



# NEWSLETTER

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

## From the Editor

By Liz Macann

Who would have thought, three months ago, that our lives would have changed in oh so many ways?

It's hard to believe that the poem below was not written for the Covid-19 pandemic but was written in 1869, by Kathleen O'Meara and reprinted during the 1919 pandemic...

### And people stayed at home

*And people stayed at home  
And read books  
And listened  
And they rested  
And did exercises  
And made art and played  
And learned new ways of being  
And stopped and listened more deeply.*

*Someone meditated, someone prayed  
Someone met their shadow  
And people began to think differently  
And people healed.*

*And in the absence of people who  
Lived in ignorant ways  
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless  
The earth also began to heal.*

*And when the danger ended and  
People found themselves  
They grieved for the dead  
And made new choices*

*And dreamed of new visions  
And created new ways of living  
And completely healed the earth  
Just as they were healed.*

It would be hard to find a kinder community in which to experience the challenges of the past few months; everyone looking out for others, delivering shopping, cooking meals and so much more.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the upside of all the upset and difficulties was that the lessons learnt and contacts made all over the country – in fact the world – stayed with us and were acted upon by enough people to make a sustainable difference?

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### A special August edition

Traditionally, because of the summer holiday period, we haven't produced an August edition of the Newsletter. However, in view of the extraordinary year we are having and thanks to some special funding from Buckinghamshire Council, the Editorial Team has taken the decision to publish an edition in August. In the absence of the Fête and the Flower Show, there will be space for much, much more... so get writing!

Our special guest editor will be Andrew Burnett, who will be pleased to receive material by email by 12<sup>th</sup> July at [theleenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:theleenewsletter@gmail.com)

# Your letters

## Happy clapping

To the Editor

As clapping finished at Bassibones on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June [see also page 16: *Ed.*], all those who attended the regular clapping and disco wondered how we could continue this and the VE celebrations. As it is the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the NHS on 5<sup>th</sup> July, that might be an ideal opportunity.

Geoff and Anthea have provided music since the clapping started on 25<sup>th</sup> March and it has been a great way to thank all those who have helped in the local community and further afield. They played requests for Shop volunteers, The Lee Covid-19 helpers, NHS staff living in the village, the milkman, the postman, delivery people and the police. Every night ended with 'We'll meet again' and let us hope we can do that on 5<sup>th</sup> July. Thank you Geoff and Anthea, you have provided some fun at a very difficult time.

Tony Lea

Lee Common

## Midsummer in Mongolia

To the Editor

What a difference a year makes! This time last year I was travelling in Siberia – this year I wonder whether the lock-in must feel a bit like a Siberian gulag for some. I thought, though, that you might be interested in being introduced to Sasha, the guide who took me hiking along the shores of Lake Baikal – the deepest lake in the world at 5,371 feet, which contains 20% of the world's fresh water. As we hiked along its beautiful shores, I asked Sasha how he spent his time now he has retired from teaching PE at the local school. "Well," he said, "my



*On Lake Baikal*

wife and I love walking and in summer we walk along the shores like this and in winter (the lake is frozen to a depth of about three metres for at least four months of the year and had not long unfrozen when I was there in July), we walk on the ice or in our snow shoes over the mountains. When we are not doing that, my wife travels into Irkutsk for her weekly art class but as I don't do art I spend most of my time watching television on my computer. My favourite programme is *Midsomer Murders*."

Oh joy! I explained to him that I lived in *Midsomer* and our village had starred as *Badgers Drift* and as *Midsomer Fleury*.

Jane Marsh

Lee Common

## Village history

To the Editor

Following up on Carol Addison's letter in the May Newsletter, there used to be a lovely lady in Ballinger, Dorothy Evans, who was born in Hyde Heath. While her father was away fighting in WWI Dorothy told me, "My mother fell down in a faint and I never saw her again". After the war, her father married Hepzibah and the family moved to one of the old cottages in the garden of the church at

Ballinger. She told me her cousin Violet (later Ghorst) lived next door.

The church was built in 1874 as a school by Mr Watson of The Lee Manor, for the poor of Ballinger, but by the time Dorothy moved there, it had become a joint Chapel and Church with Violet's parents looking after the chapel side of things and Dorothy's, the church. When we moved to Ballinger in 1971 the church hadn't been used as a chapel for many years and Violet's cottage was condemned, although Dorothy still lived in hers.

Both cottages have now been rebuilt and the church is very much alive, with informal services (normally) at 9:30 am on the first Sunday in the month. There are still paintings inside of the teacher and pupils at the school, and also one of Dorothy and her dog, Witchie. In normal times the church is always open.

Lizzie Benwell  
Lee Common

To the Editor

Following-up on Carol's letter in the May edition, my sister Janet Chilton ran the youth club from 1987 until 1997, when she had to give it up to look after Dad. During those 10 years she built the numbers up and there was 90 children aged between eight and twelve years who came from far and wide on a Friday evening to enjoy games and craft, table tennis and football, just to mention a few activities. Flood lights were erected over the tennis court so that football could be played in there; Michael and Ken Humphries used to organise this. She also had a parent rota to serve at the Tuck shop and help with craft, etc.

Janet also arranged coach outings taking the members to ice skating at Oxford and other venues.

At this time the Lee Youth Club was a member of The Youth Club

Association: the Bucks Chairman was Peter Rice and he or an associate would visit every now and then to make sure all was going well. Vivien Salisbury took over from Janet when it was thriving.

Joy Heels

Kings Ash (formerly)

To the Editor

Further to John Gover's interesting article about his WWII conversations with Nigel Dwight, I thought you might like to hear this wonderful story.

A few years ago, I had a conversation with an elderly gentleman who told me that he lived his childhood on a farm in Little Hampden, beside the long country road leading to Chequers. During WWII his mother and father were good friends with the chauffeur that used to drive Winston Churchill to London and back. Each time the

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chauffeur went past in either direction he would sound his horn to let them know he was passing.

Anyway, one morning his mother was baking in her farmhouse kitchen wearing her apron, which was covered in flour. She hears the chauffeur's car pull up but there had been no sounding of a car horn. Instead, she sees a new chauffeur calling out and banging on the door. After opening the door, the stranger implores her to tell him where Chequers is as his passenger is late for a very important meeting. She begins to explain where he will find the house, but he says there is no time for that. She must get in the car and direct them there herself. The mother is a complete mess from her baking and her hair is in disarray. Nevertheless, she complies with his wish, as he seems so desperate.

So she sits in the front of the car and gives directions. Curious to know who the passenger is that needs to arrive at Chequers so urgently she casually looks round. There in the back seat sits General Eisenhower. She was aghast that there she was, sitting in a luxury car with such a great man, in her apron, with messy hair and covered in flour!

Regardless of this, she saves the day and guides them to Chequers. The car is motioned through easily by the armed guards to the front entrance of the building with no bother. General

Eisenhower enters the building and then the chauffeur drives her back to her farmhouse.

I think that ties in nicely with Eisenhower's visit before D Day and the surprise bombing raid over Ballinger.

Carol Addison

Lee Common

To the Editor

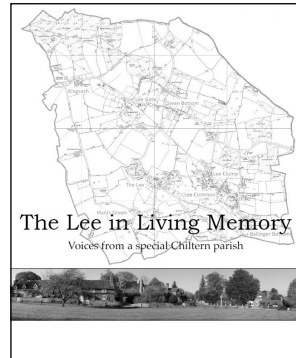
An observation on the June article by John Gover: Nigel Dwight was born at Pednor in 1918. So he did not live in Ballinger all his life and he was not 14 in 1944.

This information is confirmed in 'The Lee in Living Memory'.

Elizabeth Boakes

Ballinger

[*'The Lee in Living Memory' is on sale at the Shop @ The Lee: Ed.*]



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To the Editor

Thank you to everyone in the villages who contacted me following my 'Warning' poem of last month.

It seems as if more than a few of you have had encounters with clippers, shears and scissors in an attempt to stay trim. In fact, to my surprise, several readers wrote emails or made telephone calls to recount their own tales following attempts at

haircutting. These were always in good humour and some readers also mentioned the imaginary cartoons that they had as they read the poem. Is there anyone out there who can draw such things?

I send my best wishes to all and very much hope all of your wounds are healed and irritations forgiven.  
Diana Taylor  
Sly Corner

## The need for a village archive

By The Lee Parish Hall and Council

**T**he Lee is rich in history and the topic of a village archive is often raised. Many homes have records of historic value tucked away in cupboards and attics; some have them hanging on their walls or in a bookcase. The idea of bringing some of them together in one place is an attractive one, but all attempts to go down this path have so far been stalled by four questions:

- How much material is there – photographs, records, files, etc?
- Where is it?
- Where could it be kept?
- Who would catalogue and look after it?

The Lee Parish Hall Committee and the Parish Council are currently considering some options to create some space at the Parish Hall, but in order to decide what to do, we need some answers to these questions.

Do let us know what you think of the idea and what material you might have that could be deposited in (or loaned to) the archive, by emailing [busborne@compuserve.com](mailto:busborne@compuserve.com) or [annlizash@hotmail.com](mailto:annlizash@hotmail.com).

The sooner you let us know, the sooner we can make the right decision.

## !Stop Press!

*Lee Common CE School has a newly appointed Headteacher. Here, Claire Gresswell introduces herself as she takes up her post.*

## It takes a village



By Claire Gresswell, Headteacher

**I** am delighted to be writing what I hope will be the first of many updates in my new role as Headteacher of Lee Common CE School.

When I applied for the role in early April, little did I know how different life was going to be for us all a month or two down the line.

As I write, schools across the country are grappling with the



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challenge of welcoming back their youngest pupils, whilst maintaining social distancing and keeping everyone safe. It is a huge responsibility for schools to take on and I congratulate the team at Lee Common for all the hard work and meticulous planning that went on in order to open the school at such short notice. There is no doubt that classrooms and playgrounds are going to look very different for some time to come. I consider myself fortunate to be facing this challenge as part of a team of very caring and dedicated staff and governors and can reassure parents that the physical safety and emotional wellbeing of our children will always be at the heart of every decision we make, both now and in the future.

### Familiar faces – varied needs

As a small, village school, I feel we have a distinct advantage. The children know each and every member of staff well, so will always find themselves with a familiar face however we need to rearrange our classes. The staff know each and every child well, so will be able to respond to their needs and nurture their growth as they have always done. The parents and local community will, I am sure, take the steps needed to ensure the families of Lee Common and beyond can drop off and pick up their children from school safely. The Lee Common family will support each other, understanding that everyone's experience of lockdown has been different and has affected everyone's life in different ways.

As and when they return, the needs of the children will be many and varied. Some children will have many happy memories; despite missing play dates with friends and hugs with grandparents, they will have benefited from hour upon hour of time and

attention from a parent, learning through play and adult interaction. Others will have more troubling memories; they may have experienced the loss of a family member or friend, or they may have suffered the fear and anxiety that comes with watching those they love having to leave the safety of home every day in order to work or look after others. Either way, we will meet the differing needs of the children with love, patience and understanding as they learn again to separate from their parents, rekindle friendships and tackle new challenges.

It really does take a village to raise a child and I feel truly privileged to be leading this lovely school, in this beautiful setting, in the heart of such a vibrant, active and caring community. I look forward to a time when we can once again gather on the green and I can meet you all in person. In the meantime, I would like to thank the governors, staff and parents for making me feel so welcome and I wish you all a safe and happy return to the 'new normal'.

## HS2 PR stunt in bad taste?

By Colin Sully

Last month I read: "*HS2 launches naming competition for Chiltern tunnel boring machines.*" I was shocked. Surely, someone is having a joke! No, it's serious. I was depressed. What an insensitive PR stunt!

Then I became cynical. Why don't we just go the whole hog and call one machine 'Boris' and the other 'Rishi'. Then I was amused at the suggestion, in the press, that we might end up with 'Boring Mcboreface'.



*Coming to the Chilterns soon!*

Finally, I read the detail and found that schools had supposedly come up with just three names from which the choice is to be made – each of which happens to be a famous female scientist (Marie Curie; Florence Nightingale and Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin) – and, for each of whom, HS2 Ltd had found some spurious link with Buckinghamshire. The public was in fact not being asked to “choose a name”, but rather simply being asked to reject one of the children’s choices. Now, I’m just plain angry!

How manipulative (of children), devious (implying the public are making a choice) and insensitive... and how much has this PR stunt cost?

I complained to HS2 Ltd: I wrote to my MP. It hasn’t made any difference... and it hasn’t made me feel any better!

## Anyone for tennis?

By Peter Macann

**W**ho would have thought that, on Day 1 (10<sup>th</sup> May) of Phase 1 of the cautious relaxation of the rules, there would be such a rush of enthusiasm to beat four bells out of yellow furry balls. But

thanks to the ever vigilant Pippa Hart on the Parish Hall Committee, the parish tennis court was all ready to go at incredibly short notice on the big day. She had organised antibacterial spray for wiping handles, padlocks, net winders... in fact anything that might transfer the dreaded virus to our perfect healthy bodies. All we had to bring was kitchen roll – certainly a first for my tennis bag, but we live in extraordinary times. And there was yet another bonus: the court hire was temporarily free!

In the second week of play there were 40 bookings... and in half-term week a record-breaking 65 bookings. One couple caused a bit of a stir when they were found to be playing during someone else’s booked hour. It soon transpired that in their eagerness they had turned up a day early! After half-term the charge was reimposed – just

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Thanks to a huge amount of help and input from Ruth Fowler and Colin Sully, and also the great generosity of web-designer Malcolm Stirling, the Parish Hall Committee is in the process of setting up a new online booking system with payments through PayPal to make it simple to pay. Details and bookings will in future be found on a new Parish Hall website – it is still in development but the priority is to get it operational to host the booking calendar, given that bookings for the hall itself are still, sadly, some way off.

### Game on...

If all goes well, it is hoped that the administration of the court will soon be handed back to Judy Morgan who, reluctantly, needed to protect herself during lock-down from people coming to her front door to pick up keys and make payments.

Now that the latest social distancing laws allow the court to be used for doubles by more than two households – it means that some of the regular players ‘of a certain age’, for whom singles is many a step too far, can also start playing again. Love All. Your serve.

## Chiltern Ridges news

By Buckinghamshire Cllr Tricia Birchley

**T**he key priority for the Council in the coming months will be delivering the recovery, focussing on economic, social and environmental issues. We work closely with Public Health and Environmental Health and would lead a local lockdown, should that become necessary. The new discretionary business grants operated and widely advertised by the council have been heavily subscribed, supporting the local economy. All the household recycling centres are now open, and refuse crews are doing their best to collect extra recycling such as the cardboard, that comes with our online shopping! We thank everyone for doing their bit by storing non-essential waste, reducing pressure on the service.

### Healthcare in Bucks

At HASC (Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee) in early June, we heard from Neil



MacDonald (Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust) that, at the outset of the Coronavirus crisis, 17 critical care beds were increased to 72. By Easter, cases peaked at 30 critical care patients plus 100 inpatients – half the capacity of Stoke Mandeville Hospital (SMH). Routine work was suspended, outpatients were screened online and 2,000 of their 6,500 staff were working from home.

Cancer surgery was performed by the NHS at the Chiltern hospital and haematology and chemotherapy at the Shelburne hospital. It cost £250,000 to set up each critical care bed at SMH and 100 patients were discharged in the first week to provide for Covid-19; the Olympic Lodge (hotel) at SM was set up as a hospital to nurse step-down and social care patients who were discharged. Joint working by the NHS and Buckinghamshire Council has been extremely successful throughout the pandemic.

### Meanwhile: multiple arrests

More than 30 suspected paedophiles have been arrested in the Thames Valley as part of a crackdown on online child sexual abuse. Officers carried out searches in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire throughout May and completed 37 warrants, arrested 32 people, seized a total of 419 devices and safeguarded 24 children. During March, reports of online sexual abuse in the Thames Valley were 146% higher than in March 2019. Police

believe school closures and children spending more time on line lead to increased criminal exploitation.

### Community Boards

Behind the scenes, your local councillors are working with HS2 and their contractors to improve their communications with the Chiltern parishes, establishing the Chesham and Villages Community Board, [see next article: Ed] and have distributed almost £20,000 coronavirus funding to local charities such as Chiltern Music Therapy, Chesham Mind, food banks, Chesham CAB and The Lee Parish Council, to ensure there is an issue of The Lee Newsletter in August.

Please let me know if I can speak to Council officers on your behalf. [Patricia.Birchley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Patricia.Birchley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

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# Unitary-Lee 2: Communities

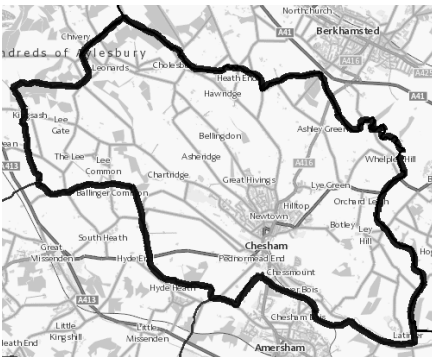
By The Lee Parish Cllr Colin Sully

*In this second article on changes resulting from the creation of the new Buckinghamshire Council (BC), we look at the issue of 'Communities'.*

## Community Boards

Community Boards are a key part of BC's plans to: "... ensure local voices are heard to make a difference in their communities. Each board will engage with key local stakeholders, such as town and parish councils, voluntary and community groups, police, housing associations, health professionals and residents, to ensure that local communities have a voice and an opportunity to influence service delivery".

In total there are 16 boards in Buckinghamshire. The Lee falls within 'Chesham and Villages Community Board'.



*Chesham and Villages Community Board*

The Missendens and Wendover each have their own boards.

During the consultation on the formation of the boards, The Lee

Parish Council argued that The Lee would be better placed in a grouping with other rural and semi-rural parishes. Our concern was that by being placed with Chesham (Buckinghamshire's third largest town) the specific concerns of The Lee residents will be lost. Notwithstanding this concern, the board boundaries have now been set.

As part of BC's commitment to local working, £4 million has been made available to be devolved to community boards, giving them the resources needed to effect change, according to local needs.

Community Boards replace Local Area Forums which, although more modest in scale, previously had a similar function.

## Progress

The Chesham and Villages Board is made up of the 15 local BC Councillors and is chaired by BC Councillor Tricia Birchley. Their full impact has been delayed by the virus and, at the time of writing, the board has yet to meet formally. However, an emergency local support fund has been established and funds have been provided to various local charities and other organisations (see previous article), including for a special August edition of The Lee Newsletter.

## Community access points

The other part of BC's plan to "make it local" is the creation of 17 Community Access Points (CAPs) – including in Chesham, Wendover and Great Missenden – where residents can drop-in and get access to local community, council and related partner services.

This part of the plan has also been delayed by the virus, although emergency Local Support Hubs have

been opened at five libraries in the county (including Chesham), as well as the former District and County offices in Aylesbury and Amersham.

We can expect to see further evolution of this CAPs service later in the year.

*In the next article, in this series on local impacts resulting from the creation of the unitary authority in Buckinghamshire, we look at the issue of 'Representation'.*

## Well! What do you know?

By The Lee Website Team

As well as the Forum and copies of this Newsletter, The Lee website at [www.thelee.org.uk](http://www.thelee.org.uk) also contains a huge amount of other information about life in The Lee today and in the past.

For example, did you know there is always a 'Picture of the month'... in full colour?

As well as 'Marking the parish boundary: 2019' (see above), you can also check-out 'the Halloumi Queen', 'the Glass House', 'the Silver-washed fritillary'... and much more at: [www.thelee.org.uk/picture-of-the-month](http://www.thelee.org.uk/picture-of-the-month)

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*Trevor Pearce marks the parish boundary:  
in 2019*



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# The Lee Parish Council news

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk

## Local crime and policing

At the recent Thames Valley Police Chiltern Community Forum (TVPCCF), the current crime and policing priorities for the area were discussed. The latest survey of Chiltern residents indicates that the current top five concerns are:

- Burglary (residential)
- Speeding
- Anti-social behaviour
- Drug dealing
- Littering

Inspector Richard Vine, TVP, explained how some types of crimes had increased during the Covid-19 crisis (e.g. speeding, littering, anti-social behaviour) whilst others had declined. He reported that a spate of burglaries earlier in the year in Chesham and the surrounding rural areas, had led to increased police presence in the area. This not only led to four arrests associated with 15 or 16 burglary-related offences, but also an increase in the number of drug-dealing offences detected in the area.

Inspector Vine also confirmed that drones are now sometimes deployed in response to burglaries, as well as in missing persons cases.

Further information can be found at [www.chilterncommunityforum.org/](http://www.chilterncommunityforum.org/)

## Local building works

There is a lot of building work going on in the parish at the moment and this is likely to increase further as we come out of lock-down. With many additional people at home over the summer, this has the potential to cause additional stress, irritation and inconvenience.

Residents who are having building work carried out are asked to ensure that their builders comply with all relevant legislation and to make every effort not to be a nuisance to neighbours.

As well as statutory requirements on construction, noise, parking, pollution, etc, the Federation of Master Builders also has a Code of Conduct for members, which also specifically includes:

- Ensure the working site remains a safe, clean and tidy environment.
- Comply with all health and safety law, including the CDM 2015 Regulations.
- Use your best endeavours to maintain reasonable relationships with any neighbours affected by the building works you are carrying out.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Lee Common Scout Group: Needs You!



By Chris Nevill (Group Scout Leader)

When we set out in September last year celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I could not foresee the present situation we find ourselves in. With no social Scouting permitted at present, I and the rest of the Leadership team continue to monitor the guidelines set by the Scout movement and will act as soon as any announcements are made.

Tom Brockett, our Scout Leader has decided to stand down this summer from his role with us after

eleven years at the helm to concentrate on his other Scouting roles within our District. Tom and his team have a wonderful section of Scouts who, even through these recent times, have continued to support each other with virtual meetings.

Tom joined us as a Beaver Scout and was an active member in all three sections. Following this he trained and supported the Scout section leadership team until the Scout Leader role became vacant. He accepted the challenge and with support from our team he has grown the section to where it stands today. We have over 30 members fed by our younger Beaver and Cub sections starting the children on their Scouting journey with us.

Whilst the current Leadership team stand together and committed to keeping the Group intact, we require a new Scout Leader to fill this role. We have informed our District and County teams and they are assisting us with this matter but they cannot just wave a magic wand. Parents with children in the Scout section will have read Tom's recent mail stating his decision, and the opportunities the role has given him.

### Open new doors...

The Scout section meet on a Wednesday evening from 7:15 pm to 9:00 pm at our headquarters next to Shop at The Lee. The children, boys and girls, range from 10 to 14 years old.

We are asking anyone in the community to consider the opportunity to join our team and open new doors for both yourself and our members. Maybe you are finding yourself working more from home with less commuting, and would enjoy the challenge to offer something in the community? Being part of a team, that really can make a difference to children's lives and wellbeing, is incredibly rewarding. Yes there is a

commitment and training involved, but the support is there and much is done at your pace and often from your own home. Maybe there are a few of you who might like the opportunity to work and support each other? Our Cub section is run by James Bruton, but he would be the first to admit that he and Ed Hynds operate very much as a team.

I have always believed the most valuable thing you can give your child and others is your time, I know this is echoed by our leaders both past and present. Please consider this opportunity to join our team and really make a difference.

If you feel you could take up the challenge, or join our team in any section of the Group who are always needing extra help, please contact me for more information anytime by phone on 07753 936555, 01494 864881 or by email at: [gsl@1stleecommon.co.uk](mailto:gsl@1stleecommon.co.uk)

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# Supporting others in crisis

*Communities all over the country rose to the occasion which Covid-19 presented us with. Support has been offered in unparalleled ways by many people in all sorts of different circumstances. In addition, there were those who offered support to people outside of our boundaries but none the less in need.*

*Gill Own-Conway is one of those who did just that.*



By Gill Owen-Conway

**A**s I walk around our village, I realize how lucky I am to live in a relative bubble of safety; my involvement with the charity Drugfam brings this into sharp focus.

Drugfam supports the desperate families of substance users and those bereaved by another's addiction. Lockdown has impacted it in so many different ways and the tenor of the calls to our helpline has changed during the last two months. So, as I have short moan about another holiday being cancelled, I remind myself of those I support whose loved ones have been lost and proper farewells have not been possible.

Domestic abuse has risen significantly, as have attempted

suicides and safeguarding issues. If you live in a high-rise block of flats with children who may not be yours, you have no means of support and someone else's addiction to drugs or alcohol is involved, it leads to a toxic environment and tempers flare.

## The need to talk

Having an addict in the family is isolating, you can feel ashamed and unsure who to confide in, but when you are unable to speak to friends, a GP, counsellor or attend a support group then you become even more cut off and the need to talk in a confidential place just grows.

Dealers are unable to sell on the streets because of lockdown, so various drugs now arrive by post and are often doctored with various unknown substances to make them go further. Imported drugs are being held up as they enter the country, supply and demand has changed, but an addict's desperation still remains, the frustration being taken out on those close to hand who at this time have no escape. Self-isolation has turned into a new method of control, where victims are unable to seek help when sharing space with an overbearing and demanding substance user.

Rehabs are not taking in the users who want to change and support networks are spasmodic. Trying to cope with another's addiction can be the worst journey anyone can go on, as while it isn't of their making, they are dragged into it, and few seek help for fear of being judged by society e.g. "people must think I'm a bad mother."

It's odd that I am involved with such a charity because we have no history of addiction in our family but I am fully aware it can strike anyone anywhere and I am privileged

to witness the changes families make in order to survive once they ask for support. None of us know what goes on behind another's front door and isolation and loneliness can exacerbate an already volatile situation.

## Help is vital

Grief is a lonely experience at the best of time but, when you don't have a chance to say goodbye to the person or hold a proper funeral, more is added to the grieving process. We prepare ourselves to lose a parent or sibling or a spouse, but nothing prepares you to lose a child of any age, so seeking help is vital. Being in lockdown has meant that many are grieving alone, this is the time when you over-think and go through the process of "What if? Could I have done more? If only I hadn't said that!"

Our helpline is functioning fully and the numbers are increasing daily as people find the strength to share. Our support groups are being held via zoom reaching people as far as Dumfries and Belfast.

So, as we walk through our safe and friendly Chiltern environment, we should count our blessings and realise that someone out there isn't as fortunate as us, through no fault of their own.

## May dog walk

By Liz Macann

**W**ell of course there wasn't one: not officially at least. However, a number of the regulars paired up to walk together on and off throughout the month, always maintaining a strict two meters distance of course.

The highlight of my daily walk, and I suspect a lot of other people's,

is the board outside of Berrymead which Carol Addison has been writing up each day. As well as an interesting piece of local history, there is always a quip at the end which makes me smile as I wander on. Sadly Carol signed off in June and I for one miss her daily posts.

It has been interesting to see just how many more walkers, with and without dogs, there have been since lockdown began and maybe some will feel keen to join the village group which meets, usually on the Green, first Thursday of every month.

Nothing is yet planned for the coming months but as soon as we are able, the date will be posted in the Newsletter and the Forum.

Looking forward to walking together again once normal service has been resumed.

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# Services in July

*At the time of going to press, restrictions have not been lifted for worshipping collectively in Church.*

## St John the Baptist, The Lee

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

## Lee Common Methodist

**Contact:** Marian Tomkins (01494 837479)

As the Church remains closed, again we offer a prayer:

*Lord of all, we remember how, across the centuries and still today, so many have endured prejudice and discrimination, rejected because of the colour of their skin, persecuted due to their creed or culture.*

*We pray for all who experience racism – victims of verbal abuse or physical assault, of social exclusion, deprivation and discrimination. Give them the courage to hold their heads high, perseverance in standing up for their rights and support in times of adversity.*

*We also pray for those who work for change in a peaceful and responsible manner – campaigning for equality of opportunity, striving to break down preconceptions, building bridges across divided communities. Encourage them in their efforts and grant that through bringing people together prejudices may be overcome.*

*Lord of all, you have made us in your image each one the work of your hands, a unique and precious*

*creation. Break down everything that comes between us and grant unity to our divided world and a proper respect for all.*

*Reach out in love and heal our divisions. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## St Mary's Ballinger

We are pleased to announce that the church is now open for private prayer. We ask that you use the sanitiser that is provided both on entering and leaving the church, and follow the one way system, and that there are no more than four people in the church at a time. Our garden is also open for private prayer and quiet reflection.

We look forward to welcoming you back and enjoying our peaceful and historic little Church

We will notify everyone as soon as we get any further news, so please keep an eye open for our notices.

Anne and I will be around to answer any questions. For further information please contact Anne Ellis (01494 837247) or Maggi Cameron (maggi.cameron@hotmail.co.uk)

# Clapping for the key workers

By Anthea Hartley

**D**uring these strange and bizarre times nothing seems out of place: standing at the gateway to one's house beating a saucepan with a wooden spoon at 8:00 pm on a Thursday evening has become the norm. Ringing a giant cow bell, blowing horns, whirling football rattles or just good old fashioned clapping – anything goes so long as it makes a noise and everyone

recognises that it's the villager's way of demonstrating their support and gratitude for the NHS.

What started out as a self-conscious little group of four or five neighbours wondering who should start to clap first, has become a Thursday night display of camaraderie and "we're all in this together" resolve whilst applauding those who have kept the wheels turning regardless of the risks to their own health and safety, and that of their own families.

Just clapping didn't seem quite enough so we decided that Her Majesty hit the nail on the head when she mentioned in her speech to the nation "we will meet again one day". That reference sparked the revival of the amazing Dame Vera Lynn's rendering of the war time favourite and which has now become the signature tune to our Thursday night applauding the NHS.

A single song can represent so much, music has a way of expressing sentiments and "We'll Meet Again" seems to say it all.

### Miraculous effect

We realised that the clapping, along with the voice of Dame Vera, had a miraculous effect: each week more and more neighbours began to emerge from their lock down 'bunkers', their self-consciousness evaporated, the voices became louder, the instruments became more bizarre and previously motionless bystanders started swaying to the music. Even a little dancing erupted now and then!

Neighbours started chatting to people they had never met and discovered that everyone had one thing in common – coping with the lock down and beating the virus.

We decided that if just a single piece of music could have this effect – let's play more! We invited local key

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workers to select a piece of music to which we could add our applause and thank them for their dedication.

The requests have ranged from ‘We are the champions’ and ‘We will rock you’ by Queen to the beautiful hymn ‘How great thou art’. Even the irrepressible

Colonel Tom got in on the act as he reached Number One in the charts!

Some of the key workers who we have applauded include Zoe, a local community nurse, our marvellous Martin the Milkman, Symeon and his team of volunteers who have steadfastly kept the village shop open for business. Next it was the turn of the police force who have worked tirelessly on the front line and behind the scenes: helping and encouraging the public to maintain the lock down restrictions and join the march against coronavirus whilst carrying on with their normal duties ensuring the nation’s safety.

## A glimpse of previous life

What prompted this gesture of support for all our key workers?

Geoff has always loved and valued the effect of music. Like many youngsters in the 60’s he played in a local group as their drummer and established a mobile disco with some schoolmates. Thursday nights spent playing music at the end of our driveway has become a glimpse of his previous life! Wielding a microphone



*We'll meet again!*

is a flashback to my previous life too – but that’s another story!

## Selfless souls

Of our four children and their partners we have notched-up four front line key workers: two nurses (our daughter is an A&E nurse in Bristol), a police officer and a teacher. They are partly the reason why we felt motivated to highlight, in addition to the applause for the NHS, other dedicated workers who represent their colleagues nationwide. These selfless souls always insist that they are “just doing their job” but we feel that they are doing far more than that and we want them to know how much we appreciate them and applaud them for their commitment and dedication.

By the time the Newsletter goes to press, we will, in line with the rest of the country, have clapped our appreciation to the key workers for the last time.

It has been a small and simple gesture for an enormous act of service but one which everyone of us has been happy to make.

# Two views of home schooling

By Neeta Norton... and Laura and Poppy Doggett

Neeta says...

As I write this, I must firstly apologise to my wonderful neighbours for the screaming tantrums, uncontrollable shouting, doors being slammed and other crazy things that they have had to endure, especially with the hot weather experienced in May when the windows have been wide open. These screams, as you may have guessed, were from me. The children on the other hand have been nothing other than patient, kind, understanding and always willing to give me a second chance.

I know everyone has a different way of working and patience levels – but gosh, it's been a rollercoaster for me personally! What have I learnt through this whole process? Well 11 weeks in, and I still can't do improper fractions for a Year 5 child let alone any maths for the Year 7 one! Both boys.

I work in advertising, so I thought I had a good eye for design, clearly not when I 'helped' my eldest with a design technology assignment and the teacher made some quite critical

comments on the work submitted. Well, I was a little taken aback; what did she know?!

In those early days with lots of communications coming in and out of the school adding to my own work emails, there were a couple of 'crossed wires' which included me sending a final pitch document to my creative director for review which contained a 'poem' about big bears and their smelly bottoms. I've sent teachers emails that were meant for my work colleagues which, on occasion, contained some colourful language – I can only hope that my son's teacher doesn't think too badly of me.

Now, as we are on the final stretch of the summer term of school, we all seem to be working better in the house. The kids are great at getting on with it all, they are happy to ask me for help and will actually listen to my

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suggestions rather than giving me a look of scorn.

I still look over their shoulders and still scream silently when they hurriedly rush through something, don't lay the work out as I would have or use colourful pencils to jolly up their work. It's taken me this long to realise that the schoolwork is for them, to do as badly or as well as they can possibly do and that with each day they are still learning and getting better and better in their own unique way.

As parents, we all worry that we are not doing enough or not doing the right thing – but in my humble opinion I think my personal victory is the fact that I managed to get the boys to brush their teeth in the mornings before starting on their schoolwork. It's the little things that matter.

Will I miss things when they hopefully go back to school in September... NOT ONE BIT!

### Laura says...

I have two girls, aged 9 and 12, one at primary and one just started secondary school. Their home schooling is worlds apart.

Poppy (12) is at Tring Park (Performing Arts) and her home-based lessons start at 9:00 am for vocational lessons (singing and dancing) and then she spends the afternoon doing academic work until 5:00 pm. I help with academics but am hopeless with vocational; I stopped ballet at aged 5! However, this is a good thing, as Mirabelle (9) at Chesham Prep, has academics in the morning and in the afternoon we have 'games' (what!).

As I get to help both girls academically, my Maths and English have improved massively. Both my girls are dyslexic and dyspraxic and the learning support for both of them

has been amazing. Chesham Prep is brilliant and we have three zoom lessons every day but I have to say both schools have been wonderful.

### Poppy says...

I am 12 and because I go to Tring Park School for the Performing Arts, during lockdown, we have online dancing, acting and singing in the morning and then in the afternoons we have online academic lessons from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Exam week was tricky from home!

I really miss being at school with my friends and a lot of them are boarders so they live far away. But I don't miss waking up at 6:00 am. (school starts at 7:45 am). We drive through the country lanes and my job is to watch out for the 'suicide' deer that jump out of the hedges. And I don't miss school lunches!

The most difficult thing about being taught by mum and dad is they have no idea what I am talking about when I say I did a really good Pas de Bouree or front kick double pirouette (dance, ballet, tap). Also, we are still struggling with ballet buns; Mum is rubbish at them. I have thick hair so I look like I have a head on top of my head. But what I do like is being at home with my family, playing with my dog and bunny and not having to wear school uniform.

## Tasteful-Lee

By Erica Cheetham

**T**he first in a series of articles revealing favourite foods past and present of Lee residents from different walks of life. We begin with one who has forged a highly successful career over three decades



*'feeding people at work' – Bill Baxter  
– who has lived at Pipers since 1998.*

Happy to explain his career and describing his fellow co-founders of Baxter and Platt and later Baxter Smith as close 'buddies' to this day, during our chat Bill failed to mention his CBE awarded in 2009/10 and his coveted Cateys Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014 (the Catering Industry's equivalent of an Oscar).

### **What were your favourite foods in childhood?**

"Instant Whip, butterscotch flavour" he replies instantly. "That and Sunday roast dinner cooked by my mum Gillian."

Bill spent his teenage years boarding at Quaker-run Friends School in Saffron Waldon. In honour of his return to Harrow-on-the-Hill on school breaks, Gillian would always prepare a delicious roast dinner. "I'm thankful mum was a teacher; she found the perfect school to support my dyslexia."

### **Did Gillian inspire you to cook?**

"Absolutely. Mum's subject was Domestic Science; she taught all her four children to cook, though I'm the only one who made a career in food. I was inspired too by The Galloping Gourmet as we watched the 'Entertaining with Kerr' TV show in the '70s.

"In the family tradition, my wife, Fiona, and I taught our children to cook and we all take turns preparing family meals. Miles, who is now 28, cooks brilliantly 'freestyle'. Luckily he's with us in lockdown, so we're enjoying a lot of his sourdough bread."

### **I guess you're putting on weight then?**

"No! the whole household had coronavirus in March and a side effect was we lost it, but we're gradually getting back to normal. By the way, I don't recommend the virus as a weight loss fix."



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### **Have your food tastes changed over the years?**

“Definitely. The dishes I love today use quality fresh ingredients, simply cooked. Rustic, often Mediterranean cooking, not fine dining – over-worked and frothy. Lots of highly successful chefs are good friends of mine and I tell you, they all say the same.

“I have travelled a great deal, both in the UK and abroad. Indian dishes, suffused with spices stand out for me, so today I must add Indian food to my list of favourites.”

### **You started your first business at 27 and retired at 52. What’s your advice to young entrepreneurs?**

“Simply you need a desire to succeed. Being dyslexic and coming from an academic family, I wanted to prove to my parents and siblings I could achieve success through hard work and focus.” Bill’s father, Ron, was a civil engineer, specialising in dam constructions; his three siblings became lawyers and a doctor.

### **What keeps you busy now?**

“I’ve been involved with two charities for the past twenty years and Chairman of both for the past ten – Scannappeal and Hospitality Action. Today I’m able to devote more time to both. Everybody locally knows Scannappeal, raising money for the very latest diagnostic equipment within our local NHS hospitals, but probably few have heard of Hospitality Action. It’s the catering industry’s national charity offering support for up to five million people within the whole catering industry.

“Recently my son Charlie (now 30) and I have been very busy planning the opening of an authentic Spanish restaurant called Pluma in Old

Amersham, serving both Tapas and rustic Spanish main courses. It was due to open a week after lockdown began which was a headache because we had to send all our chefs back to Spain immediately. Hopefully we are set to go from mid July.”

### **What’s your guilty food pleasure?**

“A really good pork pie served with homemade piccalilli and mustard is a rare treat.” Favourite brand? “No. You’ll find them in any good traditional butcher’s shop.”

### **Stuck on that Desert Island, is it the Pork Pie you’ll take?**

He laughs. “Give me a chilled tanker full of cool lager to keep me going”. Particular brand? “Peroni, that’ll do”!

### **Before we cast you away Bill, will you share a favourite recipe?**

“Of course. The Rogan Josh I make from BBC’s Good Food website is brilliant, full of freshly ground spices and easy to make. No fat or ghee. I recommend it often because it works very well and it’s healthy.”

*You’ll find the [recipe on The Lee website](#). Enjoy.*

*In September, with the woods echoing to the sound of game shooting, we’ll be talking to local business owner Sue Cromar, who lives on Oxford Street, about the Cromar family’s favourite foods.*

## **The Shop**

By Symeon Economou

**I**f I was more competent I would love to write about some of the characters who either volunteer in the shop or come in as customers. There can’t be many places in The Lee where one can see probably the

whole cross-section of the people who live and/or work there. I don't think there would be anything objectionable in any of it since, hand on heart, there is nobody I do not like, but I would never wish to unwittingly offend anyone's sensibilities – except maybe one day when I am out of arms' reach!

Having said that, I dare say much could be said about my own failings and idiosyncrasies – although I can't immediately think of any!

*(O would some power the giftie give us to see ourselves as others see us).*

## New (and old) faces

This is all prompted by one of the better things to come out of the current lockdown, which is the many new faces we have seen in the shop since it all started – customers and volunteers alike.

I must confess I have found some of the younger new volunteers annoying. This only because they learn so fast! Whilst those of us of a certain age find the 'technology' of the shop computer, the till and the card machine a bit daunting ("speak for yourself", do I hear you say?) to the younger ones it is perfectly intuitive and natural, helped by the fact that they are fearless. The other surprise is how personable they are compared to how I remember myself at their age.

Speaking of volunteers, it has been lovely to see so many parent/offspring pairs enjoying working in the shop and, incidentally, to note the inevitable role reversal in these partnerships. I do know for a fact that they have all enjoyed their involvement in the shop and meeting so many people. I do hope some of them stick around.

As for customers, it is always great to see new faces, especially

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when they come back a second time! I always think we have failed somehow when someone new says "I've lived here for a hundred years and never knew you were here". Hopefully at least some of these will continue coming when everything gets back to normal.

Most important of all, of course, are the volunteers who have always been with us and the customers who have always shopped from us.

This is the core that has made Shop at The Lee an integral part of this unique community.

## Bridge too far?

By Kathryn Dickinson et al

This hand came up recently and we were amazed to find that all four of the hands had a 4-4-4-1 distribution. It led to some interesting bidding... and play.

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

Dealer: East

Vulnerability: All

At our table, East opened 1♥ ... but how would you bid on from there... and how does it play?

See page 30.

## Birth... and beyond during lockdown

By Sara Marin

Our baby Sasha was born right at the peak of the pandemic. Giving birth is daunting at the best of times, let alone when you're wondering if the woman in the bay next to you or the attending nurse, may be harbouring some potentially lethal virus.

As D-Day approached, coinciding with the run-up to lockdown, the restrictions to attend hospital began to resemble something of a maximum-security prison. Upon arrival you were stopped by security and questioned about the reason for your visit, then to get into the required department, you were again questioned, made to sign confirmation that you had no Covid symptoms and asked to sanitise your hands *again* before being able to proceed – alone. No partner! This made things particularly upsetting during serious conversations with the consultants needing big decisions, as my husband, Igor, was restricted to dialling in on the mobile with poor sound.

### D-day

My appointments continued like this until the decision was made to induce the next day. Igor dropped me at the hospital. He was allowed to help me up the stairs with my suitcase to the entrance to the department but couldn't come any further. At this point, I have to confess I felt a bit emotional, watching him walk away and heading in by myself. We had no

idea how long it would be before he could join us, if at all. Standing there in the delivery ward by my bed, by myself, was not how I had pictured the birthing of my first child.

I was lucky though, my induction worked quickly. However, as Igor wasn't allowed to join me until labour was fully established, I didn't call him, as it was 2:00 am, so I thought I would give him one last night of sleep. These things take ages... right...?

Fast forward 45 minutes and the nurse says urgently, "You need to call your husband".

Igor races over and is met by security at the entrance who, due to restrictions won't let him in without proof that I'm in established labour. He calls me to get a nurse to collect him as that's the only way he will be let through. I'm trying to coordinate events but answering phones and instructing nurses to go and get him mid-contractions means I'm not the most coherent. Eventually he was able to get in and join us for the last hour and a half.

### Delayed home-coming

Sadly, for Igor, the new restrictions meant he had to leave two hours afterwards and was not allowed to return until he picked us up to go home. However, just as we're getting ready to leave, Sasha tested positive for jaundice. The two of us then had to stay in for five days during which time Igor could not visit. At all!

This was a tough five days of waiting for him. I kept him updated via photos and video calls, which isn't how most new Dads think they will spend their first few days with their baby; nor grandparents, especially the Russian ones, already unable to leave their country. It was hard on everyone.

Despite the birthing experience not being how we had planned, all the

staff were great and did their best to support where possible.

Then, release into the full drama of lockdown life. After registering her at the local surgery, checks and concerns have happened without problem – although mostly virtually or with social distancing and PPE and sadly NCT groups only have WhatsApp to rely on for new mum solidarity.

We had pre-planned to bolt to my parental home to avoid the high rates of infection in London and now, 12 weeks on, we are all settled into family life. Mum thinks we may never leave! Igor has had plenty of Dad time, given working from home rules mean his coffee breaks can now be cuddle time, so it has worked out really well for him. And what better place to be isolated with a new-born than the beautiful Lee where everyone has made her feel so safe and welcome – from a distance of course!

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# Meet and greet

**T**his month we meet another resident to answer our questions about who they are and their own personal experience of The Lee: recent arrival Caroline Wilson.

## **How long have you lived in The Lee and what made you move here?**

I've been here for just over seven months now. I was living in London before and moved here to be closer to my sister and her family. My niece has just turned two and I'm excited to be nearby as she grows up.

## **What do you do for a living?**

I'm a software engineer working for Compare the Market. I was mainly working from home before the lockdown started, so luckily the transition to full-time housebound hasn't been too much of a challenge for work.

## **What's the most exciting thing you have ever done? (*Mad keen to get your sea-faring adventures in here!*)**

Myself and two friends rowed over 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean. As team 'Status Row' we took part in the 2018/19 Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge and used it as a platform to help raise awareness of single-use plastic pollution, while raising funds to support the vital work of the Marine Conservation Society. Starting in La Gomera in the Canaries, we rowed our 7m x 2m ocean rowing boat 24/7, not stopping until we reached Antigua, 61 days later. We dealt with salt sores, sleep deprivation, huge waves, sharks, isolation and, what became our biggest challenge, constantly breaking seats! But it wasn't all bad. We were rewarded with endless sunsets, breath taking starcapes, dolphins, whales and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Check out [www.statusrow.com](http://www.statusrow.com) or @statusrow on social media for more!

Almost as soon as I got back to the UK I was off again and spent three months managing the Kik-Plastic cycle/beach clean tour whilst circumnavigating (by car!) the UK coastline; a challenge aimed at raising awareness of the single-use plastic problem through engaging local communities. Kiko Matthews cycled from beach to beach every day, where we joined locals for a beach clean. In total, we cleared 3.45 tonnes of waste from our beaches, were joined by almost 2,000 volunteers, and Kiko climbed the height of Everest seven times whilst cycling almost 7,000 km!

## **What has it been like living here during lockdown?**

It's been wonderful to be part of such a welcoming and friendly community that's really pulled together to support one another. I've joined the team of volunteers at the shop which has been great to meet more of the locals and do my bit to help out. The Thursday clap for carers was another great show of community spirit and chance to meet the neighbours. On top of the brilliant community here, we're surrounded by woodland and open spaces, where you can run for hours and see more wildlife than people! I wouldn't want to have been in lockdown anywhere else.

## **What do you like most about the local area?**

The trails! I spend a lot of time running (even more so since lockdown) and it's been such a pleasure to switch from the tarmac and polluted streets of London to the stunning, peaceful woodland around here.

## **What's missing?**

Having spent so long at sea and by the coast, I'm really missing being able to go for a dip on a hot day.

## How would you spend your perfect day in or around the Lee?

I'd run over to Tring Park on the beautiful Ridgeway and loop back through Cholesbury, paying a quick visit to the dinosaurs in Buckland Wood (which seem to have escaped since lockdown?), then head to the pub to finish the day with a refreshing, local beer.

## What tips would you give to anyone moving into the village?

Bring your wellies! The mud over winter was quite something to behold. I think my walking boots are still caked in the stuff.

*If you would like to be our next subject contact [theleeneewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:theleeneewsletter@gmail.com)*

## Bad dream / good dream?

*Normally in July we are busy preparing for and then enjoying the Flower Show. This year of course this event along with so many others has had to be cancelled. However, they are not forgotten...*

By Claire Wise

**H**ave you ever woken up in a blind panic thinking that you had forgotten to do something? Does your long-suffering partner then have to suffer with your sleep-talking or even your constant lashing out as you try and work out (in your sleep) how to resolve the issue?

Have you ever then experienced that wonderful feeling of pure relief that this was just a dream and that you had not actually forgotten anything? Well, this has happened to me quite a lot in the last eight years



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*You are all invited to tea... on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021*

in June and July, but not this year. This year, there has been no Flower Show Tea Tent to organise, no Church Fête to help out with, and no Old Church Sunday Teas to make. In fact, no events whatsoever to worry about. Is this a good thing? Does this make my life easier, less stressful and ensure that I sleep more (and that Chris doesn't wake up with a black-eye)? The answer is undoubtedly, yes. However, I miss them all.

### Even more appealing

I do miss the build-up to serving over 1,000 cream teas at the Flower Show; I do miss the expectation as to whether we can make the events even more appealing and attractive than ever, or whether someone will make a cake worthy of winning Bake-Off. I love the way that our community never lets us down and that on the day of the events, we all love being together. Yes, we do have the worries about whether the wasps will eat the jam, or if it pours with rain will

anyone turn up, but somehow, it always works out.

### Sorely missed

We are so lucky here, and these big summer events will be sorely missed in 2020. We shall all just have to make them twice as good next year.

Which probably means that Chris will be in a separate bed in June and July 2021, as twice the stress will result in some big bruises.

*[Make sure the date for The Lee Flower Show is in your diaries for next year... Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021: Ed.]*

## Forum Freda

*Rather than items from the postbag this month, Freda thought she would talk about a few other things that have been on her mind recently.*

### Email upgrade

**W**e realised towards the end of May that not all our messages to subscribers were being sent out properly – mostly because we were sending many thousands per day more than permitted by our mailing contract.

We therefore upgraded to a new Microsoft contract. Unfortunately Microsoft took one look at what was, to them, a new account, saw how many thousands of emails we were sending and promptly switched us off!

All has now been sorted out with normal service resumed, and we'd like to thank everyone for their patience whilst we resolved the teething problems with the new account.

## Village noticeboard vs parish pump

In days of yore, people found out about information either by reading notices on a board, or by chatting in small groups around the parish pump (or village shop). Freda has always thought of The Lee Forum as more as a village noticeboard, where information is published for all to see, rather than as a way for several hundred people to listen in to a conversation between two or three people.

To that end, it would really help when you have items that are lost, found or just needing a new home, if you would provide your contact details when starting a new forum topic so that those who are interested can get in touch directly.

Similarly please don't just hit 'Reply' to respond to a notification email, it's akin to replying to the noticeboard, when you need to reply to the person!

## Politeness is key

Amongst our subscribers, there are people with many differing opinions on politics, the environment, neighbourliness, etc. Whilst Freda always encourages discussion, please remember that the forum should be welcoming to all and not used to disparage others' views or behaviour.

## Help us to help you

We've become aware of forum users having a few recurrent problems:

- Some users have struggled to set their passwords and subscription options. If this is

you, help is now at hand. Please email us at [admin@thelee.org.uk](mailto:admin@thelee.org.uk) giving us permission to set your password and log in to your account to set your subscriptions – and letting us know whether you would like notifications for just new topics or also for all replies. We'll take care of the rest.

- BT has some very strict spam filters on their email accounts, and we find that often our notifications to a BT hosted email account fail because of something in the original post to which exception has been taken. This can be avoided by declaring the forum as a 'Safe Sender'. If you have a BT-hosted email address and find you are missing notifications,

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please contact us at [admin@thelee.org.uk](mailto:admin@thelee.org.uk) and we can send you step by step instructions on how to set the forum as a Safe Sender.

- We've noticed that a number of people are having to reset their password quite frequently. Although we have some ideas as to why this happening, we'd really like to hear from you if you are struggling with repeated resets, so as we can try not only to help you but also to gain a better understanding of the problem so as we can advise everyone else. Contact us at the usual email address of [admin@thelee.org.uk](mailto:admin@thelee.org.uk) and we'll do our very best to get to the bottom of this.

*There will be more from Freda's postbag next month*

## Bridge too far?

At our table the bidding progressed:

E	S	W	N
1♥	p	2♥	p
4♥	p	p	p

Lead: ♣ K by South

E-W had an eight-card spade fit as well as trumps, so with 24 High Card Points and a good losing trick count, the 4♥ bid looked sensible.

However, at our table with N-S also having hands distributed 4-4-4-1, the contract went one down.

The probability of a 4-4-4-1 distribution in a single hand is around 3%. Four hands distributed in the same way must therefore be exceedingly rare!

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> of the previous month (see contact details on page 1).

### Events cancelled

*Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July. The Lee Flower Show and Dance*



*Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Live Streaming of The Last Night of the Proms at The Lee Old Church.*



## Directory of local contacts

### Ballinger Horticultural Society

Chairperson: Katherine Hersee

07801 948650

[kjhersee@googlemail.com](mailto:kjhersee@googlemail.com)

Membership Secretary:

[jennywooding@btconnect.com](mailto: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

**T**he 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Osborne 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

Rates	9 am - 1 pm 2 pm - 6 pm	6 pm - midnight
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