



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

Remembering and looking back



Remembering and looking forward

All that beauty

By Liz Stewart-Liberty

As Thomas Gray wrote:
*"The boast of heraldry, the
pomp of power,
All that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Awaits alike th' inevitable hour:
The paths of glory lead but to the grave."*

In the year 2050 I think The Lee will be the same glorious place: thriving, full of happy, lucky people benefitting from The Lee's unique magic: shine on harvest moon, ring out the bells and rejoice!

Long live The Lee... way beyond 2050. I'm just glad I shan't be there.

Liz Stewart-Liberty

(1930 to 2021)

By Colin Sully

The funeral of Liz Stewart-Liberty took place in The Lee, at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, on Thursday 4th November. The church was packed with Liz's family and friends.

Tributes to her life were read by family members, Gill Ross and Margaret Alice Stewart-Liberty, by her close friend, Caroline Murray, and by her former estate manager at The Lee, Chris Ruttle (read what Chris said on page 6).

References were made to her strong and vivacious character, her love of art, music, poetry and travel,

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her sense of humour, her generosity, her love of family and farming, and her close relationship to St John the Baptist Church.

Some of her favourite poems were read by Oliver and Charlie Stewart-Liberty; some of her favourite pieces of music were sung by Iúnó Connelly. Revd Chris Haywood, vicar of The Lee, conducted the service.

Liz in The Lee

Following her marriage to Arthur Stewart-Liberty in 1954, Liz lived in The Lee for over 60 years, taking over the running of the Stewart-Liberty estate after her husband's death in 1990.

As well as the estate and life in general on 'The-Lee Green' (as she liked to call it), Liz was also closely involved in The Lee Cricket Club, the Flower Show, the Parish Hall and the Old Church and opened the new community shop in 2008 (see above).

Liz and the Newsletter

Liz was also a frequent contributor to this Newsletter on an extraordinarily wide range of subjects – from the Roman remains in Brays Wood to Christmas street lighting in Regent Street; from her journeys to the far corners of the planet to the Shop at The Lee. She wrote humorously and poignantly about her early life and about living in The Lee.

You will have just read, on the front page, her contribution to a series of articles published in the Newsletter in 2011, looking ahead to life in The Lee in the year 2050.

Things certainly won't be the same without her.

Your letters

Earth Song

To the Editor

I never cease to be amazed that, whilst out walking the dogs immediately after the Duke of Edinburgh walkers periodically travel the local footpaths, there is always litter left by these groups.

I would have assumed that an essential part of the DofE Award Scheme would be to encourage environmentally appropriate behaviour, in particular with the issues of COP26 in everybody's eyes as we speak. The Duke would be turning in his grave!

Robin Thorn

The Lee

Do they know it's Christmas?

To the Editor

Santa has confirmed that he will be visiting Lee Common and The Lee on Thursday 16th December.

He will be at the Ballinger Road end of Oxford Street around 5:30 pm and will then travel along Oxford Street before turning towards The Lee



where his sleigh will circle the green anticlockwise before stopping just before The Cock and Rabbit.

He will stop where there are groups gathered so photographs can be taken alongside the sleigh. Letters can also be handed to him. He is collecting donations for the less privileged so please be generous.

Phil Harrison

Lee Common



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Mad World

To the Editor

I'm sure this will not have been the first time this issue has appeared in the Newsletter, but the incidence of fast and reckless driving in the locality has not lessened.

Whether it is the advent of HS2 and the associated increase in traffic volumes, or just people selfishly disregarding the well-being of others, there is the proverbial 'accident waiting to happen.'

In addition to the risks that pedestrians expose themselves to on these narrow roads, I have witnessed some appallingly dangerous near misses when drivers not only fail to slow down when approaching horse riders, but actually speed up to get past them, even on hills and blind corners – quite incredible!

Will it take a fatality before the lessons of the Highway Code are not only learned by rote, but more importantly are put into practice?

Robin Thorn

The Lee

Dangerous Dogs

To the Editor

Quoting from Colin Sully's letter in last month's Newsletter: "*your dog could be considered dangerously out of control if it injures someone or makes someone worried that it might injure them.*" A court could also decide that "*your dog is dangerously out of control if it attacks someone's animal or the owner of that animal thinks they could be injured if they tried to stop your dog attacking their animal.*"

Unfortunately this happened to me last week, luckily with no injury, but I was seriously worried that it could



have been a lot worse. I have reported the incident to the police and would encourage anyone else, that this sort of thing has happened to, to do so as well.

The police were very helpful and, if the dog owner is not prepared to control their dog, this seems to me to be the only way to persuade them to do so.

Judy Hart

Swan Bottom

Dogs on the loose again...

To the Editor

Following a shocking dog attack on the lambs at Lower Bassibones Farm a few weeks ago (see page 5), the incident was promptly reported on The Lee Forum, accompanied by some explicit photographs, with a repeated plea to dog owners to keep their pets on leads when walking along the footpaths.

Clearly, not everyone subscribes to The Lee Forum because a few days later two women with three dogs between them (all off their leads) were stopped by the landowners and asked to put the dogs on their leads. They refused.

The women said that they were not aware of the report on the Forum and had not seen the notices which appear on almost every gatepost on the farm!

Geoff Hartley

Lee Common

Dog savages lamb

For those readers who do not read The Lee Forum this is a re-print of the posting on the Forum from 27th October
By Geoff Hartley

On 25th October a lamb was chased and savagely mauled by a dog near the footpath at Lower Bassibones Farm.

Ironically, another new kissing gate was installed at the farm only the previous week to replace stiles on the farm in order to assist walkers to access the footpaths more easily and enjoy our beautiful countryside. However, some dog owners are not respecting the landowners' and farmers' requests to keep their dogs on a lead when using the footpaths.

There are signs on almost every gateway asking walkers to follow this simple request. On this latest attack, the lamb was chased by a dog until it was herded into a fence where the dog proceeded to maul the lamb, ripping and tearing at its hind legs, tail and along its back. This is the shocking condition in which the lamb was left to die until the landowner was alerted by a thoughtful walker.

This situation arose for two reasons:

- The dog was not on a lead.
- The lamb had been separated from the rest of the flock because the walker closed the gate to the field, thinking that there were no sheep in the vicinity, in order to exercise their dog off its lead.

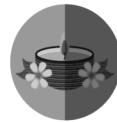
Dogs should not be allowed to run freely around pastures fouling the grass which will later be used for hay to feed stock during the winter.

Gateways are opened and tightly tied back by the farmer to enable his



stock to graze the pasture evenly and efficiently. Walkers have no right to interfere with gates and fencing.

Previously, a walker had closed a gate which had been deliberately tied



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back open thus confining cattle to a field without access to a water supply.

If a gate is securely tied open, it is for grazing management purposes. Similarly, if a gate is closed, it should be left closed. Walkers should leave gates as they find them.

As dog owners have ignored repeated requests to keep their dog on a lead, this attack and any future attacks, will be reported to the police.

If readers find the photograph on the previous page upsetting, imagine how much worse it is for the farmer having to deal with the reality of the situation.

Fireworks and flames

By Tony Lea

What a great evening! This was the best attended fireworks display in many years with at least 350 adults and children in attendance.

We were very grateful to Dominic Norton, David Gurney, Giles Robertson and Robert May for agreeing to take over the firework display, which was greatly appreciated by everyone there. Thanks also to Trevor Pearce for building and lighting the bonfire, to Helen Osborne and Mark Braley for continuing to allow us to use their field, and to the Scout Leaders for producing hundreds of beautifully barbecued sausages – apologies to those who missed out, the crowd was much larger than expected!

I Love Sausage Rolls

My thanks to those on the committee and other volunteers who

helped set up the field on Friday morning, cleared away the next day, who did sterling work selling hot dogs, beer, wine and soft drinks and stewarding for us.

Many compliments were passed about the event, which was the first time the village has been able to come together since Bonfire Night in 2019, and even more appreciated for that reason. It makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Mrs Stewart-Liberty

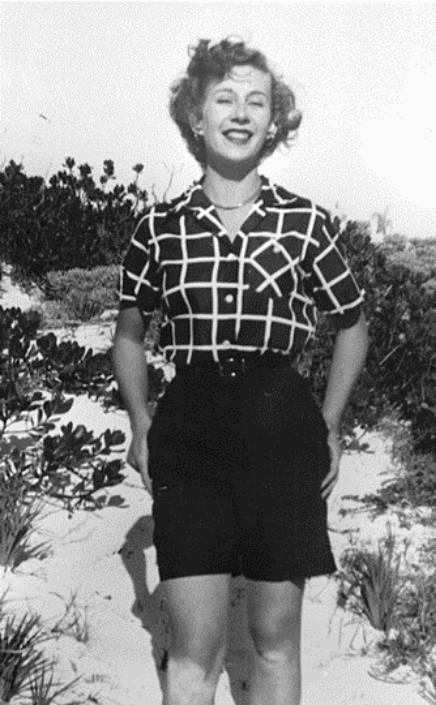
By Chris Ruttle

I was Farm Manager for Mr Stewart-Liberty from 1978-1990 and for Mrs Stewart-Liberty from 1990-2013, when I retired.

I am still involved in a small way with the estate now, and I think that says a lot for the Stewart-Liberty family, and how happy my family and I have been here, for those 43 years.

I remember that, after leaving the first farm meeting with Mr S-L, Mrs S-L stopped me and said, “Like all estates there are a couple of very strong characters working here, but I will back you up one hundred percent with any personality clashes you may have.” Yes I did have some and yes Mrs S-L was true to her word.

I did manage to upset her after about a month when I sold the house cow, which someone used to hand milk twice a day and take the milk to Pipers. For several months after that whenever I was at a meeting she would ask me if I would like a cup of coffee, followed by “But there’s no milk.”



Liz in sunnier climes

On Mr S-L's death in 1990 Mrs S-L took over the estate. At the first meeting I asked her what she wanted me to do; she looked at me and said, "You know what you are doing, just carry on." This was the start of a tremendous working relationship. She absolutely loved the farm and woods, and had a great sense of responsibility to improve and keep the whole estate in as good a condition as possible for the future.

Green, Green Grass of Home

Mrs S-L liked nothing better than having a drive through the woods with her woodland manager, Geoff Hopwood, or with me, to look at the crops and cattle. We always had to let her know when we were turning the

cattle out in the spring, as she loved to watch them run, kicking up their heels at their new found freedom. She was delighted when we managed to win prizes for the crops and cattle in the local Chiltern Hills Society farming competition and liked to attend their annual harvest supper, where we would pick up our prizes, while she conversed very knowledgeably with the local farmers.

As most of you know she was a very dynamic, energetic, no nonsense character full of energy.

On taking over the estate she embarked on a programme of improving the houses and converting redundant farm buildings. This was done with advice and work from her builders, Nick Humphreys and Chris Warren and her plumber David Brown, backed up by her financial advisers, Simon Goldthorpe and

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Graham Bone. Again, all had tremendous working relationships with her. But she also liked to put her personal stamp on the works.

She was an extremely good artist and would paint ceramic tiles with special paint with pictures and scenes on them for the kitchen and bathrooms and get them fired. She would also make trips to London to an Indian shop she knew, and get materials for the curtains and get Janet Bramble to make them up. I expect there a lot of people here like me who are lucky to own one or more of her spectacular flower paintings.

These are the Days of our Lives

Mrs S-L was also a wonderful cook and host, and threw some wonderful dinner parties, some of which my wife and I were very lucky to attend. She seemed to know everybody and I met people that I would never have met under other circumstances. Her knowledge of world events and her ability to discuss them was incredible, with an extremely good memory and quick wit. She was one of those people that would be happy talking to the Queen one minute, or a homeless person the next.

What a lot of people here may not know is that she was extremely philanthropic, not just to local causes but also to a lot of individuals. She was an extremely fierce negotiator at some of the meetings, especially with film location managers, to make sure she got a good deal. This money was never for herself but for local causes and people affected by the filming or individuals in need. But the film people respected her for it, and always spoke of their affection for her and regularly came back for more. Mrs S-L

always said money was to be enjoyed but she never spent much on herself, except for some nice holidays.

I have a Dream

Mrs S-L also had a love for wildlife and the environment. In 2000 she said to me that she wanted to plant a wildflower meadow behind her house in memory of Arthur, her husband, and his sister the great conservationist Susan Cowdy. Being a typical farmer of the time, and wanting to farm every inch I could, I was a bit worried as this was the best 32 acre arable field on the farm. So I said to her, "What, just a little area behind the house?" to which she replied, "No Chris, the whole field."

After a week thinking about it I realised she was right, so an expert from the RSPB was called in to design the whole thing, and seed was ordered from Dame Miriam Rothschild for the wildflowers.

My colleague David Page and I spent weeks measuring up and planting various seed plots for the birds. She also installed a large wildlife pond and loved to sit there in the summer watching the swallows swooping down for a drink. Since the establishment of this area the number and species of birds and wildlife on the estate has improved tremendously especially in the winter. The area is now known as the bird reserve and is a great legacy in her memory which the family are keen to improve and maintain for the future.

There are so many other happy memories of her but I would just like to say I count myself very lucky to have had such a generous, trusting and supportive employer, it was like running my own farm.

Autumn amble

By Liz Macann

The date of November's village walk was changed to the first Wednesday to avoid clashing with the funeral of Liz Stewart-Liberty.



Lovely autumn weather accompanied the six walkers and assorted dogs as they encountered spectacular views and well-worn woodland paths along the chosen route.

Some of these were new to some of the group despite most having lived in the area for many years – a great bonus to add to the benefits of putting well-known names to unknown faces and exchanging news and chat for an energetic hour and a half.

Just Walkin' in the Rain

Dog or no dog, come and join us this month on Thursday 2nd December, 9:30 am on the village green. Everyone is welcome.

Bridge drive for new gates

By Judy Hart

By popular demand the bridge drive is back. We are holding it in The Lee Parish Hall on

26th January 2022 between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

As usual all proceeds will go to St John the Baptist Church at the Lee but this year we would particularly like to raise money to repair and renovate the gates and noticeboard on the roadside.

We have had an estimate for this work of £7,000. This is our target, so even if you are not a bridge player all donations will be welcome.

Don't Stop me Eatin'

If you would like to join the bridge drive, get your table of four together, and you can be sure of a fun afternoon with a sumptuous tea half way through the afternoon.

Tables cost £40 and to book yours please contact me by email at judy.elgood@gmail.com or on 837328.



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HS2: local updates

By Cllr Colin Sully

Say what you see...

A number of people have asked “What is going on at the top of Leather Lane?” – a good question. Nothing of what we can see at the moment in the fields to the north of the lane appears to be permanent; it is all ‘temporary works’:

- a temporary crossing on Leather Lane to be used as an internal access road during construction
- temporary mounds of topsoil, subsoil, and chalk placed there during the construction of the access road and the excavation of the cuttings
- temporary ponds to catch run-off water during construction.
- temporary archaeology works, (coming to an end soon, we are told).

The plan, over the next few years, is to remove all of these features and replace them with permanent cuttings and bunds (re-profiling of the land), and new drainage ponds to capture the run-off from the cuttings.

Further details of what this might eventually look like can be found on The Lee website at www.thelee.org.uk/2021/11/08/hs2-running-through-the-lee-parish/

Road closures

We are advised that:

- The night-time closure of sections of the Wendover by-pass will continue until 6:00 am on Monday 6th December.
- Leather Lane and Rocky Lane should both remain open throughout December.

- The majority of works will come to an end for Christmas / New Year on Friday 17th December and start-up again on 4th January.

We will continue to post updates on the Forum as we receive them.

HS2 construction routes

In November, Buckinghamshire Council (BC) announced that it was launching a Judicial Review against the HS2 construction route applications relating to the A355/A413. They are now challenging a total of six of the planning inspector’s local decisions.

2022 and beyond...

There is no doubt that 2022 will bring more HS2 construction activity to our area than we saw in 2021. Not so much tree-felling but more civil engineering works, including ground excavation, bridge-building and concrete laying, together with all the associated lorry movements.

Whilst the Parish Council will continue to try to hold HS2 to account (in particular on the Code of Construction Practice) and seek ways to further mitigate the local impact of construction, it is vitally important that residents also lodge any and all of their complaints with HS2 Enquiries.

The process is tedious, we know, but it is important that all complaints are centrally logged with HS2.

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

There is also an updated note on “*How to complain about HS2*,” prepared by the Parish Council, at www.thelee.org.uk/HS2complaints/

HS2 local engagement

TLPC councillors also continue to meet on a regular basis with the HS2

Community Engagement Managers. If you have any local HS2 queries for the Parish Council, please send them to HS2@thelee.org.uk.

Halloween

I hear you Knocking

Seen in Lee Common – are they trying to get in or get out?



The Lee Flower Show 2022

By Jonathan Batten

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come all ye citizens of The Lee to the flower show on 16th July 2022.

That is the plan as of today; we are optimistic that we will be able to fulfil it but, after what has not happened during the last two years, we are still a little cautious.

The elephant in the room is whether the good citizens of The Lee want the flower show to take place to the extent that some of you are willing to become more involved and join us as an active committee member?

Rockabye

The current committee, of long serving members, is depleted to five and, with a combined age similar to that of the Rolling Stones, it is time to recruit enthusiastic new members of a younger generation to take the show forward into the roaring twenties.

We are planning the next committee meeting on the 17th January 2022 and would be delighted to welcome any new faces to an inaugural meeting of a committee fit for the future.

If you are interested please call me on 01494 837450 or email me at battenjonathan@hotmail.com



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Be Prepared

By Enzo D'Alessandro

Chatting with a new colleague this question came up: "Is there a 'critical thinking' badge in the Scouts, and if not, should there be one?"

It has been playing on my mind since, because it goes straight to the core of what Scouting is about. The short answer to the first question is: "No, there isn't such a badge." Should there be one? My answer to that is also "No."

"Why not?" I hear you ask, possibly in dismay and questioning my judgement (which would be a reasonable thing to do in general, I suppose), but hear/read me out. A 'critical thinking' badge implies working on this skill as something other than the normal set of Scouting activities. For me this is an oxymoron: critical thinking is fundamental to all Scouting activities.

No activity is a passive training process, no information is intended to be simply acquired, no skill is obtained purely for show: every game, every knot, every hike step is part of the development of critical thinking skills by a continuous process of

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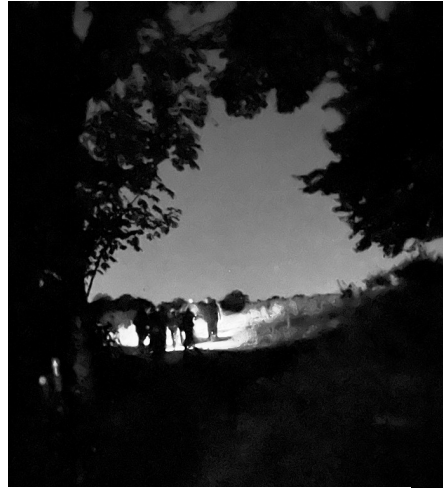
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A time for critical thinking

questioning, assessing, putting in context and acting on evidence.

Mull of Kintyre

The beauty of it is that this is not an explicit learning activity; rather, the Scouts learn to make this process a normal part of life: once you get lost in an unknown area on the side of (the wrong) unknown mountain in the middle of a dark winter night because your team has been following the funny guy for a laugh, you learn that critical thinking can literally save your life. This really happened in Italy, by the way; we got them back to safety by guiding them via Morse code from the right mountain.

That's my Goal

So, no, we don't need a critical thinking badge. All we need is the enthusiasm to try and leave the world a little better than we found it. Once you get into this mindset, critical thinking becomes the norm. Oh, and we have plenty of enthusiasm in our troop.

He loved the Chilterns

By CRAG Directors

In October, footpath volunteers from the Chiltern Society installed a new kissing gate in Lee Common, donated by the Chiltern Ridges (HS2) Action Group (CRAG) in memory of Barnaby Usborne.

Barnaby was a member of the CRAG team for many years, and in particular led the group that designed the proposed CRAG tunnel, which would have extended the HS2 Chilterns tunnel, from where it is currently planned to end at South Heath, to the end of the AONB, north of Wendover.



Always on my Mind

The new kissing gate replaces a stile on TLE/33, between Bassibones Farm and Lower Bassibones Farm, and now enables a stile-free access from Lee Common down 'The Slipe' to Hightree Wood, and a circular stile-free walk back to Lee Common through Grove Wood. We are especially grateful to the landowners for giving permission for the stile to be placed in this location.

The inscription on the gate reads *'In memory of Barnaby Usborne who loved the Chilterns.'*

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From the Vicarage



By Revd Chris Haywood

I've written before about how being available and present with the community we serve is important to me. Such an approach to ministry is known as Incarnational ministry. It takes its name from the truth we celebrate at Christmas – The Incarnation. The incarnation is the Christian belief that God took human form by becoming Jesus. Incarnation literally means 'to take on flesh'. For Christians, the incarnation shows that Jesus was fully God and fully human. It is an essential part of our faith, which we principally celebrate at Christmas and in many ways it forms the basis of Christianity.

Mary's Boy Child

It's why, at Christmas, that Jesus is often referred to and named 'Emmanuel', which means 'God with us'. God makes himself available and accessible to us, as a vulnerable baby, through the life and ministry of Jesus and supremely through his death and resurrection, but that's another story.

Our God is a God who willingly involves himself in our lives and

makes himself available and accessible to us.

Our Christmas services seek to do the same. Certainly we want them to be approachable and accessible and we hope that they will make known the Christian hope of Christmas, that in the good times and not so good times, God is with us.

Saviour's Day

This Christmas, more than previous Christmases (after the lockdown of last year), most of all we want it to be a celebration and to reflect the Christmas traditions of these parishes. I trust that, in the range of services we have scheduled, we will provide ample opportunity for you to be a part of the Churches and Communities Christmas Celebrations in all its fullness. Whether at a traditional Candlelit Carol Service, Open Air Community Carols, a family friendly Crib Service or a Midnight Mass, you are most welcome to join us. We invite you most warmly to come and encounter God with us this Christmas and begin a journey into a deeper engagement with the God, who took on human flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Georgie and I would also like to convey our own best wishes, wishing you all peace and joy this Christmas and renewed hope for the New Year.

*May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the
Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with
you always.
Amen.*

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Services

St John the
Baptist,
The Lee



December 2021

5 th	8:00am	HC	Revd Chris Haywood
19 th	11:00am	PC	Revd Chris Haywood
24 th	7:00pm 3:00pm		Carol Service Crib Service Revd Chris Haywood
25 th	8:00am		Christmas Communion Revd Chris Haywood
26 th	11:00am		Act of worship with short country walk

January 2022

2 nd	8:00am	HC	Revd Chris Haywood
16 th	11:00am	PC	Revd Chris Haywood
30 th	10:00am	PC	United parish communion at St Mary's, Hawridge

HC Holy Communion (said)

PC Parish Communion (sung)

MHC Midweek HC (said)

AA All age service

Further information will also be posted 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).

St. Mary's,
Ballinger
December 2021



5 th	10:00am	Ecumenical Service at the Baptist Church Great Missenden
12 th	9:30am	Holy Communion with Advent Carols followed by refreshments
24 th	3:00pm 9:30pm	Christingle Christmas Communion

January 2022

2 nd	9:30am	HC	New Year's Communion and Morning Prayer followed by refreshments
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Contacts: *Associate Churchwardens:* Anne Ellis (01494 837247) and Maggi Cameron (01494 864790) or maggi.cameron@hotmail.co.uk

As the nights draw in, there will undoubtedly be more time in the evenings for reflection. Despite the uncertainties and misgivings on the world stage, St Mary's remains constantly at the heart of the village, providing a source of comfort and joy to many. Throughout this chequered year we have celebrated weddings, special birthdays and remembered loved ones, and it hardly seems possible that in this newsletter we will be taking a peek into January to look forward with hope for all that 2022 brings.

Bridge over You

By Kathryn Dickinson et al

In this recent hand, with N-S vulnerable, West's overcall posed a bidding problem for North.

♠ Q 10 7 2

♥ K Q J

♦ J 3

♣ A 7 5 4

♠ 8 5 4

♥ A 10 5

♦ K 10

♣ K Q 10 9 6

♠ J 9

♥ 7 6

♦ 9 8 7 6 4 2

♣ J 8 3

♠ A K 6 3

♥ 9 8 4 3 2

♦ A Q 5

♣ 2

Dealer: East

Vulnerability: N-S

E	S	W	N
pass	1♥	2♣	?

North was unsure whether to bid 2♥, 2♠ or Double. What do you think N bid and what was our final contract? See page 23.

The Shop at The Lee

By Symeon Economou

By the time you read this I hope you have given us your Christmas Eve order, if you intend doing so. If not please get on the phone to me on 07791 982008 and we will move heaven and earth to fulfil it.

Something I Need

I have always enjoyed the Christmas Eve panics, with everybody coming at once, me in a nervous frenzy, hot toddies and mince pies and a marketplace atmosphere. Unfortunately we have considered it prudent to repeat last year's system of asking customers to stagger their collection based on their surname. This is undoubtedly sensible and it does calm things down a bit but it is nowhere near as enjoyable. I always like a bit of chaos!

A Moment like This

In the shop we are coming out of the Covid restrictions with some caution, on the basis that it is best to err on the safe side. Hopefully by this time next year we will be back to normal.

Looking back on the year customers have maintained their faith in us. Surprisingly though, we still get customers in the shop asking how long we have been here and what a nice shop it is. If you have yet to visit us pop in. The welcome will be spiced with a bit

of banter and the odd good hearted insult but, hopefully, that attitude relaxes people and they spend more.



Katie M-Y at the Christmas Food and Gift Market

Our complement of volunteers has returned to pre-Covid levels with a number of younger volunteers to keep us oldies in check. Whilst I am on the subject we do have a number of 'jobs' which do not involve wrestling with the till so if you have been hanging back then please contact me. Right now we are looking for one or two volunteers to look after our fruit and vegetables. This involves a couple of hours twice a week so if you have some spare time please let us know.

Christmas Alphabet

In mid-November The Lee Shop staged its now famous Christmas Food and Gift Market. It opened on Friday evening with a special preview for the volunteers and on Saturday for customers in general.

Mistletoe and Wine

The weather was kind and there was a constant stream of customers well into the afternoon. The wonderful, eclectic array of food and gifts found favour and produced a record turnover. Better still, some of the pre-pandemic festive atmosphere returned and the hall buzzed with conversation and gossip, albeit from behind masks.

This was all organised and orchestrated by Katie Michaelson-Yeates with boundless energy and cheerful bossiness and supported by an army of willing volunteers.

I Will Always Love You

Finally I personally extend my heartfelt thanks to everybody involved with the shop: committee (yes, even them!), volunteers, suppliers and, of course, customers for making the shop such a nice place to be. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

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A time for thanks



By Pam Batty

Chair, Lee Common School Governors

As we approach the Christmas season it can be easy for many of us to forget the events of the preceding months and beyond. They have been difficult for many and for a variety of different reasons we cannot dismiss that. Our thoughts and prayers go particularly to those who have suffered or lost loved ones.

Perfect

For all of us at Lee Common School, we will never forget the kindness and generosity that the wider community has shown. The support in providing the much needed decoration, repairs and maintenance has transformed our school. Your time and generosity is greatly appreciated by the school community. The staff and children alike take great pleasure in the clean and bright environment, both inside and out, which is now a most enjoyable place to work and play in.

I know that this has been said before by others, but this time I am writing on behalf of the Governing Board. A huge thank you to you all – you know who you are! I cannot emphasise how much of a difference your contribution has made.

We have a fantastic team at LCS, led by an amazing headteacher and they continue to carry out their roles through thick and thin. The families of our children are extremely supportive and, as members of the LCSA, they are doing a sterling job on the fundraising front. Please do support them in their future events – Tea at The Lee has been particularly successful; I hope that this will continue into next year.

Stay another Day

If you missed the latest Open Morning then please do call the school to arrange a visit. You will not be disappointed in what you see. There will be nothing better for our hidden gem of a school than to have more children attend and to experience the caring and nurturing approach that is provided to all.

There are lots of other events on the calendar which we would love you all to share with us. In the meantime, on behalf of the entire school family, I would like to reiterate our thanks and wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

The Lee Parish Council update

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk

Memorial to Barnaby Osborne

The Lee Parish Council has been considering an appropriate memorial from the village to Barnaby Osborne, something that would be a lasting tribute while reflecting his many interests.

The preferred option is to plant an oak tree in the plantation area between the allotments and Cherry Tree Lane, close to his family home. We hope to raise sufficient money to enable the tree to be planted in March.

If you would like to contribute to the oak, please phone me on 07704 909324 or email clerk@thelee.org.uk for payment details.

Meeting dates

In the past the Parish Council has always met on the second Tuesday of

every other month. For a variety of reasons, from March we intend to move to mostly meeting on the third Tuesday, with dates for 2022 being 11th January, 15th March, 17th May, 26th July, 20th September and 15th November.

Although we have only just held a much-delayed Annual Parish Meeting, we intend to revert to the norm in 2022 by holding the next such meeting between the designated dates of 1st March and 1st June, although the exact date is yet to be determined. The requirement to hold such a meeting is a legacy from the Middle Ages when councils did not exist, and all local decision making was carried out by meetings of the whole community.



Here in my Heart

Nominations are being accepted until 31st December for this year's Proud of Bucks awards, with one winner and one 'Highly Commended' in each Bucks Community Board area. Last year Shop at The Lee was Highly Commended in the group category for the Chesham and Rural Villages Community Board; so if you know any local heroes who are:

- an individual aged over 21 who has contributed to the local community during 2021 by improving lives for others or improving their local environment
- a young person under the age of 21 who has had a positive impact on the

local community or peers through community engagement or activism

- a group who has made a clear and positive impact on the community during 2021

then please complete a nomination form at https://account.buckscc.gov.uk/service/Proud_of_Bucks_Awards

Those who might be considered deserving of recognition for their contribution to our village could range from a person who tirelessly collects litter to someone regularly helping connect misdelivered parcels and lost delivery drivers with their rightful destination or an individual renowned for checking in on vulnerable residents – but I'm sure you will know others who have made a difference in the past year.

Telephone scams

There has been quite a lot of information recently on the Forum about protecting yourself from scam calls.

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Legitimate callers (e.g. GP, hospital, police, where the phone number isn't necessarily known) can get through by pressing the number specified on the answerphone message.

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scam calls, as they are not able to press the number. However, if someone is still receiving calls even with this default setting it is possible to raise the filter level; however, this does require the person to have an alternative number, which can be arranged for them.

To find out if you are eligible for a free *trueCall* device phone Citizens Advice on 0808 223 1133 and ask for a call blocker from Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards, or email them at trading.standards@surreycc.gov.uk

Christopher Pool

(1934 to 2021)

An appreciation by friends

By Colin Little

Christopher ('Chris' aka 'The Doc') Pool sadly left us on 12th October aged 87. Although latterly resident in Great Missenden he had moved to his previous home in Ballinger in the early 1970s with his late wife Deidre and their family.

Chris had a remarkable capacity for friendship and an unfailing ability to generate warmth and a good feeling inside everyone he encountered. He was a well-known and popular figure who made significant and important contributions to village life both in Ballinger and The Lee, despite a busy professional career as a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the Chiltern Hospital and one-time Medical Director at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

When a Child is Born

His medical career spanned medicine, A&E and obstetrics, including delivering some 1500 babies, before he specialised in orthopaedic surgery. He was reputedly

able to deal with most things medical when needed. An omniscient orthopaedic surgeon, Chris helped with the inception and development of the Chiltern Hospital at Great Missenden and served on its board of directors for a time.

Chris' medical and charitable contributions internationally are perhaps less well recognised and underappreciated. At various times during his medical career he spent time, at his own expense, undertaking multiple surgical procedures for poor patients in East Africa and treating disabled and otherwise handicapped children in Germany.

He also ran holidays for The Uphill Ski Club of Great Britain which gives people with physical and/or intellectual disabilities the opportunity to share in the joys and freedom that skiing offers, with the help of others and through the use of adaptive equipment and techniques.

Chris took a keen interest in nearly all aspects of village life. For many years he supported the Ballinger War Memorial Hall, arranging for and often carrying out needed repair work and chairing its Hall Committee for many years.

He was a keen sailor and golfer, supporting local golf clubs and societies, and made significant financial and other contributions to many local charitable causes, recently undertaking a sponsored ride, on his somewhat aged bicycle, on local roads for a distance equivalent to that from John O'Groats to Land's End, raising a considerable sum for the improvement of Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

He was also a prominent member of and contributor to the local Weston Spirit movement inspired by Simon Weston who was badly injured and burned when RFA Sir Galahad was attacked in the Falklands War of 1982.

Above all Chris was a towering presence, a generous, friendly family man with a booming voice that commanded attention. He was always a larger than life character whose natural self-assurance cut him out for the leadership roles he never sought but which were allocated to him by others and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Can we fix it?

By Trish Swain

Around 20 years ago, the rather grim and scary children's cloakroom and toilets at Lee Common School were brought into the 21st century. Funds were raised by the parents' association and the labour was provided by a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers overseen by Pat Lapham.

They had honed their skills on the massive undertaking of refurbishing



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Ballinger Hall, and Lee Common School was a beneficiary.

Amongst their number was Chris Pool who died last month. With his great height and bluff exterior, the pupils wondered if he was a giant and treated him with great awe. They were fascinated by the work that was going on, and the changes they could see happening day by day. Little did they know that Chris was one of the most distinguished and respected orthopaedic surgeons of his time.

Watching him saw lengths of wood on the picnic table was a far cry from the sterile surroundings and specialised tools of the operating theatre. He did explain to me that orthopaedic surgery was very physical and so he felt in his element.

An ongoing topic in any early years setting is to think of 'People who Help Us' and Chris was certainly amongst their number in his working life and in his retirement.

The hills are alive

By Roger Hyslop

Did you know that many of the UK's finest classical musicians live in the Chilterns? Now, three of them, Nick Bootiman, Eva Thorarinsdottir and Jonathan Stone have formed Echor Music, an Orchestra for the Chilterns, aiming to bring international concert standard music to our area without people having to travel into London.

When we Collide

The idea, having been born out of lockdown, the founders want to contribute artistically to life in these hills, not only by sharing their extraordinary musical talent but also to provide

education, entertainment and solace to schools, care homes and hospices. The founders have gathered together a pool of some 30 musicians who will perform music of classical and other musical genres in unusual rural locations.



Not for them the formality often associated with big city venues, so their inaugural concert took place on 23rd October in an agricultural barn a few miles away from The Lee, at Rays Hill, Braziers End. Owners Philip and Hannah Matthews generously cleared all the agricultural machinery out of the barn for the evening, allowing access to the site for sound and lighting specialists, a pop-up bar and even posh toilets!

Moon River

The audience of more than 150 enjoyed an incredible evening consisting of an hour of beautiful Nordic music by Greig and Sibelius curated by Eva (she was born in Iceland) and conducted by Nick, followed by an informal session of vibrant Irish Folk played by some excellent visiting musicians.

For many it was the sheer joy of being able to see and hear live music again, played by an orchestra of 21 musicians, whose day jobs involve working with leading UK orchestras, with vocal contributions from nine members of Echor Ensemble. With everyone clearly relishing the occasion, it made this an evening to remember.

Bohemian Rhapsody

This was followed a week later by a delightful chamber recital by four members of Echor in Hastoe Village Hall, and this was equally enthusiastically supported by the audience who appreciated being able to get up close and personal with such talented musicians.

The Echor team are planning their 2021/22 concert schedule which will include a Christmas Baroque Concert on 16th December at St Mary's Church, Old Amersham, details of which can be seen on www.echormusic.com

As a registered charity Echor are also going to be undertaking an outreach programme, taking musicians to local schools, care homes and hospices, fulfilling their vision of bringing wonderful music to the people of the Chilterns.

Hallelujah

At our table, North chose a negative Double (holding 4♠ and 10+ HCPs); East took it to 4♣, so South bid 4♠.

E	S	W	N
pass	1♥	2♣	Db1
4♣	4♠	pass	pass
pass			

4♠ or 4♥ make with an overtrick.

Roving Supper

By Pat Lea

After missing out last year the Roving Supper took place on 20th November. We received 66 responses from those keen to get out and circulate with others in the two villages. We started at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall for drinks and canapés and the main course hosts left at 8:00 pm.

We were delighted that Wendy Robertson, Pippa Bannister, Jen

Ogley, Ros Morris, Susan Cottam, Louise Wadsworth, Nicola Pitt and Rachel Harris agreed to be the hosts.

It was decided that, in order to restrict mixing, everyone would remain at their respective houses for dessert provided by other members of the villages.



Let's Have Another Party

I understand everyone had a really enjoyable time, as did Tony and myself, and we look forward to a more normal Roving Supper next year.

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Chiltern Ridges



By Cllr Patricia Birchley

This autumn has been extremely busy in Chiltern Ridges with many HS2 meetings held to discuss the Missenden and Chesham vent shafts and north tunnel portal.

Sound of the Underground

Journey times on the A413 have been very affected by the closure of Rocky Lane and the eviction of protestors from their tunnel at Wendover Dean.

Colin Sully was absolutely right to protest; three weeks of night closures on the Wendover bypass and Bucks Council has lost patience with six Planning Inspector review decisions concerning roads in the Chilterns AONB, and issued judicial review proceedings against HS2. I would like to thank The Lee Parish Council for taking such a robust stance.

Goodbye

During the last month we have lost two much loved residents, stalwarts of society in different ways. We shall all remember the kind words spoken at the funeral of Liz Stewart-Liberty on 4th November at The Lee. Old friends talked of her *joie de vivre*, her generosity and kindness. Her farm manager concluded that working for Liz had been like having his own farm. I think she would have enjoyed her wake and the humour of the occasion.

Chris Pool was another much venerated character. As an

orthopaedic surgeon he was kind and generous with his advice, loved acting in the pantomime at Ballinger and will be remembered for having a most generous heart.

Only You

A new local area technician, Wayne Fabian, moved to Chiltern Ridges in November. Our first meeting was delayed due to Covid, however he knows the area well and we have high hopes that he will be more pro-active. The Council has been out clearing local gullies and is due to complete the patching work and put a new top surface on Chartridge Lane in 2022.

We Can Work it Out

Chesham Community Board is working with The Lee Parish Council to supply new benches in the village, and about nominating unsung heroes in the community who deserve recognition for their commitment and hard work locally. The Board is setting up a new Health and Wellbeing group to encourage healthier lifestyles, and focussed on Community Safety at its October meeting. We heard from Thames Valley Police and Trading Standards who warned about current scams including delivery companies who purported to ask for credit card details before re-sending a parcel.

Pandemic retrospective

By Arabella Norton

We are 'Beyond Difference', a local inter-faith organisation run by volunteers, which exists to promote knowledge, understanding and friendship between those of different faiths and different world views.

Thank you FOR BEING CONSIDERATE

Please continue to keep Bucks safe and tidy

On Tuesday 7th December from 7:00 - 9:30 pm in Chesham Town Hall we will be hosting a social event in which you will be encouraged to talk in small groups with others from different faith backgrounds about your experiences of the pandemic.

Wherever you Are

It is hoped that this experience of listening and sharing will be enriching and will enable you to reflect upon that which you have in common with others from different faiths.

It will be interesting to learn how the different faith groups all responded to the pandemic; some ways will have been specific to the demands of a particular faith, but other ways may resonate across all faiths.

When you Believe

The aim is for everyone to feel comfortable and to enjoy sharing as much or as little as they like. If you are in sympathy with these aims, then you are most welcome. Attendance is free but donations would be greatly appreciated.

For further information please email: info@beyonddifference.org

A coda from the Editor

By Jonathan Batten

We can't fit anymore in – what next? Parakeets have been seen in the parish, if only they would scare off the deer...

Merry Christmas Everyone

There is a fun quiz of Christmas connections scattered amongst the sub-headings; have you, or your children, spotted it? If not it's back to number one... do let us know the answer and



you could win a free copy of the Newsletter delivered to your door for the next year.

As we take a break next month, please send your contributions for the February edition to the editor, Phil Harrison, by 12th January, at thelenewsletter@gmail.com



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Dear Diary

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

December

Thursday 2nd. Village walk. Meet on The Lee green at 9:30 am.

Saturday 4th. Christmas lights switch on in The Lee (DIY).

Sunday 5th. Lighting up Ballinger from 5:00 pm. Look out for more details.

Tuesday 7th. Ballinger BATS meets in Ballinger War Memorial Hall every Tuesday, 9:30 to 11:30 am.

Friday 10th. Ballinger Horticultural Society Christmas Social and

Quiz. 7:30 pm at Ballinger War Memorial Hall.

Saturday 11th. Lee Common School Christmas Fair. 11:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Thursday 16th. Santa due to visit Lee Common and The Lee. See page 3.

Thursday 16th. Christmas Baroque Concert at St Mary's Church, Old Amersham. See page 23.

Friday 31st. New Year's Eve Party, dinner and disco at Ballinger War Memorial Hall from 7:00 pm. If you would like to book a table, please contact Hayley on 07769-698652 or hayley.farrelly@btconnect.com

Coming in 2022

Wednesday 6th January. Village walk. Meet on The Lee green at 9:30 am.

Tuesday 11th January. The Lee Parish Council Meeting. 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

Wednesday 26th January. Bridge Drive. The Lee Parish Hall 2:00 to 5:00 pm. See page 9.

Saturday 16th July. The Lee Flower Show. See page 11.

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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

Contact: Suzanne Baker, 864893
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: 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 25) by the 12th of the month before publication.

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

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

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

For queries regarding distribution contact Phil Harrison on 837469.

Other members of the Editorial team: Zoe Berkeley, Ruth Fowler, Mary Godfrey, Hannah Lane, Liz Macann, Jen Ogley, Adam Speller and Colin Sully.

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To book the Parish Hall or Scout Hut

'phone Anne Barnett on 837796

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