



NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Liz Macann

As I write this editorial, summer is ending and so has an era. The death of Queen Elizabeth II was not really a surprise, she was after all 96 and there had been growing signs of ill health, and yet it was a shock. There have been many shared stories of your memories of the Queen thanks to the recent Jubilee, so now looking forward to the new order, there is an amusing story about one of our resident's encounters with King Charles III (see page 5). If anyone else has any tales they are happy to share, please let us know.



Tree art

Autumn brings its own glory of sights, sounds and smells, and in the woods there have been some wonderful messages by budding artists, of which the one pictured here is one of my favourites.

There are also plenty of landmarks ahead: Harvest Festivals, Bonfire Night, Hallowe'en, Roving Supper – to say nothing of the new school year. It will be a lively time in the community.

As well as the usual mix of news and topics this month there is the beginning of a new series on farming for us all to discover just what goes on in the beautiful fields around us.

Next month Jonathan Batten will be in the Editor's seat. Please email material for the November edition to him at theleenewsletter@gmail.com by 12th October.

Your letters

The Queen's coffin

To the Editor

In June's Newsletter there was an article referring to the time that The Lee featured in the rehearsals for the Queen's coronation. The Lee's link with HM The Queen came full circle with her funeral.

Her coffin, made of fine English oak lined with lead, has a close association with our community.

In the late 80s I chaired the Flower Show committee. At one of our

meetings in Lee Common School one evening one of the members, Michael Kenyon, was late and full of apologies. He claimed to have a very good reason for his tardiness. He had been at Windsor Castle “measuring up The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh for their coffins”. This wasn’t the only time he was late for our meetings, as on another occasion the delay was due to his having been “laying out the Duchess of Windsor”.

At this time JH Kenyon were the Royal Family’s undertakers. Michael, who lived with his wife Anne, at Hedgesparrow Cottage in Potter Row, was the managing director of the family business and it fell to him to undertake this task.

He was naturally circumspect about the occasion although he did reveal that it was far from solemn due to the Duke’s humour and pithy observations.

Following the visit, Kenyon’s commissioned both coffins. When JH Kenyon were acquired by another firm of undertakers, the coffins were passed on to the next company which became the royal undertakers.

Phil Harrison
Lee Common

Speed and noise

To the Editor

It seems from the September Newsletter that we do not have much hope of getting a speed restriction sign in Rocky Lane; this is extremely disappointing. Believe me, with all due respect to other local people, if you lived where we do in Rocky Lane, you would be glad that if it could have been closed for longer, despite the inconvenience to us all.

For ages now the speed of vehicles driving past our house has been quite terrifying most of the time. The area of which I speak is a 30 mph area, only a short stretch as it goes through Kings Ash. For some unbelievable reason, most of the drivers coming from the Chesham end think that is alright to do at least 50 mph once they have passed the tight bend just near Kings Lane. The amount of traffic has increased horrendously since the advent of satnav, and the number of huge lorries passing our house has continued to rise for the last few years. How on earth they get up the lower bends nearer to the A413, I can’t imagine.

The pleasure of sitting in our garden, without constant traffic noise, has gone. Instead, we are treated to a continuous flow of speeding passenger vehicles or lorries. When Rocky Lane was closed earlier, the peace and quiet was wonderful, despite the fact that we had to go the long way round to meet the A413.

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I can't believe that installation of what I guess would be a solar panelled warning sign would be £10,000 or more. No wonder we won't get one. It's worth noting that when I did a speed check way back in 2010, most of the vehicles were over the speed limit and visibly slowed down when the sign flashed a warning.

I live in hope!

Sandra Nuseibeh

Rocky Lane

BATs in danger

By Sophie Underwood

It is a well-known fact that Ballinger's 'Babies and Toddlers' group (BATs) has been running for decades. It has had its peaks and troughs but has seen many a sleep deprived parent, a helpful grandparent or guardian, or a dedicated nanny through the highs and lows of looking after babies and pre-school aged children. Armed with a hot drink and child-friendly snacks, lasting friendships have been formed here, for adults and infants alike.

The group currently meets between 9:30 am and 11:30 am on Tuesdays (Buckinghamshire term-times only) at the Memorial Hall in Ballinger. There is a range of toys on offer and we have a group nursery rhyme sing-song in the last 15 minutes. Following the trials of Covid restrictions and lockdowns, BATs reformed in September 2021 and has had a happy and rewarding year. Toddlers grow up however, and now many of the children, whose mothers could once help out, have left for pre-school or the call of paid employment has banged on the door. This has left BATs with a distinct shortage of adults to set-up and clear away. Sadly

without more help, BATs will not be tenable and will have to close again.

We currently have two mothers who can each arrive earlier than 9:30 am, lay out the toys, chairs and assemble the hot drinks, and ensure the Memorial Hall is locked up correctly at the end of the session. We need an extra pair of hands or two to cover the other days in the month. Even if you can only commit to one week per term-time month, this would be a great help so please get in touch. Again, even if you can't make it until 9:30 am, we can always set up as people arrive. If you think you could help in some way or know someone who could, then please contact me at sophiepw@gmail.com or text on 07970 022190.

Thank you from the BATs team.

Tea time

By Claire Wise

Having described how wonderful it is when a team comes together and magically makes the Flower Show Tea Tent appear, we are now looking for new recruits, as the current fairies have decided to hang up their wands.

The team does not need any previous experience, they just need some fairy dust and to be able to follow the guidelines that have been very helpfully put together in a folder. The Tea Tent is a well-oiled machine, so we just need some enthusiastic, lovely ladies and gents to make it happen next year.

Please contact me via email on Claire@leecommon.com and I will happily explain what the team usually does (but you can always change it).

Fairy wings can also be handed over.



A tribute fit for the Queen

By Philip Harrison

In the community we have tributes to previous royal milestones. The well in Lee Common celebrates Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, whilst the playground and football pitch are part of the 'Playing Fields in Trust' scheme to commemorate the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Last month, in the newsletter editorial, I posed the question, "What do we as a community feel about something to commemorate the astonishing history making achievement of a Platinum Jubilee?"

I followed this up with a short questionnaire on The Lee Forum. I am aware that not everyone is signed up

to the forum and that, consequently, the views of the community are not fully reflected.

The survey's purpose was to see if there was a desire to have some form of tribute; if so, what form that tribute could take. I also wanted to determine if there was a willingness to contribute to the cost of the tribute; previous tributes were funded by 'public subscription'.

The death of The Queen has made this more poignant and relevant. The responses increased significantly following her death as the desire to have something to honour her grew.

The copy date for the newsletter was before the survey was complete. However, I have analysed the early responses to give you a flavour of the opinions. Over 20% of people who could respond did so, compared to 17% for the Jubilee celebrations.

Q1 asked if there was support for the idea of having a tribute.

98% who responded said yes, 2% said no.

Q2 asked what type of tribute people favoured based on a list. The list put forward was:

Plant trees (45.3%)

A stained-glass window (45.3%)

A metalwork sculpture (37.5%)

Jubi-Lee church gates (42.2%)

Other ideas (9.4%) (see later)

Q4 asked if a financial contribution would be forthcoming. 92% said they were prepared to make a contribution with 8% declining. Contributions would range from £10 to £500.

Positive ideas

Suggestions and comments were all positive and included creating a Jubi-Lee wood or orchard; having a QEII parish archive to store and exhibit parish records, memorabilia and photos; erecting a plaque (similar



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in concept to the Blue Plaques in London); a gravel and hedge maze at the allotments with a sundial, wind turbine and more adult/child seating or alternatively a garden/picnic area within the playground created with earth mounds, trees and bushes and low wooden benches aiming for something that is low maintenance but softer than the current area. There was a suggestion that the tribute be located somewhere in the parish other than The Lee or Lee Common. There was a suggestion that an ornamental village sign was created that could be located on green at The Lee or maybe around the parish.

Finally, there were comments about having a tribute that was accessible, forming part of local history so having longevity.

As to next steps, I will have a conversation with the Parish Council, the Church and Bucks Council to determine what funding and options might be possible.

Following this there would be a communication to each household with a view to a public meeting to try and reach agreement on what we do, how we finance it and what governance we need to put around it to ensure it happens as desired.

If you have questions or couldn't do the survey, please email me at pvh1952@gmail.com or ring 837469.

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Conversations with the King

By Peter Macann

In the 1980s I had the pleasure of getting to know – at least a little bit – The Prince of Wales, now our new King. It was during my time of presenting Tomorrow's World when the Prince agreed to put his name to what became 'The Prince of Wales Award for Innovation and Production'.

This required us to record a special programme, set in the garden at Highgrove, where the presenters explained the workings of the gadgets followed by the Prince talking to the inventors. In the early years there were just a couple of us presenters involved and the part of the day that I looked

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forward to most was our lunch breaks when I, a fellow presenter and our boss (the editor) were invited to a sandwich lunch with the Prince either in the drawing room or out on the terrace.

The Prince always put us totally at ease and amidst far reaching conversations about world politics and some disturbing stories about how he was treated by the media at the time, he also entertained us with many an amusing tale. One had my jaw dropping as he related how, when doing his Naval service, his fellow officers, unbeknown to him, thought that he needed some insight into the seedier side of Portsmouth life. To ensure he could be incognito they provided him with a full disguise – beard and all – and dragged him, reluctantly, ashore going first to a house of ill repute. But as his fellow officers led him inside the door, the

Grand Madame came down the stairs and instantly seeing through the disguise cried out in horror, “Oh my gawd... it’s Prince Charles”. “Needless to say,” the Prince added, “one had to beat a hasty retreat”.

He was also aware of his public image. He said, “It seems that people think I cannot even leave my house without checking on my future with a clairvoyant. This is absolute nonsense. I don’t have a clairvoyant and I do not believe in them.” There was a short pause, and then with a wicked smile he added, “...mind you, I DO talk to my flowers!” Just in that comment it was clear to me that while understandably resenting the false images that have been put around about him, he could also laugh at his own idiosyncrasies.

Warm and interesting

In my several experiences in his company he was always very warm, ready to laugh and ready to appear a complete equal in your presence. He was simply an interesting and amusing companion. More than that, I also have a lot to thank him for because a few years later, I was producing the official tourist video history of St Paul’s Cathedral. I immediately thought that it would be a great selling point if I could get His Royal Highness to do a short introduction to the programme. When I wrote to his office, he did not hesitate to agree, so I set about writing a script for him and submitting it for the royal approval – which duly came. But in the interim before the actual production day, I thought of a few extra ideas and re-wrote some of it.

When we arrived on the day, I told his Personal Assistant that I had made a few changes to which she replied curtly that any changes were out of the question. He would only do what had already been approved. At this point I



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must admit to a certain subterfuge. I placed the new (augmented) script on the seat we had set up for him. When he came in and was about to sit down, he picked up the script and asked what it was. I apologised and said that it was actually a slightly extended version of the script he had been sent because I wanted to add in some important extra details... but I quite understood that he might not want to make changes at this late stage. He immediately asked me to show him the changes and then agreed to do the whole piece which he delivered like a true professional!

As we have seen recently, he is so good at communicating on camera. In fact, after one of our Tomorrow's World programmes, a national newspaper jokingly suggested that perhaps the BBC should find him a permanent job on the presenter team! Next time I saw him I told him this; he grinned and muttered "Ah well... come the revolution!"

Roving Supper

By Pat Lea

This year we will hold the Roving Supper on 19th November starting at the Parish Hall at 7:30 pm. The programme will be drinks and canapés, followed by dinner at one of the host houses, finishing with dessert and drinks back at the Hall. Our great need for this event to take place is to have sufficient hosts for the main course. We also require volunteers for canapes and desserts.

The cost will be £25 per head either by cash or cheque. There will also be a raffle so bring lots of cash!!

Please contact Pat Lea on 837237.

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Bonfire night

By Pat Lea

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

Please come along to the event and support what is always an enjoyable family occasion.

Newsletter Dinner 2022

By the Newsletter Editorial Team

Invitations are now being sent out to the Newsletter (Annual) Dinner to those who have contributed to its success this year.

The dinner is taking place on the evening of Friday 9th December and tickets cost £30.00. Please reply promptly as to whether you are able/wish to attend.

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Meet and greet



Avital new member of our community has joined us... Tina Nowell is the interim headteacher who has just arrived at Lee Common and she has been given a warm and friendly welcome by the whole community.



Tina Nowell

This is Tina's sixth headship and she is accustomed to supporting a wide variety of schools in Nanny McPhee style, setting them back on their feet when they get into difficult times. Her schools have included pre-schools and nurseries, small village church schools and much larger three/four form entry primary schools and she has worked across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Surrey. Tina travels to the school from Surrey, where she lives with her family. Education is her passion and her joy and she is looking forward to working with the strong staff team at Lee Common.

Whilst a well-resourced and spacious school with extensive grounds, Lee Common provides a small, friendly, nurturing environment for its children which allows staff to cater for the needs of every child. But as a small school, they are grateful for all the support they can get. One of Tina's hopes for the school this year is to further strengthen its links with the local community. Several events have already been planned with the Church, including a Harvest Celebration, a Remembrance event and Christmas carol singing. Tina is keen to set up an 'Open the Book' team to come and share assemblies with the children. This involves a group from the local community acting out stories from the bible for the children. If you are creative, or a budding thespian, please do make contact.

Tina is also hoping to set up further links with local businesses and other members of the local community. As a



small school, they are always keen to engage support, both physical and financial. One way you can help is to save your old shoes and clothing and put them into the clothes collection box outside the school. Perhaps you could listen to children read, do a bit of gardening or offer some carpentry or painting skills? If you think you could help in any way and would like to volunteer some of your time, please do make contact with the school office.

Farming in the Chilterns: Pt 1

By the Newsletter Editorial Team

Readers will not need reminding that we live in a farming area, with over 90% of the land given over to agriculture or farmed woodland. All residents benefit directly and indirectly from this environment, but what do we know of the business and the challenges of farming today?

This month we start a new series of articles, in conversation with local farmers and landowners. We begin with Richard Stewart-Liberty, who oversees the management of the Stewart-Liberty Estate, focussing on a key issue of arable farming.

Part 1: Soil regeneration

Q: Richard, can we start with some idea of how much land is owned by the S-L estate today?

RS-L: In total around 1,300 acres, which is in fact a small increase on the size at the time of my grandfather's death in 1952.

Q: And how is that managed?

RS-L: Around 400 acres are tenanted and 100 acres of grazing

pasture are leased out. The rest – around 400 acres of woodland and 350 acres of arable – are directly managed.

Q: So, looking at the arable side of your business, what are the main challenges facing you today?

RS-L: I have to emphasise that I'm on a steep learning curve here, with Chris Ruttle, a wonderful farm manager, acting as my 'consigliere'. *[A trusted adviser. Ed.]*

It seems to me that the key factor in arable farming today is the regeneration of the soil. The entire EU system of subsidy was slanted towards land ownership, not husbandry. It was said by Michael Gove, when he was at Defra four years ago, that UK soil had 40 years productivity remaining. Well, that's now down to 36 years.

Q: But surely Defra also insists on good agricultural practice, which includes soil management?

RS-L: Yes, but by not putting enough emphasis of land husbandry, we have depleted our soil of essential nutrients. Our soil during this summer's drought was turning to dust in front of our eyes. For me, this is the only issue, long term soil health for the purpose of growing more food.



Q: So how do you achieve that?

RS-L: By paying more attention to the five aspects of soil health:

- **Protect the surface**, to prevent erosion through wind and flood. Up to a point we able to do this. We sow winter crops, or cover crops for sheep grazing, prior to drilling for spring crops.
- **Build diversity**, because monoculture causes reductions in yield. This autumn as well as wheat and barley, we will plant winter beans and a Brassica Express cover crop. We are trying linseed in the spring. This will reduce the chemical requirement and hopefully discourage 'black grass'.
- **Minimal disturbance** because this destroys organic matter; however, our soil does not easily take to direct drilling.

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- **Integrate animals.** Grazing and all the other stuff that goes with animals helps soil. Sheep only graze a proportion of our arable; hence our need for added compost.

Q: So, what options do you have for soil improvement?

RS-L: We no longer have farm manure ourselves to spread, although we do take back some 'manured straw'. So, we have to buy-in compost, which this year comprised a mix of mainly local authority green waste, some food waste and some animal manure from, amongst others, the Household Cavalry and Marwell Zoo.

Q: I understand that with the right controls UK farmers can also use human waste as fertiliser and have done so for decades. Is this in your plans?

RS-L: It's not in our current plans, although it has been used by others in the past in the parish. I would not rule it out for us in the future.

Q: The smell of this year's compost has of course been a concern to some residents. Any further comments?

RS-L: This year we have spread a lot of compost (although we did accidentally omit to spread it on the field behind my house!). We have spread a lot and the smell has been 'enhanced' by the extreme heat and dry weather. It's unfortunate, but, as I say, our job is to grow more food.

Q: So, what benefits do you expect to see from your current programme of soil regeneration?

RS-L: Subject to availability and price we intend to continue with the application of compost in our quest to

regenerate our soil and grow more food. However, next year we will probably spread less (except behind my house!).

This year we have grown wheat for 650,000 loaves of bread. Next year with the benefit of the compost perhaps 750,000.



Q: Thank you, Richard. We will watch your crops grow with renewed interest and understanding.

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Bridge too far?

By Kathryn Dickinson et al

Deals in which the points are evenly distributed between the pairs often do not lead to a game contract, but they do sometimes lead to competitive bidding.

♠ Q 8
♥ A 9 7 3 2
♦ A
♣ K J 8 7 5

♠ K 9 7 6 5
♥ J 4
♦ K 10
♣ A 9 6 4

♠ A J 4 2
♥ K 8 5
♦ 9 8 7 6
♣ 10 3

♠ 10 3
♥ Q 10 6
♦ Q J 5 4 3 2
♣ Q 2

Dealer: North
Vulnerability: Both

At our table, the bidding started with North opening 1♥, Who do you think won the contract, and did they make it? See page 20.

Their Finest Hour

Digital archiving: preserving and sharing family memories of WW2

By John Ford

Back in February 2019 the village took part in a digital archiving session called *Lest We Forget*. Originally a commemoration of the Armistice, it was part of a National Lottery funded and Oxford University sponsored

project to collect, record and digitally archive artefacts from the First World War. We had a great turn out in the village, with many interesting stories and photographs which are available to see online at <http://lwf.it.ox.ac.uk/s/lest-we-forget/item-set/3685>

This was an excellent opportunity to record family memories which might have otherwise been lost, and a fascinating exercise in documenting local social history.

The university has now sourced National Lottery funding to undertake a similar programme relating to the Second World War, the project echoes the spirit of the time and has been named *Their Finest Hour*. There is an element of urgency here because these stories and objects of the men, women, and children who were part of the 1939-1945 generation are gradually disappearing.

Similar to the last event in 2019 anyone locally is encouraged to bring along stories, memories, photographs, diaries, letters, and any other mementos from the period to be digitised (i.e., photographed) and uploaded to an online archive for everyone to see. This could be from the home front, the land army or service overseas.

Volunteers needed

The recording process will be similar to last time with volunteers sitting down with the presenters of their collections and recording their stories. A specialist archivist from the university will attend who will undertake the photography, the scanning and uploading the documents onto a database.

Last time many participants doubled up as both presenters and

collectors. It is fascinating to hear other people's family histories. Some training is available, but all that is really required is being a good listener, having an eye for detail, and a curiosity about the past. More information on the project can be found here <https://lwf2.web.ox.ac.uk/home>

The collection day will take place on a Saturday in early 2023. I have already received expressions of interest from a number of people in the locality who have collections of photographs and memorabilia. Some of the most impressive and moving presentations last time were simply recollections of family memories, sometimes second or third hand.

At this stage if anyone has any collections that they would like to present for archiving or would like to volunteer to help with the collecting and recording, this will help in the organisation of the event.

Please let me know by emailing john.ford35@btinternet.com

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Coming together



By Revd Chris Haywood

Following so closely on from the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, where the community came together to celebrate joyously, it was with great sadness that we learned of her death so soon afterwards.

The church's first response was to initiate an hour long bell ringing vigil, both on the evening of her passing in the New Church, and the next day at noon in the Old Church. I was grateful for the assistance from those of you that joined me and for the solidarity in marking this monumental occasion in our nation's history.

We also conducted a ceremony lowering the St George flag to half-

mast at the church and of course joined in the Proclamation ceremony at the War Memorial. The New Church, as ever, was left open as a space for reflection and prayer.

Passing of an era

On the first Sunday after the death of our Sovereign we gathered for our church services, which of course reflected the mood of the general times we are living through and the public mood of the day, incorporating commemorative elements as we grieved the loss of our Queen and marked the accession of our King, concluding of course with the national anthem. There was an opportunity to sign a book of condolence and light a candle.

There was a real sense of us coming together in our loss to commemorate the Queen's death and the passing of an era, to support and comfort one another in our grief, to offer prayers, seek God's guidance and reassurance and to enter into worship with our comforting and sustaining God.

Our prayer was:

*God of love,
We thank you for the life of The Queen,
for her service to our nation,
and for her faith in you.
Be close to all of us who mourn,
And speak to us through your word
that we may we find comfort and hope in your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Our theme was our sense of loss and the debt of love that we owe for the Queen's service and for God

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searching for us in our loss as a shepherd searches for a lost sheep.

The following Sunday, on the eve of the Queen's funeral, we gathered to hold a specific service of commemoration. Our theme the Queen's duty and sacrifice which was modelled on her faith in Jesus and his obedience to His father's will.

These were moving and meaningful occasions which the church was privileged to hold as a service and opportunity for our community.

All God's gifts around us

As we look ahead to October we are eagerly anticipating Harvest Festival, thanking God for all his goodness to us. On Sunday 2nd October the Family Service at 11.00 am will reflect a Harvest theme with crafts and activities and engaging worship. On Sunday 16th October 2022 in the evening at 7.00 pm we will conduct the Parish Harvest Festival service, with an invitation to come on afterwards to the Vicarage for a social gathering over cheese and wine... as our friend commented who was staying with us last year, "So much cheese!"

Sunday 30th October is a fifth Sunday in the month, so we gather for a United Benefices service at Hawridge church, where the Associate Archdeacon Chris Bull will speak for us.

We also have a guest speaker on Sunday 23rd October when Michelle Fotherby, a trainee vicar (Ordinand) will speak for us. She spoke excellently when she last joined us for worship. so please do come and support her and hear what she has to share with us again.

With prayers and best wishes.

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HS2 update

By Cllr Colin Sully

Signs of the times



In August, EKFB finally put up “No HS2 traffic” signs at the bottom of Leather Lane and, above their works, on Rocky Lane. Also introduced in August, were additional signs on all the footpaths from Kings Lane towards the line, reminding walkers which footpaths are closed, and which are open. These footpath signs are temporary and will be upgraded in due course to stronger materials.

A413 London Road

The project is now seeking permission from Buckinghamshire Council (BC) for a full weekend closure (Friday evening to Monday morning) on the A413 at London Road, Wendover in late October / early November. This is to allow them to re-align utilities passing under the A413, in preparation for the eventual re-alignment of the A413 itself. This is to accommodate the Small Dean Viaduct, which will cross both the A413 and the Chiltern Line at this point.

Councillors from The Lee and other local councils have pointed out the impact a full weekend closure will

have on businesses as well as residents. The alternative seems to be a great many more night-time closures. We have also asked for a better indication of the longer-term impacts of road closures, during the construction of this viaduct.

Assuming these closures are eventually approved by BC, details will be posted to The Lee Forum.

Trial A413 abnormal load

On the evening of Wednesday 27th September, HS2 were planning to bring a trial abnormal load into the North Portal at Great Missenden. A very long vehicle (+30m) was due to travel from the M25 at Denham up the A413 to Great Missenden. Some temporary traffic management was required along the route, particularly at the railway bridge at Deep Mill Lane and at the Great Missenden roundabouts. The vehicle was ‘collapsible’ in case of any difficulties.

The trial will then be reviewed by HS2 and BC to assess the safety implications, before HS2 bring around 100 long sections of steel / concrete along this route for local viaducts and bridges over a period of two to three years, starting in November 2022.

Watch these spaces

At the time of writing, we await the outcome of the reviews of the design of the Leather Lane overbridge (being reviewed for ecological reasons) and Bowood Lane overbridge (sent back by BC to reduce the size and impact of the bridge and now being appealed by HS2).

We also await the outcome of the review of the method of working for piling next to Rocky Lane, which we hope will reduce the need for many more closures through the winter.

Is it worth complaining?

Residents are 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/

St Mary's - a history

By Anne Ellis

In preparation for our special anniversary next year we will be producing a booklet detailing the history of St Mary's and its locale.

With that in mind, if you have any interesting snippets of information about St Mary's please contact me at anne.ellis1004@gmail.com

Chiltern Ridges News

By Cllr Patricia Birchley,
Buckinghamshire Council

You will have doubtless read in the national press that Buckinghamshire had the second highest rate of top grades at GCSE this summer, second only to Rutland. Our schools beat Surrey, another top performer, although like most other counties we were down from 38.8% last year (teacher assessments) to 35.8% this year. This is a fantastic achievement by our young people and their excellent teachers and we congratulate them all. The County had good IT systems in place at the start of the Covid



pandemic and many schools were able to teach their normal timetable online. I know that Chiltern Hills Academy worked extremely hard to ensure everyone received their lessons and returned their homework!

On Thursday 1st September I attended the Bucks County Show in my role as Vice-Chairman of the Council. It was an opportunity to meet many of the voluntary organisations, local produce makers, the Hunt and many organisations that support the biggest single day show in England. It was a perfect day for the show, not too hot, although the ground was very hard for the many horses. The other main attractions were the Band of the Irish Guards and a motor cycle team. I enjoyed the judging of Hereford cattle, sheep and the flower tent. Most importantly it was good to meet residents of The Lee at the show.

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Did you know that Bucks Business First delivers one of the top five performing Growth Hubs in the country, has helped create thousands of new jobs in the County and the businesses they engage with employ 70% of the private sector workforce in Bucks? You may also be interested in the claimant statistics which were 5,540 in March 2020, 15,460 in September 2020 and 8,790 in July 2022. 51,961 jobs were posted in the County between January and July 2022, which is a 31% increase over the same period last year in Bucks and 53% in England as a whole. BBF support to local companies includes a telephone hotline, online business support, bespoke intellectual property guidance, collaboration through networks and partnerships and mentoring with growth champions.

Pippa Hart Photography



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Not surprisingly Bucks claims to be the entrepreneurial county of England!

On behalf of Cllr Jane MacBean and myself, we thank the present and past Parish Chairs, Ruth and Colin, for their continued efforts to hold HS2 to account and the fantastic amount of work they do on our behalf to scrutinise their movements and keep the local roads open.

Please let me know if I can raise your concerns with officers at County Hall.
Patricia.Birchley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
07714 704017.

Forum Fred & Freda



Forum drop-in

It's been some time since we held a drop in to help people use the forum – something about a pandemic – but one will be held between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm on Sunday 9th October at Blacksmith Cottage, Swan Bottom (at the cross-roads).

Whether you've been thinking of joining the forum but aren't sure if/how to join, you are already a member but would like some help to tweak your notification settings, or you would like to post a message but aren't sure how to go about it... this is your opportunity to ask all your questions.

Please remember to bring along the device on which you usually access the forum and, particularly if you use Hotmail or BT internet email, also make sure you have the password to your email account as it may be needed.

Appointments aren't necessary, but it would be very helpful if you could let us know in advance when you

expect to drop in (2:00-2:30 pm, 2:30-3:00 pm, 3:00-3:30 pm or 3:30-4:00 pm) by emailing admin@thelee.org.uk – we want to make sure that not everyone arrives at the same time. An indication of your area of concern would also be very useful, as it may be possible to group two or three people together to discuss a particular topic.

Here we go again...

By Symeon Economou

A couple of weeks ago I had a call from Rita Sully – could we meet with Ruth to discuss Christmas? – Christmas! And it wasn't even the end of August! So here we go again.

The subject for discussion was our Christmas Eve online ordering system, so ably masterminded by Ruth. Although this will be the 6th or 7th year we have offered this service I was surprised to realise that the selection of produce, almost all local, numbers over 150 items. Also, in recent years, we have completed over 60 orders. This is testament to the amazing, tireless, selfless army of volunteers, without whom something on this scale would be impossible.

Clearly all of this is a plug for Shop at The Lee. Nearer the time you will be able to order everything you are likely to need, foodwise at least, over the festive period. Available is the whole spectrum of butchery from Kings Farm Shop, including turkeys and all other poultry, fresh fruit and veg from Chesham market, dairy products from Martin The Milkman, and bread, rolls, etc, from the generic High Wycombe bakery as well as the excellent artisan

bread and baguettes from Culture Bakery in Tring. Plus, other bits and pieces which have become standard fare in our shop. Plus, anything we have left off that you would like us to supply. In most cases the prices are the same or very close to those you would pay at source.

So please keep an eye out for our notices and please think about entrusting us with your Christmas shopping. Of course, before all of this we, once again, will be holding our Christmas Food and Gift Fair in the Parish Hall on Saturday 12th November. Katie has been buying all manner of good stuff since June to make sure we have our usual eclectic range of goods. This event has been growing yearly as customers have realised we can relieve much of the anguish of Christmas shopping.

Shop at The Lee



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Tel: 01494 837195
shop@thelee.org.uk

Knowing-Lee

By the Newsletter Editorial Team

New to the newsletter last month was an opportunity to discover more about the community and its history. Each month we pose three questions, the answers to which can be discovered on The Lee website www.thelee.org.uk

The website is rich in information. We hope this will encourage you to look at it and explore its various pages seeking the answers. So as not to leave you frustrated the answers will be in the following month's newsletter.

The first three questions in September's edition were:

- What was the Latin name for The Lee in the records of Missenden Abbey? **Answer – “de la leia”**
- Long before the Old Church was built what was the site occupied by and how big was the site? **Answer – A prehistoric fort covering approx. seven acres, shaped like a pear and surrounded by a rampart.**
- How much was the first recorded priest, Canon John Slyhurst paid? **Answer – £8 per annum**

This month's questions are:

- Who bought the last two wooden hulks from the Royal Navy in 1926 and why?
- What was the increase in the number of households in the parish between the census in 2001 and 2011?
- How many gallons of beer were budgeted for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations on 22nd June 1897?

To find the answers go to www.thelee.org.uk Click on Village History at the top of the page. The list that drops down has several options.

Choose an option that you think is most relevant to the question and see if you can find the answer.

Bridge too far?

Should South bid 1NT or 2♥? Should West come in with 2♠? At our table, West decided to compete, as South was clearly weak:

| N | E | S | W |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1♥ | pass | 2♥ | 2♠ |
| pass | 3♠ | pass | pass |
| pass | | | |

North led the A♦ and East made exactly nine tricks.

Scam warning

Information sent on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch

Scammers are using the cost of living crisis to target households. They are sending text messages and emails that appear to be from the energy regulator, Ofgem. The message invites you to apply for your £400 rebate and instructs you to follow a link to a fake Ofgem website to then provide personal details and set up a direct debit to receive the rebate. But it's all a lie. For most people the discount will be applied to your energy bill automatically – there's absolutely no need to apply.

Should you have an older prepayment meter, you will get energy bill discount vouchers sent you in the first week of each month from October – via SMS text, email or post – that you will then need to redeem at your usual top-up point.

In all cases, no household should be asked for bank details at any point.

Ukrainian catch up

By Jacqui Kean

The story so far...

Following the invasion of Ukraine in February this year many local families decided to sponsor Ukrainians, welcoming them into their homes through the Family and Homes for Ukraine Schemes.

Our Ukrainian friends arrived with very few possessions, limited English and little knowledge of life in the UK. A group of hosts, led by Sarah Graham and supported by Chloe Lewis, recognised that there was a need for significant practical support in the shorter term, with the aim of empowering Ukrainian guests in the long term. They saw that a co-ordinated community response would benefit both guests and hosts and, in short order, set up Hilltop Ukrainian Support Community (HUSC). The agreed purpose of HUSC is to help Ukrainian people escaping from conflict to settle in the Chilterns in the most welcoming and empowering way possible.

The community responded generously, volunteering their time and expertise to tackle the significant challenges that faced our Ukrainian guests and their hosts. This included help with visas, applications for universal credit, registration of children in local schools, setting up and managing safeguarding, provision of clothing, opportunities for guests to socialise with one another, access to English lessons, help with CVs and job applications and access to lifts from volunteer drivers in an area with limited public transport.

Currently HUSC comprises 39 host families, 96 guests and more than 150

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volunteers (60 of whom are drivers) who have supported over 200 Ukrainian people over the last few months. To give a flavour of our activity to date:

- Provision of welcome packs for all guests
- Setting up a shop, sourcing donations and providing clothes to fit guests' requirements
- Sourcing and providing bikes and helmets and setting up cycling awareness courses
- Setting up and managing a pool of 60 volunteer drivers
- Setting up a group offering English conversation sessions
- Setting up intensive summer English lessons for adults and other English lessons for children
- Setting up employment group helping guests with CVs and finding jobs
- Hosting a weekly coffee morning

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and regular Ukrainian dinner evenings (attended by more than 50 guests)

- Developing a HUSC website
- A calendar of summer events including HUSC stall and meet ups at The Lee Flower Show and Lee Church, trips to Cambridge and Oxford/Stratford upon Avon, a picnic at Bassibones, two 'Stay and Play' events, bowling and lunch for children
- Engagement with Lighthouse and local summer camps to ensure children had care/activities over the summer.

Our guests are very grateful for the support they have had, they feel part of the community, many of them have found work and their children are settling into local schools.

What happens next?

As we approach the end of the first six months of hosting, both guests and hosts are now looking to the future and the focus is on enabling our guests to become more independent.

Many guests are keen to make a life for themselves and to stay in the community, so we continue to focus on English lessons, job opportunities and CVs and our biggest challenge, which is housing. We have a HUSC Housing Group looking at long term options. In the immediate term some original hosts are able to continue hosting, but others need to pass the baton to a new group of hosts in the community.

Hosting for a second wave of sponsors should be less intensive as it's now about providing accommodation and less about practical support. The initial paperwork and admin has been done: our Ukrainian guests already have residency permits, national insurance numbers, bank accounts,

access to benefits, places at schools, doctors and dentists etc. They are actively attending English classes and, as their English has improved, they can do things for themselves.

If you would like to find out more about hosting or if you know someone who may be, please get in touch. If you know of any landlords who may have available rental properties we'd love to hear from you. We are also looking for volunteers who have employment experience and could help our guests with CVs, job applications and interview preparation. Contact HUSC on huscchilterns@gmail.com.

With heartfelt thanks to all of those in our community who have helped to provide a safe haven for our Ukrainian friends.

The Lee Parish Council update

By Ruth Fowler

Chair, The Lee Parish Council
HM Queen Elizabeth II

Many words have been written and tributes paid to HM Queen Elizabeth, not only in the UK but throughout the world.

The Lee Parish Council (TLPC) arranged a well-attended ceremony of remembrance to enable residents to come together to mark her passing; sadly I was unable to attend, but would like to thank the Clerk, Hayley Farrelly, Vice-Chair Cllr Colin Sully and Revd Chris Haywood for organising such an appropriate tribute.

Details of the ceremony can be found at <https://www.thelee.org.uk/geii-remembrance/>



Remembering HM Queen Elizabeth II

New ward boundaries for Buckinghamshire Council

TLPC intends to respond to the Boundary Commission for England's proposals for changes to the electoral wards for Buckinghamshire Council. In essence our response will be that, whilst not ideal, the proposal meets



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almost all of our requirements and is acceptable – and an improvement on the current situation. The full response will be posted on the website at www.thelee.org.uk/representation in late October.

Noxious odours

In late summer, TLPC received communications about bad smells emanating from farmyard compost/manure, and there was also a very lively discussion on this topic on the forum.

Farmers have always spread muck on the fields to fertilise them, but this year seems to have been particularly pungent. Whether this was due to the composition of the compost, the unusually high temperatures or the lack of rainfall – or possibly even a combination of all three – is impossible for TLPC to say and I'm sure many readers will have their own opinions.



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[See also interview with Richard Stewart-Liberty on page 9. Ed]

Buckinghamshire Council sets out within its Environmental Health mandate what kind of smells they can address but advises maintaining an odour diary in support of any formal complaint. They also strongly recommend discussion and mediation before taking a complaint any further. Further details can be found via the Council Services page on the village website at www.thelee.org.uk/council-services/#other or directly on the Bucks website at www.chiltern.gov.uk/odour

Website upgrades

As you know (see Knowing-Lee on page 20) the village website is a cornucopia of information, both useful

TEA

IN SUNDAY SCHOOLS PART OF TENT

CHILDREN,
4.15 to 4.45.

MOTHERS, TEACHERS & TICKET HOLDERS,
5.0 to 5.30.

IN PUBLIC PART OF TENT,
TEA WILL BE SERVED AT 1/- A HEAD,
4.0 to 5.30.

PUNCH AND JUDY

4.45. 5.45. 7.30.

6

From the 1922 Programme

and trivial. It has recently been further updated to include:

- A history of the Flower Show, at www.thelee.org.uk/the-lee-flower-show-a-history/. This explains the Flower Show's origins in 1893 as a picnic for the four local Sunday Schools, funded by public subscription, before becoming self-funding in 1922 and evolving into the joyous celebration it is today. It has been fascinating sifting through the old schedules to see what has changed – no more classes for wasp collection or knitted vests – and what has remained constant. Many thanks to Phil Harrison for his research and initiating this enhancement.



Hexagonal lamp in the New Church

- A greatly extended history of the New Church to be found at www.thelee.org.uk/history-of-st-john-the-baptist-church/, focusing on how the Liberty influence, and more specifically the design and manufacture of fittings in the store's workshops, has made it unique amongst village churches of its era, with

everything down to door handles being custom made. Many thanks to Charlotte Reynolds for her research and Pippa Hart for the photographs.

Planning applications

Finally, a reminder that the Parish Council continues to post notices to The Lee Forum, as we process 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 the Clerk at 07704 909324 or by email at clerk@thelee.org.uk. Such comments will be considered by the Parish Council when forming its own view and will be unattributed.



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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).

October

Tuesday 4th. **Ballinger BATS** meets in Ballinger War Memorial Hall every Tuesday, 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

Thursday 6th. **The Lee village walk**, 9:30 am on the green.

Friday 7th. **Coffee morning** at St Mary's, Ballinger, 10:30 am to 12:00 noon.

Sunday 9th. **The Lee Forum drop-in session** at Blacksmith Cottage, Swan Bottom (see page 18).

Thursday 13th. **The Lee Parish Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm in The Lee Old Church.

Friday 14th. **The Lee Old Church Trust**: The work of The Landmark Trust – a talk by Alastair Dick-Cleland. 7:30 pm.

Friday 21st. **Coffee morning** at St Mary's, Ballinger, 10:30 am to 12:00 noon.

Thursday 27th. **Arts Society**, Ballinger. See Arts Society website for details.

Church Services

St John the Baptist, The Lee

Sunday 2nd. **Holy Communion** (BCP) at the Old Church, 8:00 am.

Sunday 2nd. **Family / All Age** (CW) at the New Church, 11:00 am.

Sunday 9th. **Parish Communion** (CW) at the New Church, 11:00 am.

Sunday 16th. **Holy Communion** (BCP) at the Old Church, 8:00 am.

Sunday 16th. **Harvest Festival**, 7:00 pm.

Sunday 23rd. **Parish Communion** (CW) at the New Church, 11:00 am.

Sunday 30th. **United Benefices Communion** (CW) at St Mary's Church, Hawridge, 10:00 am.

St Mary's, Ballinger

Every Wednesday, **Coffee Morning** for our Ukrainian guests and their hosts, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Coming soon

Thursday 3rd November. **The Lee village walk**, 9:30 am on the green.

Saturday 5th November. **The Lee Bonfire and Fireworks**. See page 8.

Saturday 12th November. **Shop at The Lee Christmas Food and Gift Market**. See page 19.

Tuesday 15th November. **The Lee Parish Council Meeting**, 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

Saturday 19th November. **The Lee Roving Supper**. 7:30 pm. See page 7.

Sunday 4th December. **Fayrfax Consort at The Lee Old Church**.

Friday 9th December. **The Lee Newsletter Dinner**. The Lee Parish Hall. See page 8.

Thursday 15th December. 6:00 pm. **Santa to Lee Common and The Lee**, to be met at the green by The Occasional Carol Singers.

Directory of local contacts

Ballinger Babies and Toddlers Group

Sophie Underwood, 07970 022190

Ballinger Hall Horticultural Society

Chairperson: Katharine 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: Susanne 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.

Printed by Orbit Press: Chesham. 01494 778053.

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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hazlemere@wyeres.co.uk

High Wycombe
01494 451 300
wycombe@wyeres.co.uk

Prestwood
01494 868 000
prestwood@wyecountry.co.uk

Great Missenden
01494 868 000
missenden@wyecountry.co.uk

Naphill
01494 565 555
naphill@wyecountry.co.uk

Stokenchurch
01494 509 377
stokenchurch@wyeres.co.uk

Lettings High Wycombe
01494 358 358
lettings@wyeres.co.uk

Lettings Great Missenden
01494 864 225
lettings@wyecountry.co.uk

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