



NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Mary Godfrey

A group of cyclists, stopped to pay respects during a remembrance service, may have expected to be left alone in quiet contemplation elsewhere. Not here, dear readers!

Investigations by one of the editorial team uncovered a lovely tale. Here by chance a few years ago on Remembrance Sunday, the group, from Berkhamsted, were quite taken by the atmosphere and surroundings of the service taking place on The Green.

Now, they make it a yearly pilgrimage, ensuring their route brings them to us on Remembrance Sunday.

This year, they also witnessed a special Scouting award being presented to Steve Burrows for his 'keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service' to the Scouting association.

Maybe, if we manage to light up The Lee for Christmas, we can entice them back sooner. Do join in on the 3rd.

At this time of year, thanks must go to all those who contribute, in any way towards the running of the newsletter. Contributors, distributors, setters, back-room administrators and editors. All voluntary. And of course, the advertisers and sponsors who make us financially viable.

We are always on the lookout for fresh talent and if your new year's resolution is to get more involved in



community life, we would be so happy to hear from you.

We take a break in January, so please send your contributions for the February edition, by 12th January, to theleenewsletter@gmail.com.

Your letters

A fond farewell

To the Editor

In your last newsletter you mentioned the celebration of birthdays, christenings, anniversaries and farewells at the Cock and Rabbit. I would add to that humanist naming ceremonies, as both our darling children were 'named' at events wonderfully laid on by Vikki and Franco in the grounds of the pub.

Then of course there were the Sunday evening quizzes (where we heard that the previous owners of our current house were about to put it on the market), the Monday darts

evenings, Friday locals' night, annual Christmas carols and regular summer barbeques (thank you Franco for sharing your recipe for ribs with my mother!).

More recently, they helped me to celebrate a big birthday with pasta for my friends and a surprise visit from my sister (from the USA). Interestingly, when my sister came for my party, she made secret arrangements with Vikki and hid out at the home of the new owner of the Cock and Rabbit... How's that for a coincidence?

The Cock and Rabbit has been at the centre of so much of our life in The Lee and has given us so many fond memories. Thank you, Vikki and Franco, and best of luck in your future ventures!

Jen Ogley
The Lee



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Christmas Lights

To the Editor

In recent years Christmas lights have sparkled across the parish bringing joy and wonder to residents and visitors.

Can we go one better this year with new innovative lighting? I hope so. Let's light up The Lee parish from Saturday 3rd December.

Phil Harrison
Lee Common

Farming series

To the Editor

The Newsletter editors face a monthly challenge to capture the attention of our widely dispersed community members with a spectrum of interests and experiences. This was achieved in the interview with Richard Stewart-Liberty (and Chris Ruttle) in the October edition and perhaps it provides us with food for thought on our 'rural rambles'.

This is the first of the series on 'Farming in the Chilterns' which draws our attention to something that allotment holders know about, soil health. Incentives to our farmers have encouraged the growing of monocultures which have, over time, depleted nutrients in the soil. This has limited the diversity of wildlife and damaged ecosystem. On our walks we see winter cereal crops emerging but overhead there are few birds because there is nothing on which they can eat.

Rebuilding diversity, protecting the soil surface, keeping organic matter and roots undisturbed, and the significance of grazing, are not a quick fix.

However, it is good to hear that Richard (and Chris) have ideas for change and perhaps it is something that we can all champion. One suspects we will need to be patient.

Martin Baxter
Kings Ash

From The Cock and Rabbit

By Oliver Quarrell

I'd like to introduce myself as the new owner of your local pub.

I have lived in the Chilterns all my life and whilst a frequent visitor to the village over the years, I feel very fortunate to have become a permanent resident of this special community. Since collecting the keys on the 10th November, I have been heartened by the good wishes of so many people passing by, whilst my builders and I start the journey to bring the pub back to life.

In answer to some of the most common questions I have been asked over the last couple of weeks ...

Yes, the C&R will remain a pub: we are hoping to reopen in time to serve Christmas drinks and of course for Santa Claus' visit to the village on 15th December!

No, we won't be serving food straightaway as we need to install a new kitchen – hopefully food will be on offer come the Spring. We do, however, plan to be open for coffee and cakes early in the new year.

Yes, we will be looking for staff - please pop in if you are interested to speak to Jonny or email me at oliver@thelee.pub.

Lastly, I know I've taken on a big project but hopefully with the support and the understanding of the village (Rome wasn't built in a day and I don't have the resources of HS2) the pub can again become an intrinsic part of village life.

I look forward to welcoming you back to the pub over the festive period and beyond!

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Prepared-Lee

By Enzo D'Alessandro

The more eagle-eyed among you might have noticed the absence of this column in the last few editions. An unfortunate combination of circumstances on my part has prevented the column from materializing – but this does not mean that Scouts have not been active in the meantime! We are back in the newsletter intercepting the last edition of the year.

Investitures under a King

A very eventful year, by all accounts. By the time the newsletter will have been published we will have gone through the first investitures in many decades where the new Scouts of 1st Lee Common promise to do their duty to The King (indeed we do have an executive member of our Group who has made his promise to the previous King!).

This momentous event is a good opportunity for reflection on the

investiture itself. A Scout is asked, before the Promise, whether they understand the meaning of “honour”. I can’t help thinking how important that is right now, in this time of change and confusion; how many people have been asked that question at any point in their lives – I can think of a few people around the world whom I’d like to ask that question right now. As Scouts we promise “on [our] honour” to do our best: it is such a major commitment, I always invite new Scouts to think about it carefully, and older Scouts to revisit it from time to time.

Accolade for Steve

I can’t end the piece without mentioning the Remembrance Service last month. The Scouts had an important event to celebrate: Steve Burrows, who has received the Award for Merit to Scouting, a well-deserved award for an important figure in the 1st Lee Common Group. Thank you, Steve, for your contribution!



Celebrations at the school

By Tina Nowell



Once again, the children at Lee Common have been keeping busy over the past few weeks. Just before half term, we held our harvest celebration. Our children enjoyed their first school visit to the church and for many families, it was their first opportunity to see their children taking part in local events.

Harvest festival

We were very proud of them all for sitting for so long, singing so beautifully and saying their words so nicely. In addition to our families, we were delighted to have some of the local community attending our service, which was supported by Reverend Chris Haywood. Comments were made that we had brought life and joy into the church, which was lovely to hear. We gifted a fantastic spread to the food bank, which we hope will have helped local families to have a better half term.

We continued our charitable work by holding our very own 'Wear it Pink' day (see above) to support the



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Finally, we celebrated Remembrance Day with a trip to the War Memorial to 'plant' our own poppies. Revd Chris joined us again for a short service and our children read their poems. On the way back, we paid a visit to the local shop, practising our Maths by working out change and posting letters, which the children had written to their families.

Christmas Fair

They do say that 'charity begins at home' however and so we are all working very hard to raise funds for some new and much needed IT devices for the school. To this end, our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 3rd December from 12:00 noon, and we would be delighted for members of the local community to join us.

Santa Claus is coming to town

By Phil Harrison

Santa has confirmed that he will be visiting Lee Common and The Lee on Thursday 15th December. He will arrive at the

Bassibones' end of Oxford Street around 5:30 pm and slowly work his way along Oxford Street and then up to The Lee green where he should arrive around 6:15 pm. As usual The Rotary Club will be running a collection in conjunction with this visit. Please be generous.

This year we have some special surprises for him. The very popular choir from the Jubi-Lee celebrations, The Occasional Singers, will be on the green singing a selection of Christmas songs. I know that Santa enjoys a singsong, so he may even join in with the choir; in fact, many of you will be familiar with the songs and will be welcome to add your voices too.



Mince pies and mulled wine

Additionally, you will have read (page 3) that The Cock and Rabbit is under the new ownership of Oliver Quarrell. Oliver has kindly offered to provide some festive refreshment for the occasion. If the C&R renovations are at such a stage that the bar can be open, beer and wine will also be available (bring your wallets!)

Make a note to see Santa on 15th December, to come along to the green for a singsong, some mulled wine and mince pies. Start your Christmas celebrations with a smile.

Will the Snow Maiden visit The Lee?

By Mary Godfrey

We thought it would be interesting to delve into another culture this Christmas, and since we have many Ukrainians staying within the parish at present, it seemed an ideal opportunity to investigate what Christmas means to them, especially when they are so far from home.

On 24th/25th December when we will all be sitting down to our Christmas feasts, exchanging presents and trying to ignore the barbed comments from various family members about our choice of outfit/partner/place to live.... this, is not when Christmas will be celebrated in Ukraine.

Halyna Khomenko, who along with her mum, two daughters and the family dog, are guests of Sophie and Martin Williams in The Lee. She says, "our main holiday is New Year's Eve, and only after that comes Christmas." The preparations are the same as ours "buying presents, inviting friends over and decorating the trees. Those living in apartments will bring a tree inside to decorate. If people live in houses, they will usually plant trees outside and decorate them each year for New Year. On the evening of the 31st December we start with feasting, then fireworks and all-night celebrations."

Grandfather Frost

Presents are usually delivered overnight on the 31st by Grandfather Frost and his granddaughter the Snow Maiden, but as Christmas is spread over December, children can receive presents anytime from the 19th to the 31st. "Much more sensible!" says



Ukrainian feast

Natalia who, along with her two daughters, is staying with Sonia and Alice Brock, also in The Lee. "Grandfather Frost will enter through doors, windows or balconies and leave presents for the children under a fir tree" she explains. 70% of Ukrainians live in cities, mainly in apartments so chimneys are not a good conduit for deliveries!

Sviaty Veichir

After New Year's Eve, comes Sviaty Veichir or Christmas Eve,



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which according to the Orthodox calendar, is on the 6th of January. A festive table will be laid. "The Ukrainian Christmas traditional food is based on fish, vegetables, cabbage, salad, beetroot, dishes made from wheat, nuts, dry fruits and raisins" says Natalia. Traditionally there is no meat (or anything prepared with butter, milk, eggs or cream!) on the table, which usually consists of 12, or 14 dishes. These include *kutia*, a wheat dish made with honey, nuts and seeds, *holubtsi* or cabbage rolls, dumplings, potato cakes, and of course borsch.

The table is decorated with garlic, to protect against disease and evil forces, hay, as a reminder of the manger, and a *didukh* (grandfather), a sheaf of wheat representing the importance of the wheat crops through the ages. The dishes are eaten in a



particular order and, as a rule, children bring food to their grandparents.

After the meal, the children will go carolling to the neighbours, singing songs of good wishes and prosperity, rewarded with candy or special coins. The Ukrainians have a very rich musical history and the Vasyliuta family who are staying with Catherine Watson in The Lee told me that they are very proud that 'Carol of the bells' is originally a Ukrainian song. (See 'Evolution of a Christmas carol' on page 10. Ed)

Christmas Day

The 7th is a very religious day, no presents are exchanged. Natalia told us, "It is a very religious time in Ukraine and even those who do not usually, will attend church at this time. At these services everyone stands throughout the night except for the elderly, pregnant or children who can sit, but not on the floor, only on chairs. Healthy people are known to stand all night or kneel when praying. Lots of candles are lit and held and people all hold hands with their friends and family during this service."

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They are not done celebrating yet! Finally, on the 14th January, Ukrainians will celebrate ‘Old New Year’. Not a big religious festival now, but more eating and drinking with friends and family, as they mark the end of the year according to the Julian calendar that is still observed by many Eastern Orthodox churches.

St Nicholas

There has been a shift in Christmas traditions since the country declared



independence in 1991. The Vasyliutas point out “that since 2014, when Russia began the unrest in Ukraine, more people are using St Nicholas instead of Grandfather Frost and the Snow Maiden, figures more associated with the USSR.”

It was only in 2017, that a national holiday was added for the 25th December, in addition to the 7th January.

A traditional roast

On Christmas day in The Lee, Natalia and her daughters are looking forward to trying everything! “Traditional English Christmas turkey

roast, mince pies, Christmas pudding, this is very different from the food in Ukraine” Natalia says. “We can’t wait to see the Christmas pudding being set on fire with brandy and embracing your Christmas traditions.” The Vasyliuta family are happy that their hosts will be adding ‘shuba oliver’ to the Christmas spread. “It’s a fish and beetroot salad that our host family have tried already and love it.”

With so many extra guests in the parish this year, and new friends around our Christmas tables, I hope you get a chance to say ‘Vaseloho Rizdva’ (Merry Christmas) on the 19th of December, ‘Khrystos Rozhdayetsia’ (Christ is Born) on the 7th January, or maybe just ‘dobryden’ (hello) anywhere in between!

[Thanks to the Vasyliutas, Khomenkos and Natalia, and their hosts, for all their help. Ed]

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The evolution of a Ukrainian Christmas Carol

By Mary Godfrey

Carol of the Bells

Shchedryk or 'the little swallow' probably had its' origins in an ancient shchedrivky, or songs that were sung to welcome the new year in Ukraine. Mykola Leontovych a music teacher, composer and coral conductor drew on shchedrivky and folk songs for inspiration in his work.

After spending years working on his arrangement for *Shchedryk*, Leontovych sent it to choir master Alexander Koshetz in 1916 and it was premiered by a choir in Kiev later that year. The original lyrics tell of a little swallow flying into the house to herald a bountiful year for the family.

Political unrest

Following the fall of the Romanov dynasty in 1917, an independent Ukraine state was declared in 1918 which lasted, only briefly, until 1921. During this period Alexander Koshetz's Ukrainian National Chorus would take advantage of the new will to promote Ukrainian culture around the world. Leaving Ukraine at a time of great turmoil, they toured across 10 European countries and then managed to sing in 115 cities across America.

Finally going on to perform *Shchedryk* at Carnegie Hall in 1922. Allegedly in that audience was a classically trained choral director Peter J Wilhousky. Wilhousky's family had emigrated from the Austro-Hungarian empire and probably spoke Rusyn, a language from western Ukraine, which would have given him a greater insight and understanding of the music and lyrics performed by the national chorus that night.

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Ukraine fell to the soviets whilst Alexander Koshetz and the National Chorus performed abroad. Now stateless, none of its members returned home. A year before the concert at Carnegie Hall, on the night of the 23rd January 1921, Mykola Leontovych had been assassinated by the Cheka, an organisation which killed thousands trying to rebuild Bolshevik rule and which later evolved into the KGB. In his 44 years, Leontovych managed to complete 150 other classical works for choirs, many of which are still widely sung and celebrated by the Ukrainian diaspora.

Where next for our guests?

By David Dennis and Lesley Paton

By Christmas, many local Ukrainian guests will have been with their UK families for a little over six months – the agreed time commitment. Whilst some hosts are happy to continue into 2023, many guests are already needing to look for more permanent accommodation.

But this is a hard task. Almost every rental on offer is snapped up within days, if not hours, with

landlords able to pick and choose from several possible tenants. Using criteria such as a good credit history and an established UK employment record, it is hard for recently arrived Ukrainians to be top of the list.

‘Second wave’ hosts needed

So, our local support group, in conjunction with Bucks Council, are campaigning to find ‘second wave’ hosts to take over while guests continue to improve their English and establish themselves in employment. Unless this happens, a potential crisis is looming. If Ukrainians are unable to secure a second host or find a suitable rental soon, then they will be declared homeless and offered only B&B accommodation or worse.

A rewarding experience

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Lesley and I are just one of many households who have been moved by the plight of these families and are lucky enough to have the space at home to help. Our delightful family of three has been with us since June. A couple in their 40s with a young daughter, they have fitted in really well, determined to improve their English and find employment. Their daughter is thoroughly enjoying being at Hawridge and Cholesbury school.

The last few months have been a rewarding eye-opener for us both. We have learned about a different culture and been privileged to support some vulnerable people through the toughest time of their lives. We have also made three very good friends.

Even if it's a 'maybe'

All our guests have already been through so much – it would be truly tragic for them to be made homeless again. Please consider whether you can offer a Ukrainian family a temporary refuge, either now or after Christmas. Even if it's a 'maybe', don't hesitate to get in touch with us to learn more ddennis48@outlook.com or 07494 427355.

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Christmas delights

By Symeon Economou

Growing up in Cyprus in the 1950's the highlight of our Christmas was the annual parcel from our English grandmother. In our minds 'Nanny' was the archetypal kindly old lady sitting in a rose-covered country cottage constantly thinking of nice things to do for her distant grandchildren. When, in my teens, I finally met her, that is exactly what she turned out to be!

The parcel would arrive a couple of weeks before Christmas, but our mother always made us wait until Christmas Eve before we opened it – and I have such memories of the wonders it contained. Heinz Baked Beans, Marmite, Robertsons marmalade, Bluebird toffees. And the presents – one year a real leather lace-up football which brought every boy from the village to our yard every afternoon after school, playing bare-foot until it got too dark to see. Another year a cap-gun with spare rolls of real gunpowder caps (no spoilsport H & S rules in those days). Once we had a Beano Annual, and, one year, a brand-new leather school satchel.

All these things, without exception, delight me to this day. Another legacy of this experience is that, so often, it is the little things that mean the most. So, I hope you get your equivalent of Bluebird toffees and a leather lace-up football.

Seasonal thanks

This prompts me to put in a seasonal plug for the Chesham Food Bank box in the shop. This was introduced by Terry Bottle a couple of years ago and has been a great

success, reflecting the generosity of so many of our customers – it will prove to be a great comfort to many, especially at this time of year.

As another challenging year ends, I would like to reaffirm my deep gratitude to the myriad volunteers who help in the shop, juggle the numbers and roam the countryside ensuring we are stocked with fine local produce. I get more credit than I deserve and they, often, don't get enough.

Finally, Christmas Eve is a lovely day at the Shop, with so many of you coming to collect your orders and pick-up last-minute things you didn't know you wanted – we look forward to seeing you then.

Farming in the Chilterns: Pt 2

We continue our look at farming in and around The Lee, this month in conversation with Ellie Crawley-White, who, with her husband Stuart, farm out of Chartridge End Farm.

Pt 2: Managing the herds

Q: Ellie, your home farm is on Chartridge Lane, just outside The Lee parish, but you farm over a wide area.

EC-W: Yes, we farm around 1,200 acres altogether mainly in Chartridge, The Lee, Ballinger, and Wendover. We own around 300 acres ourselves and have a variety of contracts on the remainder with 20 different landlords.

Q: That, in itself, must be quite a business challenge.

EC-W: Yes, we have many different rental agreements and some Farm Business Tenancies, as well as what we own.

Q: How long have you and your family been farming in this area?

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EC-W: My great, grandfather moved into Chartridge End Farm as a tenant in the early 1800s and bought the farm when it became available in the mid-1800s.

Q: That's over 200 years of family farming in the area! What are your main farming activities today?

EC-W: We have around 470 acres of arable land, growing wheat, barley, oats, beans and 'ley grass', which is grass grown, typically for a few years, for hay, silage, and pasture and to enhance and maintain soil fertility. We have 750 acres in permanent grass.

Some of our cereal and grass is sold, but we are also able to make all the feeds we need for our cattle from our own produce.

We also have a few sheep – because one of my daughters likes sheep – and occasionally some rare-breed pigs.



Q: I wonder if we might look in a little more detail this month at your cattle farming. How do you manage that aspect of your business?

EC-W: We have a 'suckler' herd of 60 cows, grazing mainly in Chartridge and Ballinger producing calves each spring from two bulls. It takes about seven to eight months to wean the calves.

We also buy-in cattle, at around 12-14 months, and bring the whole 'store herd' on until they are ready for 'finishing' (essentially a change in

diet) and made ready for sale at around 30 months. At times, we might have four hundred cattle on our books.

Q: Apart from anything else, quite a logistical challenge?

EC-W: Yes, cows get through a lot of grass, so they must be moved-on quite regularly and of course, we have wintering barns in The Lee and here in Chartridge.

Q: How many cows do you take to the market each year? And where do they go?

EC-W: Normally around 300 cows per annum; mostly to Dovecote Park, Lincolnshire (for Waitrose).

Q: Can you tell us a bit about some of the challenges facing you today in this area of farming?

EC-W: There are many. Firstly, there are, quite rightly, strict regulations enforced by Defra on cattle farming and on animal welfare (through the Red Tractor scheme). There are additional audit requirements placed on us through the Waitrose contract. These standards cover everything from stocking rates, bull health and time at grass, to the use of antibiotics.

The standards being met day-in; day-out; month-in; month-out in the UK are sometimes not properly reflected in the image of farming that some parts of the media present.

UK farmers care about their livestock – they have to. They also need to be good at everything else – animal welfare, machinery, land management, plumbing, finance...

Q: What other challenges are there to cattle farming today?

EC-W: The drought this year has of course been a challenge in terms of getting the cattle ready for market; that's something we have to keep in mind for the future, and of course inflationary pressures, not least on fuel.

Q: What changes would you like

to see in how Defra or the Government tackles farming issues?

EC-W: It's always a challenge for Government to get the balance right between encouraging investment in UK farming (to produce food) and protecting and improving the environment.

It's also a battle to keep educating the public – where food comes from, what it's worth, how to cook it, how much care UK farmers take over their livestock. There is a great deal of 'mis-information' circulating about methane emissions, about badgers, deer and TB, about red meat... and confusion about



how farm practices in this country are not the same as 'industrial' farms in America, for example.

One of the worries about Brexit is that it may open the door for imports of food products from countries with lower standards.

Farmers look to the Government to recognise and address all these issues.

Q: So, how do you see the future for Chartridge End Farm?

EC-W: For us, it's not about resting or retiring; it's about investing for the future to make positive things happen. All three of our children are interested in farming.

Q: Thank you Ellie. Given that your children are all following a path into farming, perhaps next year we could hear from them about how they see the challenges of modern farming?

EC-W: You can certainly ask them!



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From the vicarage



By Revd Chris Haywood

Remembrance Sunday is a very significant day for The Lee and I was pleased to hear how the community had come together for the Remembrance Service at Church and the Act of Remembrance around the war memorial on the green. I am indebted to the Revd Martin Williams who conducted the service and the occasion for me, as I was this year conducting the service in the Hilltops. Martin is a member of this community, who many of you will know, and I especially wanted to entrust these services to someone who understood the significance of the occasion for this community. Martin certainly fitted that bill.



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A few days before I had been privileged to be present when the Lee Common pupils had gathered around the War Memorial to place poppies they had made, pay their respects and learn about the significance of Remembrance Sunday. It was very special to be a part of their act of remembrance and conduct a short service with them.



Looking forward

Of course our thoughts now turn to Advent and Christmas. As we go into November the designations for the Sundays change from being 'Sundays

after Trinity' to 'Sundays before Advent'. There is a sense of anticipation and looking forward. Certainly we're looking forward to a Christmas this year which won't be so affected by Covid, with more of us being confident to get together for Christmas gatherings and events.

Accordingly we look forward to welcoming large gatherings to the Christmas services the Church is hosting and making available to this community. Most notably, the Advent Family Service on Sunday 4th December at 11:00 am in the New Church will be a vibrant occasion, if the family services to date are anything to go by. We will be doing Christingles and reflecting on their meaning at the service. Do join us.

The Lee's traditional Carol Service is on Sunday 18th December at 7:00 pm – a traditional service of Christmas readings and carols. It's a community occasion, so if you'd like to be involved, especially doing one of the readings, please do let me know.

On Christmas Eve at 3:00 pm the New Church will host the Cribb Blessing service, for all the family. Midnight Mass will be at St Leonards at 11:30 pm. I'm very aware The Lee hasn't, of late, hosted a Midnight Mass service. If, however there is a desire for such a service in The Lee I can certainly consider it in future years.

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Do let me know your thoughts. On Christmas morning we will gather for a Christmas Day Communion Service at 9:00 am this year.

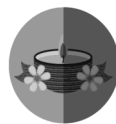
A New Year beckons

The Sunday after Christmas is of course New Year's Day. I haven't scheduled an 8:00 am service that Sunday accordingly! We will gather as a united benefice for a low key service at 10:00 am in the Old Church.

Services settle down in January 2023, back into our regular pattern.

We're so looking forward to welcoming you and gathering you in anticipation of the Good News of Jesus Christ, which has come to us at Christmas, is still coming to us at Christmas and will come again, which roughly translated means Happy Christmas.

God Bless.



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St Mary's Ballinger

By Anne Ellis

Once again, the colder weather beckons and the glorious autumn colours are gradually fading, as the daylight hours shorten. However, there is plenty to warm your hearts at St Mary's.

There are several projects on the go, not least of which is the complete restoration of the south side of the church. We are hoping Jon Suttle (a master stonemason) will be able to restore the original appearance of the building, ready for its 150th anniversary in 2023.

The rotting frames have been sorted out by Alasdair Cunningham and Matthew Reading, and the stained

-glass windows thoroughly cleaned and repaired by Bryony Benwell.

Another year has flown by and once again Maggi and I are indebted to the community for all their hard work in helping us to maintain this much-loved building. We are incredibly grateful for their time and generous support of this little church.

Looking ahead, we'd like to wish you and those whom you love a Christmas and New Year filled with hope, peace, happiness, good health and friendship.

Please Note: We have temporarily postponed both the weekly Ukrainian and the Friday coffee mornings due to the building works.

Bridge too far?

By Rita Sully

The problem with picking up a hand and finding you have 25 high card points is that you fall in love with your own hand.

Sometimes it repays that love... sometimes it doesn't.

♠ Q 9 2

♥ Q 6

♦ 9 7 6 5

♣ K 4 3 2

♠ 8 7 5

♥ J 8 7 3

♦ 10 4 3

♣ 9 8 5

♠ A J

♥ A K 9 4

♦ A Q 8

♣ A Q J 7

♠ K 10 6 4 3

♥ 10 5 2

♦ K J 2

♣ 10 6

Dealer: East
Vulnerability: N-S



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After East's strong 2♣ opening West's bid on 2NT showed 0-7 points, so, with 25 HCPs, East bid 3NT, which was passed out.

E	S	W	N
2♣	pass	2NT	pass
3NT	pass	pass	pass

Lead 4♠

So how do you play it? See page 20.

Knowing-Lee

By the Editorial Team

Each month we pose three questions designed to encourage you to explore the rich and varied Lee website. The answers to which can all be discovered at www.thelee.org.uk

The website is full of 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 November's edition were:

- What was the name of the Old Church in 1540? **Answer: Lee (or Ley – Old English for a clearing in a wood) Chapel.**
- How many different types of dandelion flowers and buttercup plants are in the churchyard? **Answer: four of each**
- What was the name of the builder and the architect of the new church, St John the Baptist? **Answer: Honour the Builder with Mr Frere as the supervising architect (1867)**

The information is found on Village Amenities > St John the Baptist

Church > History of St John the Baptist Church

December's questions celebrate the fantastic job Ruth Fowler has done to create a detailed section on The Lee Flower Show:

- What was the doxology that ended the day, after the national anthem?
- In what year was the wasp collecting class removed from the competitions?
- What was the definition of amateur in the 1922 schedule?

To find the answers go to www.thelee.org.uk Click on Village Amenities at the top of the page. Then click on The Lee Flower Show followed by The Lee Flower Show: A history. 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.

Good luck.

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Bridge too far?

East sees just five winners with no apparent entry to dummy to take a finesse... unless the Q♥ drops in two rounds. East then has four hearts winners... and two key entries to dummy to take the club finesses, which work, and the contract makes.

Bridge Drive

By Judy Hart

Please put Wednesday 25th January in your diary for our annual bridge drive. As before it will be at The Lee Parish Hall with a sumptuous tea served during the afternoon. Tickets are £12 per person with numbers limited so do get in touch if you would like to book a table. Doors will open at 1:30 pm and

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we will start playing once everyone has assembled. Prizes will be awarded and there will be a raffle with all the proceeds going to support the upkeep of St John the Baptist church at The Lee. Contact Judy Hart on 837328 or judy.elgood@gmail.com

Dining out in The Lee



*Pat Lea calls for order at the Roving Supper,
November 2022*



Roving Supper

By Diana Taylor

How I missed the Roving Supper
I couldn't go this year
Yet I remembered the tinkling glasses
And the local village cheer

I remembered the organisation
All the voluntary work that was done
So that "Lee Folk" could meet their
neighbours
And delight in some seasonal fun

I remembered the oodles of puddings,
Deserts that were well fit for kings
And the canapé team that made nibbles
Of so many beautiful things

I remembered the thrill of just meeting
Folk never met before
And the gaggle of conversation
As I passed through the Village Hall door

Not just for the night was the talking
It seemed to go on for a week
In the shop and on walks and at school time
As people felt able to speak

They had met one another and liked it
Increasing their circle of friends
And hoped that the Lee Roving Supper
Started kindness that now never ends

It was great to know no one was lonely
It was easy to go there alone
For the warm atmosphere was natural
And set a convivial tone

Yes, I missed the Roving supper
And could easily shed a tear
But, instead, I'll have faith in the future
And make sure I'll meet YOU there
next year.

A bomber's moon over The Lee



*This picture taken outside Home Farm, close to
Remembrance Sunday, brought to mind the song
by Mike Harding 'Bomber's Moon'*

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From the Chair

By Ruth Fowler
Chair, The Lee Parish Council

Hunting

There has been some discussion on the forum recently about the local impact of the Kimblewick Hunt, and TLPC has also received further communications from concerned residents. We are not given any advance information by the Kimblewick Hunt themselves and were only made aware of the impending visit early in November by a landowner.

TLPC does not intend to comment on the rights and wrongs of hunting within the law, nor of landowners' decisions to permit the Hunt access to their land, however it does have a responsibility to acknowledge and act on concerns raised by residents. We have therefore written to the Kimblewick Hunt outlining the problems caused to residents by the presence of the Hunt, asking what steps can and will be taken to address them.

Constituency consultation

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) submitted a proposal in 2021 that The Lee, in common with our neighbouring parishes of Great Missenden, Cholesbury cum St

Leonards and Chartridge, should in future be represented by a new Princes Risborough constituency extending to the boundary with Oxfordshire, rather than by Chesham and Amersham.

TLPC responded with many examples of our educational, transport, administrative, social and cultural links with Chesham and Amersham, whilst pointing out that no such links exist with Princes Risborough. Indeed the only possible benefit we could see was that the new constituency would be largely rural, and that we would not be overshadowed by the larger town. We have since have learned that Princes Risborough is to be significantly expanded with 2,500 new homes planned – an increase of 70% – thus negating the only potential advantage to us of the proposed change.

BCE have now revised their proposals, taking account of feedback they received in the earlier consultations. Despite many responses from the local area, unanimously opposed to the proposed change, it seems that the only revision is that the new constituency should be named Mid Buckinghamshire rather than Princes Risborough!

TLPC have again submitted objections, and the full text of our response can be found at <https://www.thelee.org.uk/representation/>

Meetings

In previous years, meetings of TLPC have always been arranged for the second Tuesday in the month, with a move towards the third Tuesday in 2022. For 2023 we shall be meeting on the Tuesday closest to the middle of the month, with the exception being the July meeting. We have a statutory requirement to sign off the Internal Audit report by 30th June so, rather



than having to arrange an additional meeting just for that purpose, it is proposed that the July meeting be brought forward to the end of June. The meeting dates therefore will be:

17th January
 14th March
 16th May
 27th June
 19th September
 14th November

Planning applications

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. The Parish Council is also very happy to hear residents' views on applications in confidence as they help us to formulate a representative response; please let us know your opinions via the Clerk at 07704 909324 or by email at clerk@thelee.org.uk.

Happy new year

Finally, best wishes to all for a very merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2023.

BC News

By Cllr Patricia Birchley

The last two months have seen a period of economic uncertainty in the UK and hopefully we can now settle down to a steadier pace of announcements and returning stability; we have seen little engagement by Government with local councils as we start to build our budgets for 2023/24.

Buckinghamshire continues to deliver on its Corporate Plan focussing



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on three key areas, anticipating what the Budget might mean, support for our Ukrainian refugees and the creation of the new Integrated Care Partnership for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire (which potentially has big implications for our Health and Care systems in Bucks).

Policing in Bucks

Matthew Barber, the Police & Crime Commissioner reports that there are now 4,772 police officers in Thames Valley, the highest level ever. This is an increase of 500 officers over the last 3 years and during this time on average 11% were recruited from ethnically diverse communities. The starting salary for all new recruits is £29,682. During the period 1st April to 30th September the force undertook one of its largest and most significant operations with more than 2,500 officers policing the committal service

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in Windsor for Her Majesty The Queen. Also, during this time, they attended almost 500 incidents a day and made 15,000 arrests. 30% of these arrests related to domestic violence.

Local communities

1,354 Ukrainian refugees have arrived in the County equating to 620 households. 35 families have moved to rented accommodation to date and 14 await a suitable home. Where possible the Council is supporting sponsors to continue to host, enabling children to remain at their schools, stay in the communities where they have established friendships and found work. Chesham and Villages Community Board has worked closely with the Ukrainians living in the Chilterns and the groups supporting them by providing a forum for them to meet regularly, sourcing bicycles, musical instruments, furniture and clothing.

The Community Board is keen to hear from local charities and community groups who require funding for future projects. Contact: Ross.Tackley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Highways and byways

During the heavy rain we have seen several hilltop roads flooded including Swan Lane but now that several gulleys have been cleaned out the water disperses more quickly. The gritters will soon be a regular sight and Wayne Fabian, the Local Area Technician, will be out repairing frost related potholes. HS2 continues to delay our journeys, mainly on A413, and road closures between 8pm and 6am will be a feature on several nights between now and Christmas. Together with Ruth and Colin, I have made the views of residents known at our many meetings!

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year. I do hope many of you will spend time

with your families and enjoying the winter countryside! Please let me know if I can raise your concerns with officers at County Hall.

(See HS2: EKFB Update for info on road closures: page 26)

Forum Fred & Freda



Who can join the Forum?

We frequently get asked this question. The forum is there primarily for the residents of The Lee parish, but in practice only just over 50% of those currently registered live within the parish. We also allow residents in neighbouring areas to join – Potter Row, Ballinger, South Heath – and that takes the figure to over 90%. Anyone beyond these areas gets asked why they want to join and what specific connection they have with The Lee. Some pass the test; others don't.

We have had regular applications over the years from South London (and from North Devon) and have learned that this is often because they have confused The Lee in Buckinghamshire with other 'Lees'.

Most recently, when someone from Manchester wanted to join, we have discovered that Lees is also a village in Oldham, Greater Manchester. In the 14th century, when John de Leghes was a retainer of the local Lord of the Manor, Lees was a conglomeration of local hamlets (like The Lee). Farming was the main industry (like The Lee), with locals supplementing their incomes by hand-loom weaving (almost like The Lee).

At the beginning of the 19th century, Lees had obtained a

reputation for its mineral springs (OK, we don't have one of those). However, ambitions to develop a spa town were thwarted by the unplanned urbanisation caused by the rise of textile manufacture during the Industrial Revolution. (Ah, now we are beginning to look very different).

Lees expanded into a mill town in the late-19th century, on the back of Oldham's boom in cotton spinning. Lees Urban District had eleven cotton mills at its manufacturing zenith...

[OK, enough of this comparison. Ed]

Forum support

If you do have a problem with some aspect of the forum's operation, there is a great deal of help available online in the [Introduction to the Forum](#), the [User Guide](#) and the [FAQs](#). If you are still stuck, email admin@thelee.org.uk

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HS2: local update 2022

By EKFB HS2 Engagement Advisor

In November, December and January our work around the Small Dean Viaduct site will start to ramp up, as we begin preparation works for the A413 London Road temporary diversion, which is due to become operational in 2023.

We will be diverting the road to the east, far enough to make a wider area between the existing A413 and the Chiltern railway which will enable us to continue our construction works for the viaduct.



The road realignment also includes a variety of permanent utility diversions which will be taking place early next year. This will involve a full closure of the road for a full weekend however, the blue lights services will be escorted through our site.

We will also be digging next to the A413 and Chiltern Rail line over the Christmas period to prepare the area for future piling works.

A413 total road closures

The resulting A413 London Road closures are as follows:

- ♦ 26th November (21:00 – 06:00)
- ♦ 28th November – 2nd December (20:00 – 06:00)
- ♦ 3rd December (21:00 – 06:00)
- ♦ 10th December (21:00 – 06:00)
- ♦ 17th December (21:00 – 06:00)
- ♦ 24th (23:00) – 29th December (04:30)
 - between 19:00 and 07:00 – Full Road Closure
 - between 07:00 and 19:00 – Temporary lights.
- ♦ 1st Jan (02:30) – 3rd Jan (04:30)
 - between 19:00 and 07:00 – Full Road Closure
 - between 07:00 and 19:00 – Temporary lights.

Traffic light controls

We are also advising of possible further works, including an extended concrete pour and connecting mains water supply to one of our compounds, which will result in additional traffic light control in the area:

- ♦ 23rd November (or soon after): Temporary traffic lights on A413, London Road (08:00 to 18:00) for foreseeable future.
- ♦ 28th November: (07:30 to 15:00) additional traffic lights on Rocky Lane above HS2 crossing
- ♦ 12th – 16th December (07:30 to 15:00) additional traffic lights on Rocky Lane above HS2 crossing
- ♦ w/c 19th December traffic lights on A413 for extended hours, (dates / times to be confirmed).

Some of these dates are still subject to change and could potentially be withdrawn and moved into the New Year. Please keep an eye on the HS2

website for updates on further road closures and traffic management whilst we continue to work in the area www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map/

HS2: end of year review

By Cllr Colin Sully
HS2 still on course?



The budget statement on 17th November confirmed that the Government is still committed to building HS2 “as far as Manchester”. We will no doubt, find out more before the next edition of the Newsletter but it seems pretty clear that Phase 1 will continue to be built in 2023, 2024, 2025...

So, what is there to say about HS2 locally at the end of another year?

Taking stock

When HS2 was first announced a huge amount of local effort went into trying to:

- stop HS2
- reroute it away from the Chilterns
- get the AONB fully tunnelled
- get the local plans further ‘greened’.

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These efforts were made by campaign groups such as CRAG and REEPA, HS2 Action Alliance and STOP HS2, by councils and other groups large and small and by literally thousands of individuals. Although there was some success in extending the tunnel, the main local aims were by and large not achieved as the Bill passed through Parliament, although lots of ‘Undertakings and Assurances’ were given by HS2 Ltd.

The design of HS2

After the Bill was enacted, there were in theory further opportunities to influence the detailed design in the Chilterns, for example the design of ‘Key Design Elements’, such as the two local viaducts, the tunnel portal and the ventilation and access shafts. However, apart from some minor improvements in the visual impact of the shafts at Amersham and Little Missenden, little by way of any significant change in design has been achieved because of local influences.

HS2’s mantra on design seems to be *“We know what the railway should look like; trust us... but for the record, we need to ask you what you think.”*

At the year-end, there are still a few detailed local HS2 design issues which remain to be resolved:

- the Leather Lane overbridge
- the Bowood Lane overbridge
- the lone oak near Leather Lane.

In each case local lobbying led by campaign groups and councils has forced HS2 to at least re-consider their initial designs. The outcome of these issues should become clearer early in the New Year.

Construction strategy

Since the Bill was enacted, local groups and councils have also not had much success in challenging the major

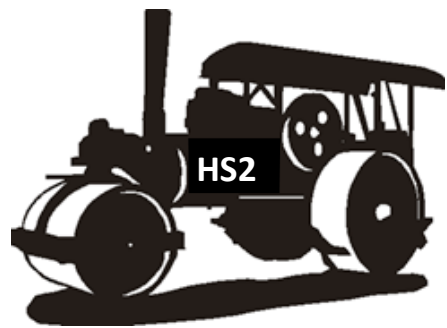
impact of HS2’s local construction strategy, for example:

- the increased use/abuse of the A413
- land-take at Hunts Green Farm
- the A413 / Rocky Lane junction
- the use of Potter Row / Kings Lane / Hunts Green for HS2 access
- tree-felling
- tree-planting near Jones Hill Wood
- Etc.

In each case, our insistence on what we believed Parliament expected has been challenged by HS2, and most (but not quite all) of the local arguments have been lost – in the case of the A413 traffic, after Bucks Council took the issue all the way to the Court of Appeal.

We have discovered, literally to our cost, the extensive powers the Act gave to HS2 Ltd, their conviction that they are always ‘right’ and the support they continue to receive, at least until the time of writing, from successive Secretaries of State, Chancellors of the Exchequer and Prime Ministers.

So, what are we left with in the Chilterns AONB to try to influence this steamroller of a project (apart from lying down in front of it)?



Construction operations

There have been, and hopefully will continue to be, some areas where we, as a parish council (with the support of our county council), can

bring about some local improvements.

Recent minor successes include:

- reducing closures on Rocky Lane
- supporting farmer's access rights
- road signage for HS2 vehicles
- footpath signage off Kings Lane
- reductions in site lighting.

We have also been able to take advantage of funding from the HS2 Community Fund to improve the children's' playground.

Minor as these may seem, they are the things that now affect people's day-to-day lives and will continue to do so.



Changing track?

Whatever the strategic outcome of the latest reviews, the parish council's engagement with the project will continue to slowly change track. Our long-term aims are to ensure the removal of HS2's Internal Access Road and more effective tree planting / landscaping, and then monitoring the operation of the railway itself, which, let's not forget, is still at least eight years away! Until then, we will continue to monitor and police, as best we can, the continuing construction operations.

Happy New Year!

[See HS2: EKFB Update page 26 for info on the road/lane closures that will affect The Lee residents in December 2022 and into January – Ed]

Dear Diary

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

December

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

Saturday 3rd. Lee Common School Winter Wonderland, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm, free entry. See page 6.

Saturday 3rd. Lighting up The Lee, get your festive lights a' twinkling on the day please. See page 2.

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Sunday 4th. Lighting up Ballinger from 5:00 pm.

Sunday 4th. Fayrfax Consort at The Lee Old Church. 7:30 pm, Tickets £15. Contact Pam Garner 837501.

Tuesday 6th. Ballinger BATS meets in Ballinger War Memorial Hall every Tuesday, 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

Friday 9th. The Lee Newsletter Dinner. The Lee Parish Hall. 7:30 pm. Please contact colinrsully@yahoo.co.uk with any final enquiries / responses.

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

Church Services

St John the Baptist, The Lee

Sunday 4th. Holy Communion (BCP) at the Old Church, 8:00 am.

Sunday 4th. Christingle / Family Service, 11:00 am.

Sunday 11th. Parish Communion (CW), 11:00 am.

Sunday 18th. Holy Communion (BCP), at the Old Church, 8:00 am.

Sunday 18th. Carol Service, 7:00 pm.

Sunday 24th. Crib Blessing Service, 3:00 pm.

Sunday 25th. Christmas Day Communion, 9:00 am.

January 2023

Sunday 1st. United Benefice Communion at the Old Church, 10:00 am.

Sunday 8th. Parish Communion (CW), 11:00 am.

Sunday 15th. Holy Communion (BCP) at the Old Church, 8:00 am.

Sunday 22nd. Parish Communion (CW), 11:00 am.

Sunday 29th. United Benefice Communion at St Leonard's Church, 10:00 am.

St Mary's, Ballinger

Sunday 4th. Advent Hymns, Communion and refreshments, 9:30 am.

Saturday 17th. Carols, 6:00 pm.

Saturday 24th. Christingle, 3:00 pm; followed by **Communion,** 9:30 pm.

Please note: coffee mornings at St Marys are temporarily suspended during building work and there is no service in January 2023.

Coming in 2023

Thursday 5th January. The Lee village walk, 9:30 am on the green.

Tuesday 17th January. The Lee Parish Council Meeting, 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

Friday 20th January. New Year Coffee morning at St Mary's, Ballinger, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Wednesday 25th January. Bridge Drive, 1:30 pm. The Lee Parish Hall, 1:30 pm. Tickets £12, contact Judy Hart on 837328. See page 20.

Sunday 19th February. WW2 Archiving Day at The Lee; Further details in the New Year.

Thursday 23rd February. Arts Society, Ballinger. 'Fire, Smoke and Iron: Spanish artists and the iron industry in Bilbao', Martin Lloyd, 8:00 pm.

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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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
Bank Holiday	£12/hr	£70
Car park only	£10	
Crockery/cutlery	£15 (hire outside the hall)	

The **wye** Partnership



It's our business so we care.

The Wye Partnership gained their knowledge and developed their expertise within the most successful estate agents in High Wycombe. On witnessing the take over of these long established companies by nationwide chains we recognised the need for the retention of a local and independent service. Our recent merger makes the enlarged Partnership the strongest Independent in South Bucks and The Chilterns!

All the partners have invested their own money into the Wye Residential Partnership and all truly believe that our business will be built on delivering excellent service to our clients. This means you can be confident that we will deliver on all aspects of Estate Agency in an honest, open and transparent way.

If you are looking to buy, sell or let in High Wycombe or the surrounding Chiltern villages then contact an estate agency that is motivated by your success and talk to The Wye Partnership.

wyeres.co.uk

Hazlemere
01494 711 284
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
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Associated
Park Lane Office
0203 368 8472

