June 2020

THE LEE NEWSLETTER

For The Lee, Lee Common, Hunts Green, Kings Ash and Swan Bottom

From the Editor

By Jonathan Batten

We are not back on top in June, as I had hoped when I was last at the editor's desk in April, but I think we can all be positive and feel that we are making some progress.

Is it just me or has anyone else noticed that, whilst there may be a little less traffic about, those motorists who are driving are doing so a lot faster than they should be?

Speed limits are here for a reason and they are supposed to be observed by everyone; why do some people seem to think that they should not apply to them?

John Lennon wrote a song about isolation 50 years ago:

People say we got it made
Don't they know we're so afraid
Isolation
We're afraid to be alone,
Everybody's got to have a home
Isolation

Just a boy and a little girl
Trying to change the whole wide world
Isolation
The world is just a little town
Everybody trying to put us down
Isolation

I don't expect you to understand
After you've caused so much pain
But then again, you're not to blame
You're just a human, a victim of the insane
We're afraid of everyone
Afraid of the sun
Isolation
The sun will never disappear
But the world may not have many years
Isolation

I'm also reminded of the late, great Little Richard and his immortal words: *"Wop bop a loo bop a lop bam boom!"*

We all know what that means so let's shout it out, when we get up every morning, to remind ourselves that we're still alive and getting through this.

Please send contributions for next month's edition to the editor, Liz Macann, at theleenewsletter@gmail.com by 12th June.

Your letters

To the Editor

Once again our local DJ Geoff Hartley excelled himself for the VE Day celebrations.

At 11:00 am several of us gathered at a socially acceptable distance for the National Anthem and two minutes silence and broadcasts at the time of 8th May 1945. We then met again at 2:45 pm to listen to Winston Churchill's speech on the same day. Geoff played a series of Vera Lynn songs and we had an afternoon tea of cake, scones and champagne.

As we sat at the corner of Oxford Street many cars and cyclists passed on both occasions looking a little mystified, but several smiled and waved. We stayed there for about a couple of hours listening to requests from the other neighbours.

In Oxford Street

It is at a time like this in the middle of the pandemic that you realise how lucky we are to have such wonderful friends and neighbours to help jolly things along.

Close by in Princes Lane

As a point of interest I was two years old on VE Day and living in Lytham Lancashire, so my memories are zero.
Anthony Lea
Lee Common

The Lee Flower Show 1909

To the Editor

I am very sorry to hear that The Lee Flower Show will not be taking place this year but it is understandable under the circumstances.

THE LEE.

MONEY BACK IF YOU WANT IT—" DUSMO."

A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT.—ABANDONMENT OF THE ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOLS FETE.—Keen disappointment has been caused to the Sunday School children of The Lee, Lee Common, and Swan Bottom, and also to their parents, friends, and neighbours by the enforced abandonment of the 17th Annual United Sunday Schools Fête, given by Mr. and Mrs. Lasenby Liberty—which was arranged to take place on Wednesday last,—owing to an outbreak of measles in the district and the consequent closing of the Schools by order of the County Education Committee. The festival is one of the most popular of the year, comprising a procession to and Choral Service at the Parish Church, a Flower Show in the Park, a comprehensive series of Athletic Sports, with races and other contests for children, teachers, and visitors, Tea, Maypole and Morris Dances, performances by the Lee and St. Leonards Brass Band and the Chesham Church Lads' Brigade Bugle Band, a procession to salute the National flag, and presentation of sports prizes by the Countess of Buckinghamshire. The arrangements, which were, as might be expected, devised on a very complete and generous scale, were in an advanced stage when the unfortunate outbreak occurred, necessitating the abandonment of the entire programme. The flower show, which included classes for vegetables, fruit, window plants, wild flowers, cut-flowers, butter, cookery, honey, lace, school gardens, penmanship, brushwork, pen and ink work, needlework and knitting (the competition being restricted to amateurs resident in the district) was expected, from the number of entries received to be about the best of the series, and the regret and disappointment which are felt generally alike by the kind promoters of the festival and by those who would have enjoyed the fruits of their thoughtful kindness, may be better imagined than described.

I was browsing some old newspapers a while ago and was surprised to see that this is not the first time that the show has been cancelled due to illness. There was a measles outbreak in the summer of 1909 and a decision was made to abandon the preparations. The Bucks Herald dated 31st July 1909 reports the cancellation with much disappointment for all concerned.
Carol Addison
Lee Common
[*Editor's note: To read the newspaper extract more clearly, access the online version of the newsletter on the village website at www.thelee.org.uk/the-lee-newsletter and select June's edition.]*

Death is not the end

To the Editor

I awoke the other morning to find a dead Muntjac deer on our back lawn. It had obviously been savaged, but whether this was before or after its death I couldn't be sure. But what to do with the corpse?

The council's guidance on waste disposal was not much help. The kitchen waste caddy was too small for the Muntjac, garden waste did not seem a true description and, in any case, I did not have a green bin.

I did recall seeing a sign near Kimble pointing towards a natural burial ground, which I thought might be appropriate. I know the Humanist Society conducts burials for non-believers. But I'm sure they would need the agreement of the next of kin. Tricky.

So, I took the matter into my own hands, literally, and put the body into a black bag. At dusk, when I hoped no one would see me, I carried the bag to the nearby woods and tipped the contents under a holly bush away from the footpath for natural recycling. I hope I did the right thing.

Barnaby Usborne
Lee Common

The Forum

To the Editor

Recently I asked the community, via the forum, for some help with Microsoft Teams as I had an online interview coming up and had never used this system.

The response that I received was amazing. The message had literally gone live and within minutes our phone was ringing off the hook with offers of help and advice. A wonderful response from the community, but also an example of the role the forum plays in our lives and how it can be used to good effect.

Thank you to everyone who offered help and advice.

Alice Harrison
Lee Common

A welcome milestone

To the Editor

In what is probably a milestone for Swan Bottom communications, one member of our household was recently on a video call, another was teaching remotely whilst a third was interviewing someone via Zoom... and the broadband coped!

This could never have happened a year ago with download speeds of between 6 and 7 Mbps, so we're very fortunate to have got fibre broadband ahead of Covid-19. I felt particularly smug when a friend in London commented that she could not chat to

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me on Zoom as her husband had a business meeting and only one of them could make a video call at a time.

I appreciate that not everyone locally has yet been upgraded, but I think that by and large – and excluding the Easter week landline debacle – The Lee telephone exchange has coped well with the huge increase in video streaming over the past couple of months.

Ruth Fowler
Swan Bottom

Warning!

By Diana Taylor

What I noticed from this lockdown
Is our hair just grows and grows
Unattractively, my own man's hair
Was sprouting from his nose

So, from Amazon, we ordered
All kinds of 'coiffure' kit
And we had a 'barber' moment
When I tried to conquer it

I started with some tweezers
His eyebrow hairs to pull
'Cos he looked just like a Schnauzer –
Hairy browed and forehead full!

That already caused some wincing
Though results were really fine
So I then attacked his nostrils
As he speed-dialled 999

His screams were pretty piercing
Although it might be said
These were nothing like the noises
Once the clippers hit his head

I never knew such language come
From such a well-bred boy
As he shouted in expletives
That these shears were not a toy

He said "Flipping heck, now woman,
You have failed to use the spacer
You have scythed my hair in trenches
Like a motor mower racer"

I said: "Don't be such a baby
There's no need to make a scene"
And I carried on regardless
'Till his face turned rather green

I noticed that his ear tops
Had a hairstyle of their own
They'd look better if I clipped them
They were quickly, nicely mown

He shouted "Get the calamine,
My head's a bleeding mess"
(I forgave him that bad language
As he seemed in such distress)

But soon, I saw that 'bleeding'
Was what his head was doing
As my gallant try at hairdressing
Was descending into ruin

Never mind his minor injuries
And his hair and temper – short
What about my own poor feelings
Which were getting rather hurt

I terminated clipping
And applied a quite large plaster
Midst more bleeding and more nasty
words
He accused me of disaster

Said: "You're not fit to be a barber
And you're lucky I'm not dead"
But he's lucky that I've done First Aid
And could bandage up his head

To finish off with something kind
I slapped on a Turkish towel
He screamed that this was boiling hot
Letting out a further howl

In the end, I thought I'd write this
To warn you not to clip
As it's tricky when the tweezers pull
And shears and scissors slip

There must be something easier
Than chopping up your chap
When attempts at 'lockdown' barbering
Lead to mowing and mishap

Why not buy an 'online' hairband
Just tie back his 'lockdown' tresses
For pretending to be hairdressers
Can cause all kinds of stresses!

Jeanette Coldham

Headmistress Lee Common School 1973-1994

By Annie Ash

Jeanette became headmistress of LCS in 1973 after being head of Hardwick village school in North Bucks. She was a one-person team there teaching children from 5-11 years. Apparently when she was given the job at Lee Common she climbed the ropes in the hall and touched the ceiling. That's when it all began!

Jeanette managed LCS on a shoe string. She was the very first recycler. She kept cardboard boxes, paper, plastic and old clothes piled high to the school kitchen ceiling ready for any arts and crafts and performances.

She had no time for Health and Safety, letting children sit on window sills and radiators to get a better view of the blackboard. At home time she would race them across the playground to the bus wearing the same brown, flouncy skirt which she had bought in the 1970s.

If a dad was a builder he was often asked to pop in at lunch time to mend a radiator or put up a shelf. The parents formed a painting team to give the school a facelift during the holidays.

Jeanette established many traditions which happened yearly.

May Day was a very important event using a very old iron maypole she found in the school cellar. It was dressed with new ribbons and a fresh garland of plastic flowers every year. Not every child could manage the

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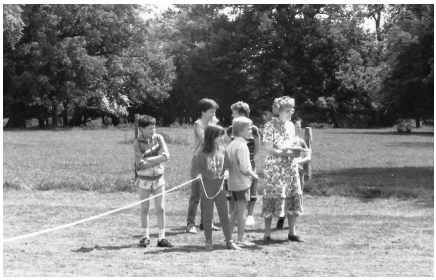
complicated traditional dances so they were given the job of sitting on the base of the maypole to stop it from toppling over.

Sports Day was held on the cricket pitch and fondly remembered by the whole school who had to cross the park carrying all the equipment and looking like a colourful snake. The inquisitive cows always stood round the fence watching.



Harvest Festival was celebrated at the church and the walk home always involved conker races down the hill just by the shop. Cars were few and far between then!

Christmas plays were very important with staff having had to write them during the autumn half-term. There was trouble if you had not managed it.

If not for you

Assemblies were key to giving children confidence even if they were only five years old. Each class was expected to take part once a week with the parents eagerly attending.

The parents were slightly scared of Miss Coldham because she could be prickly and impatient. She did not tolerate silliness, which taught the children self-reliance and perseverance.

Jeanette knew how to keep the magic alive in educating children and her staff were expected to provide a moment or two of awe and wonder every day.

She treated each child as an individual. She was kind and interested in every child, helping those who needed it and stretching those who excelled.

LCS was lucky to have a very good headmistress and she was a credit to her profession.

Covid-19, Boris and me

By Ruth Fowler

Back in the heady days of early March, I was frankly a bit blasé about Covid-19. Boris Johnson and the government didn't seem especially worried, and I was fairly confident that, whilst it might be in the cities, it wasn't going to impact The Lee any time soon.

By the middle of the month I was starting to get a little more concerned, and suggested to my son Tommo and his partner Holly, who spend their weekdays in a shared flat in London, that they might prefer to be with us. More space and, more importantly, more bedrooms and bathrooms should anyone succumb to the virus and need to self-isolate.

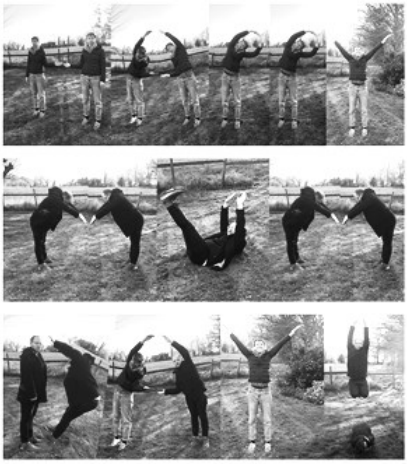
Rather to my surprise they accepted with alacrity, and were with us in the time it takes to discard perishable food, pack a bag and jump on the Metropolitan Line.

Two hours later the plan started to unravel when I became feverish.

I promptly shut myself away, and for the first couple of days things weren't too bad. A table appeared outside my bedroom door which was regularly replenished with food and drink, and also housed a small gong in

case I needed to request anything. Furnished with an adequate supply of paracetamol and my laptop, plus being waited on for my every need, I decided this wasn't too challenging.

Everything changed too quickly for a traditional Mother's Day card to be organised, so I received this homemade alternative.



Happy Mum Day

By the fourth day things started to deteriorate. I lost interest in answering the phone and emails, plus Tommo and Holly became sick as well. On the plus side this meant they could come in and see me, but the level of room service wasn't as good. At this point the paracetamol stocks were running low, and I put out an appeal on the forum in case anyone had a few spare pills they could let us have. The village came to the rescue, with a small traffic jam outside our house at one point as people rallied round to help. Many thanks to all of you.

Desolation row

The next day my husband, Graham, became sick as well, I lost my appetite and stopped eating in favour of spending all my time sleeping, and Tommo and Holly mostly stayed in bed feeling very sorry for themselves.

A couple of days later the consensus in the house was that I had been ill for too long, and medical advice was needed. NHS 111 was called, I explained my symptoms (in bed for several days, breathless on the least exertion, cough if I moved, catarrh and upset stomach, plus I was still running a temperature). They decided that I most probably had the virus and, rather unnecessarily, advised me not to go out and see anyone. They also arranged for a doctor to call me, who carried out several remote diagnostic tests: checking my pulse rate, how high I could count without coughing and also how long I could hold my breath without coughing. He decided I most probably had Covid-19, but also prescribed antibiotics just in case I had another infection as well.

Thunder on the mountain

Graham recovered after a day or two, Holly after a week and Tommo after about 10 days, but I hadn't noticeably improved in this time so the doctor was called again. I was advised to start eating only plain carbohydrates with possibly a little chicken broth (fortunately I'd made a couple of litres the week before I'd become ill, frozen

The LeeWay – Your Village Support Team

If you have difficulty getting to your doctor or the hospital, doing your shopping or would like a home visit and a friendly chat, then please ring:

07845 029500

Mon - Fri: 10 am - 4 pm. Sat: 10 am - 12 noon. Please give us reasonable notice of your requirement to help us organise it.

in convenient serving sized pots) and to stop having lemonade with my Dioralyte and revert to water.

It took another week before my temperature came down and I was well enough to eat properly and spend a whole day out of bed, with several hundred messages and emails waiting for me by the time I finally switched my phone back on. Lots of lovely people dropped in cards and kept in touch with Graham throughout, making sure I was okay and that we had everything we needed, for which I can't thank you all enough.

Unlike many other people I didn't lose my sense of taste and smell, find myself with a lingering cough, nor exhausted and constantly needing a nap after the symptoms and fever subsided – but maybe the last of these was because I'd spent three weeks in bed doing little other than sleeping and watching daytime television. I had extremely limited brain power the first few days I was up – Graham stopped his usual complaining about the excessive amount of time I spend in front of a screen, and instead started encouraging me to turn on the computer – but things gradually returned to normal. It was also a few days before I could speak on the phone as I didn't have the breath for a sustained conversation, but I am now fully restored to my normal verbose self.

A new world

When I first ventured out, I found the world had completely changed in the preceding four weeks. I'd heard rumours of queuing outside shops, but hadn't been prepared for the two metre marks on the ground everywhere and restricted access into shops and banks. Somehow the introduction of lockdown had passed me by while I was asleep, and the world had become a very different place to the one I'd known previously.

So… did I have Covid-19? All the indications are that I did but, as I avoided hospitalisation, I wasn't tested. I'd be interested to know if I have antibodies, a degree of immunity and an inability to pass the virus on to anyone else, but there is no way of knowing and I don't want to find out the hard way.

I've been asked how I caught it but, although I have suspicions, I don't know. To anyone to whom I may have passed it on, my apologies, and to everyone else stay safe and stick to the social distancing – this isn't a trivial illness like a cold.

Lockdown lingo

Are you fully conversant with the new Lee vernacular?

Coronacoaster

The ups and downs of your mood during the pandemic. You're loving lockdown one minute but suddenly weepy with anxiety the next. It truly is 'an emotional coronacoaster'.

Quarantinis

Experimental cocktails mixed from whatever random ingredients you have left in the house. The boozy equivalent of a store cupboard supper. Southern Comfort and Ribena quarantini with a glacé cherry garnish, anyone? These are sipped at 'locktail hour', i.e. wine o'clock during lockdown, which seems to be creeping earlier with each passing week.

Le Creuset wrist

It's the new 'avocado hand' – an aching arm after taking one's best saucepan outside to bang during the

weekly 'Clap for Carers'. It might be heavy but you're keen to impress with your high-quality kitchenware.

Coronials

As opposed to millennials, this refers to the future generation of babies conceived or born during coronavirus quarantine. They might also become known as 'Generation C' or, more spookily, 'Children of the Quarn'.

Furlough Merlot

Wine consumed in an attempt to relieve the frustration of not working. Also known as 'bored-eaux' or 'cabernet tedium'.

Coronadose

An overdose of bad news from too much media during a time of crisis. Can result in a 'panicdemic'.

The elephant in the Zoom

The glaring issue during a video conference call that nobody feels able to mention; e.g. one participant has dramatically put on weight, suddenly sprouted terrible facial hair or has a worryingly messy house visible in the background.

Quentin Quarantino

An attention-seeker using their time in lockdown to make amateur films which they're convinced are funnier and cleverer than they actually are.

Gonna change my way of thinking

Covidiot or Wuhan-ker

One who ignores public health advice or behaves with reckless disregard for the safety of others can be said to display 'Covidiocy' or be 'Covidiotic'. Also called a 'lockclown' or even a 'Wuhan-ker'.

Goutbreak

The sudden fear that you've consumed so much wine, cheese, home-made cake and Easter chocolate in lockdown that your ankles are swelling up like a medieval king's.

Antisocial distancing

Using health precautions as an excuse for snubbing neighbours and ignoring people you find irritating.

Coughin' dodger

Someone so alarmed by an innocuous splutter or throat-clear that they back away in terror.

Mask-ara

Extra make-up applied to 'make one's eyes pop' before venturing out in public wearing a face mask.

Covid-10

The 10lbs in weight that we're all gaining from comfort-eating and comfort-drinking. Also known as 'fattening the curve'.

Quarantoned

While most of us seem to be overeating and drinking, there are a wide variety of fitness challenges and home workouts that try to help you become 'quarantoned'.

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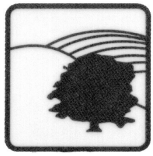
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HS2 update

By Colin Sully, The Lee Parish Council

At the beginning of May, Councillors from The Lee and Great Missenden parishes met (online) with EKFB, the HS2 contractor constructing the line north of South Heath, to review their plans in light of the 'Notice to Proceed' (NtP) granted by the Government on 15th April.

The issuing of NtP marks the point in the civil works contracts where the work transitions from 'scheme design and preparatory work' to 'full detailed design and construction'.

Local plans and priorities

At the meeting, EKFB provided updates on several issues:

- The 'baton' to communicate with local communities has been passed to EKFB who will also now be keeping a watching eye on all Undertakings and Assurances in their area (updates next month)
- The broad scheme design for our area is complete. It is not anticipated that there will be any major changes to the plans shown to communities in 2019
- Local Traffic Management Plans have now been issued for review by Buckinghamshire Council (BC). A meeting has been arranged by the Council with local parish councils to discuss the impact on the A413 and surrounding roads

Slow train

EKFB also explained their construction priorities for 2020:

- Set up compounds, including that at Smalldean
- Construct concrete batching plant to the north of the Wendover tunnel
- Construct a drainage shaft to the balancing pond located near the haul road at Great Missenden
- Fusion to complete archaeology works and outstanding roadworks (including Link Road, A413 junction, Kings Lane/Chesham Road B485 junction and Frith Hill, the last of which, although seemingly 'complete', in fact needs further work over the summer, including some closures)
- Start local traffic surveys (which have been approved but further delayed by Covid-19)

HS2 Construction

Major earthworks in the area are unlikely to start before spring 2021. Sites for the bentonite plants are not yet finalised. Further discussions are needed on the Hunts Green Farm temporary spoil heap.

Work notifications

Several local works notifications are currently in place:

- Great Missenden: Road works and closures notification – through to spring 2020
- Little Missenden: archaeology and pump tests notification – through to summer 2020
- Kings Lane, Great Missenden: works notification – through to June 2020
- Whielden Lane, Amersham to be closed for through traffic until 4th July 2020

Full details can be found at: https://tinyurl.com/ya74dgkq

Future community meetings

EKFB floated the idea of having a series of area-wide updates for multiple parishes on a regular, possibly monthly, basis. In addition, there would be meetings with individual parishes on specific topics.

The Government's position

Speaking to the Transport Select Committee, HS2 minister, Andrew Stephenson, said he remains convinced of the strategic case for the project, despite the impacts of Covid-19 and the expectation of a new 'normal' in how people will live and work after the lockdown. However, he did admit that the impact of the pandemic on UK travel habits would be something the Government "will look into".

Meanwhile the Public Accounts Committee produced yet another damning report, stating "we are not yet convinced that the DfT and HS2 Ltd have the skills and capability they need now or in the future" and that "the lack of transparency has undermined public confidence in the programme".

They omitted however to comment on the various ministers' skills, capability and transparency!

Cryptic Covid

The winner of the Cryptic Covid competition in the May Newsletter is Mark Braley of Lee Common, who produced all the correct answers within just a few hours of the Newsletter going online – obviously a quiet night on the TV! He wins a £5.00 voucher to spend (wisely) at the Shop at The Lee.

Jokerman

The correct A to Z answers were: Asymptomatic; Bridge Base; China; Distancing; Exercises; Furloughed; Go to meeting; Home; Isolated; Johnson; Key workers; Lockdown; Mask; National Health Service; Offices; Pandemic; Queuing; Recovering; Shielding; The Lee Covid-19 Volunteers; Update; Volunteer; World Health Organisation; X-rays; YouTube; Zoom.

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The shopping

By Symeon Economou

It is heart-warming and very rewarding to see how many have used the Shop with such patient goodwill in these challenging times.

Despite reducing the hours by 40% sales are up by 40%, and this puts quite a strain on volunteers dealing with such concentrated footfall.

Without a doubt we would have struggled to keep the shop open at all without the amazing, selfless support of the volunteers, old and new. I hate to mention individual names because every single person has been key but, in the context of ensuring we have produce to sell I do feel I have to break this principle for just a few.

Gotta serve somebody

Sarah Dubus and Ros Morris still endlessly queueing weekly outside Peterley Farm Shop, buying a whole range of produce and then having to price it and set it out in the Shop.

Sarah Wrench twice a week ordering and collecting masses of fruit and veg, separating it into retail quantities, bagging, pricing and merchandising it all.

Charles, valiantly keeping up with a massive surge in demand for our excellent value wines. (I actually think he enjoys it).

Katie sourcing plain and self-raising flour in bulk and bagging and pricing it at home.

It's a real privilege to be part of it all – and I have to say it's kept me and Sue relatively sane.

Meet and greet

By Anna Davis

In early February after a long day, the removals van finally left at 7:00 pm and we were officially residents of Oxford St, Lee Common.

We were told early on that we would find that it was a friendly village and it has gone beyond our expectations. On the first day we had neighbours popping in with warm cake, which was heavenly, and offers of tea.

Over the next few days people came by to welcome us, which we thought was delightful, and the wine and biscuits were very much appreciated. The village shop has been fantastic, a real life-line as I was self-isolating prior to the lockdown starting… and the ability to get supplies was super helpful with special thanks to Erica for delivering items to us.

In the summertime

We have met a number of the villagers from walking our beloved cockapoo, Atlas, and are greatly appreciating the sheer number of walking options on our doorstep, something we didn't have in Berkhamsted. So, if you see a chocolate-brown cockapoo with a

couple and a three-wheeler buggy, soon to be a double version (due July), please feel free to say hello.

Since the lockdown began, sadly, it has meant that plans to attend the Ballinger baby group with our 13 month old son Reuben are on hold as are a number of others. Local mums have already been in touch and made me feel very welcome. I look forward to a time when I can meet more of you in person. I met a few briefly before the lockdown commenced: how different the world seems now.

My husband Quintin, Reuben, Atlas, the bump and I feel blessed to have moved to such a lovely place.

Bridge challenge?

By Rita Sully et al

This hand came up recently in a 'Bridge Base' online competition. It set us a real challenge.

	♠ K Q J 9 3 2 ♥ 7 4 ♦ - ♣ Q 10 5 4 3	
♠ 10 5 4 ♥ Q J 5 ♦ Q 10 7 2 ♣ J 7 2		♠ - ♥ K 8 6 3 2 ♦ J 9 6 4 3 ♣ K 9 6
	♠ A 8 7 6 ♥ A 10 9 ♦ A K 8 5 ♣ A 8	

Dealer: East
Vulnerability: None

At our table, South opened 1♠… but how would you bid on from there? See page 22.

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Churches in June

All services are still suspended.

St John the Baptist, The Lee

Contacts:

Parish Administrator: Joanne Evans (07811 094416). *Churchwardens*: Trevor Pearce (01494 837601) and Mike Sherratt (07597 158269). *Verger:* Bill Pearce (01494 785191). *Treasurer:* David Stephenson (01494 867617).

Lee Common Methodist

Contact:

Marian Tomkins (01494 837479)

As it is still unclear to what extent, if at all, we shall be able to open the Church, we offer the following prayer:

Holy Spirit, coming as wind and fire, free and irrepressible, we pray for all who fear for the future.

We think of those who are concerned about their employment or their businesses, those who are still suffering from the effects of the coronavirus or have lost loved ones as a result of it and those who are housebound or elderly – those and so many others who yearn for a new beginning and an opportunity to start afresh.

We pray for those who are fearful that the future will bring changes, a sweeping away of everything that is tried and trusted, the imposition of unknown challenges and uncertainty. May they all rest secure in the knowledge that whatever else may change, you will remain constant.

Come now and change our world in all its need so it may enjoy hope, healing and harmony. May we all discover the secret of true contentment and the peace that passes all understanding which only you can give.

Holy Spirit, as you came at Pentecost, come again to-day.

Hear this and all our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Mary's, Ballinger

Please contact Anne Ellis (01494 837247) or Maggi Cameron (maggi.cameron@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

The Nursing Chronicles

The Corona Edition Part 2

By Zoe Berkeley

Six months into my career as a nurse and the coronavirus drops. Most of us thought it was just a bad strain of flu and it was a lot of fuss being made over nothing in the beginning, right?

Then the numbers of those infected increased and the number of available toilet rolls decreased. Suddenly we are in a pandemic and our lifestyles changed as we save lives in our loungewear in our own respective ways.

Nurses have seen their loungewear less, and fought with their potentially infected uniforms and scrubs more, with no choice but to get out there and fight this thing around various obstacles. An already understaffed workforces have become further depleted by staff sickness and higher demands from all other directions.

Impacts in all areas

I work in the community, so I'm lucky not to be currently spending 12 hour shifts in the hospital and seeing daily destruction that this virus is causing, but nevertheless I'm seeing it in other ways as fewer people want to, or are able to, go into hospital. This crisis impacts all areas of healthcare; whilst our focus has had to be on fighting to save lives from this virus, there are those who fight illness, disease and chronic conditions every day of their lives regardless. For many of these people treatment plans have changed, drugs are less available, the services they rely on for support are just not accessible and sadly some feel like they are the forgotten ones during this time.

Whilst the hospital is a hot zone for infection, if could be argued that they are better prepared for the fight there than those of us in the community. Being in someone's home is no safer, mostly in a confined space with not always the best hand washing facilities, and not being able to dispose of your scrubs at the end of the visit and let the hospital launder them at 60 degrees for you to return for your next contact to pick up a fresh pair.

Change and adapt

How we work in the community has had to change and adapt constantly, especially with ever changing policies and rules every day, as we all navigate our way through the uncertainty and lack of knowledge surrounding this virus. Not only does this impact how we do things but also how we are seen.

I am lucky to be able to pride myself in my job that I can add a personal touch to my care – I see people in the intimacy of their own homes and get to meet their families and get to know them on a more personal level. Throw in a mask that covers a reassuring smile, a gloved hand that holds a dying patients hand and sometimes a visor that turns you from the 'kind nurse' into something that may have landed on your doorstep from outer space, and somehow the way you are perceived and the reassurance that you are able to offer is altered.

Where teardrops fall

At my last visit, I apologised to an elderly patient I visit weekly that I had to come into her home dressed in a mask, gloves and a plastic blue apron, and I might add that she had the heater on full blast too as I attempted to disguise my sweating underneath! I smiled at her on the other side of my mask and asked her if she remembered me. She told me: "Yes I recognise those eyes" and I was glad that I was still able to be me under my armour.

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Ballinger bombing

By John Gover

The Bucks Free Press recently published an article on WWII bombing sites in Bucks and this was highlighted on The Lee Forum website. But I know the information is not complete and there was more bombing closer than you think. Plus there was a subsequent visit to the area by a very important person.

Some of you may remember the late Nigel Dwight who was born and lived in Ballinger all his life. He told me a number of tales about the village in past years when suddenly out of the blue came one about the war. Did I know that Ballinger was bombed in 1944? There followed a story you could not make up.

Nigel was 14 in 1944 and an official fire warden, not that he ever expected to be called to duty. But then Ballinger was not exactly of strategic importance. Sometime in the first half of the year he heard aircraft and saw some German planes flying in the area. They circled around for a while then came over the village and suddenly started dropping incendiary bombs. I cannot quite remember the details but one caught a roof alight – it may have been where 'Rought It' the prefab bungalow used to stand – and a second burnt out a green house. Nigel help put out this fire.

There then followed a bomber which dropped at least two bombs. One landed in a field just north of South Heath. No damage to housing but apparently one cow was killed and others injured by shrapnel. Nigel said that the bomb created a crater which was still there. I did check later and there is a depression today but if not told otherwise I would have assumed it was an old chalk pit.

A second bomb was closer to Ballinger. Unsubstantiated rumour has it that it was behind the present Blackthorne Lane houses or the row of flint cottages near St Marys Chapel. Again no damage. Were there other bombs? Maybe, but if so, I suspect they were jettisoned further away.

Tell me that it isn't true

The villagers had no idea why Ballinger was targeted, but their questions were partially answered the next day. Suddenly, unannounced, some vehicles arrived and out of one came Churchill who started talking to people. Apparently he first stopped at the South Heath village shop and then onto Ballinger. He was staying at Chequers, was informed about the bombing and had come to talk to everyone and reassure them.

With Churchill gone, after a brief stay, the people were told not to talk about the bombing or of the Prime Minister's visit. This was to remain an official secret.

So why bomb Ballinger and South Heath and why keep it secret? According to Nigel this happened in the run up to D Day when Eisenhower was visiting Churchill at Chequers. Somehow the Germans had rumours of a meeting and tried to make a surprise bombing raid. They could not find Chequers and attacked Ballinger

instead! The secrecy came because the Government did not want the Germans to know how close they had come. So we can assume nothing was put into the official bombing records and any information is still hidden away in the dusty archives of the War Office.

VE Day 2020 over Hyde Heath

New broom

By Patricia Birchley

The start of the new council coinciding with coronavirus has been challenging for staff, many of whom have volunteered at the temporary hospital in the Olympic Lodge freeing beds at Stoke Mandeville, producing PPE, finding homes for rough sleepers and distributing funding to companies furloughing their workforce.

Thanks go to The Lee Parish Covid-19 volunteers, and other local groups, who have met the needs of locked down residents and enabled them to receive their prescriptions, shopping and maintained telephone contact. The Chesham Coronavirus Fund has supported the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Chesham Mind, food banks and Chiltern Music Therapy. When the applications were considered I hoped they would benefit people in every community.

Things have changed

Video meetings have become the norm, reducing the need for travel and our life styles will change with less commuting and more home working.

This should be a healthier alternative judging by the amount of runners and riders, walkers and gardeners that have been exercising and enjoying the environment during lockdown. HS2 seems even more ludicrous, far from being 'more important than ever' it should be cancelled now!

Whilst we remain positive and count our blessings, and it's sad to see so many summer events cancelled, our community spirit is the glue that keeps us together. Please contact me if I can raise your concerns with officers at County Hall.

Please note my new email address: Patricia.Birchley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk and my mobile: 07714 704017.

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Plague at the Fowlers

By Holly Williams

We came to Swan Bottom to be safe. Big mistake. Mere hours after Tommo and I walked in the door – carefully waving at Ruth and Graham across the kitchen in case we'd brought the virus with us from London – she came down with a fever. The rest of us followed within days; we were soon sending friends and family updates from 'the plague house'.

Looking back, now fully recovered, we can recognise that we were all extremely lucky really – but there were moments when it didn't feel that way. One of the things Covid-19 seems to do is fug up the brain (not a medical term), and it took a while for it dawn on Tommo and I, as we were crawling back towards normality after our own fevers, for just how long Ruth hadn't been able to eat.

I think it was on the twelfth day of her illness that I started to panic about it, but – speaking to medical professionals – it seemed as if as long as you were still able to breathe, you weren't a cause for concern. Which was both reassuring and very unsettling – a sign of what different times we were living through.

The most striking thing about all four of us having coronavirus (probably) at the same time was how differently it affected us – not only in the duration of the illness or the severity, but in the variety of symptoms. If they did Covid bingo cards, we'd have a full house. We all had fevers, but I alone had a ragingly sore throat, while Tommo completely lost his sense of taste and smell (and was furious to discover, as those senses slowly came back, that he could no longer abide the taste of his beloved coffee). What we also all had in common was that it took a much longer time to get your energy back than after a normal bout of flu or similar.

Beyond the horizon

Luckily, Swan Bottom is a lovely place to recuperate. I began to carefully time daily walks, to slowly get my strength backup: just ten minutes, then twenty, then thirty… banks of daffodils and glimpses of violets and primroses seemed to cheer me on, while the sun shone obligingly.

By the time I was up to full-blown cross-country rambles, the Chiltern countryside was fluffing out into glorious spring green. The household got near-daily updates on encounters

with lambs, or the progress of the bluebell woods – and a week or so later it was wonderful to see Ruth recovered enough to slowly walk to them just as they reached their fullest flush.

As someone who hardly knows the area, I was continually delighted by how well maintained all the footpaths were – it was so easy to strike out without a route in mind, to just follow signs and see where they took you. I grew up on a hillside in mid-Wales, rather more wild and remote (what I would've given for a tube line to London!). But while the landscape here is different – gentler, flatter, prettier – it was such a tonic to once again be able to walk straight out into the countryside from my front door, especially after being ill and cooped up indoors. So thank you to everyone who gives their time to keep those footpaths clear and available – it is noticed and appreciated!

Getting out for walks was helpful on a mental level, as well as a physical one. Even once Tommo and I were back to full health, there were still worries to deal with over evaporating work, vanishing funding, and what government support might be available for freelancers.

Blowin' in the wind

Future plans and dreams seemed to be flying apart like dandelion clocks in a gust of wind. But being somewhere where you could escape the rolling news and anxiety of social media for rolling landscapes and lungs of fresh air really did help enormously.

It was a reminder that, whatever this pandemic throws at us the world keeps turning and the seasons keep changing. And this is a beautiful place from which to watch that change.

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The Lee Parish Council news

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk

Co-opted Parish Councillor

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Marcus Dobbs of Oxford Street, Lee Common, as a co-opted Parish Councillor. Marcus will now serve on the Parish Council alongside the other six councillors until the local elections in May 2021.

The children's playground

Whilst open spaces are available to the public to take exercise during lockdown, the Government has highlighted the continued risk of virus spread through children playing in close proximity and touching shared surfaces. Therefore, the Oxford Street children's playground, at the time of writing, remains 'closed'.

As it has not been possible for the Parish Council to seal-off the play equipment, residents are asked to respect this decision and to supervise their children's play.

Cyclists – take note!

There have been an unusual number of reports during lockdown of cyclists on footpaths, who, when confronted by residents, have been belligerent and, in some cases, abusive. It is not clear whether some or any of these cyclists are likely to be reading this Newsletter, but everyone is reminded that cycling on footpaths is not permitted in any circumstances.

Basketball net

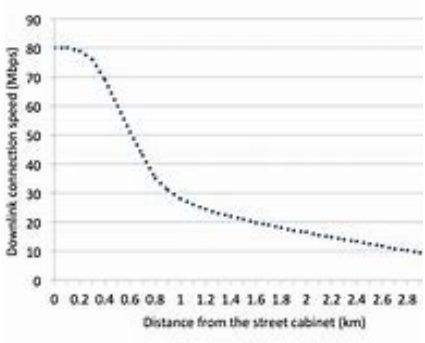
The basketball net situated adjacent to the tennis courts near the Parish Hall is reaching the point where it needs significant maintenance, replacement or scrapping. Before deciding on the best course of action, the Parish Council would be grateful to receive any feedback from residents on its use/value. We know it is occasionally used, but just how important is it to the community?

Please email clerk@thelee.org.uk with any comments.

The basketball net remains available for use during lockdown by members of the same household or by no more than two people from different households, provided they observe social distancing rules.

Telecoms update

Most residents served by the Lee Common telephone exchange have had the option of 'Superfast Broadband' for more than a year, using telephone lines connected via one of the local Telecoms Cabinets – 'Fibre to the Cabinet' (FTTC). Typically, speeds of between 25 and 80 Mbps download are being achieved with FTTC, depending on the distance from the premises to the cabinet.



However, as the figure above shows, this system works much less well for premises located some distance from a cabinet (e.g. more than a kilometre away at Lee Gate, Kings Ash, Arrewig Lane). For these areas 'Fibre to the Premises' (FTTP),

capable of delivering up to 330 Mbps, is being introduced (or considered).

Subject to the restrictions placed on telecoms workers during the Coronavirus crisis, the latest situation (mid-May) appears to be as follows:

FTTP enabled (but implementations paused due to Coronavirus)

- Kings Ash (most of HP16 9NP)
- Lee Gate (HP16 9NR/9NW)
- Swan Bottom, near the cross-roads (HP16 9NH and 9NN only)
- Kings Lane (HP22 6PT)
- Swan Lane (most of HP16 9NU); (HP23 6NS)
- Kiln Hill (HP16 9NX)

Exploring Solutions for FTTP

- Arrewig Lane (HP5 2UA)

You can check the latest situation for your property at www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband or www.connectedcounties.org.

Maybe someday

If you wish to take advantage of FTTP, you will need to approach one of the internet service providers (BT, Sky, Zen, etc.) who will then contract with Openreach to carry out installation work at your premises (delayed at the moment because of Coronavirus).

Other premises

Residents served by the Lee Common exchange and living outside of the areas listed above may enquire about FTTP but may be asked to contribute towards the cost of installation, which can be significant.

Community Fibre

If a number of residents and businesses in the community want faster broadband, BT have an initiative for communities to access and pool funding together and use this to approach a supplier directly to request a bespoke solution.

More information can be found at www.communityfibre.bt.com/ and there

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are other network providers who also might be able to help, listed at: www.connectedcounties.org/#providers.

Another road closure…

We have received notice from Buckinghamshire Council that Oxford Street will be closed to through traffic, due to roadworks in connection with Openreach, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm on 8th to 12th June. Emergency vehicles will have access through the closure; buses will not. If we receive any further information nearer the date of closure, we will post notices to The Lee Forum.

And finally…

A reminder that the RSPB recommends not cutting domestic hedges and trees between March and August, as this is the main breeding season for nesting birds.

When the deal goes down

There are different ways to bid this hand. At our table, N-S ended up in 4 NT (don't ask) and made it plus one.

A better bidding sequence would be a 'splinter bid' of 4♦ by N, to show the void, followed by 5♦ (Roman Key Card), to show the K♠.

E	S	W	N
p	1♠	p	4♦
p	4NT	p	5♦
p	6♠	p	p
p			

South makes a small slam, losing just the one ♣ trick.

Lee Common School

By Alison Whittal, Interim Headteacher

This last term has been crazy in anyone's world but for schools it has been particularly unusual. With many schools like ghost towns or only open for children of key workers, and parents turning their living rooms into schools, it has certainly been massive change for all concerned.

Here at Lee Common School we have been so proud of how everyone – staff, pupils and parents – have stepped up to the challenge.

Larks Nursery
Lee Common

Larks Nursery

Located in Lee Common C of E School

We welcome children from 3 years

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www.leecommon.org

I believe in you

Teachers have worked so hard at home to prepare exciting lessons for the children, and have also undertaken a huge amount of self-study, whilst the parents and pupils have really

impressed us with their exciting and often innovative home schooling.

Summer days

It's been a difficult time for all but this sunny weather has certainly helped and a lot of wonderful outdoor learning has been going on.

As we begin to plan for a return to school we would like to remind our wonderful village newsletter readers that, as a community school, we welcome the involvement of local residents and always like to hear your views and thoughts.

Right now we would welcome that you speak to others about our little gem of a school as we still have some remaining places for our Larks Nursery and Reception 2020-21 class.

Please do spread the word and ask people to contact the school if they would like more information: office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk.

Unitary-Lee 1: Planning

By The Lee Parish Cllr Colin Sully

Since 1st April 2020, the county of Buckinghamshire (excluding Milton Keynes) has been governed by a new Unitary Authority – Buckinghamshire Council (BC). This council now performs all of the roles and functions previously carried out by the Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) and the four District Councils – in our case Chiltern District Council (CDC).

The times they are a-changin'

Some of the changes are quite subtle. Indeed, for most services delivered to most people residents will have seen little change.

In this first of a new series of articles, we examine how the

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info@karensabsolutepilates.co.uk
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reorganisation manifests itself in the services provided to residents in The Lee. We start by looking at 'Planning'.

Development Control

Planning Committees continue to be responsible for Development Control and Planning matters. Their role is to determine planning applications and regulate the development or use of land.

Buckinghamshire Council has five Area Planning Committees, together with a Strategic Sites Committee. The latter deals with wider strategic development, sites which have a significant impact beyond the specific local area and sites fundamental to the implementation of an adopted or emerging Local Plan.

We now live in 'East Bucks'

The five local Area Planning Committees – in our case 'East Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee' – determine smaller scale applications within their respective areas. As before, each application is determined on its merits, taking account of current legislation and planning policies. Many planning applications are delegated to be determined by planning officers – a smaller number come to the Planning Committees.

The East Buckinghamshire Planning Committee will continue to meet at Amersham (or online); the next meetings are scheduled for 2nd and 30th June starting at 6:30 pm.

Full details of the agendas are available before the meetings at https://buckinghamshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=362

The 'Local Plan'

You may recall that South Bucks and Chiltern DCs (now South and East Buckinghamshire) spent some time preparing a draft new Local Plan which sets out its policies to meet housing and development needs in the area through to 2036. By March 2020, this Plan had reached the stage of being reviewed by the independent Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

The Inspector has now written to BC saying that he is considering recommending rejection of the Plan, on the basis that the council has failed to comply with the 'Duty To Cooperate', specifically in respect of the unmet housing needs in Slough. He will not reach a conclusion on this matter until BC has had the opportunity to consider his findings, however he says "there is a strong likelihood that the only option will be for the Council to withdraw the Plan".

Whatever the decision, there is also the job of integrating this Local Plan with that of the other three planning areas in Buckinghamshire. This story will run and run!

In the next in this series, we look at 'Community Boards' and 'Council Access Points'.

Forum Freda

Forum Freda's postbag is still quite full. All the items from the postbag are now online at www.thelee.org.uk/common-problems, and can be found by searching in Google for "The Lee Common Problems". Here's a recent selection.

Dear Forum Freda, I can't find the forum, what's the best way to access it?

Dear User, There are a few ways to access the forum:

- From the village website at www.thelee.org.uk, the forum is the last menu entry
- Google is your friend: search for "The Lee forum 2020" (please note

that other search engines may not return identical results)
- Type the forum's URL of https://www.thelee.org.uk/the-lee-forum-2020 into your browser's address bar

Once you've found the forum's page, it may be helpful to bookmark it or add it to your Favourites ready for your next visit.

Trouble

Dear Forum Freda, I've tried requesting a password reset, but always get an error when I click the link in the reset email I receive. Help!

Dear User, There could be a number of reasons for this:

- Password reset links are only valid for 24 hours, so please do action the link as soon as you receive it.
- If you request multiple password resets, then each link will supersede the previous. This means that only the latest link you receive will be valid.
- Occasionally the links aren't properly read by the internal software, and the way around this is to paste the link into your browser, rather than clicking on it.

If you need help with resetting your password, take a look at the step by step illustrated instructions in the online User Guide at www.thelee.org.uk/password-reset. Step 4 shows how to cope with links that don't work properly, and need to be pasted into your browser.

Numbers

- Over 520 people have now registered with the forum, of whom 270+ (52%) are resident in the parish (which has approximately 280 households)
- 61% have set subscriptions, which means we send over 300 emails for new topics and approximately 200 for each reply – all within seconds.

If you are still struggling with completing your registration or subscriptions then please email <admin@thelee.org.uk> setting out clearly the problems that you are having and how far you've got. We are finding that Freda's assistants (Ruth and Colin) can sort out most problems on the telephone.

More from Freda next month.

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Dear Diary

The fastest way to let everyone in the Parish know about an event you are arranging is to publish it right here in the Newsletter. Contact the Editor by the 12th of the previous month (see contact details on page 1).

June

Stay alert
Keep up your daily exercise

Control the virus
Mow the grass, but not too short

Save lives
Don't cut your hedges, the birds are nesting

Great Missenden Supported Living

A warm, friendly, house for the elderly, in the picturesque centre of the village.
Come and take a look to see for yourself and have a chat with Carol Lauder-Ross (Manager)
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Play tennis
One hour sessions can be booked at a cost of £6 by contacting Pippa Hart by phone or (ideally) WhatsApp on 07785 323232 for bookings, payment and the padlock combination. Please:

- restrict play to a maximum of four people from one household or two people from different households
- take kitchen roll with you to wipe down the padlock, gate handles and net handles using the provided spray
- place all rubbish in the on-court bin
- do not use or put belongings on the bench
- use your own (marked) balls if playing singles with someone outside your household
- maintain social distancing rules at all times – particularly when entering and leaving the court

My back pages
Read again the online 'Covid Special' edition of the May Newsletter at www.thelee.org.uk/May2020

Coming soon

- Tests for antibodies
- Track and trace
- Packs of Covid-19 detection sniffer dogs roaming the country
- An aeroplane in the sky

Directory of local contacts

Ballinger Horticultural Society
Chairperson: Katherine Hersee
07801 948650
kjhersee@googlemail.com
Membership Secretary:
jennywooding@btconnect.com

Ballinger War Memorial Hall
Bookings: Jane Ogden, 837379
Ballinger Evening WI
Contact: Frankie Little, 837659
frankie.little@btinternet.com
Lee Common C of E School
School office, 837267
office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk
Lee Common Methodist Church
Marian Tomkins, 837479
Lee Common Scouts
Scout Leader Thomas Brockett:
837294 or brockett8@hotmail.com
Shop at The Lee
Symeon Economou, 837195
shop@thelee.org.uk
St John the Baptist Church
See centre pages.
St Mary's Ballinger
Contact: Anne Ellis, 837247
anne.ellis1004@gmail.com
Tennis Court @ Parish Hall
Bookings: Judy Morgan 837787
The Arts Society Ballinger
Chair, Lesley Wickham, 865480
ballinger@theartssociety.org
The Lee Cricket Club
www.theleecc.org.uk
Secretary, Mike Harris
07788 345555
The Lee Flower Show
Chairman, Jonathan Batten, 837450
The Lee Newsletter
theleenewsletter@gmail.com
The Lee Old Church Trust
Secretary: Pam Garner 837501
The Lee Parish Council
Clerk: Hayley Farrelly, 837068
clerk@thelee.org.uk
www.thelee.org.uk/pc
Allotments: Alison Weir, 837529
The Lee Parish Hall Committee
Bookings: Anne Barnett, 837796
Chairman: Tony Lea, 837237
The LeeWay
Contact: 07845 029500
Vocal Lees (village choir)
Jeannette Batten, 837450

The Newsletter

The Lee Newsletter is published 10 times a year and distributed free to all households in the parish… and a little beyond. The views expressed in it are not necessarily those of the Editor.

We welcome letters and articles of interest and relevance to The Lee. Copy should be sent to the Editor of the month (see page 1) by the 12th of the month before publication.

Letters should ideally run to no more than 200 words and articles to no more than 700 words; material may be edited and may appear on the village website www.thelee.org.uk unless consent is specifically withheld. Anonymous contributions are not accepted.

To advertise or place an insert, please contact Paul Apicella on 837377 by the 12th of the previous month.

If you have photographs for publication please contact Jonathan Batten on 837450 or email battenjonathan@hotmail.com.

For queries regarding distribution contact Barnaby Usborne on 837382.

Other members of the Editorial team: Peter Archer, Zoe Berkeley, Ruth Fowler, Phil Harrison, Liz Macann, Jen Ogley, Adam Speller and Colin Sully.

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To book the Parish Hall or Scout Hut

'phone Anne Barnett on 837796

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Mon - Fri	£30 or £10/hr	£45 or £10/hr
Sat/Sun	£12/hr	£70
Bank Holiday	£12/hr	£70
Car park only	£10	
Crockery/cutlery	£15 (hire outside the hall)	

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