



# NEWSLETTER

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

## From the Editor

By Phil Harrison

**A**s the days lengthen, our thoughts turn to the glories of spring. This month's edition includes articles relevant to the time of year.

The article on Our Countryside is particularly important if we wish to continue to have one to enjoy. No doubt many of you have childhood memories of Tufty, the Red Squirrel. Well, he hardly survives today due to the ferocious, destructive grey squirrel. The grey is not a native of these lands but is an unwelcome immigrant species. No, don't go all gooeey and say they are sweet animals. They destroy habitats, trees and indigenous species. They need to be eradicated and whoever is destroying the traps and feeders that they come across on their walks is not doing nature, the environment nor the community any favours.

It may help if, instead of seeing them as cuddly soft animals, you started to call them tree rats, as that is what they are and how they are labelled in other countries. You need to be aware that you are also trespassing as the traps and feeders are not set on the public footpaths but are on private land.

On a totally different subject The Cock and Rabbit is emerging with the spring. Hopefully The Old Swan will do likewise soon.

Finally, I can't finish without mentioning the Coronation. I have lost count of the number of people who have asked me what – or if – I am planning or arranging something for the community. By the time you receive this I hope that you will have seen and responded to a survey on the forum. All I can say at this stage is that it will be different from the Jubilee event.

Any thoughts on any of the articles plus contributions for April's edition to the editor, Liz Macann by 12<sup>th</sup> March at [theleeneewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:theleeneewsletter@gmail.com) please.

An idea for articles is to write something about your hobby: what it is; what it involves; how you started it and the people you meet through it, for example.

## Your Letters

### The Cock and Rabbit To the Editor

I would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming support and generosity of spirit that has been exhibited by the village since opening the doors just two months ago.

Despite the ongoing building works, the ever-present layer of dust and the trek to the temporary toilets, we have been inundated with kind words and encouragement.

I am hoping that by the time this newsletter is published, the inside toilets will be nearing completion, the



building will be clad in scaffold and the coffee shop receiving its final touches.

My young staff behind the bar, all from the local area and none with previous bar experience, arrive each shift with enthusiasm and excitement, feeding from the smiles and warmth of the village.

Thank you all for helping to breathe life back into The Cock and Rabbit.  
Oliver Quarrell  
The Cock and Rabbit

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# Our countryside

By Ken Mitchell-Gears

So many local people have requested that I write about this. However, I write with trepidation and request that you don't shoot the messenger. I thank you in advance for not doing so, but, hey, what is life without a little controversy?

Our woodlands are vital for the environment, offering great carbon absorbing trees and a lifeline for our native wildlife. The largest landowner in the UK is the forestry commission which own some 2,200,000 acres and work hard to grow and protect it. The cost of managing a wood is not insignificant, clearing older trees and planting new ones so the wood remains healthy.

It is the new plantations put in 40 years ago that are now being taken out as they have been either killed or deformed by the grey squirrel (a relative newcomer to the UK). If the grey is not stopped then future generations will not have woodlands to enjoy or a vital source of carbon absorbing trees. This does have the government's attention and they are taking this very seriously.

Locally there are many landowners who are working hard to protect the woodlands from the grey; the only method of doing so is to either shoot or trap them. The grey has on average eight kittens a year and, with no predators, I'm sure you can do the maths.

I support local landowners by undertaking this activity. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult, as my traps and feeders are being destroyed. The less successful I am, the more trees will have to be taken out, resulting in the landowners being reluctant to plant new acres of woodland. We all need them to continue to plant and nurture their woodlands.



We all have the luxury of living in this amazing area of countryside with its woodlands and fields. We have many footpaths helping us to navigate our way around. Most landowners want us to enjoy the land safely but we must understand that the land is a working environment. Footpaths are for people on foot. This does not include other forms of transport!

We are very fortunate that the landowners do not enforce the law to the letter, as we and our dogs should always remain on the footpath. I ask that people respect the land by ensuring their dogs stay out of crop fields, as they damage the crop and their poop infects the grasses and crop which we and the cattle eat. In addition, we are seeing more and more abuse which includes green waste in the pastures. This may poison the cattle.

We should be humbled by the generosity of the local landowners and be helping them to protect what we all enjoy.



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# The common, the park and the green

By Ruth Fowler

Of late I have become increasingly exercised about the names used for local pieces of land; not only are different names used to describe the same piece of land in the village but, even more confusingly, sometimes I hear the same name used to describe different pieces of land. To the best of my knowledge – and yes, I have consulted residents of longer standing than me – the definitive answers are as follows.

## The common



Many people think of a common as being open land where commoners (non-landowners) could historically graze their livestock. Open land in London such as Wandsworth or Wimbledon Commons are still in use as public areas today, although any such grazing rights are long gone.

Lee Common by contrast is no longer open land, but is the land on which the Parish Hall, shop, tennis court and Scout Hut are now located, along with Firgrove Cottages. It may not be open land but is still very much available for public use.

These days, the term Lee Common is generally used to mean the area

around Oxford Street. There is also “Lee Posh”, but that’s another story.

## The Park

The Park – or to give it its full name, The-Lee Manor Park – is the parkland formerly a part of The-Lee Manor. It mostly comprises the large pasture area behind the school, which stretches from opposite Manor Cottages on Lee Clump Road, behind Oxford Street and Cherry Tree Lane, and along to Field End.

Additionally, The Lee Cricket Club occupies an area of The-Lee Manor Park as, more recently, does Lee Common School’s outdoor forest school.

## Lee Common Allotments and Playing Fields

This area, sited between Oxford Street and Cherry Tree Lane, is home to the allotments, playground, football pitch and a small tree plantation. As you will have read by now, it is neither the park nor the common!

## The Green



The grassed area in front of the Cock and Rabbit, behind the chain-linked fence, does not have a name recognised on maps, by Royal Mail or elsewhere, but locally it is known informally and descriptively as ‘the green’ or more properly as The Lee Green, often abbreviated to The Green.

Indeed, if you search online for The Lee Green you will only find references to Lee Green in London which straddles the border of the boroughs of Lewisham and Greenwich. The Green is a privately-owned green space, made available to the public.

## Clear?

So, to summarise: the field behind the school isn't the common, it's the park; the playground isn't the park, it's part of the not very catchily named Lee Common Allotments and Playing Fields; the area housing the Hall, etc. is the common and the grassed space in front of the Cock and Rabbit may descriptively be called 'the green' but correctly should be The Lee Green. Any clearer?

Oh, and "Lee Posh" – that's the area close to The Green.

# The Lee Flower Show: 2023

By Jonathan Batten

**S**ave the date for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July – the juggernaut which is The Lee Flower Show will roll into the village – the greatest show on Earth brought to your doorstep, or at least close by at the cricket ground.

The preparation for this year's show is well underway: the marquee is booked and the band for the dance has been auditioned; money has been paid out.

The schedule is being finalised so that you can all start planning your entries soon.

Last year we returned after missing two shows during the hiatus of the pandemic years. The number of people who came to the show was less compared to 2019 and the dance was not so well supported as it has been on



previous occasions, which resulted in a deficit of over £2,500. We need to do better this year to ensure that the flower show has a future!

However, we were still able to support the Hilltop Ukrainian Support Community and donate money to Scannappeal and Medical Detection Dogs. If you know of some other local worthy causes, we will be very pleased to look at them.

We continue our search for someone to head up a team to organise the tea tent now that Claire Wise has stepped down. If you are that special person, please call me on 01494 837450.



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# Artificial Intelligence (AI)

By Phil Harrison

Recently you may have noticed that there has been a significant amount of news coverage about Artificial Intelligence and a new web-based app called ChatGPT. It has become the fastest growing consumer app ever. It launched in November and within five days had a million users (Netflix took three years to reach that many), by the end of January it reached over 100 million users. The app will answer questions, write answers any way you want in any style you request using artificial intelligence.

AI uses computers to mimic the problem-solving and decision-making capabilities of human minds.

Like all new things, users are learning how to use it, its limitations and its dangers. Educationalists are concerned, as a student can use it to write essays. There are examples of people applying for jobs using it to write their cover letters resulting in an increase in interviews. Others use it to list a set of ingredients they have in their cupboard to generate a recipe. The company behind this is OpenAI and yes, you have guessed it, Elon Musk is behind it.

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I have asked it to do two simple things. To do this you enter a 'prompt' and then it does its bit, almost in the blink of an eye.

The first 'prompt' was "Write a 100 word letter for The Lee Newsletter about the value of the Parish Council". The AI response was:

*"Dear Lee residents,*

*I hope this letter finds you well. As the Chairman of the Lee Parish Council, I wanted to take a moment to talk about the value that our council brings to our community. Our council serves as a bridge between the residents and the local government, ensuring that the needs and concerns of our community are heard and addressed. The council also works tirelessly to enhance the quality of life in Lee by supporting local events and initiatives, maintaining public spaces, and advocating for necessary improvements.*

*By staying informed and active in the council, you can play an important role in shaping the future of our community. I encourage you to attend our meetings and get involved in the decision-making process.*

*Best regards, [Your Name]  
Chairman, Lee Parish Council"*

I will leave you to decide if this is a good response, one you would have done or maybe one that is better.

The second 'prompt' was "Write a limerick on the village pub". The AI response was:

*"There was once a village pub with great flair  
Where locals would gather and repair  
With tales to be told  
And drinks to behold  
It was the heart of the village, beyond compare!"*

Progress or not?

It is being talked about as being the biggest thing after the Internet itself. Billions are being invested in it. If you want to try it yourself, you need to create an account online.

Don't use the app store as the apps there are spurious fee-based apps that are masquerading as this. ChatGPT is free <https://chat.openai.com/>

Given the age profile of some of our readership, I hope this article helps you impress the young with your knowledge!

## Our cold war with Russia

### Part two – QRA duties

By Peter Sackett

**O**ur crew training was designed to enable us to navigate our aircraft successfully to our designated Russian target, while avoiding both enemy interceptor jets and surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), and to achieve maximum target accuracy on release of our Blue Steel air-to-ground standoff H-bomb missile.

But none of this would be possible without the ability to take off before Russian nuclear missiles hit us. For this, we were totally reliant on the massive radar installation at RAF Fylingdales in North Yorkshire, then part of our Ballistic Missile Early Warning System. This would give us enough time to scramble our aircraft and get airborne within four minutes from notification.

Crews would take it in turns to be on Quick Reaction Alert (QRA). We would live and sleep in our flying gear in wooden huts built near the runway, with our Victor parked ready for take-off. At some point every day (usually



*RAF Fylingdales*

in the dead of night) an alarm would go off and we would grab our helmets and run to our aircraft. A new combustion ignition system allowed all four Conway RCo17 engines to be started simultaneously. Our captain would then start the priming of the nuclear warhead and await instructions for take-off. Mercifully, the next message we invariably received was, "False Alarm, False Alarm". The



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nuclear pile would be closed down and the exercise was over.

But I'm jumping ahead of myself because first we had to get up to speed with several months of five-hour training flights involving bombing fictitious targets, flying at low and high level, and studying our actual Russian target, while locked in an underground bunker for hours on end, where nothing could be taken in or information on our secret target taken out. All had to be committed to memory.

We flew once or twice a week on training flights, the day before which I had to study and memorise virtual targets set up at various locations up and down England and Scotland. I had to be able to recognise them on my radar screen in minute detail. When I pressed my missile release button a ground installation was able to pick up the signal and calculate how accurately

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I was hitting each target. It was the role of the other members of the crew to get me to the target, while the success of each training flight was based on the accuracy of my bomb-aiming.

## Higher... and lower

Getting me to our real Russian target was not going to be easy. We were capable of flying at over 500 mph at 55,000 feet, above the ceiling of the Russian MiG interceptor fighters, so could avoid them. However, by the time my crew began training the Russian SAMs would probably have been able to pick us up on their fast-improving radar at a range of 200 miles, despite the efforts of our Air Electronics Officer (AEO) who had primary responsibility for the Victor's electronics and communication system, including a large range of electronic countermeasures (ECM).



*Avro Vulcan on low level manoeuvres*

So, our strategy was changed and we only flew the initial and last part of our mission at high level. As we approached enemy territory we had to swoop down to low level (well below 3,000 feet, where enemy radar was less effective due to extraneous ground-generated clutter signals) and fly at criminally low speeds before climbing high again, when I could release the Blue Steel stand-off nuclear missile which would arrow in on the target, completing the last few hundred miles

more quickly and safely by itself. A complicated, convoluted procedure.

By 1965 the Blue Steel missile had been adapted so that it could be released at low-level, at 1,000 feet. But before that, by the end of 1964, the Valiants, the oldest of the V-bombers, were suffering from fatigue cracks, stress fractures to their main spar and wings, and had to be withdrawn from service. Later, the Victors B.2s themselves developed fatigue cracks from their low-level sorties and had to be withdrawn from the front line in 1968. The V-bombers were replaced by the Polaris ballistic missile submarines of the Royal Navy in 1969.

## Honoured and welcomed

Living in the bubble of QRA, our crew was unprepared for the honour of being singled out to meet the then Defence Minister, Dennis Healey, when he visited our station.

Or of being welcomed by the Officer Commanding and the entire station on the tarmac at Fighter Command RAF Leconfield, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, when we were once diverted there. They were thrilled to see our armed Victor at close hand, as their English Electric Lightning Squadrons were designed and developed as interceptors to defend V-bomber airfields from anticipated future nuclear-armed supersonic Soviet bombers.

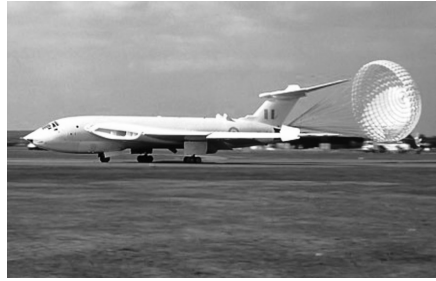
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*Victor with landing parachute deployed*

Or of being chosen to feature in a nationwide, recruitment, advertising campaign, showing our crew scrambling for our Victor in a re-enactment of our QRA drill. A huge, grainy black-and-white photograph of that image filled the window of the same Bristol High Street RAF recruitment centre I had wandered into to enquire about a career in the RAF less than four years earlier.

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# Our finances

By Adam Speller, Chief Bean (aka Newsletter Treasurer)

Being an accountant by training, I often mull over where the money comes from and how an entity survives from a financial perspective. In this increasingly transparent age, where even the Prime Minister is expected to comply, I thought that readers might be interested to know how the Newsletter “makes ends meet”.

I therefore set out below a summary of our finances for 2022 (and 2021 for comparison purposes).

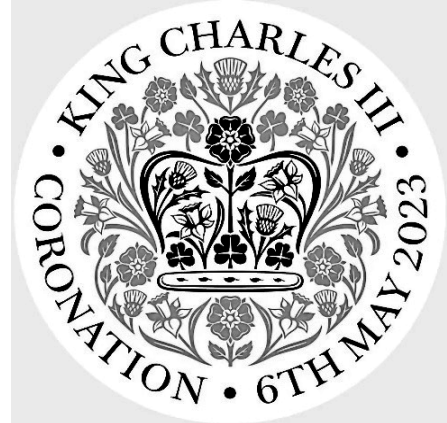
	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Advertising and sponsors	3,733	3,068
Annual Dinner receipts	1,440	-
Total Income	5,173	3,068
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Printing Costs	3,118	2,947
Annual Dinner costs	1,473	-
Indemnity Insurance	360	339
Total Expenditure	4,951	3,286
Surplus/(Deficit) in Year	222	(133)
Reserves (31 <sup>st</sup> December)	1,139	917

Thanks to our local advertisers and sponsors the Newsletter can survive financially with sufficient reserves to weather any unexpected storms ahead. Hopefully, it provides a useful forum for locals to publicise events and comment upon current and historic issues for the enjoyment and education of everyone at no cost (thanks to volunteers) to more than 400 recipients.

The Newsletter in its current form has survived for more than 20 years so hopefully it will survive for another 20 at least!

# Coronation plan

By Phil Harrison



The morning of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May is when King Charles III will be crowned in Westminster Abbey.

The detailed timings of the event have not yet been published. We know that there is a concert planned in Windsor for the Sunday, along with a national Big Lunch. The Monday is a Bank Holiday with the stated aim of the day to be about helping others.

I have been asked by numerous people across the community if I would organise something following on from last year’s Jubilee and Santa’s Christmas visit. In the absence of anyone else wishing to take up this mantle here are some initial thoughts.

I see the Coronation as an opportunity for the community to come together to have a party, to collectively celebrate our community and enjoy each other’s company.

Whether you be royalist or republican just come along and enjoy being with friends and neighbours.

Recently I put a short survey on The Lee Forum to see if there was support for doing something. There were

more absolute responses to this survey than either of the Jubi-Lee surveys:

- 94% were in favour of having a community celebration.
- 80% wanted an afternoon party followed by an evening BBQ at The Cock and Rabbit
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> was OK for 93% (see below for alternative thoughts)
- 51% were interested, in principle, in buying a commemorative Lee Coronation mug.

Several ideas were put forward that people would like to have incorporated into the festivities.

One of the key debates appears to be when to hold the event. I had thought that the Monday was the optimal day, given the mass TV coverage of the main event on Saturday and the concert at Windsor on the Sunday. However, a strong case is being made for the event to be on the Saturday, after the Coronation itself. Currently we don't have detailed timings for this to enable our plan to be created. As soon as the timings are available, I will see how practical a Saturday event would be and will do another survey to gather your views.

For now keep the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> free for a knees up, so as to speak.

In the meantime, here is an outline of a possible 'event'. Please note that this is a very early thought process and could change significantly as we work through the ideas. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please send them to me via the newsletter email address (page 1).

- Tra-La-Lee: A Coronation Concert featuring
  - The Occasional Singers
  - Last Night of the Proms
  - Numbers from the musicals

If you have musical talent and fancy being part of this let me know.

- BBQ/Food at The Cock and Rabbit
- Shop at The Lee stall offering ice creams, cakes, biscuits, picnic foods
- Teas
- Children's races
- Maypole dancing
- Fancy Dress/Best crown parade
- Tug-o-War

What we end up with will inevitably come down to how much can be 'self-done' and how much will need helpers and marshalling.

The difference we have this year is The Cock and Rabbit being open and willing to participate. Unfortunately, the timing does mean we may be impacted by the weather and many families will be in the middle of the exam season reducing availability of helpers. Centring everything at The Lee Green will make it much easier to undertake.

Please feel free to let me have your thoughts and, if you are willing to help out, that would be great too.

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# From the Chair

By Ruth Fowler

Chair, The Lee Parish Council

I was delighted to read the 'letter' from me, generated by ChatGPT (see page 6). Whilst briefly tempted to ask ChatGPT to generate this column on my behalf, I felt that residents deserve more!

The 'letter' was a perfect example of how to use 100 words, written grammatically but say very little. I'm not nearly enough of a politician to be able to emulate it, but some of the points made were valid. Recent attendees of meetings have commented that they enjoyed sitting though council deliberations and had no idea that we had such a broad remit. As explained last month we have no decision-making powers over planning, but we



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can and do make decisions on areas within our remit. If you'd like to find out more, come along to our next meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30 pm in The Lee Parish Hall.

## Speeding

The Parish Council has started the lengthy task of surveying all the speed restriction signs in the parish, reporting any to Buckinghamshire Council that require restorative work to make them properly visible. The first batch has now been reported.

## Off road cyclists

Now that spring is approaching, the Council has received a number of complaints about cyclists riding on footpaths. Unfortunately, the response from some cyclists has not been encouraging, with them shouting at walkers to get out of the way, giving verbal abuse to walkers and in one case ignoring a landowner's request to turn around and leave their property. Whatever happened to common courtesy?

As a reminder, cyclists and horse riders are permitted on bridleways but not on footpaths unless they have the express permission of the landowner to be there. Don't forget, it is the landowner who will have to repair paths churned up by those not permitted to be there, who are, from a legal perspective, trespassers.

Many of the cyclists using our footpaths are likely to be from outside the area but, if you know them, please remind them that riding on footpaths is neither welcome nor acceptable. Abuse of residents is completely unacceptable. The Council has written to local cycle clubs, asking them to relay this information to any of their members who cycle off-road.

More information can be found at [www.thelee.org.uk/council-services/#path](http://www.thelee.org.uk/council-services/#path)

## Shooting in the woods

There was recently a discussion on the forum about the legality of shooting in the woods, and specifically about shooting close to footpaths designated as rights of way. (This issue also occupied my Inbox for several days.) I understand that those not used to guns can be somewhat alarmed to encounter someone armed when out walking, so I thought it might be useful to clarify that this is completely legal. Although pedestrians only have right of way along designated footpaths (as above, any deviation from a footpath or other right of way without the landowner's permission is, from a legal perspective, trespass). Anyone with the landowner's permission is legally permitted to shoot anywhere in the woods, both on and off footpaths, subject only to rules about closed seasons for game being observed and ensuring not to cause any physical injury to others.

In summary, shooters and walkers have equal rights to access footpaths designated as rights of way, with each having the obligation not to obstruct the other.

## Planning applications

Finally, 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](mailto:clerk@thelee.org.uk).

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# The gentle craft of grave tending

By Andrew Stephenson

‘A gentle craft, carried out by gentle people in gentle surroundings’ would be my summing up of Grave Tending, a niche industry which is slowly but surely growing in the UK.

The idea is to clean and restore graves and headstones in a non-destructive manner (i.e. no bleach or sand blasting etc.), using environmentally friendly products as far as possible and doing so in as gentle way as is feasible.



No matter what I do, I can never return the stone to its original state, as constant exposure to the weather and the environment will inevitably weather and age it, but it is certainly possible to return it to a condition that a family ‘can be proud of’.

Those sorts of feelings are always in my thoughts when I’m working for a

client and cleaning their loved one’s resting place – I’m acutely aware of their investment in feelings, time, money and memories, hence the name of my company Memories Grave Tending.

## ‘Cemetery Sunday’

Although there’s no authentic history of the trade, I think it’s safe to say it has its roots in Eire, with its century’s old tradition of ‘Cemetery Sunday’. This was an annual day, usually in the summer, where graves were garlanded and decorated but has slowly become a day of remembrance, flower laying and grave cleaning.

There’s an apocryphal, but amusing story, which says it was a side line for Council cemetery workers. It’s said they’d be tipped a few quid by mourners or relatives to look after the grave, a process which happily continued for many years until Council managers found out that the workers were spending half their time and using the Council’s tools to carry out their profitable side-line in working hours. Needless to say this brought an abrupt halt to the practice!

## Generational bonds

As we are all living longer, today’s youngsters will usually spend many years knowing their grandparents and even great grandparents. This just didn’t happen 50-75 years ago and means that today’s generation has a far more intense bond to their grandparents and they don’t want their much loved relatives to be forgotten or neglected.

This latter point feeds into the second trend, namely the increased mobility of families in the last 50-75 years. So many people now move away from their birthplace for study, work or family but still feel a connection to their family’s historical base. They are obviously unable to tend their relatives’ graves and so the need for someone to do it for them.



It's very rewarding seeing the results of my endeavours and hearing/reading the positive, and sometimes very moving, reactions from my clients. I enjoy running my own business and I love the environment; graveyards are very peaceful, beautiful places which are a joy to work in. Add in the fact that there's no pressure or deadlines, that my clients are lovely people and I've always been interested in churches and local history I think it's safe to say I've got the perfect job!

I hope I've shone a light on a niche sector that my friends and acquaintances are generally fascinated by.

If you want to see examples of what I can do or require any further information, please visit my website [www.memoriesgravetending.co.uk](http://www.memoriesgravetending.co.uk)

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# Mine's a pint

By Revd Chris Haywood



After Christmas services were finished, I sought to fulfil another one of my remits. When the post was advertised it stated that the applicant should be as comfortable in the pub as they are in church. It's an expectation I try hard to meet! We headed down to The Cock and Rabbit at lunchtime on Christmas Day to share in the joyous atmosphere and enjoy a drink. Georgie and I were touched by how well we were looked after.

## Time for reflection

We are now looking forward to Easter. Lent started on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 with an Ash Wednesday service, incorporating the Imposition of Ashes. I was back in the pub later that evening offering the imposition of ashes to anyone wishing to enter into the ritual. Lent is of course a time of reflection and repentance in preparation for Easter, which our Lent services will reflect. The exception is Mothering Sunday on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March, when we will celebrate and remember our mothers at a special service, treating them accordingly. Do join us for this special service.

As we look to Easter, we are running several groups exploring the Christian faith, which can, but does not necessarily need to, culminate in confirmation into the Church of England.

If you'd like to explore more about Christianity and want to join a group, just let me know and I'll link you into one. We hope very much that this will culminate with Bishop Alan coming to The Lee to lead a confirmation service, an occasion we've not hosted since the 1990s, I believe.

Also, throughout Lent we reconvene the weekly Lent group, where we gather at the Vicarage to explore together the Christian faith and how we live it out, encouraging each other in our enquiry, learning and application. Groups are weekly through Lent, on Tuesday evenings. If numbers exceed our lounge's capacity, we arrange for several groups to meet. I encourage you to join a group and if you'd like to please let Georgie or I know so we can include you. Last year the Lent group was a very special time of sharing and learning and we look forward to it being so again.

# Bridge too far?

By Kathryn Dickinson et al

On this recent hand, East could hardly believe the 10 card Spade suit that had been dealt.

♠ A  
♥ Q 4  
♦ Q 10 8 2  
♣ A Q 9 5 3 2

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

♠ 5  
♥ A K 10 9 6 5 3  
♦ K J  
♣ J 7 4

Dealer: North  
Vulnerability: Neither

South also had a very uneven hand, so a bidding war was inevitable. What was the final contract, and did it make? See page 30.



# 150

## Our birthday

By Pam Batty, Chair of Governors

**W**e are very excited to share that this year, Lee Common School is 150 years old! We opened on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 1873 and turned 150 on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023. During the year we are looking to take part in a variety of celebrations and activities to celebrate this important birthday. Did you used to attend Lee Common School? Are any of your family members or friends, ex-pupils or staff? We would love to hear from you. The memories we collect will be gathered for a special display and event happening later in the year. We are looking forward to celebrating with you.

Please send in your memories, photographs and experiences of your time at Lee Common School to: [office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk)

### A new head for LCS

More exciting news this year is the arrival of our new Headteacher, Mrs Michelle Green. For the past eight years she has been the Headteacher at Little Missenden School, one very similar to Lee Common and we hope that you will join us in welcoming her to our school and community where she will work alongside Little Missenden School. No doubt, many of you will have the opportunity to meet her over the coming months, particularly at some of the celebratory events that are being planned during our big birthday year.

Whilst writing, I would like to extend our thanks to the parent body,

the Lee Common School Association, who work tirelessly to raise funds and provide support to the school in so many ways. If you are a parent of a current pupil at the school, please do join this amazing band of people as more hands are always needed. Small schools rely more and more on parents, families and community members, like yourselves, whose generosity enables additional activities and resources to be provided to our children that may otherwise be unaffordable. Coming soon is the Quiz Night (see page 26) and it would be great to see many of you there. I know that those of you who have attended before would highly recommend this event.

Since the school year began in September, we have welcomed new members of staff to Lee Common. Our dedicated staff team provide the very best for our children and, in the

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paragraphs below, the teachers give us all a glimpse into what takes place in their classrooms.

## The Larks Nursery

In the Larks Nursery Class, we have been reading our favourite fairy tales and using a voting system to choose our daily class book. The children have been using small world play with characters from stories to act these out with their friends and teachers. The children have been developing their core strength and coordination on our bikes and scooters, throwing and catching with key workers. In phonics, the children played a sound lotto game which involved them matching pictures to a taped sound. They enjoyed singing some of their favourite action songs, such as *Heads,*



*Shoulders, Knees and Toes, I'm a Little Teapot and Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn Around.* Children have been exploring shapes in our environment and becoming shape detectives. Larks went on a shape hunt around the school to

learn which shapes around them remind them of rectangles, squares, triangles, and circles.

## Wrens Reception

Our Reception children, in Wrens Class, have also been exploring shape, making triangles and using language to describe what makes a square a square or a circle a circle. We are learning that 2D shapes cannot be held but that lots of shapes in our environment 'remind us' of circles, squares, rectangles and triangles. We discovered the different properties of shapes, observing which shape slid and which shape rolled. This activity helped us to describe, using maths language, for example, curved and straight.

In phonics we have been challenging ourselves to read longer two-syllable words. We explored our names first to see which names had more claps. Wow, Reception children, a bit of challenge for some children, but we are very proud of all of you for persevering and having a go.

We also turned into detectives and discovered a dragon had visited our classroom. The children were very cross because the dragon had turned over chairs and tables. Luckily the dragon was not shy, had left clues and even taken a video selfie! We used this information to create a missing poster.

Has anyone seen a dragon around Lee Common? Please call 01494 837267 if you spot one.



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## Robins and Swallows

In our Robins and Swallows Class, our Years 1 and 2 children have also been very busy. The children have been exploring journey stories and took on the role of an author when planning and writing their own story. Some of the adjectives and phrases used were absolutely fantastic. Here are some extracts: "The hippos were bathing in the water hole and the babies were basking in the sun." "Their eyes were bulging with fright." "They heard a rumble of thunder." "Its teeth were the size of buildings and as sharp as a knife." "It was a fine day in Wendover." "The wind started to howl." "Snow drops glistened on his head."

During Maths, we have been exploring both 2D and 3D shapes. The children have been identifying shapes in their environment and creating artwork and models using a range of different shapes. Miss Taylor and Miss Palmer have been very impressed with the children's knowledge of language such as 'vertices' and 'symmetry'.

Linking with our RE big question of 'How is New Year celebrated?', we explored how Chinese New Year can be celebrated and even had a go at taking part in some traditions, including making red lanterns and yummy spring rolls! We have also been exploring a range of different artist techniques during our Topic learning, including using collage to create some striking fire pictures.

Please do get in touch with us at [office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk) if you would like to know more about how to support our amazing school. You may have some great skills that you could share with our children, volunteer to help with a school event or activity, find out more about becoming a governor, support with a financial donation or would like your child to attend the school or nursery. We would love to hear from you.

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# John Benjamin romances the stone

From The Lee Old Church Trust  
Committee

There's another sparkling evening in store at the Old Church, because the brilliant John Benjamin, from the BBC TV's Antiques Roadshow, will return to The Lee on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7:30 pm to guide us through 600 glittering years of that most sought after, romantic gem, the diamond.

Learn how man has mastered the techniques of cutting and polishing the hardest substance on earth from basic point cuts to the brilliants of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Discover how this most precious of stones came to dominate the history of jewellery... find out more about the diamond today and how it is identified and assessed, and the role of the diamond laboratories along with the potential repercussions of imitations and synthetics.

Finally, John will dazzle us with a discussion about fancy diamonds and famous diamonds throughout history.

Tickets are £15 each, including wine and canapés. However if you have a special item of jewellery that you've always wanted to know more about, we have just six 'Golden' tickets available for £25 each – buy one and, after his talk, John will identify and value your precious piece for you.

To book your tickets call Pam Garner on 837501 or Jilly Carleton-Smith on 837205.

# Not staying in!

*This month, we start a new series of articles in which readers tell us about events they enjoy and recommend, taking place outside of The Lee, but nearby. We start our journey in Berkhamsted.*

## Behind the mirror

By Louise Wadsworth

'Behind the Mirror' is an intimate series of concerts in Berkhamsted founded and curated by Clare O'Connell, presenting classical music in an imaginative, sometimes unexpected way. Using storytelling to create shape and enhance meaning, these are thrilling performances of unique programmes performed by world-class musicians.



*Clare O'Connell*

We have been to several concerts organised by musicians from this talented group and they are always special and unusual. On 12<sup>th</sup> February we went to hear an incredibly moving performance of the Goldberg Variations by JS Bach arranged for string trio. It

was a truly virtuoso performance. Highly recommended.

The next performance of a concert called 'Rosa Celeste' is on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Old Town Hall in Berkhamsted. They are promising "A luminous and uplifting programme of ancient and modern music, especially arranged for clarinet, violin and cello".

Please visit this link for tickets <https://www.behindthemirror.org>

*[If you have something to recommend to our readers, do send in some details to the Editor.]*

## Prepared- Lee



By Enzo D'Alessandro

**1**st Lee Common is very enthusiastic at the moment. A team from our Troop ('The Wanderers') has participated in QUEST, a challenge encompassing a gruelling 16km hike with 16 bases, each with a task to complete – all of this mostly in the dark. We had a team of six, with ages between 11 and 14; there were around 50 other teams. It was TOUGH... AND THEY WON!

We are all very proud.

### Growth frameworks

It really is a challenge in all senses: you need skills, teamwork, physical stamina and, maybe above all, mental resilience. In the last few newsletter articles, I pointed out that all the activities we do are part of a wider, deeper growth framework that aims at allowing the Scouts to learn foundational ideas through practice. QUEST is an excellent exemplar: they need to select the right kit (and ONLY the right kit – they'll have to carry it

from 3:00 pm to midnight on their shoulders); they need to work together as the tasks exercise a variety of skills; they need to keep themselves motivated and motivate each other when the going gets difficult; they need to conquer their fears and frustrations and just put one foot in front of the other until the job is done.

And what could be better as a Leader than to hear one of the team saying: "It was physically difficult, but the mental challenge was tougher – we had to work together to keep each other spirits up". Well done to 'The Wanderers': Dante, Freddy, Raphael, Cara, Henry and Thomas.

Before I leave you, I have an appeal: we're looking for Scouts uniforms which might be gathering dust in your older children's drawers – we would be grateful for any uniform we could re-use.

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# Kilimanjaro FC

## Part 1: Preparation

By Dougal Hildreth

**T**his is the story of two Watford fans, Dougal (Keith) Hildreth and Ian Dell, seeking the challenge of a lifetime in Tanzania with a plan to also leave a legacy of Watford FC behind.

During a conversation with my friend Ian and fellow Hornet (Watford Football Club) supporter of 55 years, we got talking about challenges in later life and our bucket list. We were looking for 'the big one'.

Kilimanjaro came up and suddenly in February 2022 we had booked our flights and arranged the trip dates.

We had been in contact one of the best Tanzanian Kilimanjaro guides, Samson Lauwo, the owner of Kilimanjarobound Ltd. Samson's

lineage goes back to his great grandfather who was part of the first ever team to conquer the summit, way back in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The plan was for an initial trek up Mount Meru, a technical mountain, the fifth highest in Africa, to prepare us and acclimatise for altitude. This was to be followed by the ultimate, Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa and the highest freestanding mountain in the world at 5,895 metres (19,340 ft) above sea level. This is a serious altitude levels where there is only 40% oxygen available, you need to gasp twice just to get your lungs full, it will prove energy sapping and a fight between being physically and mentally prepared.

Eleven months of preparation came and went very quickly... vaccinations, visas, life insurance!

### KitAid.net

As our baggage allowance was very generous with Kenyan Airways, we decided to do as much for charity on our trip as we could, and how better to make it football, or even better Watford FC related.

We contacted Derrick Williams of KitAid.net as a chosen charity of Watford FC. By coincidence Derrick grew up in Ballinger and went to the Misbourne, he was in my brother's class and his sister was in my class; it is a small world. Their family home was 'Kenya' in Ballinger, which they sold to Rick Brockett.

(Derrick's father was on HMS Kenya in the Far East during the Second World War, afterwards he joined the RAF and was posted to Kenya. Hence the house name.)

KitAid is run on volunteer efforts. It collects unused sports clothing from football clubs and different sporting organisations across the UK and subsequently distributes it to all corners of the world. They are a few thousand

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short of a ONE MILLION milestone of clothing sent to worthy causes.

We met with Derrick at their Hemel Hempstead offices, a couple of containers on an industrial estate. What a treasure trove of items he is donated on a regular basis. True to his word we left fully loaded with over six team sets of Watford kit in different sizes, a collection of England Commonwealth games Badminton shirts, West Brom and Oxford shirts, Reading shorts, and Watford FC staff attire. Over 260 pieces in total. We also bought some footballs and air pumps to go with our donations. You can't play if you haven't a ball!

We left the UK on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023, embarking on the challenge and trip of a lifetime.

## Climb Meru

Samson met us on arrival and gave us a briefing over the next four days ahead of climbing Mount Meru. What to take and what to leave behind at the hotel. All our equipment was checked to make sure that it served its purpose; from the first minute, no stone was left unturned. Our safety was of paramount importance throughout the following 14 days.

Our chief guide would be Aggrey and we were to be looked after by his team, the Dreamteam. They all came from a local village Marangu, this was one happy family, well-coordinated and all knowing their position within the Dreamteam.

All the accommodation on Mount Meru is shared lodges, with a two day walk in to reach The Saddle Hut, viewing the wildlife on the way: giraffe, buffalo, baboon, warthog, zebra, water buck and cranes.

The alarm goes off at 23:00 for a summit trek that would take over six hours in the dark. We arrived at the peak just as the sun rose on the horizon. Training mission accomplished, 4,566 metres.

Fortunately, it was in the dark as on the way back we were made aware of the sheer drops that we had traversed to reach the peak. Five hours back down for breakfast, a quick rest, and then a full day trek back to the Momela Gate.

*Part two of Dougal and Ian's challenge will be in next month's issue; the climb up Kilimanjaro and how football kit brightened up the lives of the children they met.*

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# Murmurings



By Joe King

It is fascinating what you observe and hear sitting quietly in the corner sipping a pint of Rebellion now that we have a functioning pub locally.

New faces are emerging into the community; people you don't normally see other than behind the wheel of a large 4x4 pounding potholes into submission. Faces from as far away as Amersham and Berkhamsted would you believe? Our quite forgotten backwater is finding a place in wider society. Whatever next? Hog riders on their Harleys?

## New and old faces

"I haven't been here for over 20 years" (or more) is a common observation. "Do you remember when" leads into a mist of dawn reminiscence, as topping stories emerge between quaffs.

"Have you been in the bigger bar? It is like a creche and a kennel club?" Probably a weekend phenomenon – hope so. With summer around the corner the garden will have its uses in this matter.

The vicar appears regularly as he discovers parishioners abound in the hostelry, more so than in church. Maybe he is seeking divine inspiration. A bar at the font? Chilled wine cooling in the holy water even?

Building work and scaffolding adorn the pub, as the place is renewed following years of neglect. As the transition takes place new staff learn the craft of innkeeping; tempting plates of pies and ploughman's appear out of a hole in the wall in a bold attempt to feed the hungry despite a current lack of facilities. General comment is more than positive; goodwill exudes from the clientele as the desire for Oliver and his team to succeed is high.

Cheers.

# Are you ...?

By Diana Taylor

Wearing a grey knitted jacket and an eccentrically bright yellow woolly hat with knitted plaits attached, the small and wide old lady asked "Are you a cat person?" and then continued "because if you are, there's a cat crouching under the hedge that appears to be hurt. It has been there for days"

"What!" I thought "been there for days without anyone doing something about it?" and so I and my old 'nurse's nature' went and stooped down and looked carefully at the cat. I mean, I might be a cat person if the cat looked clean and healthy but I might not be a cat person if the cat was mangy, dirty or snarly. In truth, therefore, I recognised that whilst addressing the cat, I was also addressing myself and my personal prejudices.

As it turned out the cat was really quite sweet – and small – and clean – and quiet. It began to close its eyes as I spoke to it and I started to stroke its head. I remembered that, along with my tea flask in my backpack, I had brought a small bottle of milk. I rummaged to retrieve this and very quickly, I realised that the little cat had moved and was rubbing against me.

## No complacency

Knowing that I didn't have a dish, I tipped the milk into the lid of my removed Tupperware sandwich box. I looked to the sky but not seeing a single kite or seagull, I offered the milk in the lid to the cat and it began to noisily lap (or is it "plap"?) the milk. The cat did seem hungry and I was aware that I should not become complacent as occasionally you do see a seagull in The Lee and, certainly, we must never feed the kites; not on anything.

I picked up this little, vulnerable creature. Poor thing, it didn't have a collar or a dog tag. "Do cats have dog tags?" I wondered. A feeling of incompetence



arose with not knowing the answer. I realised I don't know much about anything except the things I do know about. Intuition took over and I began to stroke this attentive creature. It purred luxuriously and responsively. I felt some small flickering flames of self-satisfaction kindle within my chest. Before long there was a whole warm, cosy and glowing, homely-hearth, saving-the-world feeling filling my complete torso.

I turned from sensibility to sense and checked the cat for injuries – paws first. All seemed well. I couldn't decide whether it was a 'he' or a 'she' because, in the past, pets have always come with that information given before arrival. It was a very pretty animal which, I realised, was now causing me a huge dilemma.

Whether I were a 'cat person' or not, I felt an instinct to protect and safeguard that which fate had put upon me. Should I return it to its resting place under the hedge, knowing rain was due? Should I take it home or ask Anthony the Postman if he knew anything about the little cat? Anthony does seem to have a lot of local knowledge and he is always willing to be helpful.

"No" I thought "It would not be fair on Anthony who must hurry on with his deliveries". Perhaps I should take the cat to Church? I have often heard of church mice. Perhaps, if there are any church mice, they would be pleased to have the little cat there for company and the cat would almost certainly enjoy playing with the mice!

Perhaps I could take the little cat to a house near the hedge. Most people in our

village are helpful. I should not be afraid to ask for help here. Perhaps The Cock and Rabbit would like a little cat – after all they are doing platters now and cats, I thought, like church mice, do like cheese.

I knew people at home would say that you can't just go around the world rescuing things, collecting cats and bringing them home or taking them to the shop or church or pub. And you can't – or maybe you can.

I really do wonder what you would have done. I suppose you might have easily known what should be done but then, that depends on exactly as the yellow topped, knitted pigtailed, small and wide old lady's question asked in the beginning.

When she asked me, I had been too eager to respond without thinking of the ramifications when trying to solve the problem. I had not understood the significance of the question which I put to you now:

"Are YOU ... are a cat person?"

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# Quiz Night

By Sarah Cherry, LCSA

It's back! The hugely popular village Quiz Night will be taking place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March in the Parish Hall, for the first time since Covid. We're looking forward to another opportunity for residents and their friends, parents and supporters of Lee Common School to all come together for a convivial evening of fun with a touch of competitive spirit!

There will be a cash bar also selling snacks, and the quiz includes cheese tasting and live music rounds. You can choose whether to purchase your own table and assemble your dream team of eight in advance, or just come along individually and we'll seat you on the night. Secure your place by emailing leecommonschoolassociation@gmail.com or at the village shop.

## Winter wonderland

Thank you once again for the outpouring of generosity towards our little school around the Winter Wonderland in December. The

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**Lee Parish Hall**  
**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

Bar (with snacks) opens 7.30pm  
Cheese round available 7.45pm  
Questions begin 8pm

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substantial contribution of villagers, with both their time and money, helped us to raise nearly £4,500 – we are quite bowled over by such a sum and full of gratitude for the additional enhancements to the children's learning it will allow us to provide.

## HS2 update

By Cllr Colin Sully

### Local impacts

Elsewhere in the Newsletter you can read of the impact HS2 is having on one local farmer (page 28). Spare a thought for him when you are faced with:

- full closure of Rocky Lane for utility works (now planned for 27<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March)
- lane closures on the A413, Wendover bypass for power supply (27<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> March)
- overnight closure of A413, London Road for utility diversion preparation (6<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March)
- five-week closure of Frith Hill: South Heath Leg for electricity supply and construction of site entrance (from 13<sup>th</sup> March).

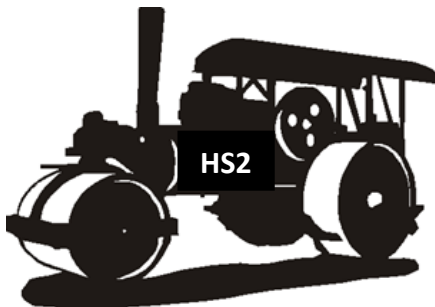
All these dates remain provisional, for the latest updates on HS2 works visit <http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map/>

At the time of writing, the unresolved local design issues at Leather Lane and Bowood Lane... remain unresolved!

### On the wider front...

The government's infrastructure tsar, Nick Smallwood, (chief executive of the Infrastructure Projects Authority) has recently said that his body was unable to scrutinise the HS2 plans in its early stages and that a lack of early scrutiny of the costs and delivery of HS2 has left the project

“gold-plated” and “too far down the line to fix”. He has criticised the approach by the project in the early stages. He said that “it was a constant battle” with project teams, who “too often say that they know what they are doing, until they find out they don’t”.



The government minister for HS2, however, reaffirmed the Government’s support of the scheme, stating that it would not be cancelled and that “We expect HS2 to be built within its budget; we understand that there are inflationary pressures but that is the charge on us, as the government sponsor to the project team, to make sure they fold those costs within”

Which turns out to mean a review to find some more bits of the project to cut back on – like trains and speed?

### Laughing stock

Meanwhile, the Daily Telegraph, commenting on the current state of the project in an article entitled “HS2 making Britain global laughing stock” wrote: “At this rate, we can expect a single steam train a day to puff its way through the Chilterns, perhaps starting somewhere in Buckinghamshire, and ending up close to Solihull, carrying a few tourists and train spotters. Everyone else will be told to get the coach because it’s too expensive to run the high-speed trains for them.”

Sometimes, I wonder how on Earth did we end up here? Then I remember!

  
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## Farming in the Chilterns: Pt 3

**W**e continue our look at farming in and around The Lee, this month in conversation with Peter Bunce who, with his family, farms out of Strawberry Hill Farm on Kings Lane

### Farming, food... and HS2

**Q:** Peter, could we start with getting some idea of how the Bunce family came to be farming in this area?

**PB:** Yes, in 1933 my grandfather, Reginald, came here from Stoke Mandeville as a tenant farmer on the Stewart-Liberty estate. Then in 1953, he and his son Charles bought the houses at Strawberry Hill, along with 103 acres of farmland.

**Q:** And what sort of farming activities did they operate.

**PB:** Originally, they had a dairy herd, as well as pigs, and they grew corn. But when my grandfather fell ill, my father was put in charge of the dairy cows and sold them all off! We haven't had dairy cows since!

**Q:** So, what does Strawberry Hill Farm look like today?

**PB:** Although our land ownership hasn't changed much, we have recently been farming in total around 550 acres – beef cattle, arable, sheep, hay and straw, and some contract farming. As well as the Hunts Green / Kings Ash area, we also farm in The Lee, Wendover, Great Missenden and Chesham.

**Q:** So, what are the main challenges that you face at present?

**PB:** Well, shall we start with HS2?

**Q:** I would be surprised if we didn't, as your farming has clearly been very badly affected by HS2.

**PB:** Yes, the list of impacts HS2 is having goes on and on:



- ♦ Firstly, we have land on which the railway is being built permanently taken out of farming; 10 acres of our own land taken in 2019-20 for which we have so far received no payment.
- ♦ Then we have lost the ability to farm other fields, that we may or may not get back in due course. We are entitled to some compensation, but this is very often delayed. Last year we had to buy-in barley and straw for the first time in many years.
- ♦ Then we had a lot of 'Farm Business Tenancies' near the line terminated by the owner, so that they can get compensation from the Government during HS2 construction, whilst those farming the land get nothing. We have lost 150 acres of tenanted land and must now rent-back any land that is available on a yearly basis.
- ♦ There is also the cost to the nation of some of HS2's 'environmental' schemes. For example, the 11.5 acres of tree-planting off Bowood Lane is,

by my reckoning, costing the nation 71,000 loaves of bread per annum.

**Q:** Of course, this is a national issue: I see the NFU frequently comments on the loss of productive farmland and the pressures placed on farmers by the HS2 project.

**PB:** Yes, and locally we have major logistic concerns:

- ♦ Access across the track and the Internal Access Road to fields on the other side has become an increasing problem.
- ♦ Also, frequent road closures, with the alternative routes being inappropriate for agricultural vehicles; with farmland in Wendover and elsewhere, this is also a concern.

It's difficult to get timely, straight answers from the project on so many issues that are important to us. I even had one HS2 employee suggest last year that we should "make hay at night"!

**Q:** Can we broaden the discussion to include the Government's policy on food and the environment (post-Brexit). I understand this is still evolving.

**PB:** Yes, the old European farming policies encouraged food production, but sometimes led to over-supply – milk lakes and butter mountains. The revised EU policies rewarded good management of farmland (not what you produced on it), but arguably over-compensated the very large landowners and estates.

The post-Brexit UK policies are in a state of flux, with more emphasis on environmental benefits, but a worry that it will end up further reducing food production. Whilst owners of land may be happy to be rewarded for environmental schemes, tenant farmers may lose yet more productive farmland.

**Q:** Have you had any of your own land in environmental schemes?

**PB:** Yes, we have been in the 'Entry Level Scheme' for nine or so years and get 'rewarded' for low

nitrogen input on our grass and over-wintering stubble on our arable fields.

**Q:** Peter, how do you see the future for Strawberry Hill Farm?

**PB:** The Bunce family has survived BSE, which resulted in burning cattle and broke my dad's heart. We have survived Foot and Mouth when we couldn't move animals for months on end. We will survive HS2... although once again it will be challenging.

After 50 years of farming at Strawberry Hill Farm, most people would get a gold watch or a clock; I have a knee replacement, which is wonderful and means I can move around again with no pain.

May I take this opportunity to thank Margaret and Adam for looking after me; it's not been easy for them and thank all the local people for stopping by and having a word.?

**Q:** You may... and thank you, Peter.



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## Bridge too far?

Our bidding went:

N	E	S	W
1♣	4♠	5♥	pass
pass	5♠	6♥	pass
pass	6♠	pass	pass
pass			

Opening lead A♥

N-S were able to win two of their three Aces and so 6♠ went one down. Interestingly, 6♥ may not make either if West leads A♦, followed by a club that partner can trump.

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> of the previous month (see contact details on page 1).

## March

*Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Lee village walk,* 9:30 am on The Lee Green followed by coffee at the church.

*Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ballinger Horticultural Society:* Stephen Lacey of the Daily Telegraph. 8:00 pm at Ballinger Hall.

*Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>. LCSA Quiz Night.* 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall (see page 26).

*Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>. The Lee Parish Council Meeting,* 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

*Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>. Arts Society Ballinger.* 8:00 pm at Ballinger Hall.

## Church Services

St John the Baptist, The Lee  
*Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>. Holy Communion* (BCP) at the Old Church, 8:00 am.

*Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>. Family / All Age* (CW) at the New Church, 11:00 am.

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

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

*Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>. Mothering Sunday Service* at the New Church 11:00 am.

*Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>. Parish Communion* (CW), 11:00 am.

## St Mary's, Ballinger

*Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>. Informal Communion* followed by refreshments.

## Coming soon

*Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April. John Benjamin* (ex BBC Antiques Roadshow) talk. 7:30 pm at the Old Church (see page 20).

*Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Coronation of HM King Charles III.*

*Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May. The Lee Annual Parish Meeting* at 7:00 pm followed by **The Lee Parish Council Meeting** at 7:30 pm. The Lee Parish Hall.

*Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June. The Lee Church Fête* on The Lee Green.

*Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July. The Lee Flower Show* at The Lee Manor Park.

## 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

**T**he 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:hannahcmlane@gmail.com) or on 07747 114640, by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

If you have photographs for publication please contact Jonathan Batten on 837450 or email [battenjonathan@hotmail.com](mailto:battenjonathan@hotmail.com)

For queries regarding distribution contact Phil Harrison on 837469.

Other members of the Editorial team: Paul Apicella, Ruth Fowler, Mary Godfrey, Liz Macann, Jen Ogley, Adam Speller and Colin Sully.

Printed by Orbit Press: Chesham. 01494 778053.

## To book the Parish Hall

'phone Pippa Hart on 837340 or  
07785 323232

**Rates**

Mon-Fri - £10 per hour  
Sat/Sun - £12 per hour  
Bank Holiday - £12 per hour

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**01494 451 300**  
wycombe@wyeres.co.uk

Prestwood  
**01494 868 000**  
prestwood@wyecountry.co.uk

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

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naphill@wyecountry.co.uk

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**01494 358 358**  
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