



NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Jonathan Batten

November is an interesting month; it's the eleventh and penultimate month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars, the fourth and last of four months to have a length of 30 days and the fifth and last of five months to have a length of fewer than 31 days.

Not that interesting but dig a little deeper; when we are celebrating with fireworks on Saturday 5th November it is Arbor Day in other parts of the world – they are planting trees when we are burning bonfires – we get around to the planting in National Tree Week at the end of November.

These are meaningless random offcuts you may say but, if you feel that during the last few weeks you can't see the wood for the trees, then do not despair; here in the newsletter we don't do media speculation of what might happen, but seldom does, we do news: reports and information on local events and people, past, present and future – what you need to know to get you through the month...

So cheer yourselves up and sing this song altogether:

*But Brian, you know what they say?
Some things in life are bad
They can really make you mad
Other things just make you swear and
curse*

*When you're chewing on life's gristle
Don't grumble, give a whistle
And this'll help things turn out for the
best*

*And
Always look on the bright side of life
Always look on the light side of life*

*If life seems jolly rotten (hoo-hoo)
There's something you've forgotten
(hoo-hoo)*

*And that's to laugh and smile and
dance and sing (hoo-hoo-hoo)*

*When you're feeling in the dumps (hoo-
-hoo)*

Don't be silly, chumps (hoo-hoo)

*Just purse your lips and whistle, that's
the thing (hoo-hoo)*

And

*Always look on the bright side of life
(Come on)*

Always look on the bright side of life

Please send your contributions for the December edition to the editor, Mary Godfrey, by 12th November, at theleeneewsletter@gmail.com

Your letters

Santa

To the Editor

Following his very successful visit to Lee Common and The Lee last December, Santa has been in touch to say he wants to come back this year.

He is currently planning his route and will let us know when he hopes to be travelling through. It is likely to be

around 15th December so worth making a note in your diary now.

Phil Harrison
Lee Common

Streets ahead

To the Editor

Thanks so much for the invite to the Newsletter Dinner; I would of course have loved to come but, once again, we will be away on the day and therefore have to send my apologies.

The Newsletter is clearly still streets ahead of most others I have seen – congratulations to the team.

Tony Rigby
Former Newsletter Treasurer

Ducks

To the Editor

Anyone walking around Lee Clump can't help but notice how low the water is in the pond; it has yet to recover its

pre-summer water level. In the meantime, the local ducks appear to have discovered the pond in our garden.

So much so that we regularly have anywhere between 20 and 50 ducks flying in either first thing in the morning or at the end of the day. No doubt the fact that we are putting out duck and geese pellets (that strangely have an oregano ingredient and smell) has something to do with it.



However, the fascinating thing to me is that they communicate there is food at this location, especially when they chatter away, pushing each other out of the way and try to remove the tail feathers of their mates as they compete for the food. Surely the better thing would be not to tell your mates!

Phil Harrison
Lee Common

[If the river was whiskey and I was a divin',

Baby I was a divin' duck

(Oh) If the river was whiskey and I was a divin' duck

I would dive on the bottom, baby I would never come up]

Homes for Ukraine

To the Editor

The initial six-month hosting period is coming to an end and many hosts are unable to continue hosting indefinitely.

Many of our Ukrainian guests are now employed, their children settled into local schools and we would like to try and help them stay in the local



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community. If you have any accommodation available or are able to host for up to six months please get in contact. It can be a hugely rewarding experience.

Could you offer a spare room at home?

Ukrainian families living in the Chilterns seek new hosts

Would you like to make a real difference to the lives of our Ukrainian guests? It can be hugely rewarding and sometimes even life changing. Some of the most resilient, brave women and children we've met now require new hosts with a stable, secure home in this local area.

Six months after the whole process began, you can now be part of the second wave of hosts covering up to the next 6 months. Our Ukrainian friends are highly skilled and need just a few more months to further improve their English so they can work and live independently in the UK.

This is how two current hosts describe their experiences:
"With the great local support networks we are proud that we have made a difference to one lovely family - giving them renewed hope for the future."

"We have been able to cushion the terrible situation facing our Ukrainian guests - and even share some of their joys and achievements."

Consider becoming a host today:

- Established community of hosts, volunteers and Ukrainian families
- Volunteer drivers to back up public transport
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It's a unique opportunity to be part of a richly rewarding experience, learn about a great culture, and make new friends.



To register your initial interest and find out more at a presentation evening, please contact us on 07494 427355 or email huscchilterns@gmail.com



It is an urgent situation with five families facing being homeless this month, so please do help to share this message.

Thanks to our community for their ongoing support in so many different ways.

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Conservational challenges

The work of The Landmark Trust

By Jon Swain

In mid-October, we all needed restoration of our spirits. The daily news was woeful, and some humour and a return to the standards of past times welcome.

Along came Alistair Dick-Cleland, Conservation Manager for The Landmark Trust, to amuse a capacity audience at the Old Church, with tales of follies, gatehouses, pele towers and ancient buildings often abandoned for years, with no love or affection, which would have disappeared. Instead, The Landmark Trust took them all on, and, astonishingly, using old plans and

records, restored them to at least as good as they were, and often better, but always sympathetically, ensuring their continued existence as eccentric landmarks throughout England, Wales and Scotland, and now into Italy as well.

All of these historically notable edifices, that would have been lost to the nation, are now available to stay in for restful breaks devoid of TV, Wi-Fi and accompanying hustle and bustle. One old dwelling in Wales, prior to The Landmark Trust's intervention, was accessed by its previous occupant by using a pair of stilts to cross a river...

Using projector, slides and a wonderfully enthusiastic style, Alistair brought back to life the stories of these often ancient piles, all of them intriguing, and leaving us marvelling at the artisan skills utilised to rebuild them.

Clavell Tower on the Dorset coast was dismantled and every stone labelled and packed into old Kodak crates, so that it could be moved back 25 metres from the crumbling cliff edge, it is now available for those walking the coastal path. All are filled with beautiful furniture and furnishings, and unusual layouts. A highlight was the restoration of Augustus Pugin's home, an unsung genius of prodigious talents in architecture and design, whose unseen influence pervades much of our beloved heritage buildings. Some of the projects have cost millions, yet you can stay for modest sums. How do they raise the funds? The Lottery, benefactors, donations etc. However they do it, thank goodness for them.

It was wonderful to have a crowd in a building that was saved before it reached the stage where The Landmark Trust intervenes, and brought home to us all how important it is to preserve the unusual buildings that dot our landscape. We came away dreaming of out of the ordinary stays



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in exquisite buildings. Our grateful thanks to Alistair for such a fun evening, full of insights and entertaining anecdotes.

Keep an eye out on the forum for upcoming events at the Old Church!
[See page 17. Ed]

Roving supper

By Pat Lea

A gentle reminder. Please could those people who have asked for tickets for the Roving Supper make payment of £25 per person, either by cash or cheque payable to 'The Lee Parish Hall'.

This is to make sure you are included, many thanks. If you need to call me I am on 01494 837237.

Christmas shopping

By Katie Michaelson-Yeates

Only a few days now until we open the Parish Hall doors to Shop at The Lee's Christmas Food and Gift Market 2022.

The market takes place on Saturday 12th November from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm. Each year we try to add new and exciting items but we will still have the 'usual suspects' – panettone, stollen, Christmas cakes, puds and mince pies, chocolates, liqueur bottled fruit, chutneys, crackers, gingerbread houses, honeycomb, baklava, children's choes and so much more such as Christmas ales and spirit gift packs. We haven't forgotten our best friends with dog and cat treats.

Everything essential for present wrapping, charity greetings cards, advent calendars and Christmas



crackers and napkins will be on offer, plus 'pop and slot' festive scenes, playing cards and pretty stationery – not to mention stocking filler gifts and beautiful decorations and plants.

Prices on many items are lower than the larger shops so come along and buy locally, enjoying easy and safe shopping at The Lee.



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Forest school fun at LCS

By Mrs Tina Nowell, Headteacher

We have been enjoying the last of the sunshine here at Lee Common CE School which has meant that our children could enjoy their weekly Forest School's activities all the more.

Our children never cease to amaze us with their wonderful creativity and imagination, and their time out in our meadow area each week gives them an ideal opportunity to let these both shine through.

As well as enjoying a good play in the mud, the children have created art from nature, built habitats and shelters, panned for treasure and made S'mores on their open fire by roasting marshmallows. They all come back in to school a little more tired and muddy, but very happy!



Lee Common CE School is a wonderful village infant school with so much to offer. If you have a child due to start school or nursery and you would like to come and see us in action, please book into our next open day on 16th November by calling our office on 01494 837267. We hope to see you soon!

Meet and greet the Marins

By Sara, Igor and Sasha Marin

This month we meet a young family who properly moved into our area after decamping from London temporarily during lockdown. They stayed!

Having just marked one year formally living in the Hilltop villages (two years if you count the 'couple of months' that we moved into Mum and Dad's that kept extending whilst we waited for Covid to 'pass'), it has been a time of reflection on how life has changed.

We are now fully settled in Swan Bottom, in a beautifully rural setting that is a far cry from the bustling streets of Woolwich Arsenal, in south east London, where we were before. It has certainly been a life change in a number of ways, not least because our first child was born at the start of this journey.

Having been connected to The Lee for close to 10 years now, when my parents moved here, it was an easy decision on where to pick to set-up our first family home. Not least for the free babysitting...

It was not a quick process, it took over nine months, more than 60 house viewings and several frazzled estate agents that could never find us the 'right thing' before we finally found the house for us – through the forum, without an agent.

Knife crime levels aside, the biggest change was moving from a flat where the only neighbour we knew was the crazy lady opposite, with the hairless cat that we'd go out of our way to avoid, to having a great community where you look forward to

going for those beautiful walks and seeing everyone along the way.

Our little road has a fantastic group of people who we genuinely look forward to seeing and socialising with. It is a great place to be.

More broadly, the community in the Hilltop Villages has to be its biggest selling point. This can be seen through the active social calendar and the drive of so many dedicated locals to put on special events for us all. This has included the fantastic Jubilee celebrations through to the success of the return of the Flower Show to name but a few. We also have the Roving Supper and Fireworks night ahead of us and many, many more options to bring the community together. Having such great people around, willing to put so much effort into creating an inclusive life for everyone, is what makes living here so special.

This community atmosphere has enabled us to make many friends here already, some of whom have children of a similar age ensuring the next generation are already forging their own community. The welcoming and kind environment has been great, including many offers of help to baby and puppy sit, although strangely more for the puppy than the baby...

Another highlight of living here over London has to be being able to take advantage of the endless trails, to squeeze a bike ride or a run in between conference calls, or for longer hikes at the weekend. The hardest adjustment to moving here, however, has to be the commute. Nearly two hours each way to get to the office over the 30 minutes we had before is definitely less appealing, however it is worth it to come home to views of forests and horses over pavements and rowdy locals.

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In the future, we are looking forward to our daughter being able to go to Lee Common School, where she can get out and about in their new forest school area – which she will love – before easily walking to Granny and Grandad’s for an after-school play. We love the idea of her being in an environment where they also instil a sense of community. Having watched the children’s May Day Parade, another true example of how this community works hard to bring everyone together, I am looking forward to our daughter being a part of this. However, if she ends up being tone deaf, I do apologise in advance for those of you who go to watch that year...

We had been a bit apprehensive about leaving the big city life behind, however it has been a decision we are exceptionally happy we made. We are now very settled and couldn’t think of a better place to call our home.

Exciting new bakery range

At Shop at The Lee we are pleased to report that the bread supply issues have been resolved and we can confidently announce the introduction of an excellent new range of bakery products from Jungs, a well established, versatile baker based in Beaconsfield.

The withdrawal of Darvells and the closure of Simply Bread and Zanni’s Bakery are clear indications that the supply and distribution of a low-priced basic bread range is not sufficiently profitable. The main reasons for this are the instability of raw material and energy prices and the scarcity of skilled master bakers.

We have been lucky to identify the particular strengths of Culture Bakery of Tring but their range is limited to their excellent rustic variants. Therefore, as well as the twice weekly supply from Culture Bakery, we need a supplier of a wider range which includes everyday loaves, rolls, etc.



Jungs Bakery (www.hpjungs.com) has a 30 year record of supplying businesses in the Thames Valley, and also has an excellent retail outlet in Beaconsfield. They produce a wide range of very high quality bread, rolls and pastries and are keen to develop a lasting supply relationship with Shop at The Lee.

Together with Jungs we have selected a list of products which we hope reflects customer demand and, at the same time, represents the superb range which Jungs produces. On a Saturday in the near future Jungs will set up a stall in the Parish Hall to showcase their full range.

It is our aim to establish Shop at The Lee as a destination for high quality bread, rolls and cakes and, to this end, we have substantially squeezed our margins to levels substantially lower than Jungs recommended retail prices.

We hope you will pay us a visit very soon!

Macmillan coffee

By Trish Swain

Once again, Pippa and I want to say a huge “thank you” to everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning held on 30th September.

It was amazing to have so much support, both in person and online. £237 covers the cost of a Macmillan Nurse for a day, so the £2,110 we raised on the day will go towards helping a number of people.



Interestingly, a third of the donations came in online. Gift aid declarations will boost the total further too.

A ‘Macmillion’ thank yous!

HS2 update

By Cllr Colin Sully

Whilst the press has recently been full of speculation as to whether the Government will cancel part or all of the HS2 project, work on building the railway locally continues... albeit, it seems at times, very slowly.

It is of course very unlikely that the section from London to Birmingham will now be cancelled, although it is possible that the specification for the track and the trains running on it will be changed, especially if they end up having to switch to conventional track and speeds beyond Birmingham / Crewe. InterCity 125 anyone?

Local review

In the meantime, many local construction activities seem to have

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been further delayed; these include:

- **Leather Lane overbridge**

The decision on the design and location of this overbridge is still to be resolved. We understand that HS2 aim to submit a plan to BC in January 2023. Campaigners are pressing for another meeting with HS2 before the plan is submitted.

- **Bowood Lane overbridge**

HS2's application for the design of this bridge was refused by Buckinghamshire Council (BC) who asked HS2 to reduce the size of the road carriageway on the bridge and improve the bridge's visual and ecological impact on the landscape. HS2 have appealed this decision to the Secretary of State, who will appoint a Planning Inspector to hear the appeal. The Lee Parish Council has submitted a letter to the Inspectorate, supporting the views of BC.



The future of Bowood Lane?

- **Conveyor over the A413**

The temporary conveyor to carry spoil over the A413 and Chiltern Line railway at London Road, should finally come into operation in November. It will then be run

during normal construction hours for the next two to three years.

- **A413 London Road closure**

The project has sought permission from BC for a full weekend closure to realign utilities passing under the A413. We now understand that, if approved, this work will not be until January 2023.

- **Rocky Lane piling work**

After hearing requests from The Lee Parish Council and others, HS2 have reviewed their proposed method of working next to Rocky Lane. They will now trial a method of traffic control that will keep the lane open during this piling work, which is now expected to commence in November 2022.

Community projects

The Lee Parish Council was successful early-on in securing HS2 Community Engagement Funding (CEF) to reconstruct the children's fort at the playground. We have since considered and rejected the offer of EKFB 'legacy support' for fencing in the Lee Common Allotments and Playing Fields.

It is becoming clear that many – mainly larger – parishes along the route (some arguably less affected by HS2 than The Lee) have been successful in attracting more project funding from the CEF and from the contractors' legacy schemes. This includes minor expenditure items such as support for street parties, football kit, road cones and electric cable, but also includes much more substantial items such as the Chalfont St Giles pond improvements scheme and the Little Missenden School children's nursery building.

All residents and groups in The Lee are invited to consider whether

there is a project that might be beneficial to the parish, for which we could seek partial or total support from the HS2 project. If you have any ideas, please send them in the first instance to hs2@thelee.org.uk or telephone me on 01494 837760.

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/

Ballinger Hall Christmas Fair

By Anne Ellis

Saturday 19th November

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Here is a wonderful opportunity to buy some early presents and to meet with friends in the comfort of Ballinger Hall. Seasonal refreshments, stalls, tombola and raffle. Come and join us in happy anticipation of Christmas.

Selling out fast

By the Editorial Team

The annual newsletter dinner returns after the Covid break, on Friday 9th December.

Invitations have been sent out to everyone who has contributed to the newsletter in the last 12 months and the limited number of spaces available have been selling fast. If you have not yet replied to your invitation please do so to avoid disappointment.

We start at 7:30 pm with a drinks reception followed by dinner. This

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year's menu offers a hot buffet consisting of chicken breast wrapped in bacon, beef in a pepper sauce with wild mushrooms, vegetarian bean hotpot accompanied by fluffy rice, new potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

For dessert there will be chocolate profiteroles, lemon tart and fresh fruit Pavlova followed by tea and coffee. Wine and soft drinks are also included.

Email colinsully@yahoo.co.uk to secure your place.

Bridge too far?

By Liz Ford et al

The bidding on this recent hand started simply enough, but then presented both a bidding and playing challenge.

<p>♠ Q 7 2 ♥ 8 7 ♦ A K 8 7 5 ♣ Q 8 5</p> <p>♠ J 10 9 6 3 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ 6 2 ♣ K 10 4</p>	<p>♠ K 8 ♥ 10 9 3 ♦ 10 4 ♣ A J 7 6 3 2</p> <p>♠ A 5 4 ♥ A K 6 5 2 ♦ Q J 9 3 ♣ 9</p>
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Dealer: West
Vulnerability: Both

At our table, the bidding started:

W	N	E	S
pass	pass	pass	1♥
pass	2♦	pass	?

What do you think was the final contract and did it make? See page 25.

Helping hand

The Helping Hand team at Buckinghamshire Council is available to help individuals or families in need, those on low incomes and those who are experiencing a financial emergency or crisis.

Are you struggling?

If you or your family are in need of support, on low income or experiencing a financial emergency or crisis, find out what help is available.

Let them know if:

- you are struggling to afford food or fuel
- you cannot keep on top of your bills
- you are in debt
- you are struggling to pay for essential goods in your home.

Also, if you are worried about a friend, family member or neighbour over the winter months, please refer them to the Helping Hand team.

Call on 01296 531151 or visit buckinghamshire.gov.uk/helping-hand

Phone lines are open Monday to Thursday 9:00 am to 5:30 pm and Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. In emergency call the out-of-hours team on 0800 9997677.

From the vicarage



By Revd Chris Haywood

Remembrance

The main occasion in November is, of course, Remembrance Sunday on Sunday 13th November with a Remembrance Service in The Lee New Church at 10:00 am followed by an Act of

Remembrance at the War Memorial at 11:00 am where the two minutes silence will be marked.

I shall be leading the Remembrance service in the Hilltops this year. One of the challenges of being a Vicar of multiple churches is having to do such services for each community – Remembrance Sunday is especially difficult as the services necessarily need to happen at the same time... So this year the Service and Act of Remembrance will be conducted by Revd Martin Williams, to whom I am indebted. Martin and his wife Sophie are very much a part of the community and understand well the significance of the occasion for this village.

Indeed, one of the dimensions of this community that I came to appreciate very early on is just how deep a resonance Remembrance Sunday has, with so many lives being lost in World War I in particular. The Lee suffered heavily in terms of casualties. 30 young men were killed and a further 36 were wounded – a casualty rate of over 40 per cent. The Battle of Fromelles was a particularly tragic day for The Lee with nine men losing their lives in a single day. So it is with remembrance, gratitude and a resolve to play our part in promoting peace that we come together in our Act of Remembrance.

Our resurgent Family Service also continues on Sunday 6th November at 11:00 am in the New Church. All are welcome for a vibrant and interactive time of worship, which given it comes so soon after firework night will take the theme of light!

New year

The new church year also starts in November on the first Sunday of Advent on Sunday 27th November, which marks the start of our preparations for Christmas, readying



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ourselves spiritually for the coming of a Saviour the world so dearly needs.

We look forward to welcoming you to enter into a spiritual dimension of these occasions and to playing our part in the village traditions.

God Bless.

St Mary's Ballinger

By Anne Ellis

Harvest Supper
Saturday 1st October

This was Maggi's brainwave: a two course sit down meal in the church accompanied with wine and live music.

Thirty lucky people sat together to enjoy chilli con carne with baked

potato and salad followed by a crunchy topped apple crumble and cream.

Entertainment was provided by Malcolm Chalmers, our new vicar, who has a fine, operatically trained tenor voice and Jason, who delighted us with his guitar playing and original songs.

The church glowed in the candlelight and the evening was filled with laughter, good humour and friendship.

We raised several hundred pounds towards the ongoing repairs of the south wall which is being restored to its original appearance of 1873.

If you are ever in Blackthorne Lane do drop by and have a look at what has been achieved so far thanks to the talents of Jon Suttle, a master stonemason, Alasdair Cunningham, a skilled joiner and Bryony Benwell whose expertise is stained glass.

We anticipate that this phase will be completed by Christmas.

Doing our bit for climate change

By Giles Robertson

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPPC) report firmly puts us at the centre of what needs to be done to help the planet and that we are responsible (or partly responsible) for the destiny of earth.

So I wanted to reflect on some of the things we've done with our recent house renovation, with the environment in mind. We are definitely coming out of an unsustainable era of 'out with the old, in with the new'. The reality is that lots of the things in our home can last longer than they do. We are fighting with current economics, which tend



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not to favour maintenance: where raw materials are cheap relative to labour, the linear economy is often cheaper than the circular one. But more about that next time...

Windows

We realised that a lot of energy and heat was being lost through the windows so there's no easy way, other than to replace them all. We went with wood at the front, with the traditional older part of the house from the 1850s and vinyl at the rear of the property. I wish we had used vinyl for the whole of the property as they snap tight shut with no draft or condensation. And wood requires more upkeep and lasts less long, but just sounds better than polyvinyl chloride, no doubt a petrochemical product.

Insulation

We are also addressing one of the other main parts of energy loss in a house (25% according to the Energy Saving Trust), which is of course through the roof. We are gradually working on this using reclaimed wood from other parts of the project to board out the loft with 200 mms of insulation, as is recommended. The link <https://www.ecomerchant.co.uk/news/insulation-materials-compared/> gives you the different types of insulation you might want to consider. Of course you have to bear in mind that if you're boarding out, the ceiling topped with the installation then boards, adds to the energy saving. Hopefully you will then see the winter snow stay the longest on your roof.

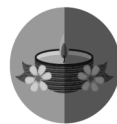
Our house is noticeably warmer in all rooms and we have now happily pushed back the heating on date to the end of October (a record for us).

Recycling

We were also very keen to consider retaining and reusing any bricks or



other materials when changing aspects of our house. We reused the old bricks to build up new parts in the house. We reused many dozens of old patio slabs covering approximately 50 square metres of the garden redesign. This saves energy twice; you can get lovely Indian sandstone shipped to The Lee, but your starting point would be very carbon heavy, also, the energy and cost involved in removing masonry and patio stones is quite considerable. For other parts of the garden, we actually managed to source imperial



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engineering bricks from a decommissioned power station in Yorkshire that were £2 each, which is not far off half the price of the equivalent new ones; including the transportation, this was still the lower impacting option. And what a story I like to think they can tell!

CO2 friendly cement

One area we didn't managed to sort was sourcing CO2 friendly cement which gives off less CO2 (don't forget globally the CO2 emissions from building and construction are responsible for 39% of all carbon emissions in the world according to the World Green Building Council's new report).

Getting hold of CO2 friendly concrete and cement (one of the main emitters in construction) is very tricky. If you're a big public sector project, like a new library or a gym, then I'm

sure the council can underwrite the extra costs. Environmentally friendly cement is about three times more expensive and obviously if you're building a new house and you need 400 bags at £15 rather than £5, you can begin to see why some of these things are not straightforward. Should this type of cement and concrete be subsidised for new builds?



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Eco-friendly heating

Another area that is not immediately clear to navigate is installing new eco-friendly heating systems. As we've seen with various threads on our own village forum, there are a number of people asking about these things. Micro generation could be the way forward? Do you go for ground source, air source or solar? There should be more guidance from the council and at governmental level as to how we could approach our energy transition as a community. But first you need to make your house heat-loss proof.

Letter from HMP Wandsworth

Another area of environmental relevance is repurposing things. With the recent death of my mother and with our own building project, we had much clearing out to do, with many unwanted items. But not one went to landfill. I was delighted that we were able to use Chiltern Freecycle to give many objects a new life. One person's rubbish is another person's treasure. A notable example is a young lad called Daniel who promised me when he took one of my mum's old typewriters to send a typed letter, which he duly did from his job in HMP Wandsworth.

We also managed to give new homes to tables, chairs, mirrors and shelves, you name it and it's somewhere in Buckinghamshire or Hertfordshire, now living with a new family being really loved. They certainly didn't end in landfill or create another trip to IKEA. Those things are really positive; reusing what you've got, giving a little bit more thought, a little bit more effort with things that you might just throw in the council tip.

So seal up your houses, think hard about what you can reuse and give away, viewing these things positively is about a certain kind of mindset perhaps more of us need to have.

With thanks to the work and patience of Robert Kirby and Chris Ballard.

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Fayrfax return for Christmas

By The Lee Old Church Committee

After a few years of silent festive nights, we are delighted to be able to welcome the fabulous Fayrfax Consort back to The Lee Old Church on Sunday 4th December at 7:30 pm.

Once again, you'll be treated to an evening of candle-lit seasonal songs, entertaining readings and traditional carols, directed by David Ireson. As the joyous harmonies come to a close, we'll be serving mince pies washed down by a spicy Christmas punch.

Tickets are just £15 and are sure to be in great demand. To get your Christmas season started the Fayrfax way, call Pam Garner on 837501 or Jilly Carlton-Smith on 837205.

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LCS Winter Wonderland

Saturday 3rd December

By Sarah Cherry, Chair of the Lee Common School Association

This year we can finally look forward to Christmas without fear of a lockdown! So we are inviting everyone – villagers and the wider public beyond – into our school for our Winter Wonderland on Saturday 3rd December.

Readers of this newsletter already know the fascinating range of professional expertise and creativity which The Lee attracts, and the strong sense of community binding these people together. Therefore it will be no surprise to you that our small parent

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body can magic up such an exciting array of festive entertainment for you, your family and friends to enjoy.

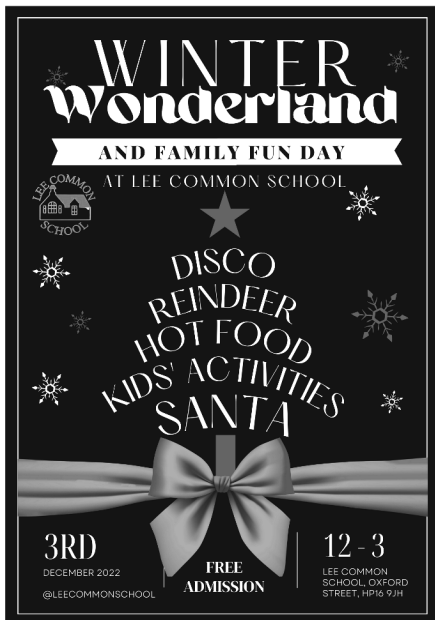


Manicures, massages and wine tasting await you in our adults' indulgence room. Our BBQ and bar will be hot and ready to serve at midday, or relax with cake in our tearoom until 3:00 pm. You can have a beautiful festive portrait in time for your Christmas cards this year if you reserve your timeslot in advance in our specialist photo studio – contact Kate Patterson on 07887 705665. The grand raffle draw will be preceded by carols with mulled wine and hopefully a spine-tingling operatic performance of favourites such as *O Holy Night*.

Children will be enthralled by our Winter Wonderland trail during which they can pet Rudolph and other real animal friends before meeting Santa in his grotto for a special gift. There will be crafts, traditional games, face-

painting and finally a fun Northern Lights disco (aimed at under 7s).

With free entry, there's no better way to get yourself in the festive mood. Invite your family and friends and look out for raffle tickets on sale at the village shop. We look forward to welcoming you!



From the Chair

By Ruth Fowler
Chair, The Lee Parish Council

Speeding

The thorny issue of speeding in the parish was raised again at October's meeting of The Lee Parish Council (TLPC). Whilst lowering speed limits is unlikely (see September newsletter) it was agreed that TLPC would investigate the potential for increasing prominence of signage to make the existing limits more apparent.

Allotments

New contracts have now been sent out for the year from 30th September 2022 to 29th September 2023. The rental is unchanged from the past few years at £22, but we envisage there will be an increase in 2023/24.

If you are considering taking on an allotment, please email the Clerk for further details at clerk@thelee.org.uk or call 07704 909324.

Memorial tree

The Lee Parish Council had intended to plant an oak tree this autumn in memory of Barnaby Usborne, funded by the generosity earlier this year of those who knew and worked with Barnaby. Unfortunately, DEFRA have imposed a complete ban on the movement of oak trees which prevents this. As the tree will be planted close to Cherry Tree Lane,

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TLPC is delighted to accept Barnaby's family's alternative suggestion of planting a cherry tree. Details of when the tree will be planted are being finalised and will be advertised on the forum when confirmed.

Community Board grants

Cllr Colin Sully has already mentioned (see page 10) that grants for major projects may be available from either the HS2 Community Engagement Funding (CEF) or their contractor EKFB's 'legacy support' fund. For smaller projects ranging upwards from a couple of hundred pounds to a few thousand pounds, the Chesham and Rural Villages Community Board has grants available on a matched funding basis. Any village group, society or association (including the church and the school) may be eligible for a grant – if you have a project in mind, please contact the Clerk in the first instance and she can point you in the right direction.

Methodist Chapel

I am aware that there is discussion in the village about the future use of the Lee Common Methodist Chapel on Oxford Street. The Methodist Church is hoping to sell the Chapel; they have a strong preference that the building be used for community purposes, ideally but not necessarily continuing as a place of worship, and would only consider an application for conversion to residential use as a last resort. They have held discussions and viewings with potential buyers, but as yet no sale has been agreed.

News from round and about

In common with councillors from neighbouring parishes, The Lee Parish Council was recently invited to attend the formal opening of a new workshop at the Road Farm Countryways project, which was opened by a representative

of the Worshipful Company of Turners. It gave the opportunity to find out more about the work being carried out at Countryways, to help people with mental health problems enjoy care farming (the therapeutic use of farming practices).

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 by email at clerk@thelee.org.uk or call 07704 909324. Such comments will be considered by the Parish Council when forming its own view and will be unattributed.

Forum Fred and Freda



Forum stats

On an average day, the Forum sends out three or four messages (I know at times it may seem like more but trust us it isn't). However, when multiplied up by the number of subscribers, that can amount to over 13,000 emails per week. Fortunately, it's all automated and works well without our intervention.

The only thing to remember is that when you hit 'Send' don't get impatient and press it again when nothing seems to be happening. The

server won't return control to you until all the emails have been sent out for that message, which may be four or five hundred and will take a minute or so. If you press 'Send' again, it will interrupt the mailing and start all over again... and everyone will know!

Forum drop-in

We were not exactly overwhelmed by visitors at the drop-in on Sunday 9th October. That's either disappointing... or it means everyone is content.

Should you encounter a problem with some aspect of the forum's operation, there is a great deal of online help available in the User Guide at www.thelee.org.uk/user-guide-to-the-lee-forum-2020/ and the FAQs at www.thelee.org.uk/common-problems/

Knowing-Lee

By the Editorial Team

New to the newsletter in September 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 village website at 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 three questions in October's edition were:

- Who bought the last two wooden hulks from the Royal Navy in 1926 and why? *A: Sir Arthur Lasenby Liberty bought the hulks and used their wood to construct Liberty's Tudor building in Regent Street.*

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- What was the increase in the number of households in the parish between the census in 2001 and 2011? *A: In 2001 there were 265 households in the parish. By 2011 this had increased to 299 households; an increase of 34 (12.8%) although the population had only grown by 2.8% to 698 people.*
- How many gallons of beer were budgeted for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Lee celebrations on 22nd June 1897? *A: Nine gallons of beer were budgeted for at a cost of nine shillings (45p for the lot, not for a pint).*

This month's questions are:

1. What was the name of the Old Church in 1540?
2. How many different types of dandelion flowers and buttercup plants are there in the churchyard?

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3. What was the name of the builder and the architect of the new church, St John the Baptist?

To find the answers go to www.thelee.org.uk and click on Village Amenities at the top of the page. The list that drops down has several options; choose the option that you think is most relevant to the question and see if you can find the answer.

The Lee in living memory

This month, we include extracts from Margaret Durling's memories, as published in the book 'The Lee in Living Memory – Voices from a special Chiltern parish', copies of which are available from Shop at The Lee.

**Margaret Durling (nee
Bunce)**

Margaret was born in 1938 at Strawberry Hill Farm on Kings Lane and she has lived in The Lee all her life. She recalls:

“When my parents came to the farm in 1932, they didn't have piped



Margaret farming

water. It was an old farmhouse then, but a new one was built later. We didn't have electricity or telephone until after the war. The farm had milking cows and chickens and, for arable, they grew wheat, barley and oats and mangels. We had an old Fordson tractor but most of the work was done with horses.

"I went to Lee Common School when I was five and a half. I had to walk to school but then I had a little bike and I used to ride that round to Mrs Bignall's at Manor Cottages and walk the rest of the way. Her husband worked at Liberty's as a cowman.

"Mr Spearman, the headmaster, was quite strict. He had a wooden leg, so you always heard him coming.



Margaret with her dog

"The girls played at the back of the school and out on the Park. A friend of mine, Heather Holland, was drowned in the Park during the floods. We had been warned; we were allowed to play at the top of the field but not down

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lower where the Dells were. I can remember someone running up and saying what had happened and a young teacher actually pulled Heather out. I didn't really like Lee Common School.

"I can remember going to The Manor House. They had a fête there once a year and I used to love going inside it because they had a rocking horse in a hall, and I used to spend most of my time on it. I liked riding and I had my own horse. Mrs Evelyn Stewart-Liberty was President of the WI. My mother belonged to it and they used to meet in the Guild Room which was then a village hall. I remember Arthur and his first wife Rosabel, who lived at Pipers.

"I got a scholarship to Doctor Challoner's School. I was the only one to pass from Lee Common School for several years, so I didn't know

anybody there. I had to bike to Missenden and catch the train.

Youth Club

Later on, I joined the Youth Club, which had been run by Freddie Rose. My father was a trustee when they built the club, with Mrs Stewart and Mr Gerhardi and Audley Humphreys.

The Gerhardis lived at the house now called Errewig View. He had a factory in Great Missenden at the time and he was quite well off. We used to have a garden party in his garden every year for the Youth Club. I went to Young Farmers in Great Missenden after I left school.

"My mother never learned to drive. Twice a week she used to walk down the fields to the main road to catch the Aylesbury to Amersham bus to Great Missenden.

"The Green was just as it is now, with the Nurse's cottage at the top, where the district nurse lived. I can remember falling off my horse just outside and being patched up by her.

Mr Jacobs lived in the cottage at the end and Mrs Higgs lived next door. Bessie Austin who lived on the corner of the crossroads at Swan Bottom used to teach at The Lee Church Sunday School in the Old Church. My mother went to church occasionally and to the Mothers' Union. My father had been a bell ringer at Stoke Mandeville, but he didn't get on with The Lee church.

"I left the Grammar School in 1955 to work in Lloyds Bank, first in Amersham, then Great Missenden and then Aylesbury. I left when I got married and had my daughter; we lived in this house, Sainfoin. My father bought the farm and 100 acres when the Liberty Estate was split up in 1954 (the Libertys kept the rest of the land)."

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Time please at The Cock and Rabbit

By the Editorial Team

Franco and Vicki Parola have pulled their last pints and Franco has hung up his chef's hat as he and his family leave the village for pastures new.

There will be few of us who have not, over the last four decades, enjoyed a drink or plate of pasta at The Cock and Rabbit or celebrated a birthday, christening, anniversary or farewell.



Franco first moved to the village in 1985 and over the years, in addition to bringing his individual Italian cuisine to the Chilterns, has played host to Midsomer Murders, film sets and documentaries, as well as being a frequent winner of multiple cups at the Flower Show for his roses and culinary delights.

For those living around the green, the pub has been a custodian of keys, provider of directions, rescue centre for dogs, cats and lost souls as well as serving up memorable barbecues and feeding us through the pandemic.

We wish Franco, Vicki, Isabella, Giacomo and of course the ever-

stylish Gianni all the very best for the future – grazie mille!

We hope to be able to introduce the new landlord in our next edition.

Bridge too far?

Our bidding continued:

W	N	E	S
pass	pass	pass	1♥
pass	2♦	pass	3♦
pass	5♦	pass	pass
pass			

5♦ would have gone one down, had the hearts not split 3-3. The key to making the contract was to try to set up the hearts by roughing a heart trick. There was then no need to take the ♠ finesse, which would have failed.

4♥ would most likely go one down.

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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).

November

Tuesday 1st. **Ballinger BATS** meets in Ballinger War Memorial Hall every Tuesday, 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

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

Friday 4th. **Coffee morning** at St Mary's, Ballinger, 10:30 am to 12:00 noon.

Saturday 5th. **The Lee Bonfire and Fireworks**. Bonfire lit at 6:30 pm.

Saturday 12th. **Shop at The Lee Christmas Food and Gift Market**. See page 5.

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

Friday 18th. **Coffee morning** at St Mary's, Ballinger, 10:30 am to 12:00 noon.

Saturday 19th. **The Lee Roving Supper**. 7:30 pm. See page 5.

Thursday 24th. **Arts Society**, Ballinger. See Arts Society website for details.

Church Services

St John the Baptist, The Lee
Sunday 6th. 3rd before Advent, **Holy Communion** (BCP) at the Old Church, 8:00 am.

Sunday 6th. **Family / All Age** (CW) at the New Church, 11:00 am.

Sunday 13th. 2nd before Advent, Remembrance Sunday, **Remembrance Service** at the New Church, 10:00 am.

Act of Public Remembrance at the War Memorial, 11:00 am.

Sunday 20th. Next before Advent Christ the King, **Holy Communion** (BCP) at the Old Church, 8:00 am.

Sunday 27th. Advent Sunday, **Parish Communion** (CW) at the New Church, 11:00 am.

St Mary's, Ballinger

Sunday 6th. **Remembrance Communion** followed by refreshments, 9:30 am.

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

Coming soon

Thursday 1st December. **The Lee village walk**, 9:30 am on the green.

Saturday 3rd December. **Lee Common School Winter Wonderland**, 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. See page 19.

Sunday 4th December. **Lighting up Ballinger** from 5:00 pm. More information to follow.

Sunday 4th December. **Fayrfax Consort at The Lee Old Church**. See page 17.

Friday 9th December. **The Lee Newsletter Dinner**. The Lee Parish Hall. See page 11.

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.

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Lettings High Wycombe
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