



# NEWSLETTER

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

## From the Editor

By Mary Godfrey

I love autumn. The fading heat from the sun, the shortening days. A chance for fires to be lit inside and out, avoiding all neighbourly conflict of course! And the ripening fruit giving rise to crunchy crumbles and crumbly apple pies, or is that just my cooking?

Oh, and schools go back! Hurrah! This year of all years, bored children who didn't even realise how bored they were [*English really needs a word for that, any suggestions?*] return to school and spending time with their peers, who are actually interested in which Pokémon they managed to trade. And no, other forms of Japanese pocket monsters are not available.

Exhausted parents breathe for the first time in a long time and can now get back to work without being interrupted with eleventy billion requests for snacks during a conference call, even though you left out every available snack in the whole house and told them not to interrupt you as it was a very important call. And breathe.

After County created even more of a monumental fuss than usual over the summer, the same bus as last year, driving the same route did turn up and take the kids down the hill to school. With no transport links to Lee

Common School, Oxford Street began its busy season again. Let's be patient and generous with each other over the space we have there.

It has been an unprecedented 18 months for our kids. For a child going into Year 8 this September, their last year of uninterrupted education was in Year 5. For a child going into Year 4 it was Year 1. In a child's short life this is huge!

So I would like to say thank you to all the teachers, TAs, LSAs, the school admin and support staff, and everyone involved in feeding them when they are there. Thank you to all those who make our schools inviting and safe places to be and, of course, the bus drivers who get them there.

This month we have welcome news of the return of a much-missed toddler group, the roving supper, bonfire night and singing at church! Might we get Christmas back too? Fingers, toes and everything in between crossed please everyone!

We have booked the Parish Hall provisionally for 3<sup>rd</sup> December to hold the Newsletter Annual Dinner. We would like to know your views on going ahead with it: does 60 people sitting down to dinner in the hall in December make sense? Send your views on that and any contributions for the November edition to Liz Macann at [thelenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:thelenewsletter@gmail.com) by 12<sup>th</sup> October. Without you we are nothing.

# Your letters

## A wonderful day

To the Editor

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021 is going to be remembered as a special day for Joseph and his family. Joseph was not only christened on this day, but it was also his second birthday.

The service went smoothly with joyous singing and a quick breakdancing routine from the star of the day. Revd Chris Haywood encouraged personalisation of the christening service so there was a rousing rendition of *Morning Has Broken*, *One More Step Along The World I Go* and *Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer*. Joseph's grandfather led the intercession, and his godmothers did the readings.



After the service we headed to the Parish Hall for much merriment. The children enjoyed the bouncy castle, and the adults made the most of the

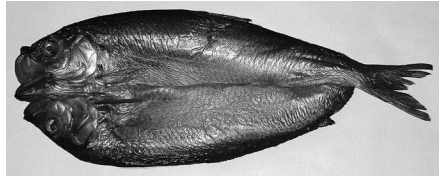
delicious food and drink. It was so special to celebrate with so many family and friends.

We were truly blessed with the weather, and I like to think that recently departed relatives were smiling and looking down on us.

Sophie Underwood  
Potter Row

# The Kipper

By Diana Taylor



“For good health you need lots of veg and eat some oily fish”

This is what the doctor said though it wasn't my first wish

But I just came down to breakfast in my jim jams and my slippers

To find my husband cooking us some golden, Scottish kippers

Feeling slightly guilty as they gazed up from the plate

I paused to see their structure before these fish I ate

Their bones were perfectly arranged outspreading from the spine

And the glinting skin like shimmering silk was really rather fine

I considered how these lovely fish had lived a life before

How they swam and breathed and mated until they came to shore

I thought about the fishermen who braved the icy sea

Not knowing the consumer would be breakfast-hungry me

Every life has splendid value, every kipper many bones

Every fisherman faces dangers in the sea's tempestuous zones

So, this morning, my small kippers changed my measly attitude

I now revere those fishy bones and offer them my gratitude

## Return of the roving supper

By Tony Lea

**A**s you may have seen in the last Newsletter, we are planning to go ahead with this year's Roving Supper. From the feedback we received there will need to be a reduction from the 110 participants in previous years. Also, we would ask people to have been double vaccinated. The main requirement is for volunteers to host the main course for between four and six people depending on how you feel about numbers around your dining table. In addition, we will need volunteers for canapés and desserts. As the numbers will probably be limited to around 80, tickets will be on a first come first served basis. Please phone Pat Lea on 01494 837237 for tickets.

## Hoarding madness

By Symeon Economou

**F**ar be it from me to complain, but, really, if it's not one thing it's another! Just when we thought we were coming out of Covid and all the associated challenges, we now have labour shortages in the food chain and, even if it gets made, there are no lorry drivers to bring it. This is affecting both availability and,

especially in the case of fresh produce, prices. Much against my better judgement we have resorted to a tiny bit of stockpiling of the staples but mostly we still trust the supply infrastructure to come up with their own solutions, as they did splendidly during the peak of the pandemic.

Coincidentally, whilst writing this I see somebody in government is promising that shelves will be full by Christmas. This brings me nicely to a mention of our annual Christmas Food and Gift Fair which this year is scheduled for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Katie has been ordering merrily since July and you can be sure she will come up with her usual superb range of food and gift ideas to tempt us all and save us the discomfort of mixing with the crowds in town.

Meanwhile, customers may have noticed our slightly idiosyncratic book

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giveaway. The books are given to us by Dan Hiscocks who runs the publisher Eye-Books. They publish about 20 titles each year but inevitably end up with quite a few in warehouses. Instead of pulping them Dan is happy to give them away in the hope this will lead readers to his website. So, we will have up to 800 books covering a wide range of fiction and non-fiction and are giving one away with every purchase.

Now that summer (what summer?) is nearly over we will shortly start offering flowers and plants now and then. Nick Exley has made a splendid flower stand for us (currently loaded with free books), so we had better make use of it; look out for announcements on the forum.

## Out of the ashes

By Tony Lea

**A**s mentioned in the last Newsletter we plan to hold the Bonfire and Fireworks on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. This will be held in the paddock adjoining Garden Cottage at the bottom of Cherry Tree Lane as before. The bonfire will be lit at 6:30 pm with fireworks at 7:00 pm. The cost will be £6 per adult and £3 for children. Entry for a family of four will be £15. There will be mulled wine, beer and wine available plus

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hot dogs. Please come along and support what is always an enjoyable family occasion.

## News from the LCSA

By Sophie Underwood

**T**he beginning of the academic year is always a time of change, time to start anew and to reflect back on the previous year. Last year I was the Chair of the Lee Common School Association (LCSA) and what a year that was! It certainly affected the number of events and the amount of fundraising that we were able to achieve as a committee, but we still managed to find ways to raise money.

We sold ice lollies in the playground after school on a Friday (rain or shine), we ran the LCSA 100 club, which is a school lottery. The children made Christmas cards and sold them, created eye-catching tea towels and Pippa Hart took photos of children with the ducklings and donated the money back to the LCSA. Proof indeed that Lee Common is a true community – and also proof that where there's a will there's a way.

### Duckling project

It is important to recognise that the function of the LCSA is not purely to make money, it is also to create a school community and support our children and school family. I got to see a wonderful example of this last year when the LCSA funded what we called The Duckling Project. It enabled the school to take eggs into the classrooms so that the children could watch them as they incubated and hatched – and then interact with

the ducklings once they were born. The looks on the children's faces and their joy at the newly hatched ducklings was magical to witness.

We bought some much needed new playground and sports equipment and items for the allotment. We also funded the Year 2 leavers' do, it was a fabulous way for the Swallows to say goodbye to their beloved teachers and begin their summer break – the sun even made an appearance!

### Small village school

There are many benefits of being a small village school, but one of the drawbacks is that, per head, everything costs more compared to a large inner-city school. One of the ways that the LCSA was able to help alleviate the financial pressures the school faces was to contribute a significant amount of money towards the children's

school lunches, so that they can continue to enjoy hot school dinners.

As I hand over, I know that parents and friends of Lee Common are determined to continue to support our wonderful school – and they'd love for the whole community to join in – and have some fun whilst doing so! We're hoping to start the LCSA 100 club again and it would be wonderful if as many people as possible could take part. Another really easy way to help raise money without too much effort is to make the LCSA your designated charity on Amazon. You can do this via [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) and choose Lee Common School Association. 0.5% of your purchases will be donated which can really make a huge difference to LCSA funds.

I will admit that I was rather reticent about taking over as Chair but I'm really glad I did as I learnt a lot. I



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had the support of a great team and enjoyed spending some of the hard-earned money on items for the children. It was a delight to work alongside Claire Gresswell who was always open to ideas and so positive in trying her best to make them happen during this tricky year.

All in all, I feel that I had a very easy year in the role of Chair, as there was very little to organise due to restrictions. We did achieve a lot as a committee though and the baton is now been passed to Kate O'Brien. I know that, with the community's support, her team will raise lots of money for the LCSA and that a lot of fun will be had in the process. Kate and the team can be contacted at [LCSA-leecommon.school@outlook.com](mailto:LCSA-leecommon.school@outlook.com)

I wish them all the best for the academic year ahead. I know that they have got big plans so watch this space!



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# Ballinger BATs

By Sophie Underwood

**Y**ou may have already read on The Lee Forum that Ballinger BATs is back. I found out recently that BATs stands for Babies and Toddlers, I had always assumed that the B stood for Ballinger!



*BATs organisers. l-r Robyn Cann, Sophie Underwood, Louisa Desoutter and Veronica Jones*

We held our first meet up on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September and it all went very smoothly. We were lucky that Louisa Desoutter, who has run the group for the last few years, was there to guide the newbies through the process.

The hall was all set up by the 9:30 am start, the tea was brewing and the cafetière was filling the hall with the reassuring smell of coffee, which most people rely on to navigate the first few years of parenthood! Anticipation was also in the air as we had no idea how many people would turn up.

Luckily the sun made a welcome appearance so we could open up the doors and encourage the children to play outside. They were definitely encouraged to eat their snack outside so that the clean-up of the hall would be easier. The little ones enjoyed choosing between a mini pack of bread sticks or a small box of raisins, it was a surprisingly argument free process.

## Child's play

There was a lot of free play for the children this week including climbing and then whizzing down slides, playing with cars on a racetrack mat and choosing to clothe themselves from an array of options in the dressing up box.

Next week we will add a craft station so the children can create a masterpiece to take home. Tidy up starts at 11:10 am when everyone who is able pitches in to tidy away the hall, this is surprisingly quick when everyone helps.

The final event is the well-established singsong that signals that the BATs group is coming to an end. This week we started with the classic *Old MacDonald* and ended with *She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain*. I'm in the process of learning some new nursey rhymes with actions, my current favourite is *Little Peter Rabbit Has A Fly Upon His Nose* which is accompanied by Makaton sign language.

Due to a relaxation of Covid rules it is not necessary to book, instead please just turn up on Tuesdays at 9:30 am. The cost is £2.50 for one child and 50p for every additional child and as I mentioned above we will provide tea, coffee and biscuits for the adults and a snack for the little ones. If you could bring a drink for the small ones that would be great.

We are a really friendly bunch of mums, dads and carers and we would love you to spread the word and let anyone locally with pre-school aged children know that they are very welcome to join us. I heard recently that BATs was established over 40 years ago – we'd love to find out more about its history to see how things have changed and help preserve its legacy for the future.

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# Clare and Flip got married

By Clare Curling

“I’ve booked the registry office” were the words I heard when I got back in the car from yet another all-inclusive holiday to Hillingdon Hospital, then an upgrade to the John Radcliffe. To say we’d had a difficult few years would be an understatement. All of this alongside a stressful renovation of the beautiful Daffodil ‘Tumbledown’ Cottage during a pandemic, teaching from home and Flip (Philippa Constable) running the vaccination centres.

This village has got us through with regular chocolate fairies (notably orange chocolate), food packages for Flip whilst I’ve been in hospital, dog sitting and probably most importantly the support and laughter over garden fences and around cups of tea.

When we (shall I say Flip) booked the ceremony we had four weeks to choose our six guests. Easy, my mum and dad, her mum and dad and as we couldn’t face the brutal choice for the last two spaces, we decided to just stick to the four. However, once we shared the news with the village, the ‘non-event’ as we liked to call it

spiralled into the most magical of days. Mostly thanks to Mary’s words of “You’ll regret it if you don’t do something”. This ended up in her making cakes for days and honing her new skills as a wedding planner.



## Wedding at Daffodil Cottage

We figured we’d need some food for the family. There was only one person that we felt would easily cobble something together in just two weeks, our very good friend Catherine ‘Wotto’ Watson, from our hockey days, who lives up at Rabbs. And so, the hunting of bunting, tables, chairs, cloths and napkins began. It turns out this village is built for parties. Anyone you speak to either has a gazebo and 100 tables or knows someone next door that does. Before so much as asking “Could I please borrow...” it was on your doorstep. This was no longer a ‘non-event’.

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## Village helpers

It was such a truly magical day to share with all the people we have enjoyed spending so much time with since we've moved here either talking over a pointing trowel, or a bag of rubble, or just drinking tea with on the village green. All wonderful people and the real heart of this incredible village. Our 'non-event' now included over 50 villagers bringing the total number of people to our six-guest wedding to 104 (not including dogs).



Our thanks go to all who took part in making our day so special. Now who's next, I feel we need another party.

## Margaret and Brian Thaiss

By Tony Rigby (ex 'Barnman')

**A** Sunday afternoon, early in September, saw a joyful reunion of friends and neighbours who gathered to say farewell to Brian and Margaret Thaiss of Little Hawthorn Barn, who have now moved from the village to a new home in Warwickshire to be nearer to a daughter and grandchildren.

They lived in The Lee for over 35 years, being the first of the 'barn people' to occupy one of the three barns at Hawthorn Farm converted

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into homes by the Humphreys. Over the years they contributed much to village life, and also in Great Missenden where Margaret was the proprietor of the ladies' fashion boutique 'Catwalk', which was always notable for its window displays. Margaret's abilities in this respect had been honed via her work for major London department stores and she was ably assisted in this by Brian who was extremely good at making things. He always seemed to be creating something useful in his garage and this benefited the The Lee in many ways – and in Great Missenden, Brian was instrumental in boosting St George's Day celebrations, such as making flags for each shop to fly over their entrances. This came naturally to him due the fact that, before retirement, he was a partner in the structural engineering consultancy firm of Glasspool and Thaiss in Chesham.

On a personal note, Glenys and I really appreciated having Brian and Margaret as neighbours. Their immaculate house and charming garden graced the view from our house and certainly added to the benefit of living next to people who were so friendly, helpful and fun to be with.

I am sure they will be missed in The Lee. They are wished a very happy future.

## The Lee Nature Society

By Ruth Fowler

A combination of reading about the Centenary Flower Show in the past couple of editions of the Newsletter, together with much recent (HS2 inspired) discussion about

trees, prompted reminiscences of The Lee Nature Society.

Founded in the early 1990s by Elizabeth Browning, The Lee Nature Society comprised a core membership of around 8-10 people and was active into the 2000s.

Those with long memories may recall the stall at the Centenary Flower Show where we sold paper leaves, each of which funded the planting of a new tree in a parish hedgerow. Over 100 leaves were sold, each of which translated into a new tree such as ash, oak, cherry, hornbeam or whitebeam; none of the trees was marked as having been donated by a particular person but some families chose to plant 'their' tree, whilst the remainder were planted by members of the society and other volunteers. Many of the trees are still in place and, almost three decades later, are now very well established.

### Pond People



*The Pond People taking a break from clearing  
Town Pond – February 2000*

Sunday mornings were frequently given over to clearing and maintaining some of the 17 parish ponds, thus giving rise to the group's more widely used name of the Pond People. Although some ponds are quite shallow and others often dry, Town Pond in particular is deceptively deep – hence the waders worn in the picture above.

# Prepared -Lee



By Enzo D'Alessandro

**T**he new Scout year has started, and we're full of Scouting beans. Like everyone else we're hoping that last year's 'excitement' was a one-off and that we can plan more consistently.

One good thing that happened last year is that James, the Cubs Leader, has completed a refurbishment of our amazing Scout Hut. We are incredibly lucky to have such great facilities, and now these have been improved and modernised we're ready to make the most of it.

This year we will continue on the track we set: core values, community engagement and outdoor focus.

On the community note, I must thank those who sent letters to the Newsletter, and indeed all that have sent me messages, following the past articles. I'm grateful for your support. On the subject of 'bob-a-job', it's definitely something we can work on: I'm thinking about bringing this into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with 'log-a-job', aimed at the Patrol Leader Council. Watch this space!

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# Regular worship



By Revd Chris Haywood

Since coming into post our churches have emerged from lockdown and resumed regular worship, as well as started to conduct occasions such as weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Having reopened our doors for worship, with restrictions easing, we've started to settle down into a regular pattern of worship once more. Whilst we've been cautious, familiar elements of our worship have been re-incorporated – hymn singing most notably. It's been a joy to engage in sung worship as part of our services once more.



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I have been pleased that congregations are gaining confidence in the new circumstances and creeping back; appreciating the effort everyone puts in to ensure services run smoothly and safely. I was especially pleased when someone noted how I was shaping the services to the theme of the service. I put a lot of effort into preparing to lead worship as well as the sermon, determining what God wants to say to us, and shaping the service into a coherent theme accordingly.

## Spending time together

We've also started to settle down into a new pattern of services. The main service times have changed to 9:00 am and 11:00 am across the parishes. The first Sunday of the month Book of Common Prayer Communion Service in The Lee Old Church remains a fixture. This enables me to conduct two services each Sunday across the parishes and ensure there is a service in each church every fortnight. I think it's important that there is a regular worshipping presence and choice and opportunity for the community to attend. The times and locations, I believe, provide a good spread of worship opportunities. The new service times also allow me to spend some time with the congregation after the service. It's important for me to be a part of the community and spend time with those of whom we are a part. Allowing a little time in the schedule to do so is a critical part of that for me.

## Parish Communion

The Parish Communion services last about an hour. I am keen to provide something substantial and hence commit to a sermon which I hope engages us in what God is saying

to us. A significant part of my week is spent discerning a message and hopefully determining an engaging way of communicating it. I hope my style brings life and energy and a certain exuberance! It's my hope and intention that our worship is both accessible and approachable. I hope as we go on other opportunities for worship can be incorporated in the schedule – not necessarily on a Sunday morning or even a Sunday! I'm keen to explore possibilities.

## Autumnal celebrations

As we move into the autumn there are several occasions which I'd like to highlight for you, where we come together to celebrate and commemorate. The church is always privileged to host such services as a service to our community.

Our Harvest Festival Service is part of the rhythm of our rural community and as a church we seek to provide an opportunity to come together and give thanks to God for all his provision. Do join us on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 5:00 pm in the New Church and come on afterwards for a Harvest Gathering hosted in the Vicarage. The service will be family friendly. If you wish, you are invited to bring harvest gifts suitable for the Chiltern Food Bank. We do hope this will be joyous celebration in keeping with our rural context.

## Environment

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October is a fifth Sunday in the month where we come together as united parishes to worship, inviting a guest speaker to address us on a topical issue – this month the service will be at Cholesbury at 10:00 am. I'm especially pleased to announce that we have a speaker from Oxford Dioceses' Environment Team lined up to speak to us on climate change – to link in with

the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) which starts in Glasgow that day. This gives us an important opportunity to engage with this issue as a community.

## All Souls Sunday

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October is also All Souls Sunday – the day the church commemorates those we have lost and grieve. This is an especially important occasion this year as we remember so many who have died. I'd also like to give space and opportunity for the community to come together and recall all that we have lost in the last 18 months – opportunities, occasions, work, holidays etc – that which is dear to us which we haven't been able to do. St Mary's Church, Hawridge will be hosting a service on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October in the evening which provides just such a space for such remembrance.

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# Services for October

## St John the Baptist



3<sup>rd</sup> 8:00<sub>am</sub> BCPC Old Church  
10<sup>th</sup> 5:00<sub>pm</sub> Harvest Festival  
followed by Harvest  
Gathering in the  
Vicarage

17<sup>th</sup> 11:00<sub>am</sub> PC  
24<sup>th</sup> 9:00<sub>am</sub> Breakfast Service at  
St Leonards Church  
31<sup>st</sup> 10:00<sub>am</sub> UPC With guest speaker  
on Climate Change.  
St Lawrence  
Church, Cholesbury

*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. *Old Church Secretary:*  
Pam Garner 01494 837501.

**BCPC** Book of Common Prayer  
Communion  
**PC** Parish Communion  
**UPC** United Parishes  
Communion

## St Mary's Church, Ballinger



3<sup>rd</sup> 9:30<sub>am</sub> Harvest Service

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

# Rick Brockett

## His life and times

By Tom Brockett

**B**orn on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1945 in Stock  
Cross near Newbury in  
Berkshire, a stone's throw from  
Lambourn. The middle child of three  
brothers. Dad loved growing up in the  
countryside and when the family  
moved to Harrow Weald when he was  
eight he knew he had to make it back  
to village life and immerse himself in a  
small community.

In 1968 at the age of 23 he first  
met my mum at a riding school in  
Arkley, North London where he was  
working, and Mum had a job there.  
They drifted apart but met again three  
years later, marrying in 1970.

## “Brockett!”

After a stint as an apprentice  
saddler and a TV aerialist, he spent  
three years in the King's Troop Royal  
Horse Artillery. The first time he ever  
flew in an aeroplane was with 20  
horses on the way to Canada for Expo  
66 with the King's Troop.



At one point he was arrested as he had stolen some petrol out of an officer's car so he could go out for a night on the town! His life is full of stories. For instance, there was an occasion when he fell asleep whilst exercising the King's Troop horses through London to suddenly hear his sergeant shout "Brockett". The rest of the troop had turned left but Dad had continued straight on.

When he left the King's Troop, he set up a jousting display group with some friends in the early 70s. He liked to think that as he was one of the first people to come up with the idea for jousting tournaments, all those medieval displays you see at English heritage sites are down to him! Then he would get paid a fiver to throw himself off a horse on to the black knight. The group was called the Knights of Arkley, after the riding school where Mum and Dad met. This group is still going today although based deep in South Wales.

### Travelling the world

Mum and Dad went to more countries than Phileas Fogg. Name a country and I'm sure they went there. At his funeral we had Rod Stewart's *Sailing* playing as this was a reminder of the day they came into Miami under full sail with the song blasting.

There was a short time where they ran a youth hostel in New Zealand. On one occasion a backpacker came in and Dad asked him to sign in. The village in the address was the same village where Dad had been born, it really is a small world.

Their travelling days came to an end in 1980 when Mum was expecting my brother Luke. After living in a few places within the parish they moved to Kenya, Ballinger where Dad was to spend his remaining years.

Dad joined the cricket club at Ballinger. He was a keen sportsman but had no idea how to lift his arm up from his elbow as a batter. He turned out to be a natural and I like to think his records are unbeaten to this day. It was about this time he set up his window cleaning business as the 'Community Glazier Hygienist'.

### Chief Scouts Commendation

In 1986 Dad started his chapter in the Lee Common scout group and followed Luke and I through Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Always there as a troop assistant and coming up with amazing activities for the kids. Dad remained in Scouting right up until the pandemic took hold and Scouting took to Zoom. He had no idea what Zoom was, the only zoom he knew was getting a pint in before last orders. Earlier this year he received notification from Bucks Scouts that he

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had received an award; but because of Covid he never had it presented. Dad had achieved the Chief Scout's Commendation for Merit award for his long service to Scouting.

Dad helped at school too. With after school sports clubs or craft classes or simply using his ladder to retrieve stray balls that went on the roof at Lee Common.

He ran the local football team with great success throughout the 90s. We went on to win a cup final. Once when playing Tylers Hill and losing something like 10-0, Dad shouted to the kids "Pull your socks up". Half the team got the wrong idea and bent down and pulled their socks up! He was also a founding member of the Ballinger Shooting Society.

A panto career came to him later in life. After starting out helping the lighting team, he developed a taste for women's dresses in his senior years! It was at the turn of the century that Dad was found in the dark and brought into the light as Jones out of *Dad's Army*. I think his panto days are etched on people's memories.

### A loving dad

Behind the quiet, helpful and knowledgeable personality there was a mischievous rogue and a father who was besotted with his two boys. It's only now I realise what a real effect he had on my life. Giving me a passion for sports, history and Scouting. An understanding of the need to be of value to the community, to focus on detail and to do a tidy job. I now have a clearer sense of who I am as a person. He also gave me a life lesson to stay away from beer!

What I would give to have just one more chance to put Dad to bed and tuck his duvet in, just the way he wanted it!

## Bridge too far?

By Liz Ford et al

This recent hand presented E-W with a bidding challenge after a three-level pre-empt by South.

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

♠ A Q  
♥ Q 9 8  
♦ A K J 8 3  
♣ K J 2

♠ 8 3  
♥ A 6  
♦ Q 10 7 2  
♣ Q 8 7 6 5

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

Dealer: North  
Vulnerability: E-W

At our table, South opened the bidding with 3♠:

N	E	S	W
pass	pass	3♠	?

What do you think West bid with 20 high card points and what was our final contract? See page 24.

## HS2 update

By Cllr Colin Sully

At present Bucks Council are taking a tough line with HS2 Ltd on traffic approvals and on extended working hours in the area. They have refused applications for both over the summer, and, at the time of writing, these are still at appeal stage. There is a 'Catch 22' for local residents in that these potential 'wins' may simply end up delaying the project further, increasing the cost still further and prolonging the impacts of construction in the area. Is it better to hold HS2 to

account for the promises they have made... or simply let them get it finished quicker? Some compromises may have to be made.

## Road closures

Here is our latest understanding of HS2-related local road closures. We will continue to post updates on the Forum as we receive them.

- **Rocky Lane:** open with traffic control until 4<sup>th</sup> October; then full closure for three weeks
- **Bowood Lane:** open
- **Leather Lane:** open until at least 25<sup>th</sup> October
- **A413 at Lt Missenden:** full closure for six nights from 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

## At Leather Lane...

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting HS2 Ltd's review of the design of the realignment and overbridge at Leather Lane. It does appear however that the local actions by residents will result in the project now protecting far more trees and ecology in the area than was originally planned.

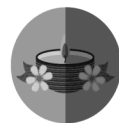
## ... and at Westminster

On 13<sup>th</sup> September, prompted by a petition signed by over 100,000 people, Parliament debated "Stop work on HS2 immediately and hold a new vote to repeal the legislation".

With the two main parties continuing to support the project, the result of the debate was, sadly, only too predictable... many promises and assurances but little real change.

## 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, please go to [www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area](http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area)



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# The Lee Parish Council update

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk

## Annual Parish Meeting

**D**on't forget, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30 pm at The Lee Parish Hall. This is your opportunity to ask questions not only of our speakers (Sarah Green MP, Revd Chris Haywood and Mrs Claire Gresswell) but also of the Council.

This will be the first large scale meeting since the pandemic, and in order to keep everyone safe we respectfully ask all attendees to consider:

- wearing masks when moving around the hall, unless medically exempt from doing so
- confirming a negative result from a lateral flow test in the preceding 48 hours
- not attending if they or any member of their household has tested positive or shown any symptoms of Covid-19 in the previous 10 days.

## Memorabilia

**T**he appeal in last month's Newsletter for parish records turned up a real treasure trove that had been hiding in plain sight in Annie Ash's garage.



We need to take time to go through and understand exactly what is there, but so far discoveries range from the Order of Service for the unveiling and dedication of the War Memorial on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1921 (now on the website at [www.thelee.org.uk/memorials/](http://www.thelee.org.uk/memorials/)) to the accounts for the celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 via handcuffs belonging to the erstwhile Parish Constable – and a complaint about noisy cockerels at the allotments from the 1950s.



## Heritage

There is currently a government led Local Heritage Listing initiative to record local sites, buildings, and monuments that are of community and heritage importance, but have either not met the strict statutory listing requirement or have simply slipped through the net. Buckinghamshire Council would like to get people involved to nominate sites; they are also looking for volunteers with all levels of interest and expertise to assist with the site surveys and data input. More details can be found at [local-heritage-list.org.uk/buckinghamshire](http://local-heritage-list.org.uk/buckinghamshire)

## Planning applications

The Parish Council has recently updated its Planning Application Procedures to ensure that all applications are treated equally based solely on the submitted documents, with any councillor who could be considered to have a conflict of interest recusing themselves from

participating in the council's deliberations. Full details can be found at [www.thelee.org.uk/governance/](http://www.thelee.org.uk/governance/)

Finally, a reminder that the Parish Council continues to post notices to The Lee Forum, as we receive them, of all planning applications within the parish, with a reminder to residents that if they have specific comments to make, they should respond directly to the planning authority. If a resident wishes to make planning-related comments to the Parish Council, they should contact me at 07704 909324 or [clerk@thelee.org.uk](mailto:clerk@thelee.org.uk). Such comments will be considered by the Parish Council when forming its own view and will be unattributed.

## Stop Press

The road near Church Farm will be completely closed between 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> October for repairs by Affinity Water. Unfortunately Bucks Council have no powers to prevent this work at the same time as the HS2 closure of Rocky Lane.

# Chiltern Ridges



By Cllr Patricia Birchley,  
Buckinghamshire Council

**H**S2 is really making an impact on our landscape, and in Warwickshire recently I saw the swathe they have already cut across the county, with roads closed, diversions, rows of massive earth moving trucks and a lot of public resistance. The most recent briefing was delayed as Bucks Council strives to thoroughly investigate the planning consents that we must give. Cllr Jane MacBean and I are very conscious of the damage being done to local communities, especially at The Lee, and ask you to contact us if

we can help. That said, the Parish Council is a very effective voice and is doing an outstanding job in holding HS2 to account.

A meeting of the full Council took place on 15<sup>th</sup> September and Agenda items included a discussion on resettling a small number of Afghan interpreters in the County, mindful of the need for schooling, accommodation for large families and potential psychological support; we have talked to residents, business, charities and schools who have shown a desire to help. The Health and Wellbeing Board's focus is Happier Healthier Lives and workshops are currently promoting ageing well. The Board is especially interested in the new Health and Care Bill going through Parliament which receives Royal Assent in early 2022. Transport for Bucks has resurfaced a number of roads this summer; Jane and I have

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been critical of cutbacks to works in Chiltern Ridges despite an extra £3 million in the budget for the current year. We have also asked for local roads which were top dressed in the last two years to be inspected for their quality and durability.

The Chesham and Villages Community Board held a discussion about economic development in the Chilterns at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July; the Parish Councils had drawn up a list of businesses that support local jobs which was impressive. The Highways Action Group met recently to discuss applications for funding schemes next year including vehicle activated signs and pavement repairs, and you would be welcome to ask about community projects you may wish to explore. The Coordinator and point of contact is [Caroline.Green@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Caroline.Green@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

I have enjoyed seeing many local residents over the summer and you

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have talked about gullies, potholes, school transport, HS2 and social care advice. Please let me know if I can raise issues at County Hall on your behalf.

## Personal-Lee

Jane Livermore

By Mary Godfrey

**I**n June 2020, back when we could all remember what the sun looked like, a well maintained large white Ford transit van appeared on the road in Hunts Green. Over the following weeks my neighbours and I joked that we had our very own “Lady in the Van” and as we got to know Jane we learnt how she had ended up living in a van parked up outside our homes.

When both her parents died within three months of each other, and with her four children now grown up, Jane took a redundancy package from the job she’d had for 20 years as an account executive for a large global IT outsourcing company and bought the van. The pandemic struck shortly after and scuppered her plans of driving round Europe, so she ended up parked on her drive until she got a call from her friend Carolyne Culver, a Green councillor in West Berkshire who went on to stand in our recent by-election. Along with fellow Green councillor Steve Masters, Carolyne has been a regular visitor to Jones Hill Wood. Steve lived on camp for three months, even attending council meetings from his treehouse. Jane had helped with their election campaigns and was interested enough in what they had to say about the wood that she came to have a look for herself. The beautiful beech woodland and the struggle going on within, enticed her to stay.

She had always been interested in activism, going on a march at Greenham Common with her sisters when she was younger. She tried to be involved in the Newbury bypass protests in 1996 but young children and full-time work got in the way.



## Arrests

Her first arrest came in 2019 on Extinction Rebellion's 'Pink Boat' in Oxford Circus and she realised that being arrested was nothing to be scared about. She has now been arrested multiple times and placed under bail conditions that she says are used to keep the protestors away from HS2 sites for months at a time. Court cases are dismissed days before they are due to appear or, when they can get to see a judge, the bail conditions are removed and charges dropped. But for that time between arrest and appearing in court, Jane points out that the bail conditions imposed by the police can mean anyone awaiting trial has limited access near HS2 sites.

She has learnt a lot from activism "The cross section of the community that you get and the different way of living that you see, has been really interesting" she says. "All the HS2 camps feel different due to their location. You attract a wide range of people to protest, which makes it challenging but also fascinating, all

camp actions work by consensus. We have meetings and we agree what needs to be done."

Jane has learnt to climb on camp and now knows all the requisite knots and has bought a harness. She really struggled the first time and only recently mastered it. She says she is older and less agile with less muscle strength than the youngsters but once she'd worked out a technique that suited her, she got it and has managed to get to a treehouse and abseiled down again. She says that it was great to see so many women on camp, "building the treehouses doing the climbing, chopping the wood and fetching the water, leading and actively being involved". Having time to sit around and chat, everyone is exposed to lots of other people's views and experiences of the world. "You don't agree with everyone on site or



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their methods and it's ok to speak up about that" she says. A mild mannered and softly spoken woman, she tells me of an instance during the evictions of the treehouses, when everyone's emotions were very close to the surface and a fellow protestor was shouting abusive language towards the police. She leant forward and told the police officer that she did not agree with what they were saying or how it was being said.

### Inside the van



*The interior, maximising available space*

My eight-year-old has been itching to see inside her van, not quite believing that it would hold any more than a mattress on the floor. Jane gives him a tour of the cleverly adapted van, with wonderful carpentry allowing space for a built-in bed, cupboards, shelves a worktop and small desk. A cooker plus toilet and shower space really do make it a home from home. He asked her what it's like to be outside with no technology: "Well, we

do have technology in the woods, solar panels for charging batteries and phones. We use social media a lot and messaging systems so we can put a call out for things. Or check that everyone is ok. So technology is essential to life at camp and coordinating efforts against HS2, but we don't sit and watch telly or movies." I'm not sure he believes her.

### Winter

She had the van to retreat into but says even so, getting through winter was a struggle. As we all know, it's colder up on top of the hills and the wind can tear up through the woods. "Once you're in the sleeping bag and blankets you're ok but it's really hard to stop the tents leaking, they wear out and the condensation means you can't dry anything out in the winter." The shacks they built out of pallets for winter are better "A log burner in there and its almost cosy"! Over the harsh winter of 2020, only five remained full time in JHW, "it was a case of pure survival" admits Jane. "Chopping wood, lighting fires, collecting water, boiling the kettle (which alone can take 30 minutes!), cooking and washing up is about all you can manage in a day. But at that point HS2 hadn't started felling trees, and if there had been no presence in the woods or at other sites on HS2's route, action would have been taken." As was seen with the Kings Lane Oak, no amount of tears bring back a tree felled in 'error'.

Jane is now in this battle for the long haul but stresses the activists have to take care of themselves. "Burnout is a real thing in the activist movement, it can be really full on, and some people find it very distressing being on camp with the carrots (the orange clad HS2 workers) there all the time. Every time you walk past a fence

they take pictures of you, every single day. You're just going to the toilet or getting something, and they are there. Sometimes we tell people to take breaks, most people do it themselves."

## Moving on

The protestors have learnt that they need to be more proactive to garner local support and involvement, which is crucial for success in fighting any large infrastructure project. She says "The level of local involvement at Jones Hill Wood which was tucked away, almost unseen versus that of Leather Lane, where inconvenient road closures, the erection of fences and removal of undergrowth were visible to many locals" served as a portent of things to come and to highlight how public engagement can influence outcomes.

As HS2 carves its path up to Birmingham and the fight slowly and inevitably moves up the line, Jane is not a permanent resident of the parish anymore but an interesting and welcome visitor.

## Forum Fred



## And still we grow


**F**reda has just completed an audit of the first half of the year on the Forum, with interesting results.

- We are now close to 700 users, which is really quite remarkable. About half live within the parish and the majority of the rest in adjacent villages.
- The category with the most postings remains 'Wanted and For Sale' (35% of postings this year), followed by 'Miscellaneous' (19%), 'Can you Recommend' (12%) and 'HS2' (12%).

- There are now quite a few people just subscribing to individual categories. For example, some have only signed up to 'Wanted and For Sale'.
- If you would like to restrict the topics that are sent to you by email, see 'Subscriptions to email notifications' in the User Guide on the Forum Home Page.

## Sharing our assets...

Freda and I continue to get emails of thanks from residents who have been delighted with the Forum. Over the summer golf clubs have been found new homes, (as have tents, headphones, cars and many other items); loans have also been arranged for projector screens, garden tables, chairs and gazebos, and recommendations have been followed up for septic tank servicing, cleaners and ironers. What a helpful community we live in! Our



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thanks to everyone for willingly sharing their assets and ideas.

## Yet another reminder

Most residents do give incredibly positive feedback on the forum and appreciate the range of information contained in the postings. However, the single thing that annoys more people than anything else is when people wanting to buy or sell an item or a service fail to put their contact details on their first posting, and/or people fail to use them when they do. This inevitably leads to further emails, describing in great detail all the follow-up exchanges; “Can I ring this afternoon?” “Where are you?” “Are you in on Saturday?” “I’ll leave it by the back door.”

All the emails go out to hundreds of forum subscribers, and this can easily be avoided if the original poster includes his/her email address and/or telephone number and those that are interested use them. Most forum users understand this; but for some, the penny still hasn’t dropped.

The Forum does NOT offer a personal email or contact service.

## It is not private

On the issue of personal information, may we also remind residents that the information posted is viewable by hundreds of people. Do therefore take care when sharing personal or private information.

## Doh!

Have you ever clicked *Submit* at the end of a post, only to instantly spot an error? I think we’ve all been there at some time!

Did you know that it’s possible for a post to be amended within 10 minutes of it having been submitted? There are however some ‘gotchas’ to watch out for when amending a post:

- The long delay after clicking *Submit* is for all the email notifications to be sent. If you amend a post without waiting for the submission to complete, the emails will be interrupted and not all will be sent.
- Email notifications are only sent for new posts – either starting a new topic or posting a reply – but no further emails are sent if a post is amended.
- We have no way of recalling email notifications once they have been sent. To make sure that everyone is aware of a change we recommend that you post a reply giving the correct information, after the submission has completed, rather than just editing your original post.
- It is our policy not to amend or remove erroneous posts other than in extenuating circumstances. We will however remove posts in breach of the Code of Conduct.

*If you need some specific advice, please email 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>*

## Bridge too far?

**A**t our table, West avoided bidding 3NT knowing that South had seven spades, and instead doubled.

East bid clubs and the contract ended in 5♣. This made, but then so would 3NT with three overtricks.

## Don't pay cash!

**M**any of us are quite accustomed to paying cash in hand to have odd jobs done to the house or in the garden – but if you ever need to have rubbish removed, this is the one time you should *never* pay cash.

Did you know that your rubbish is far more likely to end up fly-tipped if you pay someone cash to remove it? A bona fide waste carrier must pay a commercial tip when they want to dispose of rubbish; an anonymous 'man with a van' has a strong financial incentive to avoid the disposal charge – by dumping your rubbish in the countryside.

And there's a sting in the tail. If Buckinghamshire Council (BC) investigate a fly-tipping incident and find evidence that leads them to a householder, BC will pay them a visit and ask them to provide evidence that they've taken reasonable steps to identify the person they hired to remove their rubbish and to ensure that it would be disposed of properly.

If the householder can provide evidence of the identity of the person who took their rubbish away such as details of a bank card payment, the investigation can focus on the fly-tipper. However, if the householder has paid an unidentified individual cash in hand to remove rubbish, they'll be issued with a £400 fixed penalty notice for failing in their 'duty of care'. If the incident is serious, this might be escalated to a court summons that could result in a criminal conviction and a hefty fine.

If you're unsure of how to make sure you're doing the right thing when someone is taking away your rubbish,

the SCRAP fly-tipping campaign code is a useful tool:

**S** – Suspect all waste carriers; do not let them take your waste until you're confident they're legitimate. A professional waste carrier should happily answer reasonable questions.

**C** – Check that a waste carrier is registered on the [Environment Agency's website](#).

**R** – Refuse any unexpected offers to have your rubbish taken away. If you suspect that someone who approaches you will be disposing of waste illegally, report them to the Environment Agency.

**A** – Ask what will happen to your rubbish and assure yourself that it is going to be disposed of appropriately.

**P** – Paperwork must be obtained: a proper invoice, waste transfer note or receipt, including a description of the waste being removed and the waste carrier's contact details.

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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).

## October

*Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>. Ballinger BATs.* 9:30 am -11:30 am; then every Tuesday. Ballinger Memorial Hall. See page 6.

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

*Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>. The Lee Annual Parish Meeting.* 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall. See page 18.

*Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>. Ballinger Horticultural Society.* The Gardens at Tresco Abbey

with Lauren Fear. 8:00 pm at Ballinger War Memorial Hall.

*Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>. Ballinger WI.* 8:00 pm at Ballinger Memorial Hall. Licensed to thrill: Keith Muras. Please check emails in case of change of venue.

*Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>. Arts Society Ballinger.* Papers from Peking – Chinese Wallpapers with Joanna Banham. 8:00 pm at Ballinger War Memorial Hall.

## Coming soon

*Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Village Walk.* Meet on The Lee green at 9:30 am.

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

*Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November. The Lee Parish Council Meeting.* 7:30 pm at The Lee Parish Hall.

*Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Shop at The Lee Christmas Market.* See page 3.

*Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Roving Supper.* (TBC) See page 3.

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

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## 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	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)	



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