



NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Phil Harrison

Friday 3rd June is the day when we come together to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty



The Queen. It is a unique occasion as no monarch in our history has reigned for 70 years.

The four day weekend itself will be packed with celebrations and events all around the nation and across the media. Our celebration will be a very local event where we involve as much of our community as we can, including our Ukrainian guests. It will be spread between The Lee and Lee Common and will hopefully appeal to all. Join us and make memories.

This month's newsletter includes articles of royal memories and stories, as well as details and timings for Friday 3rd June, on the centre pages, which you can pull out and keep.

It is amazing just how many people in our small community have met The Queen, undoubtedly a sign of her long reign: see pages 4 to 12.

Our Ukrainian guests

There are articles and references devoted to the arrival of our Ukrainian guests. Our community has responded to this challenge with enthusiasm, kindness and sensitivity. There are many ways in which we

can individually help as you will read. One simple way is when offering something on the Forum consider donating it to the Ukrainian families who have arrived with little by way of comforts. At the same time, we need to spare a thought to those amongst us who are having to deal with this dreadful situation on a personal level. Be kind, be sensitive and be generous to them.

We also have a fascinating article on the Potter Row-based publishing business, Sampson Low. The article has been written by Peter Sackett, an ex-RAF Navigator on V-Bombers on Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) during the Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) days of the Cold War with Russia in the early 1960s, but that is another story.

Finally, a reminder about Mike Addison's epic solo journey from Land's End to John o'Groats. He will have completed his ride by the time you read this. The Anthony Nolan Trust have told Mike that his sponsorship has already resulted in 20 new stem cell donors, saving 20 potential lives. Donations are still welcome at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/michael-addison6 or cash donations dropped off at Berrymead, near the school.

Please send any thoughts on any of the articles plus contributions for July's edition to the editors by 12th June at theleeneewsletter@gmail.com

Your letters

To the Editor

I am not a cyclist and am not therefore familiar with the trials and tribulations that may be encountered whilst on a long ride. However, I find it difficult to believe I am the only person to find it offensive when male (and it is always male) cyclists stop immediately opposite their house to urinate in the hedgerow – an ever more frequent occurrence. When a move of less than 100 yards/metres would avoid being directly opposite any properties, surely somewhere slightly more discreet could be found?

Grumpy

Swan Bottom

To the Editor

You can't get away from the Lee, even when you get away from The Lee!



Colin Sully
@ EX34 8LW

The Lee Church Fête

18th June 2022 at 2:00 pm

By Kathryn Clark

After a short break due to lockdown restrictions The Lee Church Fête is back! On Saturday 18th June starting at 2:00 pm Revd Chris Haywood will be opening the proceedings and is looking forward to meeting everyone.

The highlight of the fête no doubt will be the children from Lee Common School who will perform traditional Maypole Dancing.

There will be a fine selection of stalls as usual, including the unmissable teas tent serving cream teas and homemade produce. Come along and enjoy a fun afternoon with all the family.

Raffle tickets will be on sale in advance. If you would like to donate a raffle prize or know someone who could please get in touch!

Many thanks to all those who have already offered assistance. More offers are always welcome. Enquiries for specific stalls and donations should be directed as follows:

- **Raffle Prizes** - Kathryn Clark
07887 746669
- **Bric a brac** - Ros Morris
01494 837721
- **Tombola** - David Gurney
07795 542115
- **Plants** - Trevor Pearce
01494 837601
- **Teas and home produce** - Pippa Hart
01494 837340 / 07785 323232
- **Books** - Andrew Cowper
01494 837922
- **Toy Stall** - Lee Common School Association
LCSA-leecommon.school@outlook.com

The Lee Flower Show

16th July 2022

By Jonathan Batten

Every man, woman and child living in the parish and the surrounding areas will have now received their copy of the Flower Show schedule delivered personally to their door.

You may notice that it has been updated a little since 2019 and is now a colourful delight – our thanks to Kerry Binding of Ballinger for his help with this. If you haven't seen it there are spare copies with Annie Ash and at the shop, or if you prefer to work from a screen then go to the village website: www.thelee.org.uk/ and follow the links to the flower show pages.

Do please take the time to read it through to see which classes you and your family can enter. There are a multitude of choices all designed for your enjoyment and to test you a little. If you need any help with, or have questions about, your entries call Annie on our dedicated help line 01494 837550.

Think about all those exhibits that you could, and should, be ready to enter. Join in and feel how the Flower Show effect can make a real difference to your lives.

The committee is now in the process of organising the fun for the day: the music and laughter, the heat and the dust, the stalls and the sideshows, the beer and the teas, the cups and the prizes, the field and the parking, the dogs and the barking, the sun and no rain...

If any of you would like to experience that extra thrill of helping on the day, or leading up to it, do please call me on 01494 837450.



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The Lee in living memory



This month, we include an extract from Nigel Dwight'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.



Nigel Dwight (1918 – 2009)

Nigel was born in Pednor and then lived for most of his life in Ballinger. He records:

“In the late spring of 1953, our village became for a few brief minutes the most important place in the country. Somewhere was needed to host the rehearsals for the Coronation of Her Majesty, Queen

Elizabeth the Second. The venue had to be secluded yet close to London and the people involved had to be sworn to secrecy. There was to be no publicity and no press releases. That would have spoiled it. The Lee fitted the bill and the vicar, the Revd John Carter, had been a pupil of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Doctor Fisher. Perfect!

“Somehow things were kept quiet and on a few Sundays, the Parish Church gained an extra member of the congregation – the Archbishop of Canterbury himself.

The vicar's wife stood in for The Queen

“When the rehearsals took place there were other guests – church dignitaries and members of the police service seen walking about in the churchyard carrying documents and talking. There was no congregation at the rehearsals. The vicar's wife stood in for The Queen and there were ‘doubles’ for the Archbishops of York and Durham. My dad and I were in the churchyard, and I asked one gentleman, “Who are you?” My father said, “You shouldn't have spoken to the gentleman like that!” He said “I'm the Duke of Norfolk. I have to oversee everything.”

“There were several gentlemen walking about in very ordinary suits. I was told they were the security men. The Reverend Carter came out when we were sitting on the grass having a cup of tea. He said, “Come on, Robert, we need something for the crown”. We got a little paper thing to put on Mrs Carter's head.

“The rehearsal took nearly all morning. The Duke of Norfolk oversaw everything and stepped in on occasions to make corrections. On the day that it was televised, I could recognise him straight away in his

lovely, cocked hat and uniform leading the procession and carrying the orb and sceptre. That's how that came about – a great event in my life. When I saw The Queen on the first occasion she said, "I believe you were at a place in Buckinghamshire called The Lee." I said I was. Life is what you make it!"

Dressed for The Queen

By Amanda Skoog

As dancers and arts managers, Matz and I have been lucky enough to be invited to several garden parties and to meet The Queen in post show line-ups. One funny occasion comes to mind – we had performed in an event to raise money for the WWF – The Queen and Prince Philip were coming down the line and my friend to my right remarked that perhaps the fur jacket I was wearing was not quite suitable. I managed to whisk it off and place it under my full length (thank goodness) gown just in time. My nickname ever since has been Mink!

Regal moments

By Chris Bannister

I have been lucky enough to meet The Queen on a couple of occasions. I consider it to be one of the biggest privileges of my life.

The first time was at the Australian High Commission and the second time was at Buckingham Palace.

At the High Commission I had a minute or so talking to her about my Australian links and at the Palace I

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met her again as I traversed the Royal line up.

The aura of The Queen can make even the most self-assured person nervous. When I traversed the line-up, I think I broke all records for speed (very Mr Bean like). I had also accidentally managed to throw a glass of red wine over another guest about a minute before we were called forward. We agreed to button our suits up, so he wasn't the only person looking like a penguin as he struggled to hide the enormous stain.

My main recollections are of her incredible blue eyes, her sharp wit and despite her advancing years and her diminutive form, the incredible aura she projects.

By Royal acquaintance

By Bernard Tompkins

In the 60s and 70s I set up several game shoot syndicates. I had a shoot at Beechwood Park near Markyate, the estate of the Seabright family for several years. I also had a shoot at Castle Ashby, courtesy of the Marquis of Northampton. Later I helped set up the shoot with Richard Stewart-Liberty at Lee Manor.

I had a friend Bernard Wombwell who was a tenant farmer who later became the farm manager and Sir Harold Werner's business partner at Luton Hoo. I also had a very good spaniel gundog, Ross, that I'd purchased from the keeper of Lord Roseberry's estate Gorebridge near Edinburgh.

There was a royal shoot arranged at Luton Hoo and I was invited to join

the 'picking up' team on the day with my dog. I had no idea who was going to be there. I reported on the day at the stables at Luton Hoo. The estate carpenter, who wore a bowler hat, oversaw the 'pickers up' as we were called. Apart from the carpenter and myself the others were all quite well-to-do ladies dressed in their tweeds, Barbour's, headscarves and hats in true country style. Everyone seemed to have black Labradors. My springer, Ross, was the only spaniel there and was to later prove to be more proficient than the 'royal' dogs at finding and retrieving birds they had failed to find.



Flo, the latest in a long line of Springer Spaniel gun dogs trained by Bernard

Transport was a horse trailer with the tail board removed and straw bales provided the seating. We set off for the first drive like a military operation and I was sent down through some woodland along a 500 yard track.

There was a lot of gunfire and quite a lot of birds fell around me. Ross quickly retrieved these. Our instructions were to leave them by a gateway so that the tractor and game cart could collect them as they came by. We were told to return quickly to our trailer to be ready for the next drive. As I headed back through the woods, I saw one of the ladies in the



distance struggling with a wounded bird. I approached carefully and tapped her on the shoulder asking if I could help as I took the bird from her. She turned to say thank you and as she turned, I realised it was Her Majesty The Queen.

I was shocked but I managed to say something like, "I beg your pardon ma'am. I didn't realise it was you". She smiled saying, "I think there is another bird over by that lone tree." I said that I would pick it up. As I moved away, a figure appeared out of the trees in a slouched hat and raincoat. I could see his Webley revolver sticking out from a shoulder holster. He was clearly The Queen's bodyguard.

During the rest of the day, The Queen passed me several times, smiled and nodded.

I cannot remember all the guns but Prince Philip, Lord Mountbatten, Major Butters, son-in-law of Sir Harold Norman Cunningham Reid and several other Lords and Sirs. I think the total bag on the day was over 500 pheasants and a large number of partridges.

On the second occasion I met The Queen it was due to my army service. The Queen took the throne in 1952 and I was called up in 1953. Prior to 1952 the 'call up' papers were signed on His Majesty's Service. After 1952 they were on Her Majesty's Service. My papers were on The Queen's instructions.

In those days when you turned 18 you were called up for the army providing you were physically fit. There was no choice.

I can remember my papers saying that I was to join the first battalion, the Northamptonshire Regiment at Wootton Barracks, Northampton on a given Saturday between the hours of 8:00 am and 2:00 pm. As it stated, "your failure

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to appear will lead to your arrest”, I duly joined for very tough infantry training with a lot of cross country runs in bad weather, mock battles and digging trenches in the rain.

I became a proficient shot with rifle, submachinegun, medium machine gun and later heavy anti-tank guns. I saw service in the UK, Germany, Korea and China, travelling everywhere by ship. It was certainly some experience but one I would not have missed for anything.



Cpl Tompkins (r) at Incheon, Korea

Some years later there was a parade in London for the Korean veterans. We assembled on the Horse Guards in smart suits, our army berets and our medals. We marched past the dais on which The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh stood. We continued to a service in Westminster Abbey and were joined there by The Queen and the Duke. The Queen addressed us all and thanked us for our service.

When The Queen first saw me



By Phil Harrison

The Queen's coronation took place in June 1953. Within five months, accompanied by Prince Philip, The Queen set off on a tour of the Commonwealth. Flying to Bermuda and then to Jamaica, The Queen boarded SS Gothic, which was to be her base for the remainder of the tour.

After visits to Fiji and Tonga, 'Gothic' reached New Zealand on 23rd December for a stay of over a month. February and March were spent in Australia and the return journey included Ceylon, Aden, Uganda, and Malta, where The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were reunited with their two children (Prince Charles and Princess Anne) and sailed via Gibraltar to London on the new Royal Yacht, Britannia.

Tea time visit

At this time my parents and I lived in a hill station in Ceylon (Sri Lanka). I was all of 18 months old when The Queen and Prince Philip landed in Colombo. They were to spend around 10 days in the island travelling out of Colombo including a trip to Nuwara Eliya (nu-ray-lee-ah). Nuwara Eliya is a hill station in the middle of the tea growing hills and rests at 6,000 feet (1,800 m) above sea level. The royal party's visit included Prince Philip planting a new tea bush at Pedro Tea Estate and also attending the services at Holy Trinity Church in Nuwara Eliya on Easter Sunday (18th April 1954) along with locals including my parents. As the royal party drove

around the area after the service, they passed my parents who were out walking, pushing me along in my pram. Whilst there were several Europeans in Ceylon at that time a European couple pushing a child in its pram would have been a rare sight. My mother often told me that The Queen's car stopped and she heard The Queen say to Prince Philip, "what a beautiful baby!" before speaking with my parents and there is no doubt it was on that Easter Sunday The Queen first saw me!

We'll meet again...

The next time our paths were to cross was some 20+ years later. This time it involved a garden party at Buckingham Palace.

My links with Ceylon had been maintained throughout my life and I was by now working for J Lyons/Tetley Tea as a tea taster. Lyons was responsible for all the catering at royal events including the annual garden parties. The prestigious nature of these meant that, as part of the quality control, a couple of tea tasters were sent along to ensure the tea being served was up to scratch.

Dressed in morning suits, equipped with our silver tasting spoons, my colleague and I duly arrived at the gates of Buckingham Palace. It was a lovely warm June day and given the role we had gone to perform we were there well ahead of the guests. We were able to explore the gardens and enjoy the serenity of the space before the event. The grass looked bowling green fresh, the marquees splendid and temptingly full of sandwiches, cakes, biscuits and flowers. All the staff, like us, were immaculately dressed with the band warming up in the background.

As were we strolling along one of the paths behind the tents, a tall, very polished gentleman approached and asked us our names and roles for the day. He promptly asked us to wait where we were saying he would be back shortly. Imagine our surprise when, a few minutes later, the gentleman returned with Her Majesty. She was walking around before the party making sure everything was looking good, but more importantly, to thank everyone behind the scenes for the job they were doing.

I was amazed, proud and a little tongue tied to say the least. My immediate impression was of a person physically smaller than I expected but with the most beautiful blue eyes that twinkled. She made us so at ease with just a few words and all too briefly the moment had passed. If only I had had the presence of mind to mention our first meeting!

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Art fit for The Queen



By Claudia Phipps

In 2011 I was lead artist on a project to create artwork for the Rosie Hospital at Addenbrookes, Cambridge. This was a major commission for me and took the form of two glass screens and a glass wall-mounted series of sculptures in the café area of the new maternity hospital. The pieces took two years to complete.

Once the new hospital was completed, there was one more surprise. The building was to be opened by Her Majesty, accompanied by HRH Prince Philip. I didn't think too much of it, until I was asked to make the plaque that The Queen would unveil. Then the pressure was really on!

The plaque was made of a curved 'wave' form in glass, decorated with imagery similar to that used in the sculptures around the café. I then had to engrave the lettering (getting the spelling right, and the wording correct) onto the glass before it was installed ready for the big day. I was then shocked to learn that I, together with the architect, other artists and the arts coordinator, would be presented to both the Duke and The Queen.

We were instructed how to curtsy, and how we needed to say "Ma'am" as in ham! When they arrived at the hospital, we were all lined up ready to be presented. As we were ushered

forward, I was really overwhelmed and barely took in the momentous event as I shook her hand as well as that of the Duke. It was all over in a flash!

I feel privileged to have met Her Majesty, but my proudest moment was when she drew back the curtain to reveal the plaque, which was not a standard design. I think she was taken by surprise!

Ukrainian guests

By Anne Ellis

St Mary's Church, Ballinger is hosting Wednesday Coffee Mornings for our Ukrainian guests and their hosts plus whoever wants to come along to help. Every Wednesday from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

We are very pleased to be providing somewhere for our local Ukrainians to meet and use for purposes of their own. We held our first get together on 27th April, which was in the week when Ukrainians celebrate their Easter. We decorated the church with flowers in the Ukrainian colours and one of our helpers brought some beautifully decorated Easter cakes. It was a very happy morning and it was wonderful to see everyone chatting together so happily and getting on so well. It was led by Catherine Watson who set out what we hope to do. We hope the Ukrainians will feel they can go the Church for their own individual purposes such as being somewhere quiet, to do homework or even to get counselling. Please join us and help make our Ukrainian guests feel welcome in our community.

As the weather drifts towards those halcyon sunny days of late spring, Maggi and I are re-introducing the coffee mornings which proved so popular last year: see Dear Diary.



May Day

By Pippa Hart

Lee Common School's May Day celebrations took place on a rather overcast Tuesday morning on the 3rd May. The clouds did not deter however from the joyful sight of the children bringing May Day cheer and posies of flowers to all their neighbours and the residents as they paraded up and down Oxford Street. Villagers and parents lined their route and were treated to a rendition of their Spring Song. This is the start of a new tradition that we hope will continue for many years to come.



Jo Boon receiving flowers

The Maypole dancing then followed in the playground. Caroline Jenks and Sarah Cherry, (grandmother and mother to two of the children at school) have kindly offered their experience and time to keep this village tradition alive and have been teaching the children since last term. The children looked very happy dancing for us all around the maypole. The girls



with circlets of flowers on their hair and the boys with bells on their wrists. They will be performing again at the Church Fête on Saturday 18th June.



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Celebrate

By Rev Chris Haywood

Our focus this month is The Queen's Jubilee

at the beginning of June. The Queen is of course the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, so as the established church we have a double reason to mark the occasion – 70 years as both our monarch and head of the church. Furthermore, The Queen's strong Christian faith, her spiritual leadership and Christian perspective have been valuable to the nation over the years and we are right to mark and celebrate her reign accordingly.

The Lee church will host a united benefices service (where all four of my parishes come together) as well as a civic and community occasion on Sunday 5th June at 10.00 am in the New Church, which will especially mark and honour The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Please do join us to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's reign and her service of the county and commonwealth. We are seeking to make it an engaging and embracing occasion.

I am informed that the church was used as a venue to rehearse for the coronation itself (page 4), so there is no more perfect a venue in our community to gather and mark this special occasion.

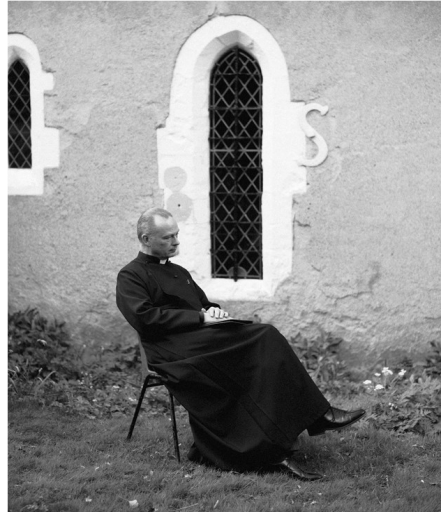


Furthermore, Sunday 5th June is the day the church celebrates its own anniversary. Not The Lee church but the church universal. It's a festival called Pentecost when God sent his spirit to dwell in us and amongst us and bind us together as a body of believers. We'll be exploring more of what this is all about in the service.

Given it's also the first Sunday of the month the service will also be a family friendly accessible for all ages type service. Our family services have been building quite a reputation and following, and I hope this one too will have life and energy.

'Kooky moments'

I remember during my theological training undertaking the 'Christianity and other faiths' module, as the Church of England requires all vicars to do.



In reflection

It involved visiting other faith groups and engaging with them to understand their beliefs. Each religion we visited seemed to have an element which was mysterious or even uncomfortable for us. One person

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described such encounters as a ‘kooky moment’. It prompted a reflection on what Christianity’s ‘kooky moment’ was. We concluded that one of them was the indwelling of God’s spirit, the Holy Spirit, in the life of all believers. It’s a fundamental and distinctive aspect of the Christian faith but also one which can seem strange and uncomfortable. It’s the giving of the Holy Spirit we celebrate at Pentecost and the account of the Spirit coming down from heaven is indeed a strange one (come and join us for the service if you’d like to learn more). We’ll be exploring an aspect of what went on with the use of animal noises – seriously! Yet Christians believe and take comfort from the truth that God comes to dwell in us and help us in our life and service of him. The Spirit helps to illuminate and guide our way. God not only speaks to us through his word and understanding of him, but also in our experience as an internal guide and reforming presence. It’s a wonderful dimension of the Christian faith and one which sets it apart from other religions.

One way in which we’ve been exploring these dimensions of faith is through the Lent course we’ve hosted in the Vicarage. It’s been a wonderful time of sharing and insight, encouragement and learning as we’ve explored what it means to be a Christian together. The group is continuing to meet, and if you’d like to join the group or explore more what it’s all about do get on touch with me.

Easter is now long past but we continue to celebrate Jesus rising to new life throughout this season.

Looking back to the Easter weekend it’s difficult not to choose Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the resurrection, as the climax. Yet for many of us Good Friday was the highlight. I reflected last month how a

day when such a terrible execution, however we understand it, was carried out could be called good, but also reflected on how the death of Jesus for our sakes, his loving self-sacrifice, was the heart of our faith and an expression of the goodness or worthiness of God.

It was especially helpful and indeed wonderful to have Echor Music play Haydn’s ‘Seven Last Words’ as part of our commemoration. The music was indeed sublime but the event the composer took inspiration from, is truly glorifying. It was a very special evening and one which I was especially moved by.



Echor Music

Finally, we’re looking forward to the return of the Church Fete on Saturday 18th June. We do hope it will be a joyous day of celebration when we can gather as a community and have fun together. Do join us to help make this event another truly festive occasion.

Jubi-Lee details

By Phil Harrison

Parking

*****Please do not park around the green or on the road between the green and the Parish Hall until the parade has passed*****

Parking is available along the road to Pipers, in Oxford St, at the school, and on Lee Clump Road from the end of Oxford St to Lee Clump corner, although we recommend walking.

Please note: no parking at the Parish Hall except Blue Badge holders

Dogs

Dogs are welcome if always kept under control and on a lead. Please ensure that you clear any mess they make, particularly at the Parish Hall picnic area.



Friday 3rd June

All timings are approximate!

1:00 pm Lunch

Platinum Platters, Pints & Pimms at The Cock & Rabbit. Booking essential on 01494 837540

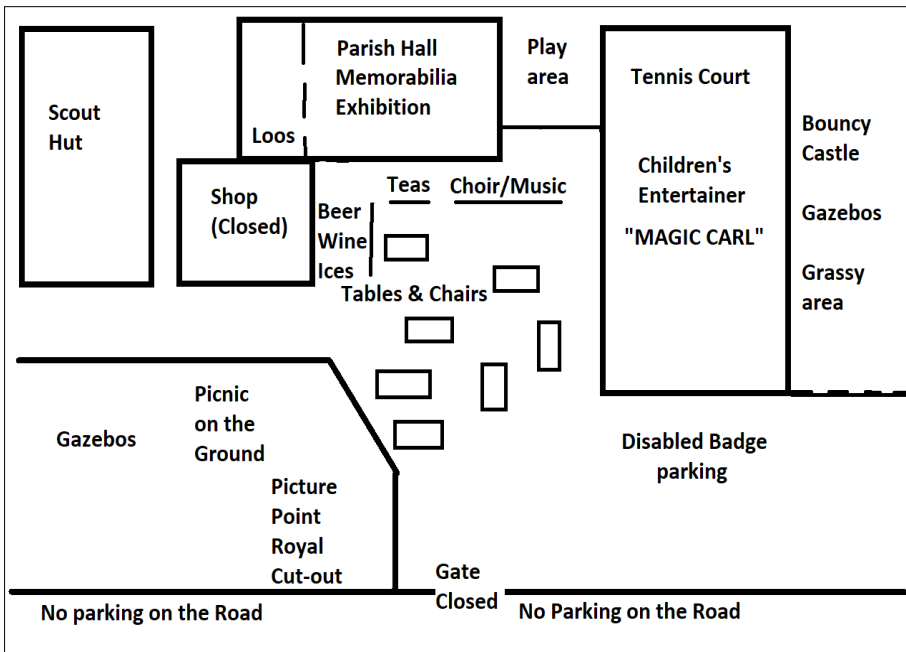
2:00 pm Games on The Green

For the following age groups:

- Up to 7 years old
- 7-11 years old
- 12-15 years old

Races depending on the numbers of entrants on the day:

- Egg and spoon race
- Flat races (three heats)
- Bean bag balancing on head race
- Team 'combination' relay
- Hula hoop endurance (not the eating kind!)
- Tug-o-war
- Best crown in town
- Best Jubi-Lee outfit



3:00 pm Platinum Parade

Around The Lee Green to the Parish Hall

- Red, white and blue outfits
- Vintage vehicles
- Show cars
- Decorated rickshaw and bicycles
- Decorated pets

Gather around the green prior to parade setting off at 3:00 pm. Disperse at the Parish Hall.

3:30 pm Picnic at the Parish

Marquees, tables and chairs will be available but best to bring your own picnic blankets and chairs.

- Bring your own picnic. Leave it in the hall from 1:45 pm whilst you go to the green.
- A plate to share
- Tea by the cup available
- Wine by the bottle or glass (cash or card payment)
- Beer (cash or card payment)
- Ice creams (cash or card payment)
- Live music
- Background music from the Platinum Decades
- Village memorabilia
- Scouting activities on display
- Bouncy castle
- Cut out of The Queen with Corgi for photographs (just like the seaside)

3:45 pm The Occasional Singers

- The National Anthem

- The Ukrainian National Anthem
- Dancing Queen (adapted)

4:00 pm to 4:45 pm Magic Carl kids' entertainer

6:00 pm The Lee Cricket Club

- Kwik-cricket
- Cash Bar
- Cash BBQ

Bring

- Picnics
- Picnic rugs, folding chairs and tables
- A plate to share
- Bag for your rubbish

Buy

- Beer & lager
- Wine by the glass or bottle
- Ice creams
- Limited edition commemorative mugs (subject to availability)

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Bridge too far?

By Liz Ford et al

Looking at East/West hands in this deal, it is clear that the contract should be 3NT, which just makes, but how would you bid it?

♠ Q J 10 2

♥ 9 6 3 2

♦ K 9 3

♣ 10 6

♠ A K 6 5

♥ A 10

♦ 8 6

♣ A K Q J 5

♠ 8 7 3

♥ Q 5

♦ A J 7 5

♣ 9 8 7 2

♠ 9 4

♥ K J 8 7 4

♦ Q 10 4 2

♣ 4 3

Dealer: West

Vulnerability: E/W

What does West open and how does the bidding proceed? See page 25.

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Sampson Low at Potter Row

By Peter Sackett

I've yet to meet anyone locally who remembers one of the oldest English publishing imprints, Sampson Low, operating from *The Firs* in Potter Row from WWII to 1967.

Started in 1793 during the French Revolution by a young printer called Sampson Low, the company began in Soho, and remarkably ended in Soho some 200 years later.

An illustrated prayer book was followed by novels written by many famous writers. His son (also named Sampson) took over the firm when he died, and with his three sons, Sampson created a thriving business.

All the great names

By the early 1860s a sizeable correspondence had been built up with many well-known authors, artists and politicians of the time. Two hundred of these letters are now housed in the Open University library in Milton Keynes. These include correspondence with Charles Dickens, Sir Walter Scott, Anthony Trollope, Alfred Lord Tennyson, William Makepeace Thackeray, Mrs Gaskell, Cardinal Newman, Charles Kingsley, philosopher John Stuart Mill (Utilitarianism), Florence Nightingale, the Duke of Wellington, Robert E Lee, Wilkie Collins, W E Gladstone and Lord Shaftesbury.

Unfortunately, Sampson's three sons did not outlive him, so when he died an associate editor called Edward Marston took the company over in 1886, and the publisher's name changed to Sampson Low, Marston &



Sampson Low (Snr)

Co. Ltd. The Low family had lost its long involvement with the company.

A move to the Chilterns

Sampson Low moved to Potter Row after suffering a direct hit in 1940 during the second World War bombing blitz of London which destroyed almost their entire archives. At that time, they were based in Ludgate Hill in the shadow of St. Paul's Cathedral. At Potter Row the company survived WWII and operated from *The Firs* for around 25 years, until 1966/67.

The Firs provided a perfect setting for a publishing house, with its large, rambling rooms set in its own grounds deep in the countryside – a vibrant yet relaxed setting for creative inspiration.

An imposing staircase in the spacious entrance hall led up to the 'executive quarter', where the principle directors worked. Downstairs rooms housed the editorial, design, production, sales and secretarial staff.



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Almost opposite was a country pub, *The Lamb*, that had by then been converted to a private residence. Just as well, or little work would have been done by the young band of would-be writers and editors recruited straight from university to work on weekly partworks – the first of their kind in England. Instead, cricket and rounders were played in the garden during the lunch hour.

The company was taken over by Purnell and Sons in 1941, a printer based at Paulton near Bath, who printed their novels. Sampson Low was no longer an independent company. Purnell soon became one of the biggest printers in Europe. They merged with Hazell Sun printers to form the British Printing Corporation (BPC) in 1964.

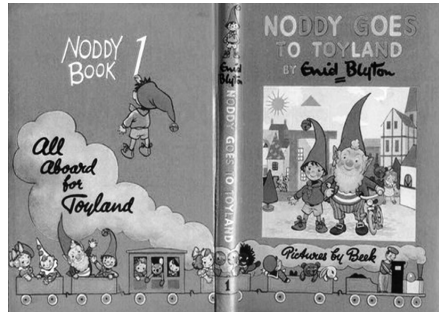
At Potter Row, besides producing part works, Sampson Low also published *The Noddy Library*, school textbooks, sports almanacs, children's story books by authors like Enid

Blyton and Jeffery Farnol, and the first of many future *Janes Yearbooks*.

Janes World Fighting Ships was the first *Janes* yearbook, and was published annually for more than 100 years by Sampson Low, an extraordinary achievement, and it is still published annually.

Back to Soho

Despite its relatively recent acquisition by BPC in 1964, Sampson Low was allowed to continue as a small family firm without much interference for another three years. But when the new Group management finally took over, all the newly acquired publishing companies were moved to a new Head Office in Portland Street in Soho. Sampson Low was split up into its constituent parts - partworks, children's books, school and educational books, and *Janes Yearbooks* – and these were taken over by the new publishing divisions set up at Head Office. Sampson Low now survived only as an imprint.



BPC was taken over by the notorious Robert Maxwell in 1981. On his mysterious death in 1991, BPC went into administration and was split up and sold off to various media companies. The imprint of Sampson Low had survived for 200 years, give or take a year or two. And for 25 of those years it operated on our virtual doorstep.

Prepared-Lee

By Enzo D'Alessandro

After a pause of a couple of issues, we're back in the Newsletter! Of course, we have been busy as usual – particularly with pioneering skills, as demonstrated below.



Pioneering is so closely associated with Scouts that people often assume this is the main thing we do – and to some extent that is true: what conjures Scouting more than a pole-and-rope construction?

As a Scout, there is a special place in our heart for them: the flags flying; some daring structure such as an overhang or a raised platform as a constant reminder of the time spent in planning and building it; the joy passing by it at camp knowing that either part of you is in that structure, in the form of a (hopefully sound) lashing in that corner over there, or the awe at the skills; the inevitable, annoying, ever-present rope burns... As ever, the skills themselves are just a vector, a vehicle by which wider life lessons are presented, such as: be resilient by being reliant on your own skills, because a bad lashing can cause the entire structure to collapse; trust your peers, but don't assume anything; take pride in your work. And of course, Be Prepared – you never know when you will need to put together a structure with poles and ropes!!!!

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The Lee Parish Council update

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk

Car security

With the changes in technology, keyless car crime is taking place and offenders no longer have to enter your house to steal your car or cars. Thames Valley Police have published their top tips for car security as many people are still unaware of this risk:

- Use your garage - if you have one and it is not stuffed with the garden furniture, the treadmill that never got used, the roll of left over carpet (just in case)
- Keep your keys safe. Get yourself a Faraday Pouch. For a fiver this blocks the key's signals
- Keys - can you turn the signal off - some models do allow for this. Check your manual.
- Consider a steering lock. Yes I know we thought we got rid of these in the 90's - but they do work as criminals come equipped to steal with technology rather than tools.

All change

The recent Parish Council meeting was the last to be attended by Councillors Carol Perry and Alison Weir, both of whom have stepped down with effect from the end of May after many years' service. I would like to formally record the Council's thanks for all their contributions over the years.

Councillor Ruth Fowler was re-elected as Chair for the coming year, with Councillor Colin Sully being elected as Vice-Chair.

Casual vacancies

With the departure of Cllrs Weir and Perry, two casual vacancies for

new councillors were formally advertised on noticeboards, the website and forum during May and, by the time you read this, the opportunity for an election to be requested by a minimum of ten parishioners will have passed.

Assuming no election is required, the Parish Council will proceed to co-opt new councillors with the closing date for applications being Monday 6th June.

If you would like to contribute to the community by becoming a Parish Councillor, are keen to get involved and are willing to attend six meetings each year, please visit www.thelee.org.uk/becoming-a-parish-councillor/ for more information. Alternatively please contact me at 07704 909324 clerk@thelee.org.uk or email the Chair, Ruth Fowler, at cllr.fowler@thelee.org.uk to find out more. Please also contact me for details of how to apply.

Barnaby Osborne Memorial Tree

For a variety of reasons, it has not been possible to plant a tree during the spring planting season. Sufficient funds have been raised to allow us to purchase an oak tree with an attractive protective metal surround, details of which will be agreed with Barnaby's family before going ahead. Rather than risking it not taking during the summer months the tree will be planted in the autumn; more details will be published nearer the time.

Allotments and playground

With the departure of Cllr Alison Weir, all enquiries regarding the allotments should be addressed directly to me at 07704 909324 or clerk@thelee.org.uk.

I have mentioned previously that we have received funding from the Chesham and Rural Villages Community Board to enable us to buy

new benches and picnic tables to be placed in the playground and around the site. I am delighted to say these were delivered in May so will be available to be enjoyed over the summer months.

The Parish Council is also considering the idea of installing fencing on the playground and allotments site, to separate the playground, allotments and public footpath from one another. More details about both the proposal and a consultation to gauge whether or not this is something that residents would welcome will appear in the next newsletter.

HS2 update

By Cllr Colin Sully

Leather Lane overbridge

The meeting between the Leather Lane campaign group and its advisors, and EKFB, with local councillors and Bucks Council in attendance, finally took place on 18th May.

The campaign group presented the case that the line of oaks on the south side of Leather Lane forms an important wildlife corridor, used by bats travelling between roosts in the woods and feeding areas in the valley. The group proposed that the re-aligned lane should therefore be on the north side of the existing lane, in order to preserve a greater number of trees.

The project team recognised the need to protect ecology in this area and presented details of a revised option for re-alignment on the south side, which might save all but eight of the remaining trees. Whilst EKFB recognised that the re-routing of the lane to the north was feasible, there remained unresolved issues associated with the re-location of the auto-transformer station, access to it,

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drainage ponds, landscaping, culverts, and planning consent, which together might mitigate against this option.

The project team will now re-evaluate the bat data, including that supplied by the campaign group, and then prepare a plan to submit to Bucks Council for approval.

The A413 and Rocky Lane

The construction of the conveyor over the Chiltern Rail line and the A413 continues into June. The impact on The Lee community also continues and is significant. It includes:

- lane closures on the A413 at London Road at least until 10th June
- full overnight closures of the A413 from 14th to 16th June
- full closure of Rocky Lane from 23rd May until 10th June (but re-opening for the Jubilee weekend).

Perhaps the most significant impact on The Lee residents is the full closure (again) of Rocky Lane. We have pointed out that this closure will

(again) mean literally thousands of extra miles and hundreds of wasted hours for local communities. What makes it more frustrating is that this closure is not for the actual building of the under-bridge at Rocky Lane; it is to bring in a power supply.

Is it worth complaining?

The Parish Council has complained about the frequent closures of roads and lanes and requested that better ways be found of undertaking this work. We have complained to Bucks Council, to EKFB, to HS2 Ltd, to our MP and to the HS2 Independent Construction Commissioner... all so far to no avail.

We have also recently lodged complaints with HS2 Ltd about signage during road closures, the lack of 'No HS2 works traffic' signs on Rocky Lane and Leather Lane and excessive flood-lighting. Our belief remains that that complaining – and appealing to Bucks Council as the appropriate planning authority – is the only way of registering our concerns about the lack of care and respect being shown by the project.

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/

Mobile Visitor Centre (MVC)

The HS2 MVC made its first visit to The Lee on 13th May and around 20 residents called in to make comments and ask questions.

Foremost amongst the list of concerns raised was the impact of the frequent and poorly planned road and lane closures. Other specific issues raised by residents included the impact on the AONB landscape, farming, Leather Lane and the poor maintenance of their tree planting.

The MVC will be in Great Missenden on 22nd June (10:00 am until 3:00 pm).

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Leeway Away

By Ann Ash

Sadly the Leeway group have decided to close. The service has been running for over 10 years during which time a significant number of people received help.

In recent times, especially during Covid, demand for the service has been declining to a point where there is little or no demand. Naturally if this changes in future it can be restarted. A huge thank you to all those who have helped over the years.

Teaching an old dog new tricks!

By Anthea Hartley

Geoff and I have never before tried our hand at designing and making a stained-glass piece of artwork but as we discovered at Bryony Benwell's one day course, it is never too late to learn a new skill. Bryony is a talented and highly qualified stained-glass artist who, apart from having the patience of a saint, managed to teach three complete beginners the basics of working with stained glass.

Bryony trained at The York Glaziers Trust at York Minster for four years before moving back down south again to work at Chapel Studios near Kings Langley. Whilst in York she worked on the restoration and conservation of many of the windows in the Minster as well as New College Oxford and Ely Cathedral. At Chapel Studios she worked on Magdalen College Oxford, Chequers, Shakespeare's birthplace and many others.

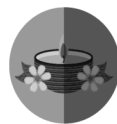
Bryony recently moved to Lee Common from Chester where she had established her own stained glass



Jilly, Bryony, Geoff and Anthea

restoration business, 'The Glass House', and where she undertook commissions for original pieces of stained-glass artwork for homes and churches.

Jilly Carleton-Smith joined Geoff and I for a fascinating and hugely enjoyable one-day course with Bryony at her home in Lee Common. We drew our designs, selected and cut the pieces of coloured glass, discovered the qualities and characteristics of



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Geoff and Anthea hard at work

working with lead and wielded soldering irons for the first time.

By the end of the day we had achieved a passable piece of stained glass artwork: a triumph for instructor and pupils alike!

We enjoyed a homemade lunch in the garden, which took longer than intended due to much chatting and hilarity, and a tea break with cake supplied by Lizzie – of course! Bryony offers one day courses to small groups. She can be contacted on 01494 837647, 07740 796309 or bryonybenwell@hotmail.com for commissions and courses, of which you may gather we are great fans.

Climbing fences and chasing bees

By The Echor Team

Who would have thought that we would have been able to sell out at our concert at The Lee, not once but twice!

OK granted, the church does only seat 50 people, but we are still very proud to tick off our first sold-out box! What a wonderful venue the Old Church is. Such a beautiful setting on

an equally beautiful day made the concerts a real pleasure for us. Most of the morning rehearsal was spent chasing a particularly noisy bumblebee around and encouraging it to make friends outside. Another personal highlight was watching Nathaniel climb over the stile gate with his cello on his back whilst our violinist, Kate, looked on in amusement.



A huge thank you to our new Lee audiences who came along and especially to those who also decided to brave our Saturday concert at Deans' Hall in Berkhamsted the following day! A big ask from us given the Easter weekend timing but we are extremely grateful for your attendance and absolutely beaming from all your wonderful feedback! It seems like all the hard work was definitely worthwhile.

We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Revd Chris Haywood and his wife Georgie for being so incredibly accommodating and helpful in making our concerts at The Lee take place.

If you are at all interested in what we at Echor are trying to do and you want to support us in some way, becoming an Echor Friend might be of interest to you. For an annual donation of only £25, there are heaps of benefits to be enjoyed such as private access to

one of our orchestra rehearsals, exclusive behind the scenes information about our future plans and even a private annual Friend's concert! For more information and to subscribe to our mailing list, please visit our website: www.echormusic.com. We would love to have you on board.

So, what's next? An Echor Summer Party perhaps? Watch this space!

Newsletter Dinner date

By the Newsletter Editorial Team

After a gap of two years, we have now set a date for the next Newsletter (Annual) Dinner; it will take place on Friday 9th December 2022 in the Parish Hall.

Invitations will be sent out later in the year to all those who have contributed to the success of the Newsletter. Meanwhile please hold the date!

The Lee Flower Show Dance

By Liz Harris and Mina Hynds

After two challenging years which saw us rally in ways we never thought we would have to, we are very excited to welcome the community to the Lee Flower Show Dance. A highlight of the year and a Lee tradition. Please join us for an evening of food, music, dancing and socialising.

Tickets go on sale from Friday 3rd June at £23 per person. You can purchase them from Shop at The Lee or, alternatively, email Liz and Mina at theleeflowershowdance@gmail.com to book. Doors open at 7:30 pm, carriages at midnight.

Organise a table of up to 12 friends or let us seat you. We promise a great band in a beautiful setting, all you need to do is bring your own food, drink and bonhomie.

Bridge too far?

At our table, West opened at the one level and then reverse jumped to show strength, forcing partner to bid again. East then used fourth suit forcing so that West's next bid was 3NT.

W	N	E	S
1♣	pass	1♦	pass
2♠	pass	3♥	pass
3NT	pass	pass	pass

With 21 points, West might open 2NT, but has two doubletons. East would then have a simple raise to 3NT.

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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).

June

Thursday 2nd. **Jubi-Lee village walk**, 9:30 am on the green.

Friday 3rd. **The Lee community celebration event for the Jubi-Lee.**

Sunday 5th. **The Ballinger Big Jubilee Lunch.** Ballinger War Memorial Hall, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

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

Friday 10th. **St Mary's Ballinger Coffee Morning**, 10:30 am

Saturday 18th. **The Lee Church Fête.** 2:00 pm on the green. See page 2.

Thursday 23rd. **Arts Society Ballinger.** Magnificent Mosaics: Windows into the Colourful Roman World. By Christopher Bradley.

Friday 24th. **St Mary's Ballinger Coffee Morning**, 10:30 am.

Saturday 25th. **Fayrfax Consort** at The Lee Old Church.

Church Services

St John the Baptist, The Lee

Sunday 5th. **Holy Communion** (BCP) at the Old Church, 8:00 am.

Sunday 5th. **United Benefices Pentecost Celebration** at the New Church, 10:00 am.

Sunday 12th. **Parish Communion** (CW) at the New Church, 11:00 am.

Sunday 19th. **Holy Communion** (BCP) at the Old Church, 8:00 am.

Sunday 26th. **Parish Communion** (CW) at the New Church, 11:00 am.

St Mary's, Ballinger

Sunday 5th. **Jubilee Celebration and Thanksgiving**, 9:30 am.

Coming soon

Thursday 7th July. **The Lee village walk**, 9:30 am on the green.

Friday 8th July. **St Mary's Ballinger Coffee Morning**, 10:30 am.

Saturday 16th July. **The Lee Flower Show.** See page 3.

Friday 22nd July. **St Mary's Ballinger Coffee Morning**, 10:30 am.

Tuesday 26th July. **The Lee Parish Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

Thursday 28th July. **Arts Society Ballinger.** Music in Art. By Sophie Matthews.

Tuesday 20th September. **The Lee Parish Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

Saturday 19th November. **The Lee Roving Supper.** Hold the date.

Sunday 4th December. **Fayrfax Concert at The Lee Old Church.** Hold the date.

Friday 9th December. **The Lee Newsletter Dinner.** Hold the date. See page 25.

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 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, The Lee

Vicar: Revd Chris Haywood, 837566.

Churchwarden: Trevor Pearce, 837601.

Treasurer: David Stephenson, 867617.

St Mary's Church, Ballinger

Associate Wardens: Anne Ellis,
837247 and Maggi Cameron, 864790
or maggi.cameron@hotmail.co.uk

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

The Lee Parish Hall Committee

Bookings: Pippa Hart, 837340

Chairman: Tony Lea, 837237

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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Naphill
01494 565 555
naphill@wyecountry.co.uk

Stokenchurch
01494 509 377
stokenchurch@wyeres.co.uk

Lettings High Wycombe
01494 358 358
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Lettings Great Missenden
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