



Coronation Special



NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Phil Harrison

This month sees an historical event taking place with the community celebration of the coronation of King Charles III. The parish will have its very own ‘reporter’ at the wedding as Gill Owen-Conway is one of the privileged few to have an invite following her award of the BEM last year. Information and details of the festival are on pages 2-10.

As always there is a wide range of articles covering diverse aspects of community life including swimming in the open air, ghosts and the new head of Lee Common School, as well as other events in the community and of course the upcoming Flower Show.

Some people have commented on the articles by Joe King. Say the name quickly as one word and you might get a clue. Alternatively imagine you are sitting in the corner in the pub having a gossip with mates and discussing things in the community, observations on life and the foibles of people. Is it a parody or is it satire? You decide.

Any thoughts, objections on any of the articles or contributions for June’s edition should be submitted to the editor, Jonathan Batten, by 12th May at theleenewsletter@gmail.com please.

P.S. The more eagle eyed of you will have noticed April’s edition contained one of our regular annual spoofs – Poop Scoop by Shih Tzu. Hope it made you smile.

Your letters

To the Editor

Mil-King

I had a dear friend called Phyllis who lived in Cambridge and played the viola. She held quartet evenings in her house. Prince Charles was an undergraduate at the time, and was to join in a quartet evening, as cellist.

Phyllis’s father was elderly, outspoken and inclined to be difficult, so Phyllis sent him early to bed. After they’d been playing for some time, he came stumping down the stairs and demanded crossly “Who is that cellist playing so out of tune?” “Me, sir, I’m afraid,” said Charles, meekly.

Somehow the evening survived, and when they finished playing Phyllis offered her friends a drink. “May I have a glass of milk?” asked Charles, “It’s so hard to get that at home” conjuring up weird ideas of Buckingham Palace.

Diana Morley
The Lee

To the Editor

Truly grateful

Wow, what an Easter at the Cock and Rabbit! Thank you to everyone who came to visit us over the Easter weekend to see the opening of Café au Lee and to enjoy the barbecues laid on by Dezzy Rascal. It was wonderful to

see the garden full of happy, hungry people (and the glass bins full of empty bottles!). Finally, the toilets are completed and the scaffolding should have moved from the front to the rear half of the building by the time you read this.

Looking ahead, I am delighted that Café au Lee has finally opened, manned by my good friend Alfredo and supported by Halyna who many of you may know as one of our Ukrainian visitors. Initially we will be serving hot drinks and cakes (provided by Gill's Cooking of Wiggington); savoury treats will follow in due course.

We are also looking to host a couple of live music events each month – one on a Thursday and the other on a Saturday – please keep an eye on the blackboard outside the pub or check our Facebook page for more information.



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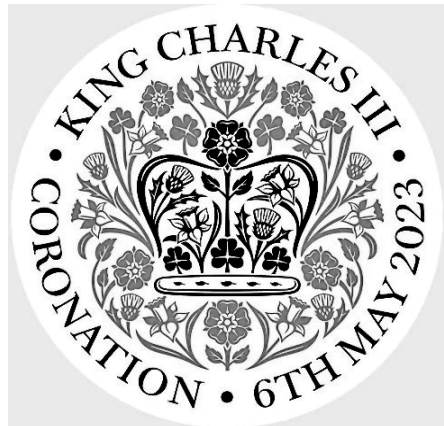


Lastly, by popular request, we are hosting our first quiz night on Wednesday 3rd May hosted by the inimitable Geoff Hartley. Dezza is planning to cook up a curry for the occasion and if successful (Geoff doesn't know this yet) we will look to make this a regular event.

On a personal note, I remain overwhelmed and humbled by all the good wishes and support from everyone in the village and beyond. So many people seem to know my name and with so much going on, please accept my apologies if I sometimes forget your name – but I am truly grateful for all your support.

Oliver Quarrell
The Lee

Coronation Festival



By Phil Harrison

By the time you read this we will be days away from The Lee Villages' Coronation Festival on Monday 8th May on The Lee Green.

Here are the timings for the day:

12:30 pm Picnic lunches on The Lee Green. Bring your own chairs, rugs etc.

2:00 pm Opening event with the Occasional Singers and children from Lee Common School.

2:15 pm Claire and Giles' Coronation sports hour with some right royal prizes, tug of war, best crown and regal outfit parade. Scout demonstration, face painting and bus rides too.

3:30 pm The music festival featuring local talent regaling us with popular songs.

5:00 pm Conclusion and clear up.

Festival Fayre

By Symeon Economou

Shop at The Lee is proud to play a part in the forthcoming Coronation celebration on The Lee Green. The plan is that, between us and The Cock and Rabbit, coronation revellers will be well catered for foodwise.

For our part, Shop at the Lee will be offering a range of cold fayre to enjoy on the day, including pork pies, sausage rolls and quiches, filled croissants, some Greek/Turkish foods such as baklava and ethnic pastries, snacks and crisps. For the more adventurous we might also have some Jamaican curried goat patties.

Anticipating hot weather (!) we will also have a range of ice creams and cold drinks.

To further mark the day, we will have a range of coronation merchandise, including commemorative mugs, flags, tableware and bunting.

We very much look forward to enjoying what promises to be another wonderful community event.

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Crowned Roast

By Oliver Quarrell

Dezy Rascal will be whipping up another sizzling barbecue on Coronation Saturday (subject to weather) as well as on the Monday lunchtime to complement events on The Lee Green.

On the Monday evening we will be offering a hog roast accompanied by a five-piece jazz band to provide a delightful musical end to the weekend.

Merry May

By Sarah Cherry and the Editor

The Year 1 and 2 children at Lee Common have been diligently practising their skipping, ribbon-holding and turn-taking round the maypole. Mrs Jenks and Mrs Cherry have been showing the school's fabulous new KS1 teacher Miss Taylor the ropes. No one has got tied up in knots yet – but cross your fingers we don't have high winds! The children adore playing their part in this lovely tradition, and we hope to perform for you at the school on Tuesday 2nd May in the afternoon.

In addition, they have been learning two verses of the National Anthem to sing with you on 8th May. We found it was easier to learn words if you understood what they meant,

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which prompted much discussion of what God's "choicest gifts in store" could be to make a good ruler. What would be on YOUR wish list for kingly attributes?!

Funtastic

There will be face painting, the wonderful 1952 Scout Bus driving around the parish offering trips of yesteryear, classic cars, motor bikes and tractors will undoubtedly put in an appearance and the Cubs and Scouts will be building one of their portals demonstrating their skills.

Tents and gazebos

As we will be at the beginning of May we can't rely on the weather. We need tents and gazebos. The scouts have kindly offered their WWII tent. However, you may want to set up one of your own for your picnic. Fingers crossed that you need it to keep off the sun.

Funding

By Phil Harrison

An event such as this requires a modicum of funds to pay for such things as insurance, the temporary entertainment licence, prizes and medals, printing of the posters and leaflets. As it is free to come along no funds are raised from the community.

Apart from the option of paying out of my own pocket, persuading a few likeminded neighbours to contribute or asking the Parish Council for help, few other avenues are available. You can imagine my delight when I heard about the community investment budget that the HS2 contractors, EKFB, have. As a result, I have been able to obtain funding from them to cover most of the expenses incurred for which I am grateful and thank them.

Sing-a-long-a-Lee

By Keith Taylor

The sense of excitement is building as the international, national and local media are spreading the word about our King and Queen's forthcoming Coronation and many plans are now afoot.

We, The Lee villagers, celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee; we began Christmas with festivities on the Green and in the Cock and Rabbit with the Occasional Singers leading the singing.

The Lee Festival for the Coronation promises to be bigger and better than any of the preceding celebrations at The Lee.

After lunch the festivities will open with Lee Common School joining the Occasional Singers (OS) singing the National Anthem, verses one and three. This is the first opportunity for us all to sing together!

After the fun and games on the Green the OS will start the afternoon with the following songs.

- *Ascot Gavotte* from *My Fair Lady* (words updated for the occasion)
- *What a wonderful world*
- A medley created from:
 - *We'll meet again*
 - *Always look on the bright side of life*
 - *Bring me sunshine*

We are very fortunate in having the stars of stage, Louise and Andrew Wadsworth, as musical directors of the Occasional Singers. Remembering that the OS is not a conventional choir... it's a group of people who like to have fun singing (and leading the village in) popular songs, relevant to the occasion.

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Everyone and anyone is welcome to join in! We have members who have never sung in a group before through to ex-professional West End music theatre performers. Just join in the fun and help create a memorable village festival! There is no need to read music and no audition. If you can sing in tune, then you will be most welcome and it is free to join.

The final rehearsals will be the week before the main event. Details will be available on The Lee Forum.

Let's hope we can all share some good weather on the day!

Swinging-Lee

By Max Garrood



From the glorious, green fields of Swan Bottom to The Lee Green, I am delighted to be returning once again to bring smooth jazz from the likes of Bobby Darin, Cole Porter and Frank Sinatra.

We can be sure that our feet will be tappin' and our bodies will be a-

swayin' with classics like *Beyond the Sea*, *Let's Fall in Love*, *Night and Day* and more.

I love to sing and have been doing it my whole life. Through my exploration of the medium, I've found that one can only express certain things through song. This enigmatic phenomenon has informed my jazz and swing – happiness, joy and a yearning for the love shared with one another. I look forward to sharing this with everyone at this special weekend.

Tug of War

By Robert May

As part of the village Coronation fun and celebrations the tug of war rope will be back in action.

It was fantastic to see both adults and children throwing themselves enthusiastically into this traditional battle of strength game at the Platinum Jubilee celebrations on The Lee Green last year and I hope everyone will be limbering up ready to join in again. As well as sides no doubt forming spontaneously on the day, it would be great if we could get some teams of about eight people set up in advance – pub regulars, scouts, sports or interest groups, streets or lanes perhaps, or simply groups of friends. Everyone is welcome, and we'll do our best to ensure facing teams are reasonably balanced – it's all about taking part and having fun.

Royal Races

By Giles and Claire Robertson

Hopefully we will have successfully borrowed the various bits of sport kit from Lee Common school just in time for our Coronation event children's races

and also have lined up the prizes for the racers. (This seems to have become a bit of a Lee tradition.)

We have multi-age, up to 7 years old, 7-11 years old and 12-15 years old races.

The royal races include:

- Crowns on the head race
- Royal races
- Orb and sceptre race
- Changing of the guards relay
- Royal bag on the head race
- Royal ring endurance

We are very much looking forward to seeing as many young people as possible at our moderately royal themed races. Royal fancy dress is very much welcomed.

Mugged

By Phil Harrison

Have you been mugged yet? Don't miss out on one of the Limited Edition Coronation mugs available at The Shop at The Lee.



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The Show Ain't Over Till...

By Sarah Cherry

Events of national gravitas call for a bit of welly, and I will be whanging for you some of Rogers and Hammerstein's most uplifting tunes. These standards of the Great American Songbook have transcended their original contexts to resonate in the hearts of millions.

You'll Never Walk Alone from the 1947 musical *Carousel* has had an intriguing evolution: the original script was a gloomy Hungarian play concerning the suicide of a wife-beating fairground worker turned failed criminal.

Hammerstein knew that this plot would only be palatable to Broadway audiences if the darkness was illuminated by a bright ray of hope: the thief's wife, Julie, finds the strength to bear and bring up their child alone, and in the musical their daughter does grow up to lead a better life. Thus, the song was born.

In the 1959 musical *The Sound of Music*, the mother superior sings *Climb Every Mountain* to the postulant Maria for a surprisingly similar purpose: to give her the courage to bring up children. It's not the path she expected in life, but who knows which rainbow will have the pot of gold at the end, and which mountain will have the best view from the summit? I think many people start out thinking their career path is the most important to them, only to discover the fulfilling joy of children – even if it does feel like a hard uphill slog at times!

For Americans *You'll Never Walk Alone* has a patriotic grandeur, having

been performed by luminaries such as Jessye Norman and by Renee Fleming at Obama's inauguration. In Britain it is better known as Liverpool Football Club's anthem since a Merseybeat band covered it in 1963, but it was also used as a hymn of support for key workers during Covid. Reaching out to others for resilience, whilst asserting that better times will come, is of course a message of universal appeal, and all the more so when married to a gorgeous lyrical melody.

In *Shall We Dance?* from *The King and I*, Anna finally stops mourning her deceased husband and celebrates the possibilities of the future. We all still miss the Queen, but she would have wanted us to wholeheartedly enjoy the coronation of Charles.

Rule Britannia!

I'm looking forward to leading you in some home-grown repertoire too and hope you will all heartily join in the chorus to *Rule, Britannia!*. It really is rather local, having been first performed at Cliveden. One might easily assume it is some piece of late Victoriana – the tasteless swagger of a bloated empire: it is not. It dates from 1740, when Britain was a young country. Back then it certainly didn't rule the waves and rousing words were needed to foster a sense of shared nationhood that could sustain its fragile peace. The Jacobite pretenders to the throne were both militantly alive, fighting to reassert the divine right of kings to rule just as they pleased without any democratic representation. As we crown Charles III, we remember that ever since our revolutions in the 1600s, our monarch is here at our invitation, to serve us, the people. Lionising "Britannia" also coaxed the small-minded into

broadening their sense of identity. In 1740 the Union of England and Scotland was still fresh in memories. The coronation of 2023 is an opportunity to celebrate the survival of that union – we can't be 'British' without it.

The lyrics are still relevant today. Whilst we should always robustly hold feelings of national pride to account, we have enjoyed so many freedoms for so long that we are prone to taking them for granted. Since 1740, countless other countries have "in their turns to tyrants" fallen. The "Muses, still with freedom found, to our coast repair", just as thousands of artists and writers continue to find safe haven here in exile. And we still do "with commerce shine", even as millions around the world still live under communism.

Rule, Britannia! was so popular it quickly outgrew its original intention,

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much like the Rogers and Hammerstein classics.

Analyse any song too closely and it can seem bizarre. Flanders and Swann pointed out the irony of *Jerusalem* being named after a city over 2,000 miles away. It is highly unlikely that in ancient times the feet of Jesus, or Saint George either for that matter, ever came anywhere near British soil. But this is missing the point. If you feel ambivalent about your patriotism, all the more reason to join in: William Blake was essentially saying he didn't like modern England because it started the industrial revolution!

We have long been an isle that not only tolerates, but actively celebrates dissenters. Our local area is rooted in nonconformity: the Lollard martyrs of Amersham, parliamentarian pioneer John Hampden of Wendover, founder of American democracy William Penn



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in Jordans and the Baptists of Chesham, to name but a few. So, on 8th May let's celebrate coming together in The Lee, enjoy sharing what we have in common, and treasure our hard-won right to diversity of opinion within this sceptred isle. I for one think there are many good reasons to sing out with gusto.

Prepared- Lee



By Crescenzo D'Alessandro

It's springtime! Or at least I hope it is by the time you read this – I am writing with rain pouring down outside. We finally start more regular outdoor activities this month: hikes, kayaking and large outdoor games can finally be planned with a relatively high chance of going ahead! Next month I will write more extensively about the investitures which we have planned for the outdoor meetings. This time I have more pressing matters to point out: the Coronation Festival will see the Scouts involved with a variety of activities.

Our amazing bus will come out in the open to do its usual rounds – it's always a joy to see the machine out and about. In the meantime, we will have games and activities on The Lee Green. The main event though is going to be a portal which we will build 'live' during the Festival with poles and ropes. It's a great opportunity for the Scouts and Cubs to put their skills to the test under pressure; it is rather different putting up a structure in the comfort of one's hut compared to doing it in front of a crowd! It's good pressure though: the Scouts learn to perform in all circumstances focusing on the job at hand. See you all then!

P.S. the eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed that a glitch in the machine caused the usual Scouts article to be merged with an unrelated one in the last Newsletter issue. For the record, the Group was not involved in the activity which took place in The Lee described in the first half of the piece (we only provided the hut): we were in Wales, as described in the later section!

Ghost-Lee

By Carol Addison

I believe it was back in the 1980s, during the dark nights, that I began hearing rumours that there was the ghost of a monk crossing Lee Hill.

How strange! Why was a monk mysteriously manifesting himself there and why now? Surely a monk would more likely be seen at the Old Church or in the area where the nearby old fishponds once were.

I was intrigued, so for many weeks, as I drove up and down the hill I was hoping to see this apparition but alas I never did.

That was until one particularly wintry night. As I drove down the hill from The Lee, and then up towards Lee Common, my car headlights suddenly picked up the figure of a man dressed in a monk's habit with his hood up. He appeared to be walking from the Park side to the middle of the road. It was true!

For many weeks afterwards I kept seeing this monk. However, I have to confess there was no real haunting on Lee Hill. The ghost was a combination of the light from my car headlights and the tree shadows by the roadside.

Brother Lee was very realistic though and had many wondering whether he had lost his way from Missenden Abbey!

Our changing county

By Colin Sully

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) is working its way through the data collected in the 2021 National Census. Eventually we may learn something specific about the residents of The Lee parish, other than that they still number around 700 persons. For the moment, when it comes to detail, we must content ourselves with releases of information about the 2021 census for the whole of Buckinghamshire. For example, did you know that...

We are growing... fast!

- Between the last two censuses the population of Buckinghamshire

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increased by 9.5%, (from 505,300 in 2011 to 553,100 in 2021).

- The population here increased by a greater percentage than the overall population increase in the South East (up 7.5%), and in England as a whole (up 6.6%).

Older than average

- Between the last two censuses, the average (median) age of residents in Buckinghamshire increased by one year, from 41 to 42 years of age, now slightly higher than the South East as a whole (41 years) and England (40 years).
- In particular, the number of people aged 50 to 64 years rose by 15.8%, while the number of residents aged 4 years and under fell by 3.0%.

Ethnically more diverse

- In 2021, 79.9% of people in Buckinghamshire identified their

ethnic group within the “White” category (compared with 86.4% in 2011).

- In 2021, 12.4% of residents in Buckinghamshire identified their ethnic group within the “Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh” category, up from 8.6% in 2011.
- Across the South East, the percentage of people within the Asian categories increased from 5.2% to 7.0%, while across England the percentage increased from 7.8% to 9.6%.
- The percentage of people in Buckinghamshire who identified their ethnic group within the “Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African” category increased from 2.1% in 2011 to 2.6% in 2021.
- And finally, 3.5% identified their ethnic group within the “Mixed or Multiple” category (compared with 2.4% the previous decade).

Becoming less religious

- In 2021, 34.2% of residents in Buckinghamshire reported having “No religion”; this is an increase from 24.0% in 2011.
- Across the South East, the percentage increase was from 27.7% to 40.2%, and across England from 24.8% to 36.7%.
- In 2021, 47.2% of people in Buckinghamshire described themselves as Christian (down from 60.5%), while 7.0% described themselves as Muslim (up from 5.1% the decade before).

Working... and earning

- 82.9% of residents in Buckinghamshire were employed in 2021, compared with 75.8% in England; 2.7% were unemployed

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(3.7% for England) and 14.1% were economically inactive (21.2% for England).

Some words of caution

Some of this will not be surprising, but the census does provide some measures of the differences in different areas and indicates how these differences are changing.

There are many factors that can cause changes to the profile of an area, such as a changing age structure or residents relocating for work or education. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to 'self-identify'. Also, because some census questions are voluntary and therefore have varying response rates, caution is again needed when comparing figures.

Information at parish level is expected later this year. Meanwhile, if you want more of this sort of thing, go to [Census 2021 results](#).

Mumblings

By Joe King

I was explaining in the bar, to those that would listen, that "History is so important". It can help us to understand what is happening today and provide lessons to avoid the same mistakes. It is something we can't change. However, it seems to me that we are increasingly viewing history through today's lens and that 'context' is no longer relevant. The period of a piece of history seems to be increasingly lost; the noise of today's social media-driven (minority) cognoscenti overwhelms.

I fear that Elbert Hubbard [*A 19th century American writer and philosopher. Ed*] was prescient when he said "To avoid criticism, do

nothing, say nothing, be nothing". It seems to me that the silent majority continue to allow the destruction of history to continue.

Discussion in the bar then turned to another hobby horse of mine – the fact that the hyphen has been consigned to history in this august tome. The hyphen is an important component of our written language as it clarifies the meaning of words by connecting them to form compound words. The lack of a hyphen can lead to ambiguity and confusion.

Doe, a deer

There did seem to be pretty much general consensus amongst the soft and hard drinkers that over the last year there has been a significant increase in the number of muntjac eating in the garden. Either the number of potholes has reduced car speeds to the point that the automobile is no



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longer a culling machine or the beasties have found mates nearby and no longer cross the road or, as one guzzler suggested, has HS2 got something to do with it?



Muntjac are an alien invasive species to the British Isles and as a result can legally be culled all year round. Do we need the mysterious man in camouflage to get to work and



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for the Cock and Rabbit and Shop at The Lee to add muntjac pies to their offering? If the name puts off some pie-eaters perhaps call it Jac-Pie instead?

Fernhurst

A name across two hemispheres

By Michael Dubus

Over the last few years there have been letters or articles to the Newsletter explaining the derivation of various house names. I have considered giving a description of the provenance of the name of our house, Fernhurst. The simple explanation I already knew was that it was named after another house.

However, I thought it would be interesting to try to find out how this previous house came to be given the name Fernhurst.

On 3rd May 1849 Samuel Bungey, aged 19, sailed on the Emily from England, which arrived in Port Adelaide on 8th August 1849. He became the first of my mother-in-law Kathleen Eva Monckton's maternal family to make a new life in South Australia. He and a friend, William Merchant, began in a fairly unexplored area of the Adelaide Hills where they were able to saw wood as the timber was in demand in the new city of Adelaide. He was quite successful and later built up a fine market garden. Finally in April 1854 he purchased 103 acres of his own land for £161.

In 1852 Samuel married Louise Packer and they eventually had 14 children, the last two of whom died in infancy. Early on the area had become known as Bungeytown, but around this time it became known as Cherryville.

In turn William, their eldest son, who spelt his surname Bungay, married Amelia Collins. The family fortunes continued to prosper and they built a large and elegant home called Fernhurst. We believe there was a connection somewhere in the family to the village with that name in West Sussex. We have checked this with Australian relatives and that is their belief also. Maude Melitta Bungay was born at Fernhurst on 22nd September 1878 and grew up there. In 1903 she was married to George Justice Hogben. The youngest of their two daughters, Kathleen Eva, was my wife's mother. Kate and her sister Leila spent happy summer holidays with their cousins at Fernhurst in the Adelaide Hills.

In the Newsletter of November 2018, I explained how Kate arrived in England at the end of the Great War. In 1971 Sarah and I moved to Lee Common, living at 1 Well Cottages. At the time we moved, Kate suffered some heart problems and Sarah found a building site in Sly Corner and set up a meeting between her father and the builder. It resulted in her parents purchasing the property. They moved in in November 1971. Kate was excited with the opportunity to name her new home and the obvious choice was Fernhurst. Sadly, my father-in-law died in 1978. We sold the cottage, bought Fernhurst, and built a granny annexe for Kate. As a family that proved a wonderfully happy decision.

We were fortunate when we were in Adelaide in 1989 to visit Fernhurst, which was still in family hands. Sadly, it has been sold in the last few years.

Maybe one day, we will be able to trace the exact reason why Cherryville's Fernhurst was so named.



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Open Garden

By Jill York

On Sunday 4th June, the gardens at Stepping Stones, Ballinger Road, South Heath will be open to the public in aid of the Rennie Grove Hospice. Entrance is £3.00 for one adult; £5.00 for two adults; children under 12 free.

The gardens will be open from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

To donate cakes for the event, please contact me on 07846 534301.

Michelle Green

By Catherine May

Since January this year, Michelle Green has been Headteacher at Lee Common School. Keen to introduce herself to the village, Michelle caught up with me during the final week of term for a chat.

Michelle, thank you so much for talking to me today. I thought we might start at the very beginning and talk about your own memories of infant school.

I'm very local actually. I went to Great Missenden School. My memories are hazy but happy. I remember Mr Eastgate, Mr Allott and my Reception teacher Mrs Eastman, and also that one year the snow drifts in the playground were bigger than me! I loved painting and playing French Elastics and skipping with my friends.

And where did you go on from Great Missenden?

I moved on to Chesham High, then on to university to study Geography,

then a PGCE at Bath. My first teaching post was at High Wycombe C of E School, when Joy Morning was Head there. I've always taught in this area.

You clearly bring a huge amount of experience to Lee Common. What would you say is your philosophy as a school leader?

Wow, where to start! Well, our school vision is 'Flourishing in Mind, Body and Spirit'. Our aim is to support children to learn, explore, discover and prepare for the next stage of their education and for the wider world. For me it's all about inspiring a love of learning – children learn best when they feel happy, secure, and have positive experiences, and our children's emotional wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. I and my staff are completely committed to ensuring the children are educated in a safe, secure learning environment and as part of a community.

Coming then to your first term at Lee Common – how has it gone?

In a flash – I can't believe we are at Easter already! Schools as you know are busy places, and of course with me arriving mid-academic year, I've had to hit the ground running. I've found the whole school community incredibly welcoming and supportive, and the school is a delightful, nurturing, happy environment. I must take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff, who work so hard and with such dedication to provide our children with a wealth of opportunities and experiences, helping them achieve their very best, and providing them with special moments that they will remember forever.

You've been headteacher of Little Missenden, a school very similar to Lee Common, for the past eight years, and are now leading both schools. I



expect that brings both challenges and opportunities.

Absolutely! Small schools have big hearts, they are very special, and, working across both schools, my intention is to preserve their distinct personalities and the benefits for the children of such close-knit, nurturing environments, while developing collaborative working relationships between the schools. Collaborating on shared goals, sharing best practice, resources and expertise really benefits both the children and the staff. Today for instance all teaching staff are going to a meeting at Little Missenden focused on neurodiversity and identifying needs in small infant schools. Without lots of us together it is harder to access that sort of expertise. It's also of course a good opportunity for teachers to network and learn from each other. Working together is definitely the way forward.

After this incredibly busy first term at both Lee Common and Little Missenden, do you have plans for the Easter break?



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It has been busy and also very rewarding, we've done a lot, and still the Easter Parade to go – I'm looking forward to the children showing off their bonnets! Then I'm going to enjoy spending some time over Easter with my two teenage children – if they come out of their rooms...

And finally, what's coming up in the summer term?

It will be great for the children to be outside a lot more after this month of rain – we can't wait to see the bluebells and the sunshine. The children will be maypole dancing at the village Coronation celebrations and of course we're planning a 150th anniversary celebration to which we'll be inviting parents and the local community.

Thank you so much Michelle for all you are doing for our school, it's fantastic having you here. Happy Easter and see you next term.



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The Lee Flower Show

15th July 2023

By Jonathan Batten

After you read this turn to your personal copy of the Flower Show schedule which has also been kindly delivered to your abode by the newsletter distributors.

It is new, it has been updated, it is amazing, a technicolour dreamcoat of a schedule.

Take your time to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest. Keep it on your kitchen table, on your bedside cabinet, in your potting shed or in your greenhouse for easy reference.

How about your vegetables, fruit or cultivated flowers?

If you like pot plants, but haven't already got a prize specimen, no worries, go out and buy one by 15th May, feed it, talk to it as the King would, nurture it and enter it.

Come on you budding flower arrangers, bring out the Constance Spry in you and prepare for the floral art classes.

Cookery classes are open to all – there's a particularly tasty Carrot Cake recipe for class 75 – so cover yourselves in oil and muscovado, gyrate with some carrots and mashed bananas, or just put all your ingredients in a large bowl and practice the recipe on page 17 of the schedule.

Handicrafts give scope for all types of skills and the photographic subjects, following a well-known theme, are a challenge to all.

Please encourage your children and grandchildren to join in; there are classes for all age groups and special classes for Lee Common School to enjoy.

Let them do the exhibits themselves – some overzealous parents have been known to contribute just a little too much but the judges are shrewd enough to know.

If you know someone who lives slightly outside the local area, defined in Rule 1, there is no need for them to feel left out of the fun. There are Visitors Classes open to all enabling their competitive spirit to run free. Get hold of an extra copy of the schedule, pass it on to them and encourage them to enter.

What does this all add up to on the day? A sense of achievement in honest competition and, of course, points. What do points mean? Points mean prizes and particular collections of the most points mean silverware which you can proudly display on your mantelpiece for the next year!

If, as we expect, your copy of the schedule becomes too dog eared and worn from constant study then go to the village website at www.thelee.org.uk/ and follow the links to the Flower Show pages to view and/or download what you need.

Later... live with Shakedown

Tickets are £23 each for The Lee Flower Show Dance and will go on sale from 2nd June – engrave that date in your diary.

Make a day and a night of it!

Ear Ache?
Blocked Ears?
Sore or Itchy Ears?

It could just be wax...

Call Maria on 07398 183247
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Not staying in!

We continue our series in which readers tell us about events and places they enjoy and recommend, outside of The Lee, but nearby. This month we bring you a choice of two very different reasons to go out. We are outdoor swimming in Chesham or combining opera with cinema!

Time to take a dip!

By Mary Gould

There are a great many leisure centres and indoor swimming pools locally... but as far as I know there is only one outdoor heated public swimming pool.

Run by Chesham Town Council, Chesham Open Air Pool re-opened in March after a major refurbishment and hopefully, there will be no more closures throughout the rest of spring and summer.

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The pool is heated to 84 degrees Fahrenheit. The staff are really friendly and hot drinks are always available. The pool is open from 6:00 am weekdays, and 8:00 am on weekends and Bank Holidays. Advance booking is required for all sessions.



General / family sessions, lane swimming, and aqua aerobics all year round; inflatable from May. There are changing rooms and hot showers but come 'swim ready' if you can.



Where's my flip flops from last summer to wear on the poolside and in the shower? What's not to like?

Full details can be found at cheshammoorfittness.org.uk/swim/

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Live 'affordable' opera

By Colin Sully

I enjoy a dinner or a picnic at a prestigious venue, followed by world-class opera, as much as anyone, but everyone's budget has its limits.

How can you see the Royal Opera House (ROH), the New York Metropolitan (Met) and other world-class opera companies, performing live without leaving Buckinghamshire? Answer: at a cinema near you!

Although not there in person, you are watching live opera being performed and broadcast. Although some of the sense of 'occasion' might be missing, a cinema viewing of opera has many of its own advantages – late booking, short journeys, take your own refreshments, not over-crowded, dress as you wish – and it's a hell of a lot cheaper! So far this year we have seen excellent performances by the ROH company of *Turandot* (Puccini) and the *Marriage of Figaro* (Mozart), and the Met company's production of *Fedora* (Giordano).



Turandot near you

Coming up, without leaving the county, you can see, for example:

- **Don Giovanni (Mozart)**: live from the Met on 20th May at

Cineworld in High Wycombe and Hemel Hempstead

- **Magic Flute (Mozart):** live from the Met on 3rd June also at the same venues
- Plus 'Encore' productions (i.e. recordings shown at a later date) at a number of venues, including the Elgiva in Chesham:
 - **Marriage of Figaro (Mozart):** ROH on 4th May
 - **Turandot (Puccini):** ROH on 13th June.

Full details can be found for these companies at: www.metliveinhd.co.uk/ and www.roh.org.uk/cinemas

If you have an evening out to recommend to our readers, do send in some details to the Editor.

Bridge too far?

By Rita Sully et al

It was clear on this hand that E-W would bid to game, but do they go any further?

♠ J 6 5 2

♥ 9 6 4

♦ 9 8 6 4

♣ 10 4

♠ A 9 8

♥ A K J 10 5 2

♦ 10 7 5

♣ 7

♠ K Q 10 3

♥ 3

♦ A K 3

♣ K Q J 9 2

♠ 7 4

♥ Q 8 7

♦ Q J 2

♣ A 8 6 5 3

Dealer: North
Vulnerability: Neither

How would you bid these hands?
See page 25.

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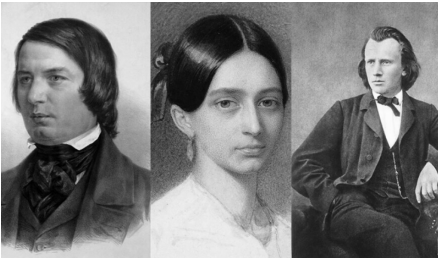
Echor Music

By Eva Thorarinsdottir,
Creative Director

During a seemingly endless winter, planning our spring and summer concerts seemed to be the best and most efficient way of keeping warm!

We are very excited to share with you our next concert taking place on 18th May where we explore some of the most incredible works by chamber music giants Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms. At the heart of this concert, however, is a very important woman that ties these two composers together and our concert will be presented through her eyes.

Clara Schumann was possibly the most important pianist of the 19th century and a brilliant composer in her own right. Clara and her husband Robert exchanged over 40,000 letters during the course of their marriage. Their story is one of love, admiration and great sadness. When Robert was institutionalised in his early forties, their friend, Johannes Brahms moved into the Schumann household to help Clara take care of her six children.



We will explore this extraordinary story and provide insight into the lives of these great composers. Their music is considered some of the greatest ever written and we have carefully selected some of our favourite

chamber music pieces to best reflect their remarkable lives.

The Schumanns & Brahms

18th May, 7:30 pm

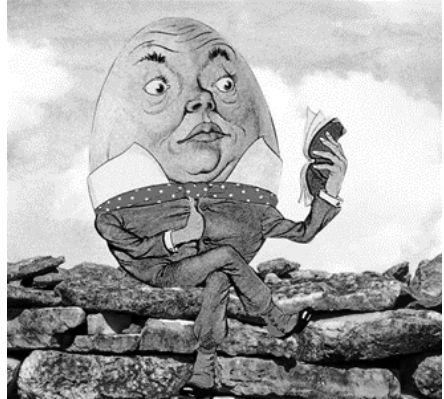
St. Peter's Church, Berkhamsted

This concert is one of the highlights of the Chiltern Arts Festival. You can read more about the concert and performers by visiting their website at www.chilternarts.com

We look forward to welcoming you to this special concert!

HS2 update

By Cllr Colin Sully



Alice in Wonderland

There has always been a Humpty Dumpty element to HS2 Ltd.

"When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean – neither more, nor less."

"The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make words mean different things – that's all."

"The question is," said HS2 Ltd, "which is to be master – that's all."

By such argument campaigners have been thwarted at every attempt to critique the project – economic cost/benefit, engineering, connectivity,

capacity, environment, levelling-up, etc. Interestingly, this now also seems to be the view of the Government's own infrastructure tsar, who concluded that "they too often say that they know what they are doing... until they find out they don't". We therefore take the latest statement from HS2 Ltd that "Phase 1 of HS2 is 40% complete" with a very large pinch of salt.

The latest Humpty Dumpty argument we have had to face locally is over what constitutes a 'complaint'. HS2 Ltd, the Government-owned company running the project, decided that the local Main Works Contractors (MWCs) should be in the front line on community engagement – nothing wrong with that. However, because of the sensitivity of the project, all 'complaints' must be lodged and handled centrally through HS2 Ltd, so that they can check whether any commitments, policies or procedures have actually been broken. Again, nothing wrong, in principle, with that.

The MWCs have worked with residents and local community leaders up and down the line to try to mitigate the impact of construction and, in so doing, have made local commitments, and put in place policies and procedures in support of this. However, when one of these local commitments, policies and procedures is manifestly broken, a complaint to HS2 Ltd gets the response "Ah, but these are not one of **our** (i.e. HS2 Ltd's) commitments, policies and procedures... so we refuse to recognise this as a 'complaint'."

Not surprisingly, the number of complaints about the project has been falling. Lewis Carroll couldn't have written a better story!

Unresolved local design issues

No change – see April Newsletter.

Impacts and mitigation

The recent accidents at the Internal Access Road (IAR) crossing on Rocky Lane have been discussed with EKFB. It is thought unlikely that any useful improvements can be made to the sequencing of the lights because of the need for site and road safety. Road users on both the IAR and Rocky Lane are advised not to proceed over the crossing on a red light.

Near misses at the Great Missenden roundabout were also discussed and both Buckinghamshire Council and the contractors have agreed to review the layout and signage at this roundabout.

Dates to note (all provisional):

- 15th May: 3-way lights (9:00 am to 3:00 pm) at the A413 / Rocky Lane junction (for more ditch works)
- 22nd to 26th May: lane closure with traffic lights on Rocky Lane (for utility connection)

The Cock & Rabbit



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Friday - 16:00 - 23:00

Saturday - 12:00 - 23:00

Sunday - 11:00 - 20:00

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- 26th May (8:00 pm) to 29th May (6:00 am): full closure of the A413, London Road (for utility works)
- May (dates tbc): abnormal steel loads are due to start arriving at Great Missenden.

For the latest updates on HS2 works visit www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map/

From the Chair

By Cllr Ruth Fowler
Chair, The Lee Parish Council

May meetings

May sees both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of The Lee Parish Council (TLPC).

The Annual Parish Meeting is the one opportunity in the year for residents to come together and discuss anything they wish. Although organised and chaired by the Council, it is not a council meeting, has no agenda and councillors – with the exception of the Chair – have the same rights as all other electors. This year, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held from 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm on Tuesday 16th May in The Lee Parish Hall. Do feel free to come along and raise any issues of concern.

Immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting, the Annual Meeting of The Lee Parish Council will be held at 7:30 pm on 16th May. This is like any normal council meeting, with additional items on the agenda for councillors to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the coming year; you may not realise that being Chair is only for a year at a time, rather than it being a semi-permanent appointment.

I will not be standing for re-election and have also decided to step down from the Parish Council, which means that a vacancy for a new councillor will be advertised in due

course on the Parish Council Notice Board and through the Forum. If you are interested in becoming a councillor, you can find lots of useful information and answers to most of your questions on the village website at <https://www.thelee.org.uk/becoming-a-parish-councillor/>. Please also feel free to talk to the Clerk or any member of the Parish Council, or come along to our next meeting, to get a feel for what we do.

Bootcamp

You may not know that bootcamp exercise classes have been held for some time on the tennis court at the Parish Hall, catering to a mix of local residents and mothers with children at Lee Common School. The group is getting slightly too large for such an enclosed space, and The Lee Parish Council has given permission for the class to be relocated to the Lee Common Allotments and Playing Fields. The bootcamps will run from 9:00 am to 10:00 am every Monday and Wednesday, and will take place on the grassed area behind the playground.

War Memorial grass cutting

TLPC has been fortunate in that the grass around the War Memorial on The Green has, for many decades, been mown by a succession of volunteers.

Unfortunately, the last volunteer has given up this role, in part because so many people have been allowing their dogs to foul the grassed area. It is both inconsiderate and a health hazard for owners to leave dog excrement on any public grassed areas, but in this instance also reprehensibly shows a complete lack of respect to those commemorated on the War Memorial.

We are fortunate to live in a village where everyone does so much to help their neighbours... but clearing up other people's dog poo is, I feel, a step too far!

Barnaby Usborne Memorial Tree

We are delighted to announce that, together with the Usborne family, we will be planting a tree in memory of Barnaby on Saturday 20th May. As I write this the exact time of day is still to be finalised, so please look out for an announcement nearer the time.

The tree will be planted near the Cherry Tree Lane entrance to the Lee Common Allotments and Playing Fields, and fittingly will be a cherry. Eventually it will have a wooden seating surround, however the suppliers have advised us to let the tree settle for a year or so before installing the surround, so this will not be done immediately.

Planning applications

Don't forget to let us know your opinion on any planning applications via the Clerk at 07704 909324 or by email at clerk@thelee.org.uk.

Bridge too far?

Twelve tricks make here (in ♥ or in NT) but how do you bid it? With no vulnerability, West tested for a slam by bidding 4NT. When East promised only one Ace, West settled for 5♥ making an overtrick.

The bidding at our table went:

| W | N | E | S |
|-----|------|------|------|
| | pass | 1♣ | pass |
| 2♥ | pass | 2♠ | pass |
| 3♥ | pass | 3NT | pass |
| 4NT | pass | 5♦ | pass |
| 5♥ | pass | pass | pass |

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Dear Diary

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

May

Wednesday 3rd. **Quiz night** at The Cock and Rabbit.

Thursday 4th. **The Lee village walk**, 9:30 am at The Old Swan pub to walk in Lordling Wood at bluebell time.

Saturday 6th. **Coronation of HM King Charles III.**

Sunday 7th **Coronation community lunch** at Ballinger Hall.

Monday 8th. **The Lee Villages' Coronation Festival.** 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm at The Lee Green.

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

Thursday 25th. **Arts Society Ballinger**, 8:00 pm at Ballinger Hall.

Church Services

St John the Baptist, The Lee
Sunday 7th. **Holy Communion** (BCP) at the Old Church, 8:00 am.

Sunday 7th. **King's Coronation Family Service** at the New Church, 11:00 am.

Sunday 14th. **Parish Communion** (CW) at the New Church, 11:00 am.

Thursday 18th. **Ascension Day Communion** (CW) at the New Church, 5:00 pm.

Sunday 21st. **Holy Communion** (BCP) at the Old Church, 8:00 am.

Sunday 21st. **Parish Communion** (CW) at the New Church, 11:00 am.

Sunday 28th. **United Benefices Pentecost Celebration** at St Mary's, Hawridge, 11:00 am.

St Mary's, Ballinger

Sunday 7th. **Holy Communion** at St Peter and St Paul to mark the occasion of the coronation of King Charles III. *Every Wednesday.* **Coffee mornings** for Ukrainian guests, their hosts and any passers-by, 10:00 am until 12 noon.

Coming soon

Thursday 1st June. **The Lee village walk**, 9:30 am on The Lee Green followed by coffee at the church.

Saturday 17th June. **The Lee Church Fête** on The Lee Green.

Thursday 22nd June. **Arts Society Ballinger**, 8:00 pm at Ballinger Hall.

Sunday 25th June. **Annual General Meeting of The Lee Old Church Trust.** 7:30 pm at The Old Church.

Tuesday 27th June. **The Lee Parish Council Meeting.** 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

Saturday 1st July. **Raise The Curtain – From the West End to The Lee**, an evening of favourite Musical Theatre songs at The Lee Old Church.

Saturday 15th 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

The Lee Newsletter is published 10 times a year and distributed free to all households in the parish... and a little beyond. The views expressed in it are not necessarily those of the Editor.

We welcome letters and articles of interest and relevance to The Lee. Copy should be sent to the Editor of the month (see page 1) by the 12th of the month before publication.

Letters should ideally run to no more than 200 words and articles to no more than 700 words; material may be edited and may appear on the village website www.thelee.org.uk unless consent is specifically withheld. Anonymous contributions are not accepted.

To advertise in the newsletter or place an insert, please contact Hannah Lane at hannahcmlane@gmail.com or on 07747 114640, by the 12th of the previous month.

If you have photographs for publication please contact Jonathan Batten on 837450 or email battenjonathan@hotmail.com

For queries regarding distribution contact Phil Harrison on 837469.

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

Printed by Orbit Press: Chesham. 01494 778053.

To book the Parish Hall

'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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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

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