is out of balance in our lives, like a warning light flashing on a car's dashboard. They therefore focus less on specific symptoms and more on addressing underlying imbalances in our system as a whole, which includes body, mind and spirit. This can be very effective in treating long-term conditions and can be used alongside conventional treatments to support healing and recovery.

It can be challenging to acknowledge that physical ailments are a message from our body telling us that something needs to change. For example, if we wake up with a headache every Monday morning we can take painkillers, but would a better long-term solution not be to address why we feel ill when we face the week ahead? It can be empowering if we take ownership of our health, and use 'dis-ease' as an opportunity to address what is out of balance, and create more 'ease' in our lives.

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The oldest roof in Lane End

Report by Andrew MacTavish

Where's the oldest roof in Lane End? Grouse and Ale, built in 1679 possibly?

Wrong. It's over the nave of Holy Trinity, the parish church, built in 1878.

This sounds a little odd, but it's true. And it all goes back to the civil war between 1137 and 1154, when King Stephen, based in London, and Queen Matilda, based in the west country, fought for the throne of England. At this time of massacres

and devastation, hundreds of buildings were razed to the ground. When peace came, there was much rebuilding and William Fitzrobert, as Lord of the Manor, erected a manor house next to where Marlow Bridge is now, on the site of the Tierney Court apartments. This must have been about 1183. This fine house was of solid construction, with thick walls of flint and chalk topped with capstones to bear the weight of the oak roof. Known as the Court House, it was still a valuable building when



Queen Mary gave it to one of her supporters in 1554. But by the early 1600's, it had become a warehouse for goods moved by barge. Then it was a brewery, a boat-building business and, by Victorian times, a coal depot. When the railway arrived in 1873, the value of the dilapidated building was minimal, and it was demolished in 1878.

But in 1876 an architect John Scott has been commissioned to produce the design of an extension to All Saints Church, Marlow - on the opposite side of the road to the old Court House. He was then asked to design a new church for Lane End. He realised the Court House roof was the size of the nave he had in mind.

Thomas Cocks, a banker who lived in Marlow, bought the roof timbers of the Court House, solid oak as they were. He had them transported to Lane End where they were re-erected as roof of the new nave.

Sit in Holy Trinity's pews and look up. The medieval timbers are the main 'A' Frames supporting the roof from side to side (the arch brace trusses); the long timbers running from end to end (the purlins) and the curved side pieces (the wind braces). You are looking at eight hundred and more years of history.

(With acknowledgements to Janet Smith's research and article in "Records of Bucks" Volume 59 (2019)



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Martha's baking column

By Martha Foster-Will

In times of knead

Shortbread biscuits

Hello again, this time the recipe is going to be for shortbread that I have adapted and made my own. It will make around 12 shortbread biscuits, and here are the ingredients:

75g of caster or granulated sugar 150g of unsalted butter 150g of plain flour



Method:

First, wash your hands. Then, melt the butter so that it is slightly soft. After that, add the sugar and mix together until well blended and fluffy.

Once this stage is complete, you are ready to add the flour, so add it and then stir again. If your mixture sticks to your hands then add a little bit more flour. When it is ready, get it out of your bowl and knead it, then it is ready to be rolled out with a rolling pin.

You can choose the shape that you make but I suggest a thickness of about 5mm. After you have cut out the biscuits, put them in the oven to bake for 7-8 minutes at 180 degrees celsius until the edges have turned golden brown.

When the shortbread have been taken out leave them to cool for around 5 minutes. When all that is complete feel free to try one!





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Guide to outdoor entertaining

Report by Samantha Johnson

It seems clear that Christmas is going to be a bit different for all of us this year. But if spring's lockdown is any guide, the first restrictions to lift may be on outdoor gatherings. Even though it's cold outside, there are plenty of ways to add some warmth on a frosty evening. So here are some tips to start planning for safe

entertaining in the garden this Christmas: and keep those fingers crossed that we can celebrate together.

Are you sitting comfortably?

Some hard-wearing, comfortable furniture is essential – but in particular a good table. Bigger is definitely better so we can be social, at a

distance!

I'd also recommend investing in a simple gazebo or some form of overhead cover – whether it's permanent or easy to put up and take down.

Fire it up

It may sound obvious, but the main thing to remember when entertaining outside is to keep your guests warm!

Fires are a great focal point. I have added fire pits to many clients' properties over the years I am amazed how many styles there are. There's everything from a traditional Kadai steel bowl on legs, used for cooking



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in India, to a simple modern style.

For smaller gardens, chimeneas are a good option. They create less smoke than a fire pit but retain a lot of their heat because of their tunnelled chimney effect.

Simplest of all, get some portable outdoor heaters. Electric ones are easy to use and create warmth quickly.

Warm and cosy

As well as keeping your guests warm with heaters, you can make the space even cosier by adding soft furnishings to your seating area. There is nothing better than snuggling up under a thick blanket with a warm drink, or using sheep-

skins as another way to adorn your chairs.

Another great investment is outdoor rugs which will keep your guests warm under foot and add colour and texture to your patio area.

A light touch

Create an inviting and cosy atmosphere by using outdoor lighting.
Candles are great, if you can protect them from the breeze; as an alternative, consider LED lanterns or table lamps. Add strings of warm white fairy lights for an enchanting festive look.

Don't forget lighting for the front of your home too, especially if friends need to use the side gate to enter the garden.



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Tuck in

The focus on warmth and comfort extends to your food too. For outdoor entertaining, I recommend keeping it simple with thick soups and stews, hot pastries and warm fruit crumbles. There's always the option of using the barbecue as an oven: a mini hog roast is guaranteed to impress.

Part of the fun of entertaining around a fire is that guests can cook their own foods too like marshmallows or sausages on sticks.

In terms of drinks, mulled wine and cider are always popular at this time





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of year – or opt for a rich hot chocolate, with adults-only versions available.

Get moving!

When hosting, make staying warm part of the fun of the evening. Ask your guests to wear their warmest winter jumper. Games such as charades get people moving about and add some festive music to encourage dancing – at a safe distance of course!

Stay safe and if you need any help do get in touch. Happy Christmas!





Milk Men

with Will Lacey



How we got where we are today

Over the last few years I have used this article to explain what we are doing on the farm, and this issue will be no different. But with many new faces in the village, I thought it was a good time to go back to the beginning.

Laceys Family Farm is a mixed family farm in Lane End. A mixed farm means exactly that, we have lots of different things on the farm, rather than just specialising in one area. Our farm includes dairy cows, beef cows, chickens, and arable cropping. In addition to this we have our milk bottling and delivery service and our Farm Shop.

The dairy cows are the centre point of the farm, and the whole business is based around them. We milk 130 pedigree Guernsey cows. Every cow in our herd is treated as an individual. Each cow has been born and bred on the farm, and we can trace some of our cows back to the origi-

nal Guernsey cows brought by my great grandfather in the 1930s. So we know as much about each animal as we possibly can. We are trying to produce the best milks and creams we can, so it makes sense that to achieve this we have to look after the cows as best we can.

To decide what to feed the cows, we employ a Cow Nutritionist. His role is to take analysis of all the different feed we produce (grass silage, maize silage, straw, rolled barley) and design a diet for each different group of cows.

At any one time, we might have six different rations to feed to groups of cows. Of the feed the cows eat, 95% of it is grown on the farm, the only additional bits we add to their diet are to help make it balanced and meet their requirements, this includes brewers grains (the spent grain from making beer) and a mix of minerals.

To produce milk, a cow must have a calf. Cows are like humans, they can become pregnant any time of the year, and are pregnant for nine months. This means we are calving cows all year round. This month we have 19 due!

If the calf born is a girl, it is called a heifer, and a boy is a bull. Any calf that is a Guernsey heifer, (meaning mum and dad were both Guernseys,) will be reared up to join the milking herd in the future. If mum is a Guernsey cow, and dad is an Aberdeen Angus bull, the calf will be reared for beef whether it is a heifer or a bull.

We think the milk our cows produce is the best, so in 2006 we took the big step to set up our on-farm milk bottling facility and delivery service.

This was a massive step for a small farm, but the support from our local customers has helped the business grow and develop. In 2018 we won the Best Tasting Dairy Product in the UK, which is like winning the Champions League for a milk producer and something we are very proud of!

The success of the milk retail also spurred us on to open the farm shop, which we did in 2016. This enables us to sell even more produce off the farm, with beef, veal, milk, cream and eggs all coming from the farm. We also work with many other local farmers to source other meats for the butchery, including chicken, pork, lamb and turkey.



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This year has been the busiest so far for the farm shop. As an essential food business we have managed to stay open and fully operational throughout. We have paid special attention to social distancing rules, so we can make shopping as safe and comfortable as we can for everyone. With the recent lockdown we relaunched our Click and Collect scheme, planned Express Collection lanes and extended opening hours for the busiest days on the run up to Christmas. We are still taking orders for Christmas, please call in the shop or download an order form from our website www.laceysfamilyfarm.co.uk

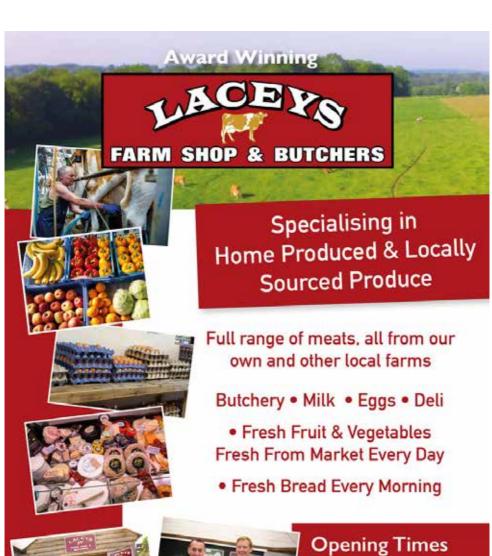
Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2021!





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Ask the: plumber

with Bill Blake



Bill, where's my stopcock?

If your answer is: 'I don't know,' then I urge you to find out. It may save you an awful lot of money in redecorating costs.

Homes generally have two stopcocks—one inside and one out on the street. In my experience, many stopcocks inside houses don't work. This is generally because they've been turned on to their fullest extent then left over a prolonged period. They then lock in that fully-open position.

If your stopcock is locked open, please don't try to force it. I've seen several houses flooded when people have actually twisted the stopcock off the mains pipe. In the last two weeks alone, I've attended to six mains water leaks inside houses and all have needed rapid access to that important outside stopcock.

Please take a couple of minutes and find out where your external stopcock is located. Stopcocks tend to be placed outside the property boundary (so the water company can access it) and are often in small holes covered with a metal plate or sometimes a slightly larger plastic cover. Find out where it is now, so you don't have to go looking in an emergency. Also, look under the cover and make sure it's accessible. You don't want to go looking for it in an emergency and then finding the hole is clogged full of earth.

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On the land

with Bryan Edgley





What happens after harvest?

I am sometimes asked 'what happens after harvest' - as though that is the time when arable work eases off. But that is far from the truth. since with modern arable farming practices the year no longer has the steady sequence of one specific task for each season.

Nowadays, for the best yields of wheat, the staple food of the western world from which bread and biscuits are made, many of the tasks of growing fall within a three month period, from the end of July to the end of October.

Harvest this year started on 21 July and ended on 26 August – it was not such a good harvest as in 2019, since there had been excessive rainfall in autumn 2019 that hampered autumn drilling ('drilling' is really another word for seeding). Because the fields were so wet at that time. we were only able to seed 60% of the planned number of fields. An

ideal seedbed for drilling has a moisture content such that you could walk over the field wearing shoes. If the field were to be so moist that gumboots were essential, with wet soil caking on them, then the tractor would cause too much compaction, the seed drill would often clog up. Even if the seeds were planted then germination and subsequent growth would almost certainly be disappointing.

The remaining 40% of the fields that should have been seeded in autumn 2019 had to wait until spring 2020, and spring plantings seldom do as well as autumn seedings. The result of this was that the yield of grain from the harvest 2020 crop was 2,000 tonnes less than the previous harvest – only 5,000 tonnes grown instead of the 7.000 tonnes of harvest 2019.

However, I am pleased to report that this autumn we completed the

autumn work of seedbed preparation and drilling the seeds by 20 October in good conditions – so hopefully this will be the foundation of a good harvest in 2021.

Our new 10m-wide Dale direct drill has tines rather than discs to make the narrow channel about 2 inches deep. The wheat seeds performed well and did not cause the type of blockages which had often hampered the work with the disc type drill that we had used in earlier seasons.

Another job which has to be carried out after harvest but before autumn drilling is to cut those hedges which bound the fields. For this we have bought a new Bomford Hawk hedge trimmer with flail action cutter driven by a hydraulic motor from the tractor's hydraulics.

Up until last year Nigel had cut many of our hedges each year since 1962

with various less sophisticated hedge cutters, leaving other hedges to be cut, at significant expense, by a contractor.

While mentioning Nigel Rogers this is an appropriate time for me and my family to thank him for his work and great skill, including his resourceful mechanical ability, for the 58 years since he first worked with me at Kensham Farm - I have often felt that we were both working for the farm, with production of food as our main aim, and that much of our success in all the earlier years had been due to Nigel's work.

In the Clarion of Spring 2014 our editor, Katy Dunn, had been kind enough to put the heading to my quarterly 'On the Land' report as 'Farm Foreman retires after 52 years', at the time when Nigel's son Paul took over as farms foreman responsible for all the arable crop-



ping, working with my son Charlie. However, that did not mean that Nigel had finished working on our farms. It turns out that announcement had been quite premature. One of Nigel's main interests now is to restore tractors from long ago, to bring them back to life and in a fit state to take part in the annual Chilterns Vintage Tractor Run which raises funds for Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

It was with one of those restored tractors that Nigel ploughed, cultivated, and prepared the seedbed for the new airfield for High Wycombe and District Model Aircraft Club (HWDMAC) – a well established club with roots going back to the 1940s which had been displaced in summer 2019 from its earlier flying site on land that was to be used for other purposes.

Planning issues take a long time for a project of this sort, and include levels of noise (found after tests with one of the Club member's model aeroplanes to be far less than the noise from the M40 Motorway nearby) and suitability of this recreational



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activity in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) administered by the Chilterns Conservation Board.

Other factors that had to be taken into account were proximity to roads, motorways, residential houses, power cables and public footpaths, health & safety issues and access from public highways as well as the Club's requirement for a landing strip of at least 100m.

This needed to be on a fairly level field facing south west into the prevailing wind with no difficult hedgerow trees to cause a hazard to the

model aircraft. However we and the Club committee and its advisers surmounted all of these obstacles so that following harvest we felt that consent would probably be granted by the Bucks Council (Wycombe District).

September is always a good month in which to sow grass seeds, so we started preparing the seed-

bed, and ordered the special grass seeds, a mixture of 75% of Creeping Red Fescue, 20% Chewings Red Fescue and 5% Highland Bent, in September. The photo shows Nigel and Paul preparing the spinner mounted on the buggy, and then broadcasting the grass seeds on 16 September, to be followed by a light harrowing so as to ideally cover the seeds with about an inch of nice friable soil.

The seeds have taken well as shown in a Drone aerial shot of the new runway taken by Alex in late afternoon sunlight on 26 October. The new airfield takes up 1.5 acres (0.6 hectares) of our Chequers Manor Top Plain land, on the left as you drive from Cadmore End towards Stokenchurch.



The Edgley family has farmed at Kensham Farm, Cadmore End since 1955

kenshamfarms.com

→BOPAG—Can it help me?

Report by Paula Watts

BOPAG has been around since 2007 helping to bring together, inform and get action for as many older people and groups within Buckinghamshire as we can.

BOPAG is a 'not for profit' organisation run by dedicated individuals whose aim is to aid the older community and promote positive aging

by networking with other Groups.

We work closely with the Bucks Council community and other recognised

organisations including Age UK, so that our members can lead informed, active and healthy lives. We publish a free monthly newsletter with up to date advice and news relevant to our readers and we hold six meetings a year to discuss various topics and all are welcome to attend.

These meetings have been on hold due to the current pandemic, but we are aiming to run these again via Zoom. These dates and how to attend are published in our monthly newsletters. We also have a Face-

book Page (just search BOPAG in FB) that posts news and activities daily that we think our followers would welcome. We also have a website where all our information can be found, visit: bopag.org.uk
We offer support where it is needed, and try to help to resolve any issues that are ongoing and concerning to

our members. If you can't find the information, you can get in touch with us direct and ask

We currently reach around 6000

people per month, but are always looking to reach more people who might benefit from our services. We'd be delighted to hear from anyone who thinks we can help them and would like to receive our newsletters. Our information is available both electronically and in paper form for those who do not have access to a personal computer.

BOPAG is free to join and if you'd like to sign up, please contact <u>paulawatts.bopag@btinternet.com</u> or sign up via our website. For those without internet access please call Paula on 07753 987973







To arrange a visit, please contact Mrs Coyle on 01494 881460 or email: office@cadmoreendschool.org

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We are very pleased to say that our full reopening of the school in September has been very

positive. Our main priority was ensuring all the children and adults were safe and start putting into place the usual school routines and expectations. I have been really impressed with how the children have come back into school and how supportive our parents have been.

As the children have settled, we have been keen to ensure they are able to experience as many opportunities as we can offer under the current circumstances. As a result, we have had Rock Steady back up and running since September and we also have Country Trust coming in to work with Year 4 on a regular basis. We also have our Y4s ready to take part in a community programme, which will run in the spring and summer terms. Key Stage one took part in the Henley Virtual Literacy Festival and Nursery enjoyed a Halloween party the day before half term.

Despite not being able to have a traditional Harvest Festival, the children had a Harvest Week where they learnt about the importance of Harvest and were able to make donations of goods which we have been able to send to Community Matters to help people in the local community.



As we welcome children back after half term, our focus is on helping them to make as much progress as possible over this year whilst still retaining the 'little extras' that we do to make Lane End Primary School a great place to be. Our Nurture group for children in Key Stage 1 is up and running already and Playground Leaders will have their first meeting in the first week back so we can re-establish our 'Dance a Day' and reintroduce some of playground games for each of our bubbles.

It has definitely been a more unusual start to the school year but we are as busy as we have ever been and loving having the children back in.

If you are interested in finding out more about what we do at Lane End Primary School, please visit our website: www.laneendprimary.co.uk or call 881169 for more information.



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What do Parents say about us?

'I can hand on heart say that this is a fantastic school that cares deeply for each child and the local community.' (Parent, March 2018) What do Ofsted say about us?

'The school is a happy and friendly place to be. Pupils are proud of their school and have positive attitudes towards their learning.'

01494 881169

office@laneendprimary.co.uk

www.laneendprimary.co.uk



It has been a strange start to the year for the staff and pupils of Frieth CEC Primary School as they have worked to continue delivering a high-quality education whilst observing the restrictions of the Coronavirus guidelines to keep everybody safe.

was a Harvest loaf in the shape of a wheat sheaf, prepared by the Year 3 children with governor volunteers.

The children have also been enjoying using the school's Forest School area for a variety of activities, including seed planting, fire safety, carving, shelter building and Art from Nature.

The school has recently begun a project to give their Early Years area a much needed lift. We are appealing to businesses and individuals in the local community to make a dona-

tion from the prepared 'Wish List' for the school's youngest children, which has items ranging from £5000 to less than £50. If you feel you can help in any way, please do contact the school for a copy of the list and a donation form.

The whole school was involved in a Harvest Festival in October, but sadly without parents. Each class went to the church in turn for a quietly sung, socially distanced song.

These were strung together with some special words, prayers and blessings from Reverend Sue and Merelina Tebbot, the Chair of governors, to form a service which was shared by the parents virtually. Parents were generous with their donations of foodstuffs for the 'One Can Trust' and the display centrepiece



The Clarion - Winter 2020

How to create a garden

with Anya the garden fairy

Follow me on Instagram @anya_thegarden_fairy



Just because winter is approaching, you don't need to stop gardening and getting positive energy from the natural world. This is something we all need now more than ever. There are so many things we gardeners can do to stay positive and I hope you'll get inspired.

Hyacinths planted in pots bring so much joy in the time of the year when you need it most. They'll flower in early spring, but their bulbs take a long time to establish roots, which means they should be planted in autumn.



I keep them in the greenhouse until winter and I'll bring them indoors mid December. They'll bring so much joy after the festivities are over. Something to look forward to in January!

After they have flowered, I let the leaves die back and plant them in the garden.

Planting spring-flowering amaryllis bulbs is one of those simple, but very rewarding things that will make you glad you made the effort.

Fill at least half of the container with compost and moisten it. Place the bulb in the container and fill with more compost so that the upper one-third of the bulb is showing. Keep it moist by watering around the edges, but don't overwater.

To lengthen flowering time, once the flowers start to show, move the container to a cooler place. Turn occasionally as the flowers grow towards the light. Try not to let them dry out. My favourite Amaryllis varieties are: Apple blossom, Amaryllis Gervase, Magic Green.

Softwood cuttings (leafed cuttings) are young soft succulent cuttings with leaves and are taken in late spring.

Hardwood cuttings are from matured, dormant hardwood after the leaves have been shed. Late autumn or winter is a perfect time for propagating plants from hardwood cuttings. They take longer to root than the softwood cuttings, but are more reliable and usually much stronger.



I've been propagating plants for over 30 years and I still think that propagation is one of the most exciting things a gardener can do and if you start, you'll know what I mean.

You can easily create hundreds of plants for free and you'll see how rewarding it is. Seeing new roots brings hope. Something so simple and so powerful at the same time. Now is a great time for propagating shrubs, roses, Hydrangea, layender, trees and much more!

Here's what you need to do. Select a healthy cutting and cut just below the leaf node. Remove all the leaves from the lower inch to two inches of the stem. Gently scrape the skin off the bottom portion of the stem on one side with a knife and dip the cutting in rooting hormone (available from any garden centre).

Stick the cutting about two inches into peat-free cutting compost. Rooting hormone helps prevent the tip from rotting and encourages quick, strong root development. Keep cuttings damp and grow on until they have rooted.

Winter is approaching, but we can still enjoy our gardens! They'll keep us going and cheer us up until the first sign of spring.

For more inspiration and ideas how to stay sane during the winter months please follow me on Instagram @anya_thegarden_fairy



The Clarion is the Parish of Lane End's non profit-making magazine, for the sharing of information about Parish activities. Neither the editor nor the Parish Council, whilst sponsoring the magazine, takes responsibility for the statements and/or views expressed herein.

Any copy submitted to The Clarion may be edited for space, content or style. By sending information or articles to the editor for inclusion, you are accepting these terms.

We welcome any news or diary dates from community organisations and letters from individuals. The next copy deadline is 1 February and the next issue will be delivered in March.

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