April 2022

THE LEE NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Mary Godfrey

I'm afraid there are no April fools within, no tricks or quips. It feels like there is enough fake news out there in the real world at the moment, or news that we wish was fake.

At the time of writing, the terrible war rages on in Ukraine, freezing temperatures making the situation even more desperate, millions of people are fleeing, trying to find somewhere safe. Millions of people.

We are lucky to have been born in a stable region, or fortunate enough to have found our way here. With (usually) well-mannered neighbours, both locally and nationally, fostering that sense of community is more important than ever.

As Phillip Larkin said,

"We should be careful
Of each other, we should be kind
While there is still time."

In this edition we have tales of children, music and the muppets making an appearance in the church (not an April Fool!). Of new sporting ventures and wonderful generosity. There are calls for help at the Shop and in the planning of the tea tent for the Flower Show. Find the time to step up and join in, help is needed to keep all these fabulous events running and make our community even stronger.

Next month's editor is Liz Macann, all contributions are warmly welcomed at theleenewsletter@gmail.com, by the 12th April please. That's the 12th people, not the 14th or 16th… nope, not the 15th either, smart Alec.

Ukraine crisis: Shop at The Lee

By Katie Michaelson-Yeates

It started with a phone call from my neighbour, Linda. Do I know anywhere locally that is collecting items for the Ukraine crisis, the refugees and people still in the country? I didn't. I put a note out on the forum, but nothing really materialised. I did find, however, that

1st Tylers Hill Scouts were collecting certain items for onward travel to the Association of Ukrainians in Luton.

We gave our Chiltern Food Bank box a rest for three days and used this for our collection of nappies, pain killers, bandages, plasters, batteries, torches, gloves, hats, socks etc. and we let the village know via our brilliant forum.

Bags kept coming

The result was amazing. Bags kept arriving from all over the village, and others having seen the forum. People had gone out to buy new thermal clothing, emptied shelves at Boots of ibuprofen and paracetamol, burns plasters and bandages.

We filled two very large carrier bags with batteries and torches alone. There couldn't have been a bag of nappies left in Chesham! There will be a lot of Bucks babies with damp bottoms.

We should never be surprised how brilliant, absolutely brilliant, The Lee is at supporting all events, charities and fellow neighbours, near and far.

I could not have squeezed another bag into my estate car there were so many items. We emptied the car at Ley Hill Memorial Hall where the young cubs and beavers of 1st Tylers Hill were sorting all the donations: very well organised by their leader, Jo Kimber.

They sent over 45 large boxes to Luton with the help of J and R Removals. From there they will be transported to Ukraine.

Hopefully we will be able to do more in the future and will let everyone know when this is. A big thank you to everyone in The Lee.

Cub Scout Cody of 1st Tylers Hill sorting donations ready for export to Ukraine

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Your letters

Give dogs a chance

To the Editor

"All we are saying is give peace (and dogs) a chance" (John Lennon)

I have been reading with some amusement and dismay about the trials and tribulations of people's interactions with dogs locally.

I am reminded of a saying from a friend recently about one of his children's behaviour "the reason children are called children is they are not adults". The same applies to dogs.

As a local resident walking our dog twice daily and running locally every day, I think we do have more pressing adult behaviours to address in our community such as the increased amount of litter from walkers, delivery drivers and HS2. The speeding traffic locally that on several occasions has resulted in me being scared for my life whilst out running. It is now a requirement for motorists to give all pedestrians and cyclists 1.5m clear room when passing at no more than 30mph. The day after the highway code was revised, I was passed within a few inches by a farm worker in a pick-up who also thought it funny to smile and give me an offensive hand signal.

There are many more serious anti-social issues than dogs, so give them a chance. I now wear a bodycam when running and will report dangerous driving to the police.

Scott Curran
Potter Row

[It shouldn't be an either/or situation. Whichever offence you are a victim of, is the most pressing at that time. Let's all do what we can to be considerate of others and "give peace a chance". Ed.]

House names revisited

To the Editor

Diana Morley's article about house names in the February edition set me wondering about ours, 'Fairleigh'. We know from the deeds that it has been called that for over a hundred years, but we can find no particular reason. There appears to be no link to any local landmark nor to the name of any previous owner. A search of the internet reveals a private university in the USA with that name, and a holiday home in Whitby, but there again appears to be no connection with them either. It seems to be just a made-up name… which is all a bit disappointing.

However, what we have discovered is that in the late 1800s the house was in fact called 'Smithy' and we have good evidence that there was indeed a blacksmith operating out of the property at that time. I guess that's not surprising, as in the late 1800s there

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must have been a great many blacksmiths in The Lee, probably almost as many as inns and beer houses. Our blacksmith would not have had to walk far to quench his thirst!

The only real problem with our current house name is that we keep having to explain, when giving our address, that the 'leigh' in Fairleigh is spelt like the Leigh, near Wigan, and not like the 'lee' in The Lee… if you see what I mean.

I guess we can live with that!

Colin Sully
Swan Bottom

[Have you got a story to tell about your house name? Do let us know. Ed.]

The Lee Flower Show

16th July 2022

By Jonathan Batten

April and its glorious spring sunshine can be the real start of the gardener's year. You will have completed your weeding, the distribution of the compost and pruning. So, what next? The agonising decision as to whether to give that overgrown grass a cut or let it grow for two more months through No Mow May. Either way later this month the serious stuff begins.

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The committee is also on to the serious stuff of organising the show; we had a buoyant meeting in early March with a revitalised force of ten around the table in the parish hall. The work on the schedules is now being completed so that these will be ready for delivery to your doorsteps in early May.

In a world lurching from one crisis to another the apparent frivolity of the Flower Show may seem to be out of place and of little consequence. However, perhaps we may take some comfort from the solidity of it and the joining together with family, friends and neighbours in friendly competition to enter a variety of things grown, cooked, crafted, photographed and painted.

In the meantime, the tea tent team are sending out an SOS for more help. We need people to spend time on administration, dialling up and speaking to all and sundry to ensure that we have a hundred cakes and sandwiches in the marquee, baked and ready to eat, on the day. It's not an onerous task but takes a little time and chatting.

If you are up for it, please call Claire Wise on 07973 461235 or email claire@leecommon.com

The Lee Flower Show Dance

Dust off those dancing shoes and revel in The Lee Flower Show Dance on the night of 16th July.

Having been sitting on their hands for the last two years, the new dance committee team is hard at work organising it for you: the band has been booked, and the tables are being laid – it's all ready to happen so put the date in your diaries.

Start thinking about tables and numbers – tickets will be going on sale in the first week of June at £23 per person. For any information, please contact the Flower Show Dance team at theleeflowershowdance@gmail.com

The Lee in living memory

This month, we include an extract from Tom Dorrell's memories, as published in the book 'The Lee in Living Memory – Voices from a special Chiltern parish', copies of which remain available at the Shop at The Lee.

It may be the total absence of any snow days this winter, or because of the plethora of options we face every time we go to the shops, but this memory really made me stop and think.

Tom Dorrell (1915 – 1997)

Tom's grand-father James Dorrell lived in Kings Ash, and his father, David, on Kings Lane, where Tom was born. He recalls:

"Food shopping was not easy. There was a small village shop and bakery in Lee Common, but the shops in Great Missenden were three miles away and because there were no buses people had to walk. The bakery in Lee Common and the butcher in Wendover delivered bread and meat twice a week, but they had to leave our order at my grandfather's cottage because our lane was not suitable for any wheeled vehicle other than a farm cart. We were supplied with groceries by George Watts from Chesham some six miles away. He came in a pony and trap each Thursday afternoon bringing the goods mother had ordered the week before. He must have had to deliver to a lot of houses to make his journey worthwhile. Mother's weekly order rarely came to more than fifteen shillings a week. Mr Watts eventually stopped calling and we were supplied from Mr Lewington's small shop in Lee Common. Mr Lewington delivered his goods by motor car, a very early 'Trojan' with solid tyres and a chain

David and James Dorrell - planting a Jubilee tree 1935

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drive, which managed to cope with our lane and its potholes.

"Supplies of paraffin for lighting and heating were delivered weekly by a rather odd character from Wendover who came in a horse drawn cart on the back of which was suspended a tank of paraffin from which he would dispense oil into whatever containers were provided. He sold items such as candles, soap, starch, and he sometimes paid as much as a shilling for rabbit skins, so that paid for our supply of oil, matches, and blue bags.

"A 'packman' came on foot twice a year selling haberdashery. He came into the house, unrolled his pack and mother would replenish her stock of needles, pins, darning wool and so on. Like the oil man he would take rabbit skins in payment. Our coal came from Great Missenden by motor lorry; I think our five hundred-weight delivery cost about fifteen shillings and had to last about two months. We supplemented our coal stocks with wood which we collected by roaming through the woods collecting fallen branches.

We had ten feet of snow

"Only once can I remember almost running out of supplies and that was in the severe winter of 1926/7 when we had one of the heaviest snow falls in living memory, accompanied by severe northeast gale force winds, which resulted in drifts of such magnitude that all roads and even the railway lines were impassable. On Boxing Day morning, we had ten feet of snow in front of our cottage and our lane did not open to wheeled vehicles until late March. The road from Wendover up to Kings Ash and beyond was blocked for weeks but fortunately, by entering the fields adjacent to the lane, horse drawn vehicles managed to make the journey, and deliveries were eventually resumed. Except that because our lane was still blocked, we had to carry home everything including coal from grandfather's cottage. It was several years before the condition of our lane was improved."

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Plans afoot at the shop

By Symeon Economou

We at the Shop are actually feeling tentatively optimistic, what with the pandemic receding (dare we say that?) and spring in the air, so much so that we are making plans for a couple of events and for our participation in The Lee Flower Show in July.

Before we get to the detail those of us who face all the newspapers on a daily basis are constantly aware of the dreadful events in Eastern Europe – and

rightly so. There is not much we can do but give them our thoughts and prayers that sense will soon prevail. Elsewhere in this edition is a brief description of a practical initiative which the community has responded to with the usual spirit of humanity and generosity.

Looking forward to April, we propose to repeat our annual Greek (and Mediterranean) food event on Saturday 23rd. This is the weekend after Easter and is the weekend of the Greek Orthodox Easter. I am soon off on a scouting trip to north London – something I look forward to immensely!

We are planning our usual presence in support of The Lee Flower Show in July and, looking even further ahead, we have the kernel of an idea for a pop-up restaurant in September in the hall, this time with an Indian theme. I have appointed myself chief food taster – it's a tough job but I am happy to take one for the team!

Can you help?

I usually say something about the volunteers. In preparation for this I have counted the number of volunteers behind the scenes whom customers seldom see and was surprised to discover how many there actually are. These are people who do the accounts, go regularly to Peterley Farm and elsewhere to source nice stuff and go the great lengths to ensure we have fresh fruit and veg in the shop. I hope I never take them for granted.

Nevertheless, the number of shop volunteers has declined over the past couple of years for several reasons, so I would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in doing the occasional stand-in shift in the shop.

It is rewarding and fun and everyone involved is really nice – even the customers!

See also Ukraine Crisis: Shop at The Lee, front page.

Basketball hoop

By Tony Lea

As some of you will know the basketball net which was purchased and installed at the end of 2020 has already broken and was also blown over during storm Eunice. An original net and stand were owned by the Parish Council and was moved from the allotment play area to the Parish Hall grounds several years ago. 18 months ago, it was replaced courtesy of a £300 grant from the Parish Council, and the Parish Hall took over responsibility for maintenance and insurance going forward. However the new net did not match the standard of its predecessor (built at a time when things were made to last!) and we have been advised by a sports contractor that for a net to be "fit for purpose" for public use we would need install a permanent upright which would be fixed into the ground in concrete. The quote for this type of installation has come in at just under £1,800. The Parish Hall Committee feel that the cost is not justified, but we are happy to consider any alternative suggestions for funding.

Find contact details for The Lee Parish Hall in the 'Directory of local contacts' at the back of the newsletter.

A safe haven

By Claire Gresswell

Spring is an exciting time in school. We look forward to the longer, brighter days, to Easter and May Day celebrations and to more time spent outdoors in nature. It is a time of hope and optimism which is very much needed in these dark times. The crisis in Ukraine is a source of fear and anxiety and no one can fail to be touched by the news and images of those fleeing the terror in search of a safe haven.

I have been asked by several people how we talk to the children about this news. The simple answer, at the time of writing, is that we don't. Our children are tender and tiny, and their innocence is short-lived. As a nursery and infant school, our duty is to provide a secure and happy environment that sometimes, sadly, some children don't even have at home. For as long as we can, we will keep the horrors of war out of our building. That is not to say we ignore the suffering and needs of others; we pray for the people of Ukraine, we remember them in our thoughts, and we answer questions that the children

may have sensitively and, in an age-appropriate way.

The time may yet come when we must discuss the situation more explicitly and openly and we will of course want to actively support our European neighbours, but for now, we are a safe haven for our children.

A natural born teacher

In these decisions I turn, as ever, to my own experiences of childhood and the wisdom of my wonderful mother. Having been schooled in the war years, my mum became an apprentice hairdresser at the age of 14. This was pretty normal then, but she will often bemoan her lack of further education and frequently wishes she had benefited from more academic opportunities. But she lacks nothing. My mum is a natural born teacher, with a wisdom and intuition that cannot be learned in any university. Brimming with empathy, she instinctively knows what a child needs and has been a source of advice and support for me and others on many occasions.

Affection, consistency and routine were the pillars of my mum's approach to parenting, underpinned by seemingly boundless minutes of her time. In reality, time was precious; she worked part-time, cared for elderly relatives and ran a busy household. But I didn't know it. There was always a cheery greeting on my return from school, always a dry towel and a warm hug when running out of the sea, shivering loudly, always a word of encouragement when running out of self-belief and always, always endless cups of tea and sympathy!

An open door

Growing up, our back door was always open and there was always an

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extra place at the table for anyone who needed it. Mum has been a mother to so many more than her three daughters and even now continues to look after those around her. As she approaches 90, my mum's house is still my safe haven and being in her company is balm for my soul. So our school will always have an open door, there will always be a place at the table for anyone who needs it, and we will always make time to provide a safe haven for our young children.

Buckinghamshire Council

Chiltern Ridges news

Cllr Patricia Birchley,
Buckinghamshire Council

Buckinghamshire Council is currently undertaking a 'light touch' review of the four-year Corporate Plan to reflect events and changes in priority since 2019/20. Four key priorities for the plan are strengthening communities, protecting our most vulnerable residents, caring for the environment and increasing prosperity. You will be interested to know that Buckinghamshire now contributes £18 billion annually to the UK economy. The value of our exports is £3.7 billion, 45% of residents are educated to degree level, and 33% commute out of county to work.

In terms of protecting our communities, life expectancy is now 81.7 for men and 85.3 for women, although in the Chilterns the figures can be higher. That said 63% of adults in the county are obese or overweight. The population, which is growing fast, is now 551,000, the average house price is £413,924, 31% of the county is designated Green Belt and there are 320 pensioners for every 1,000 working-age residents.

Social care

Finally, our school results are some of the best in the UK with 90% of young people attending a school that is rated 'good' or 'outstanding'. During the past year I have been involved in ensuring there are sufficient school places for children with special educational needs, that their school transport is satisfactory, and liaising with residents who need extra support with severely disabled children. Last year 26 children were adopted and the budget for children's and adult's social care amounted to £300 million.

The revised plan will be discussed at a Council meeting on 27th April and reflects the impact of the Covid epidemic on council priorities and other key developments such as national legislation. It will cover the period up to 2025 and all members are currently being asked to reflect on the needs of their communities, business and joint working with the NHS.

Jobs and apprentices fair

On Saturday 5th March Chesham and Villages Community Board sponsored a Jobs and Apprentices Fair at the Elgiva Theatre. Nearly 800 people came along to meet 35 employers including Heathrow Airport, BBC, the Army, Police, Fire Service, Aldi, Pinewood Studios and Silverstone Technology

Park. Such was the success of the fair that it is likely to repeated in the north of the county. Increasing inward investment into Chesham and the villages is a priority for Jane MacBean, myself and other councillors.

Please let me know if I can raise your concerns at County Hall. Patricia.Birchley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

HS2 update

By Cllr Colin Sully

Traffic impacts on The Lee

Local traffic monitoring is now being regularly reported to The Lee Parish Council (TLPC) by Bucks Council. The traffic on the A413 Gt Missenden bypass in January and February 2022 was more than 50% higher than last year. Clearly the recovery from Covid accounts for some of this, but there has been a much greater increase on the A413 than on other similar major roads in the area. Monitoring continues and is also being reported on five local rural roads, so far with mixed results.

We still await the outcome of Bucks Council's appeals over the Planning Inspector's decisions in respect of six local traffic applications. Meanwhile, HS2 traffic continues to increase on the basis that their plans have been approved.

With increased HS2 traffic on the A413 now passing Rocky Lane, we have also raised the issue of safety at this junction. HS2 Ltd has taken the view that there is no need for any safety assessment; however, Bucks Council has agreed to undertake monitoring of right-turning traffic, at least to see if the problem is getting any worse.

TLPC's request for **'No HS2 works traffic'** signs at four locations on roads off the A413/B485 has now been approved by the contractors and installation has started.

A413 London Road

As reported last month, EKFB are proposing to build a temporary conveyor over the A413, at London Road, Wendover, and the Chiltern Line railway, to move some of the material excavated between South Heath and Rocky Lane northwards, to be used at Wendover and beyond.

The construction of this conveyor bridge has already resulted in temporary, off-peak traffic lights. We are also advised that it will result in:

- occasional days when the traffic lights will have to remain in place during peak hours
- full closure of the road overnight for three nights from 4th April

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(8:00 pm to 6:00 am) with contingency for similar closures for three nights from 11th April
- closure of the Chiltern Line railway over Easter. See Chiltern Line website for further details.

Other road closures

- Bowood Lane is now closed at the rail crossing for up to two years. The diversion from The Lee is via Kings Lane / Potter Row / Frith Hill / A413. Complaints have been raised (again) about poor signage.
- Frith Hill, South Heath leg, is due to be closed (9:30 am to 15:30 pm) from 18th April to 2nd May at the former Weights and Measures building.

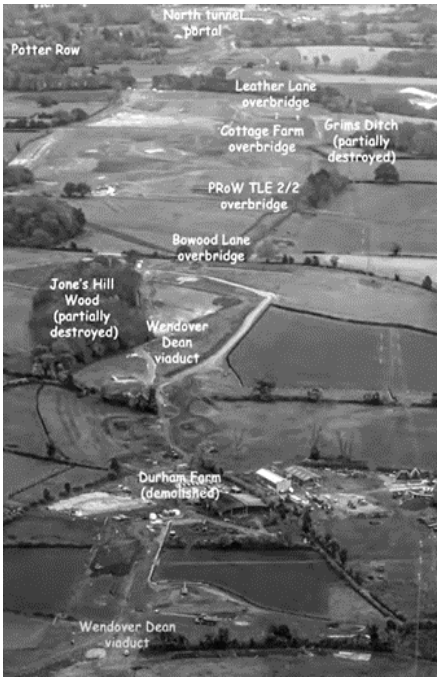
Too late for 'Stop Press'

There were several other important activities and events due to take place at the end of March, too late to be covered in this edition of the newsletter.

- The **Leather Lane campaign group** were planning to meet with EKFB on the mitigation and alignment of the new section.
- Align were due to hold public engagement events on the design of the **Chesham Road Intervention Shaft** and the **Chiltern Tunnel North Portal**.
- The **'HS2 information bus'** was due to make its first visit to the area (to Wendover). If you missed it, you can catch it next at Great Missenden, Buryfield on 7th April. TLPC is in discussion with HS2 about possible visits to The Lee in May and/or July.

Other HS2 news

Some of you may have sat in on one of Keith Hoffmeister's excellent presentations on *'HS2 in the Chilterns'*. His next one will be on **Saturday 9th July 10:30 am to 12:00 noon**... and it's **free!** Full details at: https://chilternsociety.org.uk/event/hs2-across-the-chilterns-4th-update-online-presentation-and-discussion/



View looking back to The Lee from above Wendover Dean and Durham Farm
** Courtesy Keith Hoffmeister*

Community engagement

Local councillors continue to press the HS2 project and Bucks Council on local issues such as traffic signs, noise, excessive lighting, road sweeping, etc.

All residents are also encouraged to complain to HS2 Ltd whenever they see or hear anything which they think could be better mitigated.

There is a note on '*How to complain about HS2'* at www.thelee.org.uk/HS2complaints/

Bridge too far?

By Rita Sully et al

Here's a hand from a recent local Bridge event we attended. We were playing N-S and not vulnerable – did we find the optimum contract?

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

Dealer: North
Vulnerability: None

Our bidding started:

N	E	S	W
1♦	pass	1♠	pass
2♣	pass	2♥*	pass

** 4th suit forcing*

What contract would you end up in and how does it play? See page 25.

Out and about in the Chilterns

From the Chiltern Society

As well as a regular programme of walks across the Chilterns, the Chiltern Society also arranges a wide range of other events and activities. For example, on 7th April they are organising a visit to the 'Energy from Waste' facility at Greatmoor. On 7th May you can join a private tour of Nether Winchendon House, or go 'Foraging for edible and Medicinal Plants' on Marlow Common on 19th May and 9th June. Something for everyone!

Full details of all the events can be found at chilternsociety.org.uk/events/

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From the Vicarage

By Revd Chris Haywood

Weekly services at The Lee

We are now offering weekly services at The Lee - 1st and 3rd Sunday for the early morning 8:00 am Book of Common Prayer service in the Old Church, and 2nd and 4th Sunday for an 11:00 am Parish Communion. On the 1st Sunday of the month at 11:00 am we will continue to offer something alternative – in the form of a family service, suitable for all ages.

Temptation in the wilderness

We were delighted to reintroduce this in March, and it was unlike anything The Lee had ever seen before with a TV in the pulpit and craft activities to start off. Our theme was Lent and Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, so we started off with crafts which helped us explore the theme. There was a desert of multicoloured sand with a cactus (which Georgie noticed had gone missing from our downstairs toilet). Using the sand, we made hour glasses from plastic bottles which represented the slow passing of time! We also did sand art (filling bottles with layers of coloured sand) and decorated cookies to make them tempting! Adults and children alike loved the activities, which we engaged in whilst refreshments were served.

Cookie Monster in church

Then came the worship! Songs were played on the TV to sing along to – the bible reading was a video animation, and the Cookie Monster made an appearance playing *'The Waiting Game'*. We finished off singing 'O Jesus I have promised' to the theme of the muppets. It was great fun and an engaging time of activities and worship for all, which we hope will build as we go on. This month (Sunday 3rd April) we're hosting a Baptism, which the service will be themed around. It's a little more formal but should be just as much fun! What can go wrong when a vicar conducts a ceremony using oil, fire and water with a baby!

The Lord's Prayer

We also have a Lent course running with good engagement from across the Parishes. We're using the Lord's Prayer to explore the Christian faith and how we live it out. I've been challenged to use the Lord's Prayer more often, both in my own prayer life and in other settings.... You'd think a vicar would know to do that!

Of course, the Lord's prayer must be included in formal services as a legal requirement which is why we pray it every Sunday in church. Did you know that it's a legal requirement? If you're interested to know what the other legal requirements are do ask me! We're discovering how it's a really useful framework for prayer and how it frames our relationship with God.

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The next thing on our horizon is Easter. After our compromised Christmas celebrations, we're excited that we can offer a full Easter programme – Palm Sunday Service, Holy Week Compline (night prayer vigil type service) and Maundy Thursday with the traditional foot washing. Such a practice comes naturally to me given my past career as a chiropodist / podiatrist.

Indeed, some of the congregation in my last church were reluctant to come forward fearing I might do some diagnosis! I undertook the foot washing with a colleague on one occasion who commented – washed by an amateur, dried by an expert! Seriously it's an important part of our Easter worship – where the priest follows Jesus' example, humbly washing his disciples' feet.

Seven Last Words

On Good Friday to help us in our worship we will be hosting performances by Echor Music in the Old Church. They will be playing Seven Last Words by Joseph Haydn at 3:00 pm and repeated at 5:30 pm. Sandwiched between the concerts (which you are welcome to attend distinctly) will be our Good Friday worship – an hour of meditation and reflection (4:15 pm to 5:15 pm). Please do stay on to attend the worship or follow up worship by attending the repeated concert. There is of course no charge to attend worship!

Easter reaches its climax with our Easter Day celebration in the New Church at 11:00 am. Do join us for this celebration of the resurrection of Jesus from the grave, conquering death and bringing us life, redemption and hope – which is the heart of the Christian faith.

Prayer for Ukraine

Finally, I'm sure we are all moved by the situation in the Ukraine and the plight of refugees. The Churches in the Hilltops and at The Lee are engaging in the agenda to respond to the crisis. Let me know if you can help. We all thought that Covid was going to be the biggest crisis we'd live through, but I fear war in Ukraine will have a bigger impact, destabilising word peace as well as impacting us economically, with all the associated hardships. It's so heartening that there is a groundswell of good will to make a response. On Thursday 7th April there will be an opportunity to gather to pray for the situation in The Lee Old Church at 7:30 pm. Please do join us.

For more details on the Echor concerts, including how to buy tickets, see article on page 20.

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April Services

St John the Baptist, The Lee

3rd	8:00am	HC	Old Church
	11:00am	AA	Family Service
7th	7:30pm		Prayers for the situation in Ukraine (Old Church)
10th	11:00am	PC	Palm Sunday
12th	8:00pm		Holy Week Compline (Old Church)
14th	8:00pm		Maundy Thursday Communion with foot washing
15th			Good Friday (All in the Old Church)
	3:00pm		Echor Music
	4:15pm		Good Friday Meditation
	5:30pm		Echor Music
17th	8:00am	HC	Easter Day Old Church
	11:00am	PC	Family Service
24th	11:00am	PC	Second Sunday of Easter

All services are conducted by Revd Chris Haywood

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

St Mary's, Ballinger

3rd	9:30am	HC in preparation for Easter
11th	6:00pm	Prayers for Holy Week
1st May	9:30am	Morning Prayers

A new supper club (organised by Helen Bannon) had its first evening at St Mary's on 26th February. This Mexican themed inaugural meeting was highly successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

St Mary's is available to everyone, and we welcome anyone who would like to use the building for private functions such as the above.

Contacts: *Associate Churchwardens*: Anne Ellis (01494 837247) and Maggi Cameron (01494 864790 or maggi.cameron@hotmail.co.uk).

The Lee Old Church Trust

By Jon Swain, Chairman

It seems appropriate as we move into spring to be able to tell you that there are signs of life after our cultural winters. With the relaxation of the rules that prevented us from holding events in the Old Church, I am delighted to be able to invite you to some excellent items in our programme for 2022.

After our short AGM on 10th April, we be welcoming Stephen Archer, a Trustee of the Cutty Sark, who will be explaining fascinating details of the restoration of the beautiful vessel and landmark in Greenwich, after a catastrophic fire in 2007. Please come and join the Trust if you are not

already a member, as the following programme will appeal.

Phil Dearman will be staging an exhibition of his art during the Bucks Art Weeks in June.

In mid-summer, we welcome back the Fayrfax Consort for what will be a magical evening of summer-oriented music, hopefully performed 'al fresco'.

In the autumn, we have secured a wonderful speaker, the Conservation Manager of the Landmark Trust, Alistair Dick-Cleland, who will describe how they restore and renovate historically important derelict buildings.

December sees the return of the Fayrfax Consort for Christmas by Candlelight, an immensely enjoyable occasion as anyone who has heard them will know.

Please do come and join us for what will be a series of marvellous events, in the stunning setting of the Old Church. It will be so good to see everyone, regulars, and new faces, I hope!

The LeeWay – Your Village Support Team

If you have difficulty getting to your doctor or the hospital, doing your shopping or would like a home visit and a friendly chat, then please ring:

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Mon - Fri: 10 am - 4 pm. Sat: 10 am - 12 noon. Please give us reasonable notice of your requirement to help us organise it.

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Prepared-Lee

By Enzo D'Alessandro

April, and the celebrations for St George's Day are upon us. St George is, of course, the patron saint of Scouts; Baden-Powell in *Scouting for Boys* refers to the Knights of the Round Table and to their bravery, chivalry and honour. B-P adopted the same patron saint to introduce the knights' values into the Scouting movement, embodied by St George so clearly and completely:

"When (St George) was faced by a difficulty or danger, however great it appeared, even in the shape of a dragon – he did not avoid it or fear it but went at it with all the power he could (...). That is exactly the way a Scout should face a difficulty or danger no matter how great or how terrifying it may appear. He should go at it boldly and confidently, using every power that he can to try and overcome it, and the probability is that he will succeed." From *Scouting for Boys.*

Chivalrous endeavours

I have always liked the knights' connection – I have wonderful memories of activities inspired by chivalrous endeavours when I was a young Scout (we used to draw a lot on that in my Troop…). I will use this theme to help us focus on the Promise and Scouts' Law – it is an important moment of reflection, both as a Troop and individually, to remind ourselves of the values we hold dear, and to ask ourselves how we can put them into action to: "try to leave the world a little better than we found it", as B-P exhorted Scouts to do in his last message.

In between the self-reflection and analysis, we have also time to discover Gaelic Football, continuing with traditional Scouting activities and having fun as usual: the weather seems to be getting better, and we look forward to going back to outdoor activities!

Footballing-Lee

By John Pope

I knew they would be out there somewhere. The Lee Forum, a call to those who miss playing football, met with a flurry of responses: "I've been looking for a football team for nearly two years" and "Ever since I stopped playing five years ago, I've wanted to pull those football boots on again". As a friend of mine once said: "You are a long time not playing".

So, five weeks after 'the call' nine intrepid players took to the pitch. Sadly, after about 25 minutes we were down to eight, as injury side-lined one of the players. By the second match we were up to 12 and more people keen to play. We play on a Friday night 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Chiltern Hills Academy, which installed a state-of-the-art Astro sports pitch in 2020. The pitches are fantastic, floodlights very good and we are very lucky to have such a great facility so nearby.

The as yet un-named football team. Any suggestions?

It is very early days, yet I hope that a lot of enjoyment, exercise and new friendships will be the outcome. Exercise and team sports are good for our physical and mental health. Yes, there will be the odd injury but hopefully the benefits are greater.

The age range of the group is 40 to 60+ and if you are thinking you might be interested then let me know. It is friendly football – not competitive, yet with some moments of real skill. The more the merrier. Hopefully we are set up now and have momentum to continue. Perhaps there is even a women's team out there? If you would like more information, please contact me at johnpope23@btopenworld.com

A Rural Crime Taskforce

By The Editor

The Thames Valley Police has launched its Rural Crime Taskforce with the intent to make the Thames Valley a hostile place for anyone looking to commit rural crime. The taskforce Inspector Stuart Hutchings has said he'll be looking to his team of dedicated officers and backroom staff, all trained to understand the complex impacts of rural crime, to make rural communities safer.

They are planning to work "tirelessly" with their partners, drone units and, together with the Joint Operations Unit in Hampshire they will tackle serious and organised crime. Already having recovered over £400,000 worth of trailers, caravans and other farm equipment, they are also working proactively with the Forensic Investigation Unit. Their joint aim is to address the rises in thefts of GPS systems within tractor satellite navigation systems.

Local policing areas across the Thames Valley have also seen the benefit of the Taskforce, with the team supporting investigations into rural issues such as thefts and hare coursing. The local NFU chair Alex Nelms welcomed the new funding hoping it would "enable the force to be better placed to tackle specific types of rural crime, given the challenges of working over such a broad area". The funding for the taskforce came from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

If you think a rural crime is being committed, then contact the police by reporting a crime online. at www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/

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Echor perform at The Lee Old Church

By Eva Thorarinsdottir

Some of you might already know about this, but there is a brand-new orchestra in the Chilterns! Echor is comprised of some of the most sought-after musicians in the country who happen to live in the area, all of whom are passionate about bringing live quality performances to the heart of our Chiltern countryside.

Our mission has always been to offer a series of ongoing concerts, by creating evenings of exhilaration and beauty in rural and surprising settings. For our launch event back in October last year, we decided to convert a large agricultural barn on Ray's Hill into an extraordinary music venue for the night! Since then, we have hosted various unique chamber events and performed our Christmas concerts where we brought together baroque and jazz in a beautiful church to create a truly memorable evening.

For our next adventure, we will be visiting your beautiful Old Church at The Lee as part of our Spring Festival. We will be filling this beautiful intimate space with the sounds of Joseph Haydn's celebrated string quartet *Seven Last Words*. This event will take place on Good Friday 15th April and there will be two performances to choose from on the day, one at 3:00 pm and another at 5:30 pm. With short introductions written by our collaborator Andrew Barratt, our string quartet will take you through Haydn's transcendentally beautiful meditations on Christ's final words. In between our two performances you may wish to attend a service guided by Revd Chris Haywood, further exploring the Seven Last Words. Tickets for this event are priced at £10 and children up to the age of 18 can attend for free, so it is a wonderful opportunity to bring the whole family along, especially as the performance will only last approximately one hour.

Our other event taking place this Easter Weekend is our 'Beethoven Spring' concert, a contrasting performance. This time we will be visiting the wonderfully refurbished Deans' Hall in the grand setting of Berkhamsted School.

Amongst the celebrated composers through the centuries, Beethoven often stands out as the greatest due to his humanity, vulnerability and inventiveness. A force of nature, his contribution to art changed the musical landscape forever, inspiring a host of composers in his wake. Three of his closest disciples were Schubert, Schumann and Brahms, who perfected the art of German lied song. Here we will intersperse their songs of springtime with Beethoven's sunny and positive 2nd Symphony, a work of beauty and perfection.

After the interval, outstanding cellist Clare O'Connell, who has been

a part of Echor from the beginning, will perform pieces from her latest album *'The Isolated Cellist'*, using her loop pedal to conjure extraordinary sound worlds in music stretching across centuries and continents. This special concert will take place on Easter Saturday, 16th April at 7:30 pm.

We are so excited to be bringing our music to The Lee for the first time and we hope it will be one of many more occasions.

For any further info on our mini-Spring Festival or to get know a little more about who we are and what we do please visit our website, www.echormusic.com. We look forward to welcoming you at our future concerts!

Forum Fred... and Freda

The Lee Forum remained busy during the first quarter of 2022, with a wide range of topics being raised, many items bought and sold, and requests and recommendations being made for many different service providers. There was even a garden shed in the 'Lost and Found'… and we may have just had our first house sale through the forum. We have also recently created a new 'category' on the forum specifically for postings on the subject of 'Homes for Ukraine'.

A reminder: search me!

As well as posting new messages, the forum also allows you to search through previous postings. This can be particularly useful if you are looking for a recommendation for a service provider.

To search the forum, firstly log in, and then simply type "plumber" or "solicitor" or something similar into the Search box within the blue banner forum menu bar (not the main website search box on the right of every page above the Forthcoming Events).

You may be pleasantly surprised, and it means hundreds of users won't constantly be asked the same question. *"Can anyone recommend a…"*

There are some notes on how to use the forum search in the online User Guide at www.thelee.org.uk/getting-around.

Safe senders

There seems to have been changes made to spam filtering recently that particularly affects btopenworld and btinternet addresses, which means that emails sent by The Lee Forum have been rejected as spam. The way around this (as with any email

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provider) is to ensure that the forum's email address is set up in your email system's contacts (not your phone contacts) and flagged as a safe sender: forum2020@thelee.org.uk. If you need assistance to do this take a look at www.thelee.org.uk/common-problems/ or email us at admin@thelee.org.uk and we will send some guidance.

If you need some specific advice, please email us 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

Give thanks

By Diana Taylor

In our Cottage at Corner Sly,
Villagers wave as they walk by
And views of field and woods are seen
Where sky is blue and grass is green

We often thank our lucky stars
That nature's bounty here is ours
We also thank our village shop
To which with ease we often pop

And find arrays of goods a plenty
On days when kitchen shelves are empty
Where shopping means much more than that
As villagers meet to smile and chat

A better postie there can't be
Than ours, his name is Anthony
He trots with speed to bring our post
Of courtesy he has the most

And here, if we should venture out
We'll find some friends also about
Taking the air on daily walk
With time to share, to laugh, to talk

Even in dark, with torch on head
And high viz clothes, yet not abed
Someone will be around to meet
To say "Hello" to help and greet

And if we ever feel forlorn
We can set the clock and rise at dawn
See the sunrise, awaken and be
So glad to live here in The Lee

Since Charity begins at home
And kindness met each time we roam
We see our optimism doubled
When elsewhere all the world is troubled

Be not afraid of what may pass
Admire the sky, enjoy the grass
Continue to use the village shop
And never let the friendship stop

We cannot control what the world may see
We can control how we live in The Lee
We can count our blessings in every way
And give thanks for our village life each day.

Creative-Lee

By Mary Godfrey

As part of the Jubilee community celebrations, we're organising a creative trail around the Parish. And we need you to get involved and get your creative thinking caps on!

Could you build a miniature throne out of recycling, a crown out of garden plants, or the Queen's sceptre out of light sabres? It doesn't have to be Jubilee themed. A collection of Lego monsters that you'd like to show off, or even some proper artwork you could share with the village. Do let us know! The idea is to display them in

your front gardens for a few days. People will be able to pick up a map of the route, stroll through the parish and peer over the garden fences at all the weird and wonderful creations you have made. On the final day (probably 3rd June, tbc), a few gardens will be open for refreshments and a break along the way.

If you'd like to get involved but can't think how, we'd still love to hear from you. Send us an email and we will help you come up with something suitable. Claudia.phipps@virgin.net or marygodfrey@gmail.com

Litter pick in The Lee

By Pat Chinnery

I would like to say thank you to all who helped on Sunday 13th March, to rid our roads, verges etc from the unsightly litter that is increasing, I am sure, year by year.

We all collected the usual paper cups, bottles, cans, clothing etc. I personally found six cans of beer and carefully wrapped tobacco papers inside a box. Whoever left it on the verge down Rocky Lane must have got out of the car and put it down. Why, for goodness sake did they not take it home with them?

We filled around 25 bags from the village and surrounding roads. Litter is now more prevalent than ever. The verges from Chesham to Berkhamsted, are awful. And further afield, to Marlow and Berkhamsted the motorways are so unsightly with rubbish.

The council are shortly organising local litter groups to help tidy up our towns etc. and this is brilliant but we shouldn't have to do it.

Rubbish collection in 2022

Why do people think that rubbish can be thrown from cars or dropped anywhere? It's a disgrace.

There was a letter in *The Chiltern* recently entilted, 'The Chilterns – a rubbish tip'. I guess it is becoming that way. We need another Government push to deal with the problem, maybe such as Keep Britain Tidy.

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The Lee Parish Council update

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk

Memorial tree

Very many thanks to everyone who has given so generously towards the oak tree to be planted in memory of Barnaby Usborne.

The Lee Parish Council (TLPC) is, as I write, finalising the order for a 2-3m tree with attractive metal surround, which will be planted alongside the path through the allotments, close to Garden Cottage.

Improving the allotments (1)

I mentioned in a previous article that TLPC had applied for funding to enable us to make improvements at the allotments and playground that couldn't realistically be funded from the annual precept. I am delighted to say that the Buckinghamshire Council Chesham and Rural Villages Community Board have approved our application for funding for the purchase of several benches and picnic tables, which will be installed in the coming months.

Improving the allotments (2)

We currently have one full plot and one-half plot vacant. If you have always wondered about becoming an allotmenteer, this could be your opportunity to get planting! For further details, please contact me at 07704 909324 or clerk@thelee.org.uk

Road closures

The Lee Parish Council tries to keep up with road closures, posting information about as many of them as possible on the forum, with long-planned closures additionally being flagged in this newsletter. To enable us to do this, we have subscribed to the Bucks Council system for notification of all road closures in the district.

Recently, some of you may have noticed that we omitted to post any information about a closure between Swan Bottom and Lee Gate. I'd like to assure readers that we weren't being negligent; investigation proved that the reason we had not received a notification was that Bucks had not issued any permit for a road closure, and that the permit number quoted by the contractors related to works in the Marlow area. We understand that the contractor, working on behalf of Openreach, is likely to be fined.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is a legacy from the Middle Ages, when all

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local decision making was carried out by meetings of the whole community, and is the one opportunity in the year when all residents have the right to attend and speak on any matter of local interest. Although residents are of course welcome to attend all regular meetings of the Parish Council, legally they are only permitted to speak if invited to do so by the Chair.

In past years the Annual Parish Meeting has been a stand-alone event with speakers, however this year we are taking a different approach and will hold it at 7:00 pm on Tuesday 17th May, immediately before the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council.

Planning applications

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. Such comments will be considered by the Parish Council when forming its own view and will be unattributed.

Bridge too far?

By bidding 3♣, North described her hand as having 5 clubs and 5 diamonds. At our table, South then jumped to 5♣ and with just one spade loser, made an overtrick. We missed bidding a small slam, which some might have risked.

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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).

April

Tuesday 5th. **Ballinger BATS** meets in Ballinger War Memorial Hall every Tuesday, 9:30 am to 11:30 am.
Thursday 7th. **Village walk**. Meet on The Lee green at 9:30 am.
Sunday 10th. **The Lee Old Church Trust AGM.** 7:30 pm at the Old Church.
Friday 15th. **Echor Orchestra** at The Lee Old Church. See pages 19 and 20.

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Sundays: 7.30 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

Tel: 01494 837195
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Saturday 23rd. **Greek and other Mediterranean Food Event** at The Lee Parish Hall. See page 7.
Thursday 28th. **Arts Society Ballinger**. The Imperial Easter Eggs of Carl Fabergé: Part 1 – Before the Revolution. By Toby Faber.

Coming soon

Tuesday 17th May. **The Lee Annual Parish Meeting** (7:00 pm) followed by **Parish Council Meeting**. (7:30 pm) at the Parish Hall. See page 25.
Thursday 26th May. **Arts Society Ballinger.** The Healing Power of Plants. By Timothy Walker.
Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. **Jubilee Bank Holiday** with **The Lee Creative Trail.** See page 22.
Thursday 23rd June. **Arts Society Ballinger**. Magnificent Mosaics: Windows into the Colourful Roman World. By Christopher Bradley.
Saturday 16th July. **The Lee Flower Show**. See page 4.
Tuesday 26th July. **The Lee Parish Council Meeting.** 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

Directory of local contacts

Ballinger Babies and Toddlers Group
Sophie Underwood, 07970 022190
Ballinger Hall 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@theartssociety.org
The Lee Cricket Club
www.theleecc.org.uk
Secretary: Mike Harris
07788 345555
The Lee Flower Show
Chairman: Jonathan Batten, 837450
The Lee Newsletter
theleenewsletter@gmail.com
The Lee Old Church Trust
Secretary: Pam Garner 837501
The Lee Parish Council
Clerk: Hayley Farrelly, 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 1) 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 in the newsletter or place an insert, please contact Hannah Lane at hannahcmlane@gmail.com or on 07747 114640, 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: Paul Apicella, Ruth Fowler, Mary Godfrey, Liz Macann, Jen Ogley, Adam Speller and Colin Sully.

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To book the Parish Hall or Scout Hut

'phone Pippa Hart on 837340

Rates	9 am - 1 pm 2 pm - 6 pm	6 pm - midnight
Mon - Fri	£30 or £10/hr	£45 or £10/hr
Sat/Sun	£12/hr	£70
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