



# NEWSLETTER

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

## From the Editor

By Phil Harrison

“The sun will shine on you again and the clouds will go away” so said Captain Sir Tom Moore last year. His example of positive thinking, belief in good times ahead and enthusiastic determination to push on captured the heart and imagination of the country. He achieved more in his 100<sup>th</sup> year than most people do in a lifetime. As the vaccine makes its way into our arms, we can look ahead to the clouds going away, hopefully sooner rather than later.

This month's newsletter has a number of articles looking ahead with hope. Revd Chris Haywood, the new vicar at St John the Baptist, introduces himself; Enzo, as new Scout Leader, talks about his plans to involve the troop in the community even more; elections in May and the 2021 Census all feature.

Next month's editor is Jonathan Batten. Please send your letters, comments, articles and pictures by 12<sup>th</sup> March to [theleenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:theleenewsletter@gmail.com)

## Your letters

To the Editor

I have just read my first sighting of The Lee Newsletter, despite having family links with the village and actually living 'next door' at St

Leonards. I really enjoyed it, apart from weeping over the mischief of HS2. I hope to make contact again at the time of the next issue for another thought provoking read.

Your neighbour  
Audrey Hughes  
St Leonards

## Lockdown French-style

To the Editor

As everywhere, the year 2020 was not so easy to manage here in Fromelles. We had a strong lockdown from March to May 2020. School was stopped for two months (not easy to share internet and computer at home for four children and I), most of the companies were stopped or must apply 'home-working' procedures. I still work at home most of the time. Even garbage collecting was compromised!

Then, in the middle of May, we progressively restarted school, with half groups, and most of the pupils came back.

The festivities and activities in the village are still limited but we manage to do a lot while preserving the health situation (far more than in the cities):

- religious ceremonies (half capacities)
- most of the activities for the children
- library
- remembrance ceremonies (even during the first lockdown, we continue to commemorate every date of Remembrance)
- fairground
- clearance sale

For now, non-essential activities are not authorised after 6:00 pm; restaurants and cultural centres are closed since October. No meeting above six people is possible (except for children), and of course... the mask.



We started the vaccination of the seniors at the end of December. The quantities are limited, and February was dedicated for the second injection for the first million of the oldest inhabitants. My mother has got one just in time...

This, for now, is the main problem in France. Just a little bit worried for

## **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.

new variants, which are now in France... we are now close to the third lockdown.

I was due to be re-elected as Mayor last March (but had to wait until May due to the first lockdown).

I was also designated as the president of the Association of the North Rural Mayors, which included 200 mayors of small villages.

Jean-Gabriel Masson

Maire de Fromelles

Président de l'AMR59

## **The Apostropher**

To the Editor

Ruth Fowler's article in the January Newsletter about the use of apostrophes in place names in The Lee is interesting. This of course dates back to the reign of Charles II, who was concerned about the misuse of apostrophes so appointed the first Apostropher Royal to oversee their use. The Lee was in high favour with the king, so was awarded three. Many more were awarded to greengrocers, as the king was particularly fond of fruit, and they have jealously guarded the tradition to this day and some proudly make use of it in signs such as Apple's and Pear's.

The true explanation is sadly probably more prosaic. Since the 1890s (or did I mean the 1890's?) apostrophes have been banned by the Federal Government from place names in the USA, on the grounds that they make names longer to read – there are only five exceptions such as Martha's Vineyard, on the grounds that it was unlikely to appear in road signs! The tradition in this country is more confused (isn't it always?) but there has been a steady trend to remove apostrophes from place names. Birmingham City Council led the way by banning apostrophes in 2009,

despite much protest. Other towns followed, for example Cambridge in 2014, after an apostrophe error sent an ambulance to the wrong place with fatal consequences. However, they were forced to backtrack after protesters filled in the missing apostrophes with black marker pens. Elsewhere inconsistency rules, so those still brave enough to travel on the London Underground can travel from Earl's Court to Barons Court. So, I think the residents of The Lee can do as they prefer (or do I mean The-Lee?).  
Andrew Burnett  
Wendover

## Caption competition

What is being said here?  
Send your answers by 10<sup>th</sup> March to The Editor at [theleenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:theleenewsletter@gmail.com).



## New beginnings



By Enzo D'Alessandro, Scout Leader

Having taken over the Scout Troop from Tom last September, I thought I'd introduce myself. My name is Crescenzo D'Alessandro, but please call me Enzo. I have been involved in all aspects of Scouting since the age of eight – I firmly believe in the educational message and means of delivery of the movement: as a young boy living in a godforsaken town on the outskirts of Naples, I have seen first-hand the transformative effect this educational message has on whoever gets involved at every level.

My interpretation of Scouting can be summarized easily: we are witnesses



**NICHOLAS JOHN**

Your local property services company  
for internal and external works

- \* City and Guilds qualified  
Multi-Skilled Tradesman
- \* Forty-five years' experience
- \* Fully insured for your protection
- \* References supplied on request

Find out more at:

[www.instagram.com/nicholasjohnbatty](https://www.instagram.com/nicholasjohnbatty)

Mobile: 07841 395867

Home: 01494 863275

[nbatty@btinternet.com](mailto:nbatty@btinternet.com)



to the simple idea that leaving the world a bit better than we have found it, is a worthwhile life choice. We try to do this by respecting our Promise and following our Law, and focusing on self-discovery through doing, community engagement, outdoors activity – all of this of course infused with a lot of FUN!

The last year has been a real challenge. Our motto is “Be Prepared”, and to this I add that Scouts sing in the face of difficulties. We tailored the activities for the times we’re living in: hikes in person or virtually; virtual stargazing sessions; first-aid to teddies and pets. Plenty of other activities planned (international meetings, arts etc.): we are really focusing on the formative nature of this experience. I also want the troop to be more active in the community. Be ready to see much more of us

## Pippa Hart Photography



Natural & Informal  
Black & White  
Portraits

01494 837340  
[www.pippahart.com](http://www.pippahart.com)

around! The Scouts will decide the needs of the community they want to address and the activities to carry out.

I am incredibly lucky to have a brilliant troop and a super-experienced community of leaders I can draw on for help and support. Of course, if you would like to get involved in any way please get in touch by email at [scouts@1stLeeCommon.co.uk](mailto:scouts@1stLeeCommon.co.uk)

## Your newsletter needs you!

The newsletter editorial team will shortly be losing the services of two of its most experienced members and are looking for new volunteers to join the team.

Paul Apicella has been involved with the newsletter since its inception, nearly 20 years ago, managing the newsletter’s advertising and raising around £50,000 over that period.



Peter Archer has been a part-time editor of the newsletter since 2009, when we moved away from a full-time editor for the first time.

Although the team is made up of people with a wide range of skills and

interests, we are particularly interested at present in developing the newsletter to make it more interesting to a younger audience. If you would like to find out more about joining us to fill one of these roles, or take on another, please contact one of the team members listed on page 23 or email [theleenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:theleenewsletter@gmail.com).

We look forward expectantly to hearing from you.

## My lockdown experience

By Alice Brock

When I was busy planning for my gap year in 2019, I never thought it would turn out like this. I was so excited to be leaving school and to be starting my life as an adult.

From the age of 15 I had decided that I wanted to join the army, and had made plans to take a gap year before doing so.

Towards the end of my A Levels I was getting very excited, as I had made plans to go to Sri Lanka and work in a hospital for two months. Then the unexpected happened and coronavirus hit, and I felt like everything I had planned for and been looking forward to was put on hold. I never thought that the virus would last this long and presumed I would still be able to go travelling in March and April of 2021 but, as the virus progressed, this glimmer of hope I had seemed to fade quickly.

With the virus becoming a larger pandemic than any of us could have imagined, I soon realised my plans to travel were unable to be fulfilled so I started to look for jobs. I was offered a

position to work at Berkhamsted School which is the school I had attended for eight years as a student. I was employed to work in the Pre-Prep providing after school care for children aged 3-7 years of age. This was great until January when a third lockdown was announced, and all schools had to close. I was furloughed but then found myself at a loose end with nothing to fill the hours of spare time I now had.

This is when I decided to put a notice on the The Lee Forum asking if families needed help with childcare during the lockdown. When placing this notice, I did not expect to receive such a great response from so many families. Soon after posting this message on the forum the enquiries started coming in with lots of families asking if I would be available to help them. As a result of using the forum I



Swan Bottom based glazing company specialising in Replacement UPVC Double Glazed Units

Repairs to UPVC Windows & Doors  
(hinges, handles, draught seals, jammed sashes)  
Splashbacks/Mirrors  
Glazing Repairs

**24/7 Emergency 'Board-Up'  
Call Out Service**

Tel: Macauley Hearn 01494 919015  
Mob: 0788978695

was able to secure some work with a lovely family in the Lee.

The experience of using The Lee Forum really highlighted to me the amazing platform it provides and how easy it was to use. Thank you to all who read and responded to my notice. *[Forum Freda is delighted that Alice made such good use of the forum; supporting students to earn some money whilst helping local families during lockdown proves it is at the heart of the community. Ed.]*

## The fort survey – the feedback

By Colin Sully, The Lee Parish Council

**T**hank you to all the residents who gave feedback on the new fort at the children's playground. Although the number responding was small (23 residents), it was a useful insight into the community's views of this development. A full report on the results is available on the website at [www.thelee.org.uk/fort\\_review\\_2021](http://www.thelee.org.uk/fort_review_2021)

The survey confirmed the anecdotal feedback we have already received that the new fort is felt to be a valuable and a well-liked addition to the playground. Specific feedback included positive comments on the design and the enjoyment it brings:

- "A good job has been done to integrate the new with the old (which needed replacing)."
- "Looks much nicer; good choice of materials."
- "How good would it be to be a child again."
- "It remains the nicest park to visit."

### Health and well-being

With the playground closed for part of the past year and Covid

restrictions in place throughout the year, the extent to which the new fort has made any real impact on health and well-being is impossible to assess.

Looking forward, the Parish Council would hope that, in the summer ahead, we would see the whole playground area returning to being a popular point for children (and adult) recreation.



### Community cohesion

Just a third of respondents thought that the fort had improved community cohesion. This again is not surprising. As one respondent put it: *"The new fort enables the community cohesion to continue; it does not improve it."*

The Lee is a strong community. HS2 is bringing about many challenges to the whole parish and has started to cause some rifts and divisions. There is resentment amongst some residents that the parish council has had to go to HS2 to get this project sponsored. However, the parish council is content that it made the right decision, as otherwise there would have been little prospect of getting the replacement fort built in anything like the same timescale.

### Safety

Over 80% of those responding thought the new children's fort was safer than the old one. Certainly, being newly built, there are less hazardous surfaces and joints on the new playground, and the structure itself is

now more secure. However, a small number of respondents pointed out two features, which they felt made it less safe for very small children: “treating the uprights as stairs” and “a ‘drop-off’ at the end of the bridge”.

These features were deliberately designed into the fort and have been assessed by both the manufacture’s safety inspectors and by our own independent safety inspections. The Parish Council will remind users, with new signage, of the age range the fort is designed for, and that all children are expected to be supervised at all times in the playground.

### Natural and built heritage

This design of the new fort has clearly been a great success; over 90% agree that it has enhanced the natural and built heritage. This is again not surprising, as the old fort was in a poor and deteriorating condition. The comments made by residents demonstrate the benefit of the care taken at the design stage of this project to try to ensure that *“It looks like it will last for several generations: just like the last one”*.

In the months ahead, as we slowly move out of lockdown, we hope you enjoy the playground... but also respect the space and observe the notices.

## Art4Lee

By Ruth Fowler

**W**hen Art4Lee was first conceived, it slotted nicely into the early May bank holiday weekend: the weather is usually reasonable, few people are away and there isn’t much else going on.

Unfortunately it is not at all clear that Covid will have subsided by the start of May and regretfully this is an idea whose time has not yet come. Hopefully next year...

# Cromar Carpets Ltd

**CARPETS, VINYL AND  
WOOD FLOORING  
SUPPLIED AND FITTED**

**9-11 STATION APPROACH  
GREAT MISSENDEN  
01494 862125**

**HOME REARED MEATS,  
LOCAL PRODUCE  
& HOME COOKED FOOD**



Free Home Delivery  
Wednesday - Friday

Chequers Estate | HP17 0UT  
SHOP Tues - Fri 10 - 6 & Sat - Sun 10 - 4  
KITCHEN Fri - Sun 10 - 4  
[www.buckmoorendfarm.co.uk](http://www.buckmoorendfarm.co.uk)

# Chiltern Ridges



By Cllr Patricia Birchley,  
Buckinghamshire Council

In 2021 Buckinghamshire can boast a strong economy worth £14.6 billion, including the export of £3.8 billion of goods and £1.7 billion of services. 45% of our residents are educated to degree standard or higher. There are 34,400 businesses in the county and 281,000 jobs. That said, Buckinghamshire has always had the highest percentage of residents in England who commute out of county to work.

Last February the new Unitary Authority agreed a net operating budget of £441 million, (the gross budget was £1,186 billion). This year the Council is asked to agree a net sum of £459 million. Social care services for adults and children amount to £266 million, far and away the biggest area of expenditure. A net revenue budget of £19 million is proposed for roads, plus a capital programme for Highways and Technical Services of £37 million.

Cllr Jane MacBean and I have pressurised Transport for Bucks into extending the repair and resurfacing of Chartridge Lane in 2021 from Cogdells Lane to Swan Bottom. The work will include extensive patching which will be covered by a surface dressing to seal the road and halt deterioration for a period of at least 7-8 years, providing we hold HS2 vehicles to account and make them stay on the approved routes. Working as a team, your local councillors have forced HS2 to change their plans for a new roundabout in Little Missenden

and instead use a traffic light-controlled entrance into the Little Missenden vent shaft site. We continue to press HS2 for realistic HGV limits on A413 and have taken the case to the House of Commons Select Committee.

Finally, it has been announced that Buckinghamshire Council has won the Great Britain September Clean Award at the Keep Britain Tidy Network Awards 2021, ahead of Dacorum and Corby Borough Councils!

## Parish Council elections: 2021

By Hayley Farrelly,  
Clerk to The Lee Parish Council

Local elections are planned to go ahead on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May. The following elections are due to take place locally:

- Buckinghamshire Council
- Parish Councils, including The Lee
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner

Residents will receive full details by post on voting procedures, postal votes and proxy votes nearer the time.

### The Lee Parish Council election

Nominations are invited from 22<sup>nd</sup> March for all seven parish councillor positions. To stand for election to become a parish councillor you must be:

- at least 18 years old on the day of your nomination and
- a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union (we think that still applies, but there is some uncertainty).

You must also meet at least one of the following four qualifications:

- You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
- You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
- Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish area.
- You have lived within three miles in the parish area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

The Notice of Election will be published on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The period for nominations will then be open and the deadline for nominations will be 4:00 pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April. Following the deadline, a complete statement of persons nominated will be published.

## Nomination Forms

Nomination forms for election to the Parish Council are available from the Electoral Commission website at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent)). Alternatively, hard copies will be available from me as Clerk after the Notice of Election has been published.

Nomination forms must be hand delivered (not emailed or posted) to the relevant Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) on working days between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April. For

The Lee, the relevant office is: Chiltern and South Bucks election Areas, King George V House, King George V Road, Amersham, HP6 5AW.

Original signed forms must be submitted. If they wish, candidates can liaise with me rather than having to visit the area office themselves.

If you have any questions or queries relating to the Parish Council election please contact either me, the Parish Clerk, at [clerk@thelee.org.uk](mailto:clerk@thelee.org.uk), or the area DRO office on 01494 732143 or 729000 or email [elections@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:elections@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Residents thinking about applying might also want to sit in on a parish council meeting to get an indication of the work and commitment required. The parish council next meets (online) on the evening of 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30 pm. Again please contact me, as above, for more information.

## Shop at The Lee



### For all your daily needs

A community shop, financed and run by the village; the shop lies at the heart of the parish.

### Current opening hours:

Mon to Thurs: 8.00 a.m. until 2.00 p.m.

Fridays: 8.00 a.m. until 4.00 p.m

Weekends: 8.00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

Tel: 01494 837195

[shop@thelee.org.uk](mailto:shop@thelee.org.uk)

# Beginning a new ministry

By Revd Chris Haywood

**D**iscerning God's will and purpose is always an adventure and a journey which must be committed to wholeheartedly. When discerning where God is calling you to serve, in my experience, it is rarely principally about being guided to a location or place, although undeniably the geography is important. It is much more a case of tuning into God, walking closely with him and listening to his promptings, being attentive to what He reveals. It's about learning to keep in step with the Spirit and embracing what He requires of you. The discernment should enable you to come to a deeper understanding of God, yourself and your gifting and belovedness in Him. If such a focus is maintained, then surely His desire and purpose will be realised through the faithfulness of the discerner.

At the beginning of the year, on the first Sunday of Epiphany, the Anglican lectionary (the set bible reading for that particular day) focuses on the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, which culminates in the pronouncement from heaven, 'You are

my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' The affirmation Jesus received from His Father to launch His public ministry is not a direction about what to do or where to go, but an affirmation about who He is. His mission and ministry would be determined by a deep sense of His Belovedness in God. God's will and purpose would be worked out through Jesus living faithfully to this calling.



It is similarly my deep conviction that God has a purpose for your life, not a plan. It is with this realisation at the forefront of my mind that I look forward to becoming the Vicar of the Benefice of The Lee and the Benefice of Hawridge with Cholesbury and St. Leonards. For sure, my wife Georgie and I were drawn to this position through our personal connection, our heart and affinity for the area, the ministry of the churches in these Benefices and the social life of the locality; the location was an important factor. However, it was in the missional possibilities and the opportunities for community engagement that the context presents, where I discerned God's call and

## MARTIN THE MILKMAN

Refrigerated delivery of fresh milk, dairy produce, bread, eggs, fruit juices and more.

To place an order call

**01442 833944**

PHONES MANNED 4 PM - 6 PM  
ANSWERPHONE AT OTHER TIMES

determined His purpose for us. I look forward to embarking on this ministry with you following my induction on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

When I picked up on the advert for the vacancy in the Church Times, there was much that drew my attention to the possibilities that the position would afford, many opportunities for outreach and involvement. It was however the statement that the Benefices were looking for a Vicar who is “as comfortable in the pub as they are in the church” which caused my wife’s eyebrow to rise quizzically. Incarnational ministry, being present and available in the community, is an important dimension of my vocation and one which we shall enjoy living out in the locality.

My background in NHS community services has served me well in this regard and my wife’s vocation as a NHS Radiographer, specialising in Nuclear Medicine, maintains our contact with healthcare. Georgie is encouraged to have some job possibilities in the area to continue with her career. Its another piece of the jigsaw which seems to be falling into place.

We are, of course, very much looking forward to settling in the area. My wife and I are dog owners and committed country walkers, and are looking forward to the opportunities that the Chiltern area affords to enjoy such pleasures to escape the pressures of Parish ministry. We are familiar with the area and look forward to making new friends as well as picking up with some friends of longstanding in the vicinity.

It’s been a long and never less than interesting journey, through discerning my call to ordained ministry, leaving

Brighton, where we were very settled, and relocating to Durham for my Theological training, before undertaking my Curacy in Leicester Diocese. Not long after settling in NW Leicestershire someone asked us how we ended up there. Georgie quickly responded, “God called us”, a call that has been born out in the richness of our experience here.

It is with the same sense that we approach ministry in the Benefices and with great anticipation that we look forward to discerning and working out God’s purpose in the community in which we will serve in the years ahead. One thing’s for sure, up to now my life has not been boring, and I expect it to be no less so as we embark on the next stage of our adventure, with God as our guide.

With every blessing.

## FOR ALL YOUR PEST CONTROL NEEDS...

### VERMINATOR UK

- Wasps
- Rats & Mice
- Squirrels
- All flying and crawling insects
- Solar panel proofing against pigeons also undertaken



**THEY WON'T BE BACK**

**Call Tim Simmons  
THE VERMINATOR**

**07734 649305  
0808 1972 730**

[verminatoruk.com](http://verminatoruk.com) | [info@verminator.com](mailto:info@verminator.com)

# Services for March

*At the time of going to press, the plans for services remain subject to Government guidelines. Please check The Lee Forum for up-to-date news.*

## St John the Baptist



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

## The Lee Old Church



7<sup>th</sup> Mar 8:00<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion

## Lee Common Methodist

When this Newsletter is published, we will be in the season of Lent.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing we have no plans to hold a Service

during March, but we very much hope to hold a Service at 3:00 pm on Easter Day which is on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April.



In the meantime we offer the following prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ,

We pray for our world and for an end to all that frustrates your purpose. We pray for those who live in countries racked by conflict, famine, disease and poverty and who now have to cope in addition with the ravages of the Covid-19 virus. We pray for those who face repression and discrimination, persecuted for what they believe or for who they are and for those who are victims of crime, violence and war.

We also pray for the unemployed and homeless, the sick and suffering the lonely and unloved, the disabled and disadvantaged.

We pray for those who work to build a more just and loving world, for all who strive to bring help and healing to those in need, for ministers, preachers, missionaries and evangelists, for the doctors, nurses and ancillary staff who work in the hospitals in our own country and all over the world.

Lord Jesus Christ,

We look forward to the day when you will rule in splendour, when you will establish justice between the

nations and there will be an end to sorrow, suffering, darkness and death. Until then, help us to commit ourselves to your service and to work for your glory so that we may honestly say and truly mean: your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. In your name we pray. Amen

## St Mary's Ballinger



Wandering down Blackthorne Lane in Ballinger, you may be surprised to come across this little jewel of a church nestling in its own garden. Set back from the road it has been in situ for over 100 years and has seen many transformations since it was first built in 1873, although it still retains many original features.

Initially conceived as a 'school and lecture room for the poor', it was a gift from Abraham Watson of The Lee Manor and has always been at the heart

### Mike Lake

Friendly & Local

### Painter & Decorator

For that professional touch

Interior & Exterior  
Also Property Maintenance

For a free quotation please call:  
01494 866873 / 07723 017005  
mikelake42@talktalk.net

of the community which it has variously served as a village hall until 1922 (when Ballinger War Memorial Hall was completed), as a school room, a mission room, a meeting place, a retreat and more recently as a church, to which everyone no matter what denomination, is always welcome.

Services are held once and sometimes twice a month with extra at Easter, Harvest and Christmas and it is also licensed for weddings, baptisms, blessings and for the renewal of vows.

St Mary's is far more than a building though and over the years has played host to garden parties, New Year's Eve parties, flower festivals, art exhibitions, coffee mornings, fashion shows, supper parties, national celebrations and concerts, to name but a few.

The University of the Third Age have enjoyed lectures here and, until Covid hit, the building was regularly



## 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)

Tel: 01494 865026

or email for a brochure

[info@abbeyfieldgreatmissenden.co.uk](mailto:info@abbeyfieldgreatmissenden.co.uk)

Find out more on our website

[www.abbeyfield.com](http://www.abbeyfield.com)

in demand. The community book stall also remains popular, albeit unavailable at present. The nearby Watson Cottages were originally part of the bequest and although privately owned now, still share in the maintenance of the well-kept gardens.



Looking to the future and once life assumes some normality, we are intending to completely refurbish and restore this much-loved building before bad weather and age take their toll. With your help we will be successful, and St Mary's will once again sparkle in the hearts of the hilltop villages.

St Mary's Church is open all the time but for private prayer only. Please sanitise your hands on entering and again when leaving using the bottles provided near the door. Please observe social distancing in accordance with government guidelines. We would also ask all visitors to sign in on the sheet in the porch and not to go into the church if feeling unwell.

Chairs have been set out in the main body of the church. All other areas are either covered or closed off.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed financially to St Mary's throughout this pandemic. Your generosity has mitigated the income lost by our many cancelled fund-raising

activities and reflects just how special this little building is to so many people.

**Contacts:** Associate Church Wardens: Maggi Cameron 01494 864790 and Anne Ellis 01494 837247.

## Sunflower Gold

From The Lee Sunflower Club

Even social-distancing and liberally applied hand sanitiser couldn't take the fun out of The Sunflower Club last summer.

Our mammoth plants were anything but virtual and the monster of the bunch, from our super-size-champion-grower Chris Ruttle, was close on three metres.



Best of all, we have grown gold for charity too. Our competition entries raised £220 which has been donated to The Queen's Nursing Institute to help provide support to the amazing nurses out there caring for patients in their homes and the community – including those living with Covid-19.

Well done and thank you to all the members of The Lee Sunflower Club.

# Bridge too far?

By Kathryn Dickinson et al

The points were fairly evenly distributed between the two pairs on this hand, but West's unbalanced hand created some interesting bidding.

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

Dealer: South  
Vulnerability: E-W

The bidding started:

W	N	E	S
4♣	4♥	?	1♥

Who do you think won the contract and did it make? See page 22.

# Personal-Lee

In conversation with Liz Macann

Thirty-five years ago, the Jacobs moved to The Lee having worked their way out from London via Chalfont St Peter then Chalfont St Giles and Buckland Common before settling into our community in 1986.

Married for 72 years (and yes, they receive anniversary cards from the Queen!) Harry and Margaret met when their families became neighbours in London after the war.

Harry volunteered for the RAF aged 17 in 1940 and was involved in air traffic control before going to Normandy 11 days after D Day as part of the landing in France in 1944. Meanwhile Margaret, quite a few years Harry's junior, was evacuated to Wales from Kent at the age of 11 which was a very isolating experience and she ruefully reflects that the only male company was the local vicar.

By the time they arrived in The Lee, their son and two daughters had left home and Harry, in his late 50s, left the family retail furnishing business. Having a Marketing degree, he became a Marketing Consultant working all over the country when many might have thought it was time to put their feet up or at least hit the golf course.

As two of the fundraisers for the RAF Benevolent Fund and local



## Domestic & Commercial Electricians

For all your electrical needs

- ✓ Fault Finding & Repair
- ✓ Testing & Maintenance
- ✓ Extra Sockets & Lights
- ✓ Vehicle Charging Points
- ✓ Periodic Condition Reports

**Fully qualified & insured**

Call - 01628 522888  
electrical@bpsltd.co.uk



charities, Harry and Margaret raised a lot of money over the years, a recurrent feature being the annual sponsored horse ride at RAF Halton which regularly raised around £30,000.



## Circus time

Some of the stories make your eyes water – such as when Harry was integral to organising a circus at Shardeloes; he and Margaret were in the big top watching the entertainment when he was asked to step outside whereupon he was marched back into the ring by two ‘heavies’ and pinned against a large board – to be the target for the Knife Throwing act! All good fun with no casualties but scary none the less.

My own personal favourite tale is of Harry leading an elephant across the A413 to join his chums. Such an image! But Harry’s is when he and John Glanville’s wife, Margaret, were setting up a lecture in the Old Church on a wet and stormy day. They needed to rig up a screen and the only possible way was to attach the equipment to a bar running above the altar. With certain misgivings but assured by Margaret that climbing on the altar as

a means to an end would be forgiven on the day of reckoning, Harry did just that and as he completed the job, he *swears* that there was a clap of thunder and a lightning flash which quite possibly did not support Margaret’s assessment of the situation!

## Dogs and horses

Always keen riders, by the time they came to The Lee they no longer had horses which had been a big part of their lives, but they were known for their Dalmatians and enjoyed the spectacular Chiltern countryside on their dog walks. Now they are the fond owners of Alfie, a Romanian rescue dog who, when he arrived with them via The Chiltern Dog Rescue Society, was a very traumatised fellow. He is now to be seen gambolling happily with other village dogs either on the Village Walk or accompanying John and Liz Ford, who take him out most days now that Harry and Margaret are no longer able to take him on the long walks that they used to.

With the span of 35 years from which to draw comparisons, the Jacobs maintain that the only thing that they miss is the abundance of red berries which used to adorn their holly bushes which, in turn, has depleted the wide variety of birds and wildlife. Otherwise, living in The Lee for Harry and Margaret, is as wonderful as it always was.

## Forum Freda

### Love thy neighbour

**I**t has been very encouraging of late to see the forum used, not for complaints about behaviour considered by some to be unacceptable, but by those advising their neighbours in advance of

something that could cause a problem. Freda wholeheartedly encourages this pro-active approach, as most people are very tolerant if warned politely in advance of a future inconvenience.

## New email address?

The quickest way to let us know if you have a new email address, phone number or are moving house is to fill out a User Details Update form at [thelee.org.uk/update-user-details/](http://thelee.org.uk/update-user-details/)

Please note this form should not be used for changing or setting email notification subscriptions.

## Read the manual!

You may not be aware, but there is a complete guide to using the forum available on the village website. Whenever people mail us with problems – or we guess from their activity that they may be having issues – we always mail them links to those sections that we think may be relevant.

The User Guide can be found at [thelee.org.uk/user-guide-to-the-lee-forum-2020/](http://thelee.org.uk/user-guide-to-the-lee-forum-2020/), and a couple of the more popular links are:

- [thelee.org.uk/password-reset/](http://thelee.org.uk/password-reset/) to reset a password
- [thelee.org.uk/subscriptions](http://thelee.org.uk/subscriptions) to set subscriptions for email notifications

Take a look as you may find the answer to your questions, and of course let us know if anything is at all unclear or missing.

*If you need some specific advice, please email [admin@thelee.org.uk](mailto:admin@thelee.org.uk) giving details of the problem. Don't forget that answers to various questions can be found on the Common Problems page of the website at <https://www.thelee.org.uk/common-problems/>. Not yet a member of the forum? Complete the application form at <https://www.thelee.org.uk/new-user>*

# HS2 update

By Colin Sully, The Lee Parish Council

If you are reading this before 1<sup>st</sup> March, remember that the Parish Council is holding an online webinar (using Zoom) on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7:30 pm to update local residents on HS2 plans. To register, please go to [www.thelee.org.uk/registration](http://www.thelee.org.uk/registration).

If you are reading this after 1<sup>st</sup> March and you attended, we hope you found it useful. Please send any feedback to [hs2@thelee.org.uk](mailto:hs2@thelee.org.uk).

## HS2 forward programme

There have been delays to some of the HS2 work programs locally, partly because of the weather and partly because of permit issues. The contractors' community engagement teams are keeping us appraised and will let us know when the works will



# KINGSHILL

CARS FOR ALL OCCASIONS



**CHILTERN**



**AIRPORTS**



**LONDON**

01494 868699

Email: [bookings@kingshillcars.co.uk](mailto:bookings@kingshillcars.co.uk)

begin. However, March should now see a continuation of:

- archaeological surveys using the internal haul road and, to a limited extent, other access points on Potter Row and Kings Lane, (using 'light vehicles')
- archaeological digs at the Kings Lane compound (Grims Ditch)
- tree-planting in fields near Jones Hill Wood
- vegetation clearance along the line of route of the internal haul road from South Heath towards Bowood Lane and Rocky Lane
- preparatory work at the Chesham Road (Annie Baileys) shaft site

We have also now been advised of provisional dates for three-week full time closures of the following roads, to enable construction vehicle crossing points to be established:

- Leather Lane: 15<sup>th</sup> March-1<sup>st</sup> April
- Bowood Lane: 6<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> April
- Rocky Lane: 26<sup>th</sup> April-14<sup>th</sup> May

These dates are subject to change; local Advance Works Notices (AWN) will be issued when they are confirmed. One-day closures of these roads, to investigate utility works, are also expected; dates to be confirmed.

## Major ongoing concerns

Our main local concerns continue to be traffic-related, as reported in the February Newsletter.

We are grateful that residents continue to document and photograph inappropriate vehicles on hill-top lanes. Thankfully, we have seen, and should continue to see, a reduction in the use of these lanes for HS2 work. EKFB (the main works contractor) has reported that once the internal haul road is built, there should be no further need for them to use these lanes.

## A355/A413 traffic

Local parishes and towns from Beaconsfield to Wendover continue to be concerned about the apparent high levels of HS2 traffic now predicted to be using the A355/A413 over the next four years, because of changes made by HS2 Ltd to the wider construction routes.

The Lee continues, with others, to press for further assessment of the impacts on local communities of these changes and consideration of additional local mitigation. Bucks Council is also concerned that a proper overall assessment has not taken place and, at the time of writing, has delayed the approval of some applications for HS2 work in the A413 corridor.

## Public Rights of Way

As the project develops its surface route between South Heath and Rocky Lane, there will inevitably be some temporary foot-path closures. EKFB,

## SHORT-TERM RENTALS

From £295 per week (all inclusive)

**Self-catering holiday  
or temporary accommodation  
at Lee Common**

### Moving house?

- Completion dates don't coincide?
- House sale falls through?
- Builders outstaying their welcome?

### Expecting Visitors?

- Need extra accommodation?

*Self-contained Period Property:  
sleeps four guests*

**Tel: 01494 837798**

e-mail: [lowerbassibones@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lowerbassibones@yahoo.co.uk)

the main local contractor, has indicated that they may seek the closure of all of these footpaths for varying periods of up to five years. The Parish Council has requested more information on this before decisions are taken pointing out, in particular, the significance of some long-distance footpaths such as the Chiltern Way.

## Community Engagement

Public engagement events are being planned by HS2 Ltd and the contractors for later in the year. Once the Parish Council has reviewed its own 1<sup>st</sup> March event, it will also consider the need for further public engagement.

The Lee Parish Cllrs now meet every fortnight (online) with the contractors' local community engagement managers. If you have questions or information you would like us to put to them, then please let us know at [hs2@thelee.org.uk](mailto:hs2@thelee.org.uk)

# Countdown to Census 2021

By Colin Sully

**B**illions of pounds are allocated to local services every year using census-based information. So that these funds can be allocated in the most appropriate and effective ways, it is important the census accurately captures everyone in our society.

Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March, every household will receive a pack telling them to join in now – and how to do it.

Census Day is 21<sup>st</sup> March.

## Ten years ago

At the last census in 2011, there were 698 residents living in The Lee parish spread over 275 households (plus

24 empty 'household spaces'). The parish had:

- 344 males and 354 females
- 23% under the age of 20
- 24% over the age of 65
- 673 residents reporting their identity as 'British' and/or at least one of 'English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish'
- 4 reporting 'Irish' (including 1 Irish/British); 1 'Cornish' and 10 other national identities
- 472 people reporting their religion as Christian; 3 Jewish, 1 Hindu and 1 'other religion'
- 50 households living in rented properties
- residents had 539 cars available

How will this have changed ten years on? Time – and the census – will tell.

Full details of the 2011 census can be found at [www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/local\\_area](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/local_area)

## Quality Building & Renovation Projects

Based locally, PVE Construction are well known for providing high quality work throughout the Chilterns and surrounding areas.

We specialise in both residential and commercial projects offering a wide range of services from individual home improvements to complete new build management.

Call Phil Easeman on **07771 863880** or visit [www.pveconstruction.co.uk](http://www.pveconstruction.co.uk)



**Professional Reliable Trusted**

# Planning applications in The Lee

By The Lee Parish Council

**P**lanning applications for all developments in The Lee parish are now determined by the East Bucks Planning Area of Buckinghamshire Council (BC). The Parish Council (PC) is invited to make comments on applications, in the same way as are local residents and other interested parties.

## Relevant planning policy



Each application is determined by BC on its planning merits, taking into account current legislation and national and local planning policies. Many planning applications are delegated to be determined by Planning Officers – a smaller number go to the Area Planning Committee, made up of County Councillors.

The relevant policies that need to be considered in determining an application include:

- the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which sets out the Government's broad planning strategy
- 'Permitted Development', which specifies what can and cannot be

- built without planning permission
- general planning policies that apply to most developments e.g. design, highways, privacy, environmental control, amenity spaces, parking, ecology, etc.
- site-specific policies for the Green Belt, the AONB, historic buildings and Conservation Areas e.g. on openness, design, character and preserving the beauty of the Chilterns AONB

Planning Officers and Planning Committees will always determine an application according to their interpretation of these policies.

## The Lee Parish Council

The PC is invited to review and comment on applications in the context of the same policies. Our procedure in The Lee may be summarised as follows:

- The details of an applications are circulated to all Cllrs.
- All Cllrs are invited to review the application (unless a Cllr is 'conflicted' by their relationship with the applicant or their close neighbours, or other interests).
- A notification of the application is posted onto The Lee Forum.
- The PC does not normally contact the applicant, as it is assumed that the information on which the application needs to be judged is contained within the application.
- BC is generally obliged to notify in writing the occupiers of properties immediately bordering the proposed development.
- Residents living further away are not formally notified of an application.
- For this reason, on a trial basis, a notification of each application is also currently posted by the PC on The Lee Forum.
- Anyone may object to or support an application. Their comments

must be addressed to the planning authority and should be based on relevant planning grounds.

- Comments can be lodged online through the [BC website](#) but not via The Lee Forum.
- Residents who may not wish to identify themselves personally may express their comments in confidence to the PC, who will take their views into account when forming their own response.
- A draft PC view is prepared by a lead cllr, who then seeks comment from all councillors before a PC view is agreed.
- The Clerk notifies the Planning Office of the PC's agreed response.



## The planning decision

The Planning Officer / Committee will take into consideration the views of the PC and residents, in so far as they are relevant to planning policy. Sometimes, the views of the PC and BC will differ. This may happen, in particular, where some degree of judgement is required as to the degree of significance of an impact such as 'design', 'openness', 'character' or 'beauty'. The PC takes a strong stance on such issues, believing that one of the reasons that people choose to live and stay in the parish is because they value these attributes of The Lee.

If the application is rejected by BC, the Planning Officer will give specific

reasons as to the grounds for objection and the applicant will need to address these, if they intend to re-apply.

In the event that an applicant feels that the national or local policies have been incorrectly applied by BC, then in most cases, the applicant will have the right to appeal the decision. 'Objectors' do not have any right of appeal.

## Postings to The Lee Forum

Earlier this year, the PC took the decision to trial posting notifications of planning applications in The Lee onto The Lee Forum. This has proven particularly beneficial at a time when BC's normal notification process appears to have been under pressure because of the Covid crisis.

The PC proposes to continue the trial and will review it in July 2021. Please let us know whether or not you think it's a good idea to continue by emailing the Clerk at [clerk@thelee.org.uk](mailto:clerk@thelee.org.uk)

## J Brown Funeral Services

67 Woodside Road, Amersham, HP6 6AA  
01494 727474 (24 hours)

*A truly independent family funeral directors*

Bespoke and traditional services  
Private chapels of rest  
Pre-paid funeral plans  
Off street client parking  
Home visits



Contact Jason Brown on: 01494 727474  
[jason@jbrownfuneralservices.co.uk](mailto:jason@jbrownfuneralservices.co.uk)



Recommended by  
The Good Funeral Guide

## Bridge too far?

In our game East bid 5♣ but North took the contract with 5♥. Although that went one-off, losing two spades and a club, it gave them a better score (even doubled) than leaving E-W to make 5♣.

## 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).

### Mervyn's Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Services

Independent carpet cleaning specialist with over 30 years experience.

CARPETS. UPHOLSTERY.  
RUGS. HARD FLOOR.  
CARPET PROTECTION.  
FULLY INSURED.

Friendly and reliable service.  
Most work by recommendation.  
Environmentally friendly  
cleaning materials.

For a no obligation quote 'phone  
**01525 371724** or **07975 847027**  
Email: [mersu@btinternet.com](mailto:mersu@btinternet.com)

## March

*Monday 1<sup>st</sup>*. **HS2 local information event (online)**. 7:30 pm. Organised by The Lee Parish Council, see page 17.

*Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>*. **The Lee Parish Council Meeting**. 7:30 pm. Online. see page 9.  
*Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>*. **Ballinger Evening WI**. Being a Stuntman: Talk by Sam Durani. Online for members via Zoom.

## Coming soon

*Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April*. **Induction service for Revd Haywood**. See page 11.

*Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May*. **County and Parish Council Elections**. See page 8.

*Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May*. **The Lee Parish Council Meeting**. 7:30 pm. Online.

**Ballinger Horticultural Society** will not be holding any meetings until next year. Please check website for all up-to-date details [ballingerhort.co.uk](http://ballingerhort.co.uk)

## Directory of local contacts

### Ballinger Horticultural Society

Chairperson: Katherine Hersee  
07801 948650, [kjhersee@gmail.com](mailto:kjhersee@gmail.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](mailto:frankie.little@btinternet.com)

### Lee Common C of E School

School office, 837267  
[office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk)

**Lee Common Methodist Church**

Marian Tomkins, 837479

**Lee Common Scouts****Group Scout Leader**, Chris Nevill, 864881

gsl@1stleecommon.co.uk

**Scouts**, Enzo D'Alessandro; scouts@1stleecommon.co.uk**Beavers**, Karen Bruton;

beavers@1stleecommon.co.uk

**Cubs**, James Bruton;

cubs@1stleecommon.co.uk

**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: Pippa Hart 07785 323232

(ideally WhatsApp)

**The Arts Society Ballinger**

Chair: Lesley Wickham, 865480

ballinger@theartsociety.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, 07704 909324

clerk@thelee.org.uk

www.thelee.org.uk/pc

Allotments: Alison Weir, 837529

**The Lee Parish Hall Committee**

Bookings: Anne Barnett, 837796

Pippa Hart, 837340

Chairman: Tony Lea, 837237

**The LeeWay**

Contact: 07845 029500

# 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.

Printed by Orbit Press: Chesham. 01494 778053.

## 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
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)	



## Sales & Lettings

64 High Street Great Missenden

Buckinghamshire HP16 0AN

Tel: 01494 890990

email: [info@jeremyswan.co.uk](mailto:info@jeremyswan.co.uk)

[www.jeremyswan.co.uk](http://www.jeremyswan.co.uk)