



# NEWSLETTER

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

## From the Editor

By Phil Harrison

After a short break in August the Newsletter returns full of optimism and stories of reawakening, with the Parish Hall, LeeWay and Re-engage just three examples. Weddings and christenings are happening with joy and laughter and guests galore again. Our congratulations to Clare Curling and Flip Constable on their very village wedding and celebration (photos next month), to Lizzie Benwell's son, Nick, on his marriage to Emma and to Chris Nevill's daughter, Chloe, on her marriage to Ryan Gould (photos on page 16).

There is a new off-road cycle tour for the more adventurous to try before the really wet muddy paths of winter are upon us (pages 22/23).

The second instalment of The Lee Flower Show article from the 1992 centenary brochure reminds us of this special village event so that we look forward to it for next year.

The Newsletter team has booked the Parish Hall for the evening of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December for the traditional Newsletter Dinner on the assumption that Covid circumstances will be favourable at that time. If you have made a contribution to the Newsletter over the past 12 months 'Hold the Date!' More detail in October's edition.

Next month we welcome a new editor to the team, Mary Godfrey.

Please send your letters, articles and photographs for the October edition to her at [theleenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:theleenewsletter@gmail.com) by the 12<sup>th</sup> September.

## Your letters

### Lee Common Methodist Church closes

To the Editor

182 years ago, the world was a totally different place... as was Lee Common.

Dedicated villagers working in the fields collected flints to build the Methodist Church in which to worship and to give thanks to God.



Through the years harvests have been celebrated, children have been baptised (and educated in the Sunday School), marriages have taken place, and, at the end of life, people have gathered together for funerals.

Within the chapel's walls many have found peace, spirituality

and friendship, but sadly, the time has come to close the doors as the Methodist Conference (the governing body of the Methodist Church) now require a minimum of 12 members. The Church closed on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

If you had a choice, how would you like the building to be used? Please let us know by putting a note in the Church's letter box or emailing [graham.evans100@ntlworld.com](mailto:graham.evans100@ntlworld.com)

Marian Tompkins  
For Lee Common Methodist Church

## Scouts in the community

To the Editor

In response to Enzo D'Alessandro's plea for suggestions as to how Scouts could get more involved with the community, Liz Macann has suggested the revival of 'Bob a Job'.

This does seem an excellent idea, however it is important to note that Cubs and Scouts did not profit personally from their labours as all income went to a nominated charity.

When I was involved in the 1950s in Beaconsfield, every year we raised funds for Doctor Barnardo's. We had our regular round of 'victims', on whom we would hone our nascent negotiating skills via demands for above inflation remuneration.

On my route I had Enid Blyton's house – she gave me the same job

every year of sorting the garden shed, which in practice meant taking everything out and putting it back again ready for next year. After some bargaining, she always gave me half-a-crown, which I suppose was quite generous as it would be worth around £12.50 today.

Come to think about it, she often appeared quite grumpy and now I know why!

Tony Rigby  
Expat. of The Lee

## Midsomer seen from afar

To the Editor

I thoroughly enjoyed your newsletter about The Lee and Midsomer Murders as I enjoy the series. I'm late coming to it and I can't remember if I first saw it on PBS or on BBC America.

Now with everything available on some streaming service or another I'm catching up. I just saw 'Death in a Chocolate Box' and was very curious about that building on the Green. I looked online and found the Wikipedia article on camera obscura. I was surprised to find out we have a couple of camera obscura buildings here in the United States.

So, I know their function for projecting an image, as a pinhole camera, as an aid in drawing & painting, and even for eclipse viewing. I understand the use of tents and portable camera obscura for these purposes, but why would anyone make a permanent building like this?

There's only so many times you can draw or paint the same scenery, even with the change of seasons. So why build a permanent structure? To spy on the neighbours (when they know they're being spied on)? As a guard station? Entertainment for bored people?

I would definitely not like a Detective Inspector Barnaby and his

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sergeant in my village as deaths often seem to multiply whenever they are investigating.

Ileana Dominguez-Urban  
USA

## LeeWay back in business

To the Editor

Call us... if you are unable to get to an appointment at a hospital, the doctors or dentists.

Call us...if perhaps you need a bit of company.

Call us... if you have broken an arm and need ironing done

Restrictions have eased so we are available again. We cannot act as carers but will help in any way we can. Call us on 07845 029500 Mon-Fri 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Sat 10:00 am to 12 noon.

Ann Ash  
Lee Common

## The Lee 2022 'countryfile' calendar

To the Editor

This is a last call for photographs of The Lee and its surrounds for next year's village calendar.

We have been sent some lovely photos during the year but we need more of the villages and their fauna and flora please. If you are out and about and can catch the essence of the countryside in summer please do so and send them in.

If you have been taking photos over the year but not yet sent them in please do so by 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Please send your contributions to me at [jane.marsh129@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.marsh129@btinternet.com)

These calendars will be on sale in the village shop, so that's some Christmas presents solved!

Jane Marsh  
Lee Clump

# Parish Hall events



By Tony Lea

With the lifting of restrictions on 19<sup>th</sup> July, the Parish Hall happily welcomed back its first children's party on the 21<sup>st</sup> July. The Lee Common School 'Swallows' had their leavers' party in the hall. It was a joy to hear the laughter and happy shouts of the children using the

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bouncy castle and water slide that afternoon. They even had the only sunny week in July to add to their fun!

Children's birthday parties and christening parties are starting to fill the diary. Steve Moody's upholstery classes have been running very successfully since the restrictions were lifted and he now holds three to four classes a week in the hall. We are very fortunate to have such a regular and reliable booking during term time.

The Parish Council hope to start holding their meetings at the hall in September, so a degree of normality seems to have finally returned to our booking calendar! Tennis court bookings continue to be steady as we have secured a sound base of 'Out of Parish' players who played during the first lockdown and are happy to have found such an idyllic court to play on. We have our village regulars too.

Generally, there are 15-20 bookings a week during the summer months. In May 2020 we had a record number of 60 bookings in a week when tennis was just about the only activity available during the easing of restrictions in the first lockdown. We haven't returned to that number but then use of the court was free!

We continue to carry out improvements and repairs at the hall and grounds. We are replacing the rotten decking at the rear of the hall this autumn with brick pavers. This area has

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been out of bounds for summer bookings. We are also repairing the cracked and broken concrete surrounds at the base of the fencing on the tennis court later in the summer.

## Later this year

Looking to the autumn we plan to hold the Bonfire and Fireworks on 5<sup>th</sup> November in the paddock off Cherry Tree Lane. We would very much appreciate any help we can get on the morning to set up the field and serve food and drinks in the evening plus taking things down the next morning.

Also, we would like to have an idea how people feel about staging the Roving Supper on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November. The average attendance in recent years has been around 110. We would propose to continue the evening in the same format with drinks and canapes in the Parish Hall, main course in various houses around the villages in groups of eight and then return to the Parish Hall for dessert and drinks. We would like to know if people feel there should be a restriction in numbers. We would also like all attendees to be double vaccinated.

Please let us have your views in order that we can proceed or not by phone to Pat Lea on 837237 or email [lea\\_tony@hotmail.com](mailto:lea_tony@hotmail.com)

## Bucks in 100 Objects

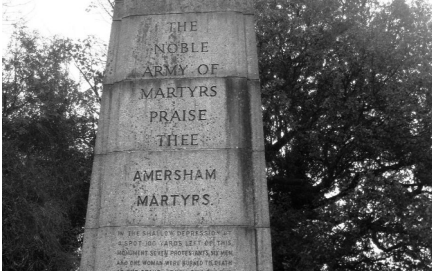
By Lallie Davis

Buckinghamshire Culture

Can you help tell the story of the place we call home?

**B**uckinghamshire has a rich collection of artefacts dating back over 300,000 years held in museums, stores, archives, National Trust properties, stately homes,

landscapes and gardens across the county. Taken together these objects tell the story of Buckinghamshire. And there are even more objects which help to define us and tell our story – many of these might be sitting in our high streets, riverbanks or in people’s workplaces or even hospitals.



*Amersham Martyrs Monument*

Buckinghamshire Culture has created an online campaign in response to Covid-19 that feeds into a larger project idea to develop the story of ‘Bucks in 100 Objects’. Eventually, we want to create an exhibition, publication, county trails and a website sharing the wonderful objects and heritage that can be found across Bucks, but for now we want to use this idea to develop connection, a sense of community and local pride.

We have asked a handful of proud residents to nominate objects they would like to see included in the final 100 and will be sharing these via social media, inviting further nominations and discussion.

Some nominations so far include Bekonscot, the grave of William Penn, the Boarstall Cartulary (a collection of charters and records, dating from 1444, produced for Edmund Rede of Boarstall in Buckinghamshire), the Lenborough Hoard, the University of Buckingham Mace, the lions in Aylesbury Market

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*It is advisable to notify your GP when starting a new weight loss programme.*



*The Lee Old Church*

Square, Cliveden House and a pint of Chiltern Ale.

There are many more very interesting suggestions at <https://buckinghamshireculture.wordpress.com/bucks-in-100-objects/>

Some local nominations might include the figurehead of Lord Howe, the Jubilee Well, the Lee Manor or the Old Church; to suggest a few. You may have other thoughts. Please



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nominate some of our local objects and don't assume that someone else has done so.

If you have an object that you wish to nominate email your nominations to: [Lallie@buckinghamshireculture.org](mailto:Lallie@buckinghamshireculture.org)

Each nomination must include:

- An image or a video of the object that you feel is important to Buckinghamshire's story – ideally images should be 1080 x 1920 pixels and no bigger than 4MB.
- Up to 500 words providing a description of the object, what Buckinghamshire means to you, and why this object is important. This will be posted on our website with your object image.

To be considered as one of the 100 objects, nominations must:

- be physical objects within Bucks,
- hold some kind of heritage, cultural or community value,
- be available to be photographed and/or videoed if not actually on display and
- must be suitable for people of all age groups.



*The Jubilee Well at Lee Common*

# A kiss is treasure

By Diana Taylor

The Russian poet Yevtushenko, who was born in Siberia in 1932, wrote “When a man dies, there dies with him his first snow and his first kiss”. I find these words both beautiful and thought provoking.

Before lockdown, a kiss may have been something we took for granted. A small kiss upon greeting a friend or saying goodbye to a visitor. But then, a kiss became a forbidden fruit and hugs were not allowed to warm us, however cold our lives seemed to have become.

For the first time in 18 months, I have kissed some friends this week. One was a neighbour who has come out of hospital, two were precious friends who entertained us to supper. We were their ‘first footers’.

In all three cases, the kisses were treasures. They were not undertaken lightly as perhaps they were in the past. They were part of a tapestry of what matters in life and that is made up of many colours.

Amidst the array of interesting threads, we need (and endure) a few dark strands to set off the light, we are lucky if some gold and silver notions are woven into the fabric to give the whole picture sparkle and shimmer. In my own tapestry of life, this week’s three kisses were such shining chords and I shall be able to identify them when I look back.

They symbolise so very much including my faith that, thanks to vaccination and good practise, we are becoming safer. They also caused me to reflect on what we have missed.

In contrast, they show the abundance of a life with love and friendship and nothing saved in a store cupboard can help me feel so comforted in cold times as richly as my family, friends and neighbours. There is no hunger so harsh as a life without love.

So, whilst I completely understand what Yevtushenko wrote and that every person’s experience is only true for them, I am writing this because I also believe something else. That is that we have a lot to learn from these post lockdown first kisses. Yes, we shall share them sparingly with caution and good sense but we shall also treasure them. We shall remember them and look back at them for, even though our experience of our first snow may die with us, these first kisses now are shared and will not be squandered. These are not ‘party’ kisses. They are to be given, one to another between people who trust and love. They are to be respected.

I intend to remember them and to look at my tapestry of life, counting them as precious moments. I hope I may add a few more of these precious and carefully shared gems before the first snow and I wish you all the love and friendship that is symbolised in a kiss.

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# Bridge too far?

By Judy Hart et al

This recent hand presented some bidding options for N-S as there were 31 points between the two hands.

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

Dealer: East

Vulnerability: E-W

At our table, the bidding started:

E	S	W	N
pass	2♣	pass	?

How would you complete the bidding and do you think the contract made? See page 23.

## The Lee Flower Show

### The First Hundred Years (part 2)

1992 marked one hundred years since the first Flower Show was held in 1892. A souvenir booklet was produced, with an introduction by Susan Cowdy (née Stewart-Liberty), then President of the Flower Show and resident in The Lee since 1914.



*Mrs Susan Cowdy and Mr Nigel Dwight with Mr Michael Cowdy at the microphone for the public address announcements*

Our show has a special charisma. Each year the same early morning bustle, competitors arriving loaded with flowers and vegetables, jams and 'gardens on plates' all being set up in the huge marquee. People scarcely speak to each other such is their concentration, arranging vast onions or strings of luscious blackcurrants, (trying not to glance at the even larger ones beside your own entry). The special smell in the tent at this time has always been the same, trodden grass and the combined scent of flowers. Then the command for all to leave, make way for judges (nowadays provided with a delicious lunch for their trouble).

The Art Show is still receiving works of art while tea ladies slave in the cricket pavilion making plates and ever more plates of sandwiches ready for the hungry hoards. A teatime where tables are set and positioned next to the splendid oompah Ellesborough Silver Band in idyllic surroundings 'neath the spreading chestnut tree.

2:00 pm the gates open, crowds pour in. Children dash to see whether their vegetable monsters or jars of wildflowers have won a prize, grown-ups put on a nonchalant air as they pass their Best Sweet Peas hoping for a

coloured ticket. The area around the cricket pitch holds stalls from the ever-popular coconut shy to the largest raffle prize draw on record.



*The tension mounts as the Egg & Spoon race is about to start*

Children's races are run, but no longer the blindfold for girls or thread the needle for boys. Instead of a shout through a megaphone there is now a tannoy which can even drown

the band. Secretary's 'tent' is a caravan in which sit the officials dealing with serious money like putting 50p pieces into small brown prize-winning envelopes.

By 5:00 pm the crowds have dwindled leaving the winners to receive their silver cups and prize giving.

In 1924 there was a handwriting competition, children had to write an essay on a given subject. Reg Dwight, aged 12 years, chose 'Birds, flowers and trees and how they help us'. He wrote of the blue cornflower and sleek poppy towering above the tall corn and how, without wood no wooden ships would be built, or without it the woodcutter could not earn his living. Thus was life over 60 years ago.

Reg was the brother of Nigel and Mary Dwight, who with Maurice Holland have been the backbone of the



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show for several decades as were their fathers before them.



*Flags, Banners and Band as the procession passes the War Memorial at The Lee in the early 1920s*

So may this, our hundredth year be blessed with sun where friends have met together over the generations.

## Rural Spotters

By Helen Evans, Thames Valley Police, Equine Liaison

**W**e are holding an 'Introduction to Rural Spotters' event on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September in the evening, at Amersham (venue and time to be confirmed).

Rural Spotters are volunteers who act as the eyes and ears of the police in rural areas and liaise with their local community. They will be horse riders who look out for anything suspicious whilst out on their normal hacking routes.

Training will be given, assessments made, Hi-Vis vests handed out. We already have an active team of enthusiastic Spotters and are looking to recruit more.

If you are interested to find out more, please contact me by email at: [RuralSpottersCSB@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:RuralSpottersCSB@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

## The next big step



By Claire Gresswell, Head Teacher

**I** love September! Even before I retrained as a teacher, the end of the summer always felt to me like the opportunity for a fresh start. Perhaps it's the fact that my birthday falls in this month, or perhaps it's just a hangover from school days and the start of a new academic year. Either way, September for me is about new ideas, fresh resolve to do better and the joy of starting a brand new notebook so clean and full of promise!

For our children, September marks a big step. Whether they are starting school for the first time, moving to a new school, or even just a different classroom, they will be experiencing a lot of change. For children, this change is usually exciting, but it can also be unsettling and even a little scary. Our job as parents and teachers is not to shield children from these changes and the feelings they bring, but to allow them to face the challenge and experience the big emotions against a backdrop of unconditional love and support.

### Endings... and beginnings

This was brought home to me at the end of the summer term when we managed to squeeze in a Year 2 Leavers' performance. Our 12, fine Swallows of 2021 performed a short musical drama called *The Next Big Step*, which summed up their moment of transition perfectly. It allowed them to reflect on their time at Lee Common School and look ahead to Year 3 and life at Junior School. They were amazing! There was singing, laughter and of course a few tears. For a

moment, I wondered whether bringing the prospect of moving on into such sharp focus was too much and risked overwhelming the children. However, as I observed them laugh and cry together, I came to that conclusion that it is important to bring one chapter to a close, clearly marking its ending, so that a new one can begin. It is important to acknowledge that endings often bring sadness and that this is shared by children and adults alike. Far better to work through these feelings with the friends, families and teachers that know and love you so well than to face them on your own. I have no doubt that our Swallows have already more than moved on and have spent the summer break not looking back with sadness, but eagerly anticipating the start of the new academic year instead!

### Holding fast to core values

For those of us who work in a school, the start of the Autumn Term is also a bit of a leap into the unknown as we prepare to get to know and love a new cohort of characters. Will they settle well? Will they get along? Is the environment fit for purpose and the curriculum well matched to their needs? Much planning and preparation goes on during the summer break and this year has been no exception. The DfE have kindly 'gifted' us a new

Early Years Framework, a new Reception Baseline Assessment, a new Reading Framework and a requirement to adopt a 'validated' scheme of work for phonics. These changes, just as for children, can feel overwhelming to staff at first. However, like our children we experience them together, work through them as a team and offer each other love and support when it gets tricky. No matter how many demands to adapt curriculum, policy and practice come our way, holding fast to our core values and purpose will help us stay on track.

So, September brings change and challenges, but it also brings the chance to start afresh. The school is sparkling once again, thanks to a happy band of volunteers who have been working their magic over the summer break. The teachers are refreshed and brimming with new ideas and enthusiasm. And me? Well, I have my lovely new notebook!

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# The Lee Parish Council update

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk

## Annual Parish Meeting

In normal years The Lee Parish Council (TLPC) holds an Annual Parish Meeting, usually towards the end of May. The meeting was not held in 2020 for obvious reasons, and in May 2021 we were still not able to meet freely.

It is now long overdue, so a meeting has been arranged for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, at 7:30pm. With the lifting of restrictions we very much hope that it will be possible to meet in person at the Parish Hall rather than via Zoom, but a final decision will be taken nearer the time.

So, what is an Annual Parish Meeting? It is an opportunity for residents of The Lee Parish to come along and talk about any issues that may be of interest or concern. Although questions can be raised on any topic, it is usual for TLPC to arrange some speakers or a theme for the evening – which may trigger additional thoughts and comments from residents.

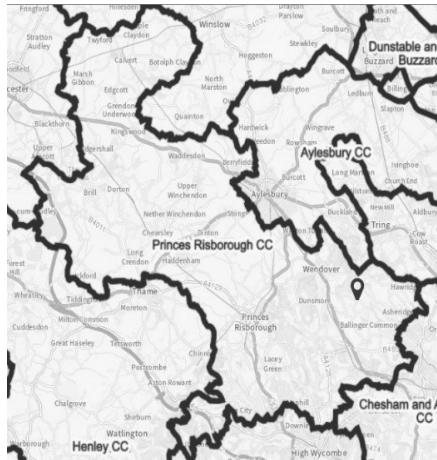
Having been locked down for so long, the theme for this meeting will be ‘New Beginnings’ and our speakers will be our new Member of Parliament, Sarah Green, our new vicar, Revd Chris Haywood and our (not quite so) new head of Lee Common School, Claire Gresswell.

Not all residents will have voted for Sarah, are practising Christians of any denomination or have children of infant school age, but I’m sure all will be very interesting, so please do come along.

## Boundary Commission

Many of you will have heard of the Boundary Commission for England’s (BCE) proposals to redraw the constituency map for parliamentary representation. In The Lee’s case, we would move from Chesham and Amersham to a new, largely rural, Princes Risborough County Constituency stretching from Chartridge in the south-east to the Oxfordshire border in the north-west, with Princes Risborough being the main centre of population.

Following much discussion and feedback from residents, TLPC responded to the BCE consultation pointing out a number of advantages and disadvantages, summarised below. The full response is at <https://www.thelee.org.uk/tlpc-response-to-bce-consultation/>



## Advantages:

- Being in a predominantly rural area could result in an MP being more focused on rural rather than urban issues.
- Many villages in the proposed constituency would be affected by

both the construction and operation of HS2, whereas it is likely to become less of an issue in Chesham and Amersham once built.

### Disadvantages:

- The Lee is currently part of a constituency which falls mainly within the AONB, whereas a significant part of the proposed constituency does not.
- The Lee forms part of the local government ward of Chiltern Ridges, which would be split between the constituencies of Princes Risborough and Chesham and Amersham.
- The Lee has many ties to Chesham and Amersham, but few to Wendover and none to Princes Risborough and beyond.
- There is a bus service to Chesham and Amersham, but none to Princes Risborough.
- Many local children attend secondary schools in Chesham and Amersham, but none attend schools in Princes Risborough.
- The geographical area of the proposed Princess Risborough constituency is considerable, making it challenging to represent.
- The Lee would physically be separated from the bulk of the new constituency by HS2.
- HS2 construction in Bucks will be taking place predominantly within the proposed constituency, thus reducing the number of impacted constituencies and in turn the Westminster representation of such constituencies.

### BYOB

Not 'Bring Your Own Bottle' but 'Be Your Own Boss'. This is an initiative by Bucks Business First, to support anyone thinking of starting their own business by helping them

develop the skills and meet the contacts they need to give their business idea the best chance of success. Full details can be found at <https://bbf.uk.com/be-your-own-boss>.

Please note that our Community Board, Chesham and Villages, is not listed as it is currently in the process of signing up to BYOB. I am however assured that residents of The Lee are eligible, welcome and encouraged to sign up to any of the events.

### Any old papers?

For a variety of reasons, TLPC has been looking back through its past records and has realised that a number of people in the village may have old council papers. We'd be happy to take them off your hands, so please phone me on 07704 909324 or email [clerk@thelee.org.uk](mailto:clerk@thelee.org.uk) and we will arrange to collect them.

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# My remit

By Revd Chris Haywood

**H**aving been Instituted and Collated (which sounds rather like a scene from *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*) by the Bishop of Buckingham, Bishop Alan, on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021, my appointment as Vicar of The Lee and Rector of Hawridge with Cholesbury and St Leonards is completed with my 'in person' Induction by the Archdeacon of Buckingham, Guy Elsmore on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Not only is my appointment a two-stage process (first on Zoom, then necessarily and legally in person) but it needed to be done twice! I needed to be Inducted in person as Vicar and Rector, given that The Lee and the Hilltops are two separate legal entities, first at St Leonards Church (on behalf of the Hilltop Churches), and then at the Lee. The necessity of my induction is one thing (with all its pomp and circumstance) but what I am being Inducted to do is quite another. You may ask.

Indeed, you have already asked. A couple of weeks ago Georgie and I were invited for drinks with the neighbours. We'd barely sat down and been handed a drink before we were asked, "As the new Vicar, what's your remit?"

It's a key question and you might well wonder just what it is I've been tasked to do in taking up this post. My answer somewhat surprised our hosts... raising my glass of wine I said, "Just this..." "What do you mean, just this?" came the reply. I went on to explain that my remit was becoming embedded in the community of which we are a part, sharing our lives with you and



belonging here, in just the same way as I hope the church will be a part of the community which it serves and continue to establish itself and find its place in the life of the parishes, even more than it is at the moment.

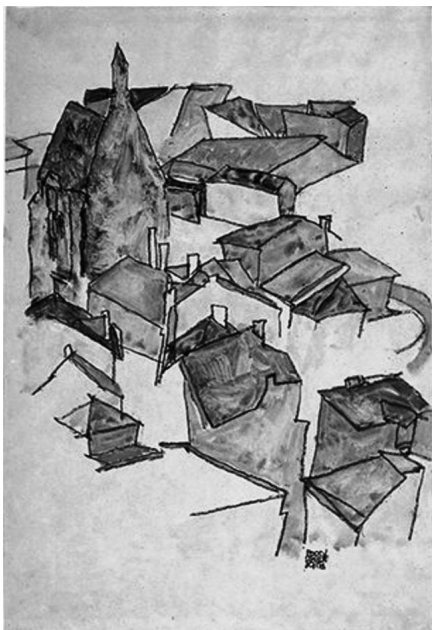
My remit is to help the church and the community it serves to connect in a real and relevant way and to be available and receptive to the wider population, whether 'church goes' or not. That is, in a nutshell, my remit.

For sure there is a Parish Profile which sets out a manifesto and there will be Ministerial Development Reviews which will guide and frame my ministry but in essence I just want to be here for the community, to share life with you and be a part of the scene here.

## In the community

I have the image opposite, a painting by Egon Schiele, reproduced on one of my stoles – the ceremonial scarf worn on special occasions. I wore it when I was ordained as a vicar and again at my Induction. The image depicts a church in the midst of a neighbourhood and I chose it because it captures graphically what my ministry is all about. Furthermore, the church is a hospital chapel, which represents for me my previous career in healthcare.

It's strongly symbolic of my ministry. I also like the fact that on viewing it from distance the image is somewhat abstract and indistinct. For me this captures the idea that the ministry of the church is in some respects indistinguishable from the community which it serves, whilst still being distinctive in its purpose. When viewed closely the church remains a strongly defined feature of the landscape. It is my hope that the image will be truly symbolic of my ministry in the parishes and the place of the church in our community.



In short, I hope in some way we can play our part in the life and soul of this community, sharing a laugh with you when it is a time for humour and crying with you when there is a time for sadness and grief. We want to be part of the rhythm of the place and we're grateful for those that have helped us to settle into the metre and tempo of life. We already feel very at home and I hope that you too will feel increasingly comfortable with us and our ministry here over the years to come.

## Services for September

### St John the Baptist

5<sup>th</sup> 11:00am Family Service with Baptism

19<sup>th</sup> 11:00am HC

*Full information on our services will be published on The Lee Forum.*

**Contacts:** *Vicar:* Revd Chris Haywood (01494 837566)  
*Churchwarden:* Trevor Pearce (01494 837601). *Treasurer:* David Stephenson (01494 867617).

### The Lee Old Church

5<sup>th</sup> 8:00am HC

**Contact:** Secretary: Pam Garner 837501.

### St Mary's Church, Ballinger

5<sup>th</sup> 9:30am HC

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, we will be holding our Harvest Service at 9:30 am. All welcome

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



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# Wedding news

By Maggie Cameron

## Benwell

On 26<sup>th</sup> June Nick and Emma Benwell were married by Sue Mooring at St Mary's Ballinger, the little church Nick went to as a small boy and that they both know and love.



Their four year old twins were Ring Bearers (very important) and the sun shone. Emma looked absolutely lovely, the church was awash with flowers, the wonderful local folk group The Wick Trimmers played and we all danced out at the end of the service into the sunshine.

## Nevill

The wedding of Chloe Nevill and Ryan Gould finally managed to take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> July at St Mary's Church Ballinger. Chloe and her family have lived in South Heath for many years

and she has loved and known the little church for all of her life.



Her sister was her bridesmaid and she was given away by her Dad, Chris, who is Group Scout Leader. They were driven to the church by Bernard Tompkins in his vintage Bentley. Bernard is Chairman of 1<sup>st</sup> Lee Common Scout Group.

This was a very iconic wedding especially as the garden was tended beforehand by the church team of gardeners and the flowers inside and outside were done by the bride's mother Elise, Mary Gould and Judy Whymark.

# It's been a long haul

By Anthea Hartley, Re-engage

Hopefully, as I write this, the return to 'normality' will be within sight. However, the last sixteen months have been a very long haul for the older members of our village community.

The 'youngsters', the under seventy year-olds, have been wonderfully supportive in so many ways but the first lockdown in spring 2020 and the total

isolation was an especially gruelling experience for our older folk. As one elderly Re-engage Friend told me: “This is worse than the War, at least then we could hug and comfort each other when times were bad.” The loneliness of living on their own and without any physical contact with their families, must have been appalling.

Very few of our Re-engage Friends own a computer or mobile phone, their sole means of communication during the lock down was their landline telephone. However, only very rarely did I hear a complaint or a note of despair. These veterans of hardship have been an inspiration to me and fantastic role models for all of us. They have become our friends.

### Amazing support

Our team of twenty Re-engage volunteers, half of whom are themselves over seventy years old and also subjected to the initial isolation rules in 2020, have all been amazingly supportive.

Obviously, our monthly Re-engage tea parties had to be abandoned right from the start of the pandemic but they were immediately replaced by a Bake Exchange system: each month five volunteers baked wonderful cakes which were then cut up, boxed and distributed to our elderly Friends by the younger members of the Re-engage team.


Personalised cake boxes, carefully sanitized, and delivered to the doorstep ensured that our elderly Friends knew that they had not been forgotten despite the Covid lock down. A Phone Buddy system was established whereby every one of our Friends in the Re-engage group received two phone calls a week from volunteer team members. It was a great opportunity for a chat and to hear fascinating anecdotes from our stoic, housebound, neighbours. As we now

glimpse a light at the end of the Covid tunnel, we are hoping to resume our monthly tea parties.

The team of Re-engage volunteers will be needing some additional drivers to join the group – can you please help?

It is essential that, as the older members of our Re-engage volunteer team retire, they are replaced by younger volunteers willing to help maintain this very simple, but very special, local organization. Whatever your age, but especially if you are an enthusiastic ‘youngster’ and would like to join our Re-engage team, please call: Anthea Hartley (Tel: 01494 837372) or Erica Cheetham (Tel: 01494 837188). Similarly, we are always ready to welcome new Friends, over the age of 75 and living on their own, to join the group.

‘Re-engage’ is a registered charity formerly known as ‘Contact the Elderly’.



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# Rick Brockett

12<sup>th</sup> June 1945 - 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021

By Tom Brockett



**Y**ou never think these events will ever happen. You always think “Oh my parents will live forever, they are invincible”.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> June my dad succumbed to the mentally and physically trapping disease of Motor Neurone. A disease that took hold of him in the foot in late 2018. He carried on working and climbing ladders with the disease getting worse until Easter 2020. He had intended to retire that summer anyway.

He struggled but was determined to get in his car at any opportunity to see his grandkids in Wendover where my brother lives. You couldn't tell him not to go because of his condition. That man was determined once he made his mind up, no arguing. I found his determination inspiring. He even managed to walk part of the Beating the Bounds route in 2019. Dad's stubbornness knew no bounds.

It was late in 2020 when the condition stepped up its game and really started taking hold of Dad.

It was very tough for my brother and I to look after him. Getting him dressed, dealing with the admin work, talking to care companies and the doctors as well as providing hands on care too.

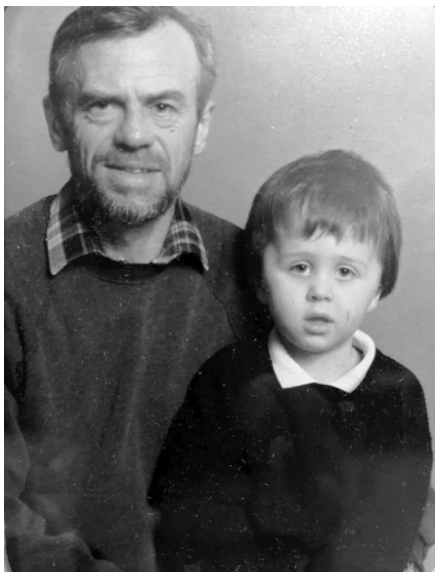
It would be remiss not to acknowledge the critical role of Chris Nevill. I have no idea how we would have coped without his help. Chris put his life to one side to help us by being with us throughout this time and giving me a couple of nights off a week to rest. Chris cheered Dad up no end keeping him company, making him lunch, having a beer with him. At one point Dad referred to him as his best buddy. Takes a lot for Dad to be that open with his emotions. Our guardian angel came in the form of Chris Nevill.

The final moments this summer couldn't have been more peaceful. 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021 was his 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday. In the evening he said what a wonderful day he had had. A video chat from his long-term mate in Canada and a friend popping down from the cricket to see if he wanted to watch.

Cards and presents left on his doorstep, in particular his traditional beer in a plastic milk bottle from Vicky and Franco at the Cock and Rabbit. Late that afternoon Luke came and picked him up for a family dinner at the Swan in Kimble. Surrounded by his grandkids, his two sons and partners. I know deep down Dad was happy my girlfriend was there with her daughter. The fact I had someone by my side meant he would have been at peace in the knowledge that his boys were safe and happy.

Dad had a great chat on the phone with my uncle. My uncle later referred to that phone call as the best he had had with him. I spent that evening

with him so that I could put him to bed. My last words were "Happy Birthday, night night"



*Rick and Tom Brockett*

The next day Luke found him at lunchtime at peace, asleep. Dad's final wish had always been to fall asleep. He did.

## HS2 update

By Cllr Colin Sully

In August, a BBC Newsnight review of HS2 reported that HS2 Ltd was thought by the Department for Transport and the Treasury to be suffering from "optimism bias", and by others to be "hostile to accountability". Our local report this month seems to reflect this.

### Imminent road closures

We try to communicate details of road closures as we know them, but for a myriad of reasons the reality often differs. All dates are therefore subject to change

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at short notice. We will post updates on the Forum as we receive them. This is our current understanding of HS2-related local closures.

**Rocky Lane:** should have re-opened on 27<sup>th</sup> August, but also due to be closed 24 hours a day from 13<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October

**Bowood Lane:** closed 31<sup>st</sup> August to 10<sup>th</sup> September

**Leather Lane:** next closure scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October

**A413 at Little Missenden:** full night-time closure for six nights from 13<sup>th</sup> September and then for one night on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

### Grim's Ditch / Kings Lane

Archaeology and other work around Grim's Ditch is not now expected to be completed until late this year (see page 24).

TLPC has asked, when the work is completed, that all equipment, plant

and vehicles are removed from this site via the Internal Access Road (which may be ready by then).

### Extended working hours

HS2 contractors have applied to Bucks Council for extended working hours between South Heath and Rocky Lane. Buckinghamshire Council (BC) has so far refused permission pending a more detailed review of the impacts during normal working hours.



TLPC is working with GMPC and BC Environmental Health Officers to try to assess the impacts of any extension of hours, particularly in terms of noise and dust.

### Leather Lane

A residents' group, supported by engineers, lawyers, local action groups, and local councillors, has prepared and presented to the contractors an alternative routing for the re-alignment of Leather Lane, aimed at protecting more trees and ecology in the area. At the time of writing, we are still awaiting HS2 Ltd's review of their design of the re-alignment and the overbridge.

### Construction routes

The result of HS2 Ltd's appeal against Bucks Council's blocking of approvals for traffic on the A355/A413, is rumoured to be due to be announced in early September – if

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true, you may know the outcome by the time you read this newsletter (more on this topic next month).

## Nearby...

HS2 Ltd are planning online public engagement events on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September (6:30 pm) and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September (12:30 pm) on the design of the Chesham Road Intervention Shaft (near the former Annie Bailey's). Full details at [Chesham Road intervention shaft | High Speed 2 \(hs2.org.uk\)](http://Chesham Road intervention shaft | High Speed 2 (hs2.org.uk))

The need to reinforce the ground at the north portal of the Chiltern tunnel at South Heath has led to a proposal by HS2 to demolish the former Weights and Measures building. They have scheduled the building to be demolished in September, pending any necessary approvals of regulatory issues by BC.

## ... and at Westminster

Parliament has been scheduled to debate the petition 'Stop work on HS2 immediately and hold a new vote to repeal the legislation' which was signed by over 150,000 people.

The debate is currently scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> September.

With the Climate Change Conference due to start in October, this ought to be an interesting debate. However, unless one of the main parties changes its stance on HS2, it may well just be another side-show.

## HS2 engagement

TLPC councillors continue to meet the HS2 Community Engagement Managers on a regular basis. If you have any local HS2 queries for the Parish Council, please send them to [HS2@thelee.org.uk](mailto:HS2@thelee.org.uk)

If you have questions or complaints for HS2 Ltd or their contractors, then please go to [www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area](http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area)



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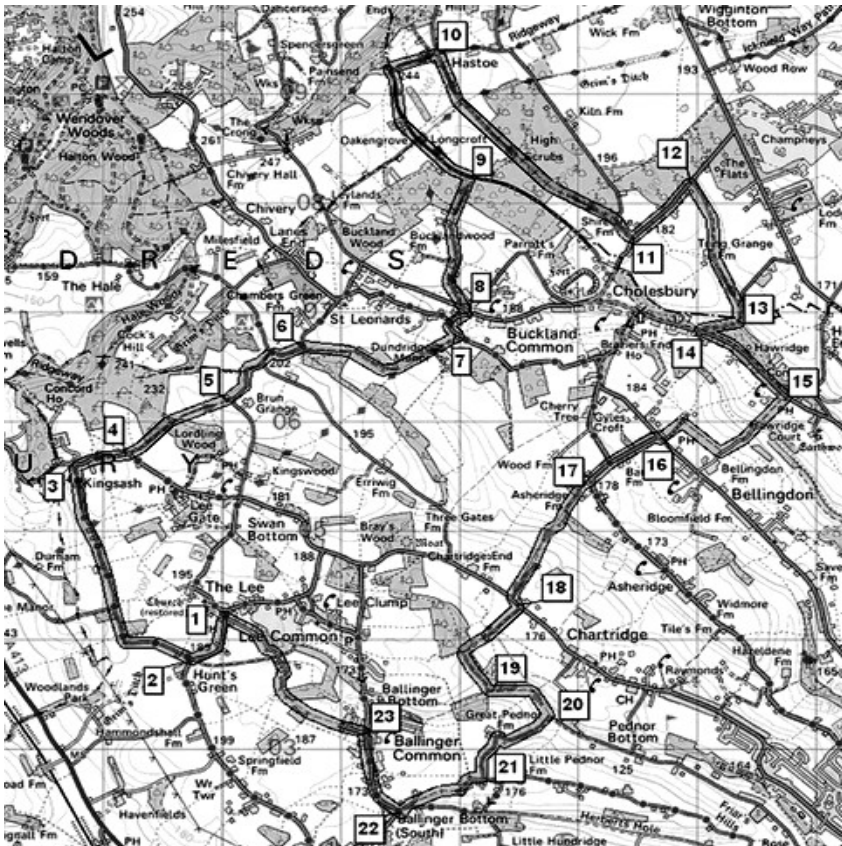
# Off-road Cycle Tour No. 29

By Rudi Kalveks

## Loop around Cholesbury

This varied route takes in lanes and bridleways through hilltop villages around Cholesbury. It skirts Kings Ash, Buckland Common, Hastoe, Hawridge, Asheridge, Pednor and Ballinger, and offers a mixture of fine woodland trails, chalky tracks and bumpy descents, along with a few tricky climbs.

1. Start at the Cock and Rabbit PH. Head towards Pipers.
2. At Hunts Green turn right on King's Lane.
3. At Kings Ash turn right into Chesham Lane.
4. After ¼ mile turn left by Corner Farm onto bridleway through Lordling Wood.
5. Turn left into lane and continue past grass triangle towards St Leonards.
6. By Stonehill Cottage, turn right onto bridleway through Dundridge Manor grounds.
7. Turn left into Oak Lane, then right at T-junction towards Buckland Common.



8. At bottom of dip, turn left into Bottom Road then immediately bear right onto Little Twye Road.
9. Take care when turning left into Shire Lane.
10. At cross-roads in Hastoe turn right onto long track through High Scrubs wood.
11. Emerge onto Kiln Road, then turn left at T-junction with Cholesbury Road.
12. After ½ mile turn right onto farm track.
13. Turn right into lane and head uphill.
14. At the common, turn left into Cholesbury Lane towards Hawridge.
15. After ½ mile, turn right onto Hawridge Lane bridleway, for a bumpy descent followed by a bumpy climb. At the top, follow bridleway to the right and then left.
16. Cross the Chesham Road into Bank Green Lane.
17. Join Brazier's End Lane, then turn right onto track signed "Ashotts" and "Asher Lane Farm". Bonus points for spotting the well-observed bridleway sign. The bridleway continues through the farmyard then, just before the farm tip, enters a wood on the left. Another bumpy descent and climb follow.
18. Turn left into Chartridge Lane, then right into Capps Lane bridleway opposite conference centre. Can be muddy.
19. At T-junction of bridleways turn left.
20. At Pednor Bottom turn right into lane uphill.
21. At Pednor, take track to the right signed "St Johns" and continue onto bridleway.
22. Emerge by crossroads in Ballinger Bottom South and turn right uphill.
23. After Ballinger village hall, turn left and follow track back to The Lee.

Total distance: 16 miles. Three short climbs of 100 ft. Allow 2 to 2.5 hours, depending on conditions.

Don't forget: helmet, puncture repair kit, water, go slow for horses.

Recommended: 1:25,000 O/S Map: Chiltern Hills North - Explorer 181.

## Bridge too far?

At our table the bidding continued:

E	S	W	N
pass	2♣	pass	3♦
pass	3♠	pass	4♦
pass	4NT	pass	5♦
pass	6♦	pass	pass

*Opening lead 2♥*

Luckily North repeated the diamonds, which ensured we found the slam. A 6NT bid by South would have been risky without knowing about the second heart 'stopper' and would have relied on the diamond finesse.



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# HS2 at Grim's Ditch

*The Lee Newsletter recently tracked down Dr Rachel Wood, HS2's Historic Environment Research and Delivery Manager (HERDS), to find out exactly what is going on at Grim's Ditch. Here is her explanation.*

By Dr Rachel Wood, HERDS Manager

Those of you who live locally may have noticed, perhaps on one of your lockdown daily walks, that extensive archaeological investigations have been underway for much of 2020 and 2021 on a section of the Scheduled Monument known as Grim's Ditch, near Hunts Green Farm. Whilst the global pandemic has affected most of everyone's daily lives, work has continued in a COVID secure way at this site.

Grim's Ditch is an earthwork bank and ditch that exists in broken segments across the central Chilterns. It acquired the name in the medieval period when Grim (the Devil) was assigned to many monuments that were not understood at the time. It is thought to have been constructed in the Iron Age but the reason for its construction and function is unknown. It is a protected in law. This local section projects into two agricultural fields.

The HS2 route will pass over this section of the Scheduled Monument. Before the line can be constructed, a detailed set of archaeological investigations needs to be undertaken. It is being done in close collaboration with Historic England who are responsible for the Scheduled Monument, and archaeologists working for Buckinghamshire Council.

Works first began in 2020 with over 150 trial trenches. These are long



*Grim's Ditch... as it used to be*

rectangular slots cut into the field using a machine. They are generally 2m wide and 30m long although some in these were longer at 50m or even 80m. Known as 'evaluation trenching', this is essentially keyhole surgery. It allows us a glimpse into the archaeology (previously subjected to geophysical survey) and helps us see what types of features we have, how well preserved they are, assess the survival of any types of artefacts and what date the archaeology may be. From this we then determine whether or not we need to move to the next stage of works which is known as 'mitigation'.

## Evaluating the monument

We have also excavated two evaluation trenches over the line of the Scheduled Monument. These were targeted to better understand the monument, how well it is preserved, any changes it might have been subjected to over time and to determine whether its construction can be dated.

The trenching works in the surrounding two fields have been followed in 2021 with a stage of mitigation. This is when the topsoil and subsoil is removed from a large area where we have identified archaeological remains of interest in the trial trenching. Works are still

ongoing here as well as processing all the data and samples we have collected back at the archaeological labs.

The early results are hugely promising and have identified a continuation of Grim's Ditch monument that was previously unknown. We have also uncovered a relationship with some Roman settlement evidence that was also previously unknown. Fieldwork in the Grim's Ditch area will continue into 2022. After that the finds made will be closely analysed, reported on, and sent to a local museum.



*A 'corn drier' discovered on site*

There will be further mitigation works conducted throughout 2021. HS2 and Fusion-JV are working closely with Historic England on all aspects of this work. This is a fantastic opportunity to excavate a Scheduled (but poorly understood) Monument and the works so far are revealing a great deal about Grim's Ditch and its role in the landscape over time. We hope that it will reveal more of its secrets as we progress with the rest of the archaeological investigations at this fascinating site.

If you have any queries please get in touch with the HS2 Helpdesk on 0808 143 4434.



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# Dear Diary

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

## September

*Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>. Village Walk.* Meet on The Lee green at 9:30 am.

*Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ballinger Horticultural Society.* Autumn Show.

*Monday 6<sup>th</sup> (6:30 pm) and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> (12:30 pm).* HS2 webinars. See page 21.

*Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>. Ballinger babies and toddlers group.* 9.30 - 11.30am; then every Tuesday.

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*Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>. Thames Valley Police Rural Spotters Event.* Amersham. See page 10.

*Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>. The Lee Parish Council Meeting.* 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall or Zoom. See website and forum for confirmation.

*Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>. Ballinger WI Meriet Duncan* talking about Beekeeping 8:00 pm Ballinger Village Hall (TBC)

## Coming soon

*Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Village Walk.* Meet on The Lee green at 9:30 am.

*Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October. The Lee Annual Parish Meeting* 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall or Zoom. See page 12.

*Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Bonfire & Fireworks.* See page 4.

*Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November. The Lee Parish Council Meeting.* 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall or Zoom (TBC).

*Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Roving Supper.* (TBC) See page 4.

*Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Newsletter Annual Dinner* 7:00 pm: Parish Hall (TBC) See page 1.

## Directory of local contacts

### **Ballinger Babies and Toddlers Group**

Sophie Underwood, 07970 022190

### **Ballinger Horticultural Society**

Chairperson: Katherine Hersee

07801 948650, kjhersee@gmail.com

Membership Secretary:

jennywooding@btconnect.com

### **Ballinger War Memorial Hall**

Bookings: Jane Ogden, 837379

### **Ballinger Evening WI**

Contact: Jo Laurie, 863492

watercolours@kitty4.co.uk

**Lee Common C of E School**

School office, 837267  
office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk

**Lee Common Methodist Church**

Graham and Susan Evans, 580016

**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

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

We welcome letters and articles of interest and relevance to The Lee. Copy should be sent to the Editor of the month (see page 1) by the 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 Colin Sully on 837760.

Other members of the Editorial team: Zoe Berkeley, Ruth Fowler, Mary Godfrey, Phil Harrison, Liz Macann, Jen Ogle and Adam Speller.

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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

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