



NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Jonathan Batten

The April edition is here – enjoy it whilst you are wrapping that well-known brand of cream eggs ready for your Easter celebrations.

Celebrate here with this month's collection of local news, reports, opinions, and laughter for your delectation. But first Simon and Garfunkel:

*April, come she will
When streams are ripe and swelled
with rain
May, she will stay
Resting in my arms again*

Something to say? Please send your contributions for the May edition to the editor, Phil Harrison, by 12th April, at theleenewsletter@gmail.com

Your letters

To the Editor

Afternoon tea

Thank you very much for including details of the Afternoon Tea on 2nd March in The Lee Newsletter.

It was held in Great Missenden and was attended by 60 people. There was a raffle, nearly new gifts and a produce table with jams and cakes.

Everyone had an enjoyable afternoon and it raised £1,336 for Rennie Grove Peace Hospice.

Jill York
Great Missenden

To the Editor

Date response

I respond to the letter 'A compote of dates' in the March Newsletter.

Many retailers have stopped putting best before dates on many items to try and help with food waste and the environmental impact. Some customers believe food can't be eaten after best before dates when in fact in many instances the products are completely edible. Best before dates are used as an indication for quality purposes only and won't make you ill if eaten past the date. Please note this is completely different to a use by date which is for safety reasons.

The code that you found on the pack is an approach which retailers are taking to help colleagues with stock rotation when there is no best before date and is not really intended for customers to use. Removal of best before dates is a positive step forward to help with food waste but is very reliant on good stock rotation by the store to ensure that customers don't experience what happened to you on your recent shop.

Helen Buckley
Lee Common



Once you've read it, why not return this Newsletter to Shop at The Lee for someone else to enjoy?



Ballinger 1910

By Carol Addison

This month's postcard is of Ballinger. Here we have The Pheasant pub, along with four local children and the driver of a horse and cart posing for the photographer.

The card was sent in 1910, as a birthday card from a daughter to her mother wishing her many happy returns of the day. The address is 245 High Street, Lee but it is not The Lee we know but 245, Lee High Road, near Lewisham, where the London twin of our Lee Green resides.

James Haddock was licensee of The Pheasant at this time and the pub remained in his family's hands for many decades afterwards. A pint of Marlow Ale was 3d (a thruppenny bit) and was supplied by the brewery, Thomas Wethered & Sons Ltd. Other local pubs they supplied were The Full Moon in Hawridge and The Railway Hotel (The Shoulder of Mutton) in

Wendover. Just imagine the dray horses pulling the carts laden with beer barrels up and down our Chiltern hills!

Back in the 80s

By Ana Brown

Tickets are now available for the 80s night at the Cock and Rabbit on Saturday 27th April 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm. Tickets are priced at £10 per person, with all proceeds going to Scannappeal.

DJ Bonkers (the very same DJ who entertained us at the Halloween party) will be our DJ on the night, playing all your favourite 80s hits. 80s outfits are strongly encouraged, dress as a character from your favourite 80s film or TV show or just wow us all with your fabulous 80s style.

Tickets are available in advance only from anabrown921@gmail.com, and let me know your favourite 80s songs to add to the playlist for the night. Tickets are limited so don't leave it until the last minute and miss out.

AGM for shop shareholders

By Katie Michaelson-Yeates

This is a formal note to inform all Shop at The Lee shareholders that this year's AGM is to be held on Sunday 14th April at 12:30 pm in The Lee Parish Hall.

Shopping posse

By Katie Michaelson-Yeates

Shop at The Lee stocks goods from many different places: the Cash and Carry, local butchers, bread from Tring and Chesham are just a few.

But something you might not know is that there is a rota of five volunteers that individually go to Peterley Farm weekly to purchase, among other things, ham, cheeses, frozen pastries, breakfast cereals, cakes and biscuits. We have an arrangement with Peterley that gives us a discount, so we can sell at the same price as they do.

The brilliant shoppers, Liz, Ros, Roxy, Sarah and myself, go in all weathers with empty bags and fill them up with goodies that they hope our customers will love. I have always said, if they see something they would buy for themselves, there will definitely be other people in the village who would also like it... so buy!

So, let's say a big thank you to the hidden volunteers of Shop at The Lee.

If you would like to join this band of volunteers, the rota means you would only visit Peterley Farm every five or six weeks; please email me at myoldswan@btinternet.com

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Art 4 Lee

By Charlotte Reynolds

They say: "Never work with children or animals" but my subject this month has built her entire career successfully ignoring this dictum.

This month's profile is a snapshot of the work of photographer Chrissi Ratcliffe who now specializes in dog and equestrian action, country pursuits and studio portraiture, but whose early career working with children proved a useful grounding in wrangling reluctant charges.

Born into a family of keen amateur photographers, Chrissi's father worked for Kodak and, with a grandfather similarly keen on photography and the technical aspects of cameras, it was perhaps unsurprising that Chrissi should absorb a love of all things photographic. However, after school she trained as a Nursery Nurse and spent her early working life with young children, gaining useful skills of patience and empathy for those unable to fully express their needs.

Motherhood enhanced these skills, but once her children were more independent Chrissi began a second career putting her childhood hobby to work. She studied photography at Aylesbury College gaining her City & Guilds in Photography, and later,

Distinctions from The Royal Photographic Society and The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain.

Her evident abilities were soon spotted with exhibitions of her work being held at Princes Risborough Library and Tourist Information Office. Word of mouth recommendations also meant that she was often in demand for family, wedding, and corporate photography.

A world of pet portraiture

Following a family move to Swan Bottom some 10 years ago and discovering a huge community of dog owners and country life, Chrissi chose to specialize in pet portraiture, based at her studio or out in the 'wild' capturing the very essence of gun dogs working at full tilt in the field or horses displaying their athletic grace at eventing competitions. Devoted owners aren't excluded, and she has done many an equestrian shoot with riders gloriously dressed in billowing ballgowns (and rather more casual outfits) galloping in wildflower strewn meadows, creating a lasting memory of rider and horse in perfect union.



Her evident talent as a photographer of canines grew from early work with The Chiltern Dog Rescue Society, where Chrissi took on a commission to take photos of those dogs who were finding it harder to find a home. Using her skills of patience and understanding of animals and an

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empathy for their situation, she quickly gained the trust of the most sad and hesitant dogs, creating wonderful warm portraits that greatly boosted their chances of being adopted.



Fantasy photography

I ask Chrissi what her fantasy photographic subject would be, and she instantly replies, what a privilege it would be to photograph the 'hero' working dogs who are often overlooked in the beauty pageant of social media pet photos; those intelligent, hardworking Medical Assistant, Mountain Rescue, Hearing, Military and Detection dogs who quietly make our lives safer and better.

This genuine love of dogs is obvious both from her work and her constant companion and 'assistant', Bo, a small black spaniel cross, who accompanies Chrissi on her other photographic work, when she is commissioned to do corporate head shots, product photography or brand shoots, with Bo acting as ice breaker and comedy partner. Her usefulness as a bag carrier is however dubious. The huge amount of paraphernalia required on a shoot, including lighting rigs, backdrops, not to mention the two Canon digital cameras that Chrissi uses, certainly keeps her lugging it around, while Bo mostly sleeps on the job.

Although she mainly uses digital photography, Chrissi still loves using a film camera, explaining that it is a much more considered way of posing

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and taking a photograph; knowing that you have a finite number of photographs on a roll of film certainly concentrates the mind when snapping away, unlike digital photography which can be manipulated and edited to achieve the perfect finish. Using film and developing the result in her own dark room at home is a far more mindful and, I would suggest, skilled method of producing a photograph.

Truly personalised

Once a shoot has taken place Chrissi produces an album of the photos for the client to choose from, she will then professionally print up her work at home, thereby maintaining full artistic control. Printing on fine art paper and mounting all the photographs before final presentation to the client, means the whole process is truly personalised.

All pets are warmly welcomed to the studio and Chrissi has many an



Chrissi and Bo

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amusing tale of reluctant sitters, both human and animal, including some rather incontinent chickens, but a glance at her portfolio gives ample evidence of her undoubted love of all creatures and a complete understanding of how to capture the very essence of their being.

‘End of Days’ photography

As an addendum to this article, Chrissi, has, with immense kindness, offered, without charge, ‘End of Days’ photography sessions for elderly dogs who are seeing out their very last days, helping to capture their dignity in dying and to preserve their memory for their owners. Please contact her to arrange.

Other commissions are also very welcome. You can contact Chrissi at Instagram@chrisibellphotography, by email at chrissi_bell@hotmail.com or on 07719 731507. Her website can be found at chrisibellphotography.co.uk

Goodbye to the WI

By Jane Marsh

It is with some sadness that we announce the closure of Ballinger Evening Women's Institute. First founded in the 1960s it has been a stalwart of village life ever since; indeed we still had members from those early days.

When I first joined I was told: "We don't do jam, Jerusalem or calendars" and yet all sorts of interesting and fun events and meetings have taken place monthly for more than fifty years. We remained a busy and lively group to the end but sadly no one was able to take on the increasingly bureaucratic official roles without which we could not continue to exist.

Support and friendship

Originally founded to provide support and friendship for isolated country women, the WI remains an important campaigning organisation at national level but is now rather out of touch with modern requirements for support and friendship at our local level. I guess that maybe it's had its time.

The good news is that it is hoped to form a less formal, more flexible group – a place to meet friends and greet new people and do a variety of things together.

More information on this is coming very soon; do look out for it as you might like to join in.

Meanwhile our regular meet up for coffee, cake and chatter at the Cock and Rabbit, 10:30 am to 12:00 noon on the fourth Tuesday of each month will continue... see you there folks.

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Fly tipping in The Lee

By Ken Mitchell-Gears

For the most part we live in a litter free country village, and this is due to a number of unsung heroes who under the cover of darkness go along our verges and hedgerows picking up rubbish, so well done to you and thank you.

There have also been instances of fly tipping (a criminal offence). I assumed this activity was exclusively down to outsiders, so was horrified to learn that this is not the case! Reports of locals fly tipping shocked me to the core. The Stewart-Liberty Estate is, as we are aware, being sold, so we will have new landlords with new thoughts of how the estate is run.



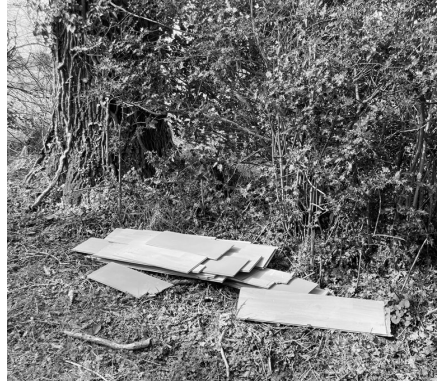
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We currently have freedom to enjoy the countryside and woods safely, however I see more and more landlords fencing their land as it is being abused. If we are to continue to enjoy our freedom please report people discarding their poo bags, litter and for sure any fly tipping activity so landlords do not fence us off!

The Lee Parish Council update

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk,
The Lee Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) is organised and chaired by the Parish Council but is a meeting of all residents of the parish. No agenda need be published in advance, anyone may speak on any topic they choose. By law, it must be held between 1st March and 1st June each year. This year, The Lee Parish Council is planning to hold this meeting on Tuesday 7th May at 7:00 pm, immediately before the scheduled Parish Council meeting.

We are also inviting HS2 community engagement / social value managers to the meeting as they

continue to look for opportunities to offer local projects of social value.

They have already worked on many useful community projects in Great Missenden, Wendover and other parishes along the line. However, so far, although a few ideas have been discussed in outline, no projects have come to fruition in The Lee Parish. We are therefore inviting project community engagement managers to the meeting to explain what might be possible and invite residents to come along with their ideas.

More information in next month's Newsletter; meanwhile put the date and time in your diaries.

Lee Clump Pond

In 1992 (then Cllr) Barbara Nelson gifted a pond and a small area of land at Lee Clump to The Lee Parish Council. For most of the time since then the land has been looked after by the adjoining residents at Willow Barn and The Barn. Although there was initially public access to the pond, by the mid-90s, for safety reasons, the land was fenced off and although it can still be seen from the road in winter, it has not otherwise provided any public benefit.

Having discussed the issues regarding the pond with the adjoining residents over the past 12 months and considered future costs and liabilities, the Council has concluded that it is no longer able to provide any significant public benefit from ownership. Having reviewed the legal situation and consulted independent valuers, the Chiltern Society and the Bucks, Berks, Oxon Wildlife Trust, the Council invited an offer from the adjoining residents to buy the land from the Council.

At its meeting in March, the Parish Council decided that, subject to a number of conditions, it was minded to agree the sale to the adjoining residents.

If any other resident of the parish would like further information, or wishes to comment on this proposed sale, or make an alternative proposal, please contact me, the Clerk, at clerk@thelee.org.uk by 26th April.

75 years of The Lee Parish Hall

By Pippa Hart

The Lee Parish Hall committee would like to host a tea party at the hall on Saturday 27th April at 3:00 pm to celebrate 75 years since the hall was opened.

Particularly welcome are those of you who have memories of the hall that you would like to share on the day.

If you would like to join us please contact Pippa Hart on 837340 or 07785 323232.

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HS2 updates

By Cllr Colin Sully

Breaking out all over

‘**F**lorence’, the first of the Chiltern Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs), arrived at the South Heath portal in late February to much ceremony. The second TBM, ‘Cecilia’, also arrived in March. (See latest PR news from HS2 on page 22.)

There now follows a period of dismantling the TBMs at the tunnel portal, for which the project has had approval for 24 hour working. A night-time visit is being planned by local councillors to assess the impact of the noise and light in the surrounding area.

Bridge over troubled waters

A further meeting of interested parties was held in March to continue



‘Florence’ - the first of the Chiltern tunnel TBMs - breaks through at South Heath



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discussions on the most appropriate design for the Leather Lane crossing, after the announcement that the contract to build it is passing from EKFB to ALIGN.

It has also been confirmed that the project will not now build the nearby Cottage Farm overbridge. Instead of using this bridge to access farming in the fields on the lower side of the line, we understand that HS2 will now provide access off Leather Lane. The detailed design of the Leather Lane crossing will influence how this can best be achieved.

The train now departing...

HS2 recently issued information showing a ‘revised indicative train timetable’. The original specification, you may recall, was for 18 trains an hour in each direction, travelling at speeds of up to 250 mph as far as Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds.

The latest 'indicative train plan' released by the DfT now has:

(A) Opening strategy: starting sometime between 2029 and 2033

Six trains per hour in each direction to / from Old Oak Common:

- three to Birmingham
- one each to Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow.

(B) Euston services: date unknown

Ten trains per hour in each direction to / from Euston:

- three to Birmingham,
- three to Manchester,
- two to Liverpool
- one each to Lancaster and Glasgow.

This is all a far cry from the original 18 trains per hour in each direction and, of course, the High-Speed section of the line will now only extend just north of Lichfield.

There is no confirmation yet as to how fast the HS2 trains will run on conventional track beyond Lichfield, nor what is supposed to happen as they leave the high-speed section.

[Brake heavily, I imagine. Ed.]

The final operating timetable will be subject to consultation and negotiation between the Government, Network Rail and the relevant train operating companies.

Meanwhile...

Road closures will continue in the local area to allow construction:

- **A413, London Road, Wendover:** 28th March to 3rd April (nighttime: 8:30 pm to 5:30 am)
- **Leather Lane:** 6th and 7th April (daytime 8:00 am to 4:00 pm)
- **Frith Hill:** 27th March; 3rd April; 1st and 29th May (daytime: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm)

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

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Unwelcome visitors



By Joe King

A recent discussion in the snug turned to the decision, by our neighbours over the border in Dacorum, to prosecute for littering those relieving themselves in a layby by the side of the A41.

Drinkers that evening included a small delegation from Swan Bottom who were particularly interested in this action, as there has been an increasingly steady stream (pun intended) of cyclists and motor cyclists deciding that the hedgerow opposite their houses was the best public lavatory in the area.

Why the miscreants couldn't use the woods – or even the hedgerows on the other side of the crossroads where they would not be overlooked – was not obvious, but a number in the snug had been put off their lunch by public urination in full view of their windows.

Various solutions were discussed, with turning a hose on the offenders being very popular. In the end, the answer seemed to be for The Lee Parish Council to enact a byelaw (Section 235 of the Local Government Act 1972) which would enable them to levy a fine.

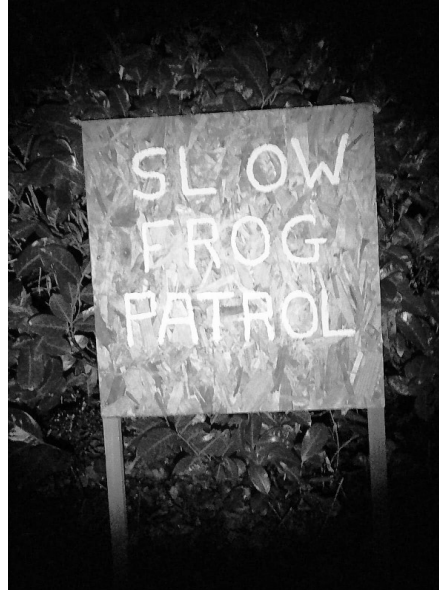
[I understand that the Council is considering setting up a 'P-patrol' – any volunteers? Ed.]



Leefrog freeway

By Giles Robertson

Thanks to my newly formed frog patrol, we are guiding frogs across Ballinger Road. At this time of year the frogs (and toads) are on their way to their favourite ponds to lay frogspawn.



Living next to what seemed to be the M1 of frog crossings, I was saddened to see so many squashed frogs, particularly in the many rainy patches we've had.

Towards the end of February, I set up the frog patrol to help guide frogs across the road. I am pleased so say that my message on The Lee Forum gained five recruits.

It's fairly straightforward patrolling the area between Ballinger Road, Cherry Tree Lane and the first 100 metres of Oxford Street. We do this in the early evening after dusk, when frogs are at their most active and likely to be moving, between now and

early April. We are out in reflective vests with torches spotting our new friends crossing, with a container to ferry the frogs across the road.

Luckily for us, they only seem to do this when it is mild and above 5°C. But unfortunately, they do like the rainy evenings – and you know how wet it has been.

Whilst I realise for some this is mildly amusing, with so many factors in our lives seemingly out of our control, managing to save a few frogs is very heart warming.

You should try it.

[Bob Dylan knew a bit about these things when he wrote the first line of On the Road Again:

“Well, I wake up in the morning, there’s frogs inside my socks.” Ed.]

Hospital driver

By Liz Chambers

Sally Knowles and I are both volunteer drivers for the Chesham Voluntary Hospital Car Service (CVHCS). We are trying to recruit more drivers.

CVHCS is a voluntary organisation which has been taking citizens in Chesham to hospitals and other medical locations since the 1950s. The service is accessed through the three local surgeries.

We are looking to add to our driver pool and this may be a volunteering role that is attractive to local residents. Our drivers use their own cars. They volunteer for as many or as few trips as they want. Drivers are recompensed based on mileage but the real pleasure is meeting so many interesting people and helping them access the medical care they require.

Do please call me on 01494 411813 if you would like to help.

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From the vicarage

By Revd Chris Haywood



Bishop Alan, Bishop of Buckingham

It was with great sadness that we heard of the untimely and sudden passing of Bishop Alan, Bishop of Buckingham, on 17th February, which was devastating news at any time, but especially so soon after having conducted a United Benefice Confirmation Service for our Parishes.

His passing is all the more tragic, as he had just started a sabbatical to plan for his retirement next year. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Lucy, his five children and their families, and indeed all his friends and colleagues. He was loved, valued and appreciated as a shepherd and leader over 20 years and he will be sorely missed.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday 13th April, which will be live streamed to enable as many as possible to share in a fitting commemoration, remembrance and celebration of his life and ministry.

Many eulogies and tributes have been paid already, not least by Bishop Steven, our diocesan Bishop, but more parochially I'd like to add my thoughts. First and foremost he was a people person, a shepherd and pastor. Georgie and I will especially treasure how he took a special interest in us when I was installed. Furthermore, I have valued his wisdom, insight, advice and support, especially with regard to ministry in these parishes, which he knew inside out and had a deep sense of. It was impossible not to be fond of him, especially given his idiosyncrasies. We will miss him deeply.

When it became clear that we had five candidates for confirmation from across our Parishes, I approached Bishop Alan directly to ask if he would conduct a specific United Benefices Confirmation for us, in one of our churches – The Lee as it happened – rather than us joining a deanery confirmation service.

He readily agreed, agreeing that such an occasion would be a tremendous witness to what God is doing in our Parishes, especially in the lives of the candidates, as their testimonies evidenced, and as a way of endorsing the ministry we are seeking to undertake here and which is bearing fruit.

We were so pleased to host such a parochial and bespoke occasion. The confirmations were special and personal, the testimonies moving. Bishop Alan's sermon was inspired and spoke powerfully to our purpose here and his leading was as compassionate and gentle as ever.

We had no idea at the time it would be our last opportunity to receive as such from him, but as it turned out so it



was. We are privileged and touched to have hosted one of his last acts in ministry, confirming candidates that were among the last he would affirm (he conducted a confirmation the following week in Amersham, which was his very last duty). May he rest in peace and rise in glory, as he surely will, such is our confidence in our Lord and Saviour's sacrifice for our sakes and hope in his resurrection.

Following on from the local confirmations a number of others have expressed an interest in exploring the Christian faith and confirmation. If this includes you, please do be in touch and I can arrange something bespoke for you, a group or 1:1, daytime or evenings. God Bless.

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Roses are red...

By Katie Michaelson-Yeates



Sometimes when searching for a greeting card you find the prettiest illustration, but when you open the card up the verse inside is either cheesy, slushy or just not the sentiment you wanted to impart.

The great thing about greeting cards in Shop at The Lee is that they are not only pretty on the outside, but they are usually blank on the inside. Great for your own message and sentiments.

Years ago, when I first began volunteering at Shop at The Lee, the greeting card selection was dire. Cheap looking, no variety and really nothing worth writing home about.

Now there is a moral here, never say that there is something wrong or lacking with goods sold in the shop.* I was immediately informed that if I

wanted I could take over the buying of stationery including greeting cards.

In the best possible taste!

I picked up the baton and now there is a thriving card, wrapping paper, napkins, notelets area of the shop. I try to find smaller British suppliers, cards you won't find in Clintons (other card shops are available) and have picked up new suppliers from trade shows and magazines. One of the best ways to find new companies is when I have received a particularly pretty, funny or different card. I then contact the supplier and see their full range and decide whether it would fit the ethos of the shop. Nothing too rude for instance!

Due to space (which I have to protect like a guard dog, otherwise Symeon is moving the card carousel out of the way for a new chiller) we cannot have an exhaustive range. We don't stock age cards for instance, but we do sell seasonal cards – Mothering Sunday, Easter etc – and certain event cards, for instance weddings, birth, moving home, sympathy.

The written message

Over the last few years people have been sending fewer greeting cards, especially at Christmas, which is a little sad as a written message has a lot more meaning than an email that is lost among many messages. Postage costs have just gone up and up, but the cards in Shop at The Lee have not risen and you will find them at a reasonable price, most are £1.80, compared to John Lewis, Clintons etc (other card shops are available).

Please pop in and see the selection and, if you have received a card that you think would be a nice addition, please let me know the manufacturer's name.

** We love shoppers' feedback though.*

The Lee Flower Show

Saturday 20th July

By Jonathan Batten

After experiencing the wettest February in the south of England since 1836 I am sure that we are all looking forward to some glorious spring sunshine in April.

Having been putting off work in the garden, to avoid damaging waterlogged ground, there is a bit of catching up to do.

The committee has also been busy catching up with organising the show; this month it is the work on the schedules which needs to be completed so that these will be ready for delivery to your doorsteps in early May.

Last year, despite the adverse weather conditions on the day, we managed to do better than in 2022, halving the losses to around £1,200, mainly as a result of the increased number of people coming to the dance.

We are vastly encouraged and look forward to making more progress this year with your continuing support.

The Lee Flower Show Dance

Dust off those dancing shoes again and party at The Lee Flower Show Dance on the night of 20th July.

The dance committee team is hard at work organising it for you: by popular demand the same band as last year has been booked, and the floor is being polished – it's all ready to happen so put the date in your diaries.

Start thinking about getting your tables together – tickets will be going on sale on 24th May at £25 per person. All party sizes: groups, couples and singles welcomed. For any information do please contact Liz or Mina at theleeflowershowdance@gmail.com

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Simple Bridge?

By Rita Sully et al

The bidding on this recent hand started off simply enough, but at various tables it ended very differently.

♠ 9 2

♥ K J 7 4

♦ J 9 8 6 3

♣ Q 6

♠ 10 7 6 4 3

♥ 3 2

♦ Q 2

♣ 10 9 8 3

♠ 5

♥ A Q 10 9 8 6

♦ A 7 5

♣ J 7 4

♠ A K Q J 8

♥ 5

♦ K 10 4

♣ A K 5 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: None

S	W	N	E
1♠	pass	1NT	

How would you bid from here? See page 23.

Lee Common School news

By Catherine May

The children at Lee Common School have been learning about 'People who help us' this term, and were recently very excited to be visited by the Fire Service. A walk down Oxford Street to our lovely village and visits from a police officer and a postal worker are scheduled for the next couple of weeks!

Reporting on highlights such as this can sometimes give the impression that there's not much time

for 'normal' lessons, but rest assured, plenty of structured, focused learning is going on in these too, and recently a group of governors enjoyed a Monday morning visit to see how Maths is being taught.

Nursery children were using dice and dried pasta to practise 'subitising', a technical term for the ability to look at a small set of objects and instantly know how many there are without counting them, while in Reception children were using dominoes to develop subitising into a deeper understanding of grouping and basic mathematics.

For example, a group of six dots can also be seen as $5 + 1$, $4 + 2$, $3 + 3$, or two lots of three – early multiplication. In Robins and Swallows children were comparing various containers in an introductory lesson to the concept of capacity. In all classes, as well as written number activities where appropriate, hands-on



Celebrating World Book Day

activities kept the children engaged and enthusiastic, while their understanding was developed and assessed through being encouraged to 'think out loud', use mathematical vocabulary and explain their reasoning. It was also extremely impressive that the children remained

focused despite five additional adults joining their classes.

Around World Book Day (on Thursday 7th March this year), the school had a week of focusing on author Julia Donaldson and her many well-loved tales. On World Book Day itself, the children came to school dressed in some amazing book-related outfits and enjoyed a virtual book reading, thanks to Tring Bookshop, of John Kane's new book *What is Black and White?*

Robins and Swallows teacher Miss Taylor and the School Council did an amazing job organising a fundraising dance-a-thon on the 1st March. The whole school took part, learning all the moves to the 90s dance classic *Macarena!*



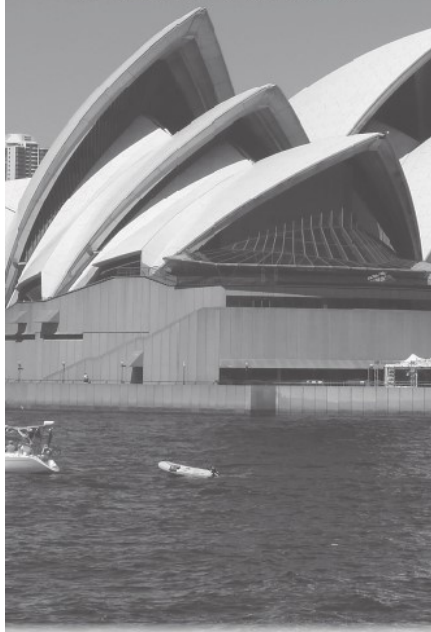
Learning the Macarena!

The finale to the afternoon was the parents coming to watch and in some cases joining the dancing together with the cake sale. The School Council are busy counting up the money raised and will then be visiting classes to decide what to spend it on.

Many thanks to all our families for their generous support of this School Council initiative.

Alongside the recent dance-a-thon and regular fundraising events organised by our fantastic PTA, the Lee Common School Association (LCSA), the school has also set up an

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Amazon Wish List, open to anyone who would like to purchase additional resources for the school and nursery. The wish list can be found at <https://amzn.eu/1CocVfd> and includes a wide range of resources including books, jigsaws, gardening and pottery supplies and a new basketball hoop for the playground. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school office either on 01494 837267 or by email at office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk

Chiltern Ridges news



By Bucks Cllr, Patricia Birchley

The wettest February since records began played havoc with our country roads, and the Annual Budget Meeting on Wednesday 21st February voted to provide £5 million of extra funding immediately for road repairs. Permanent work cannot start until the weather is warmer but we shall shortly see roads starting to improve.

Roads in Buckinghamshire have very high levels of usage by comparison with places further away from London but, that said, drainage and good quality roads are of paramount importance.

Buckinghamshire is considered by Government to be a 'blue chip' authority with stringent scrutiny and careful budget management. The budget provides a 'best estimate' which reflects the uncertainties in future costs and demand levels, economic conditions and local government funding. Understanding the budget

process is vital as a local councillor because the medium-term outlook remains extremely challenging.

Cllr Jane MacBean and I contribute to key decisions and believe the 2024/25 Budget is achievable. The Revenue budget includes inflationary growth of £36 million. Since becoming a single unitary council savings have been made of £75.4 million, equivalent to 17% of the net 2020/21 budget.

Buckinghamshire profile

In terms of its population, Buckinghamshire is expanding and the net population is now 553,000. The average house price is now £453,000, average rent for a 3-bedroom property is £1,400 per calendar month, and the size of our economic national output is £18,485 billion. Our exports are worth £6.8 billion. Median average gross pay in 2022 was £38,600 and there are 304 pensioners per 1000 working age residents. Life expectancy is 81.5 for men and 85.1 for women.

As Chairman of the Council I have recently represented Buckinghamshire at a Coronation Tree planting ceremony and an awards night in Milton Keynes, graduation ceremonies at New Bucks and Buckingham Universities, King's Awards for Enterprise and Voluntary Service, school concerts, a meeting with Ukrainian and Afghan refugees, and the Police Awards Ceremony in Chesham.

Jane and I keep a close watch on the constant road and lane closures due to HS2. Your local councillors did not attend HS2 celebrations when the tunnelling machine Florence reached South Heath. The noise and dust can now be significant during working hours and the project is making a real impact on our lives. We continue to hold HS2 to account in terms of damage and inconvenience, and the work of the local Parish Councils is invaluable.

Cones at the Shop

By A C Lee-Purrson

Buckinghamshire Council has recently awarded Shop at The Lee with a licence to sell road cones.

Due to the many potholes appearing in our roads, we now stock a range of different size and colour cones. It has been stressed to us that people should make sure that they buy the correct cone for the particular pothole:

Cone A – red and white – small size pothole

Cone B – blue and white – medium size pothole

Cone C – green and white with flag – large potholes

Cone D – silver and red with flashing lights – gigantic potholes

Cone EE – 6 feet high cone with robot shouting: “Run” – sinkholes.



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Early opening of Chilterns HS2 line

By Di Ogyes, HS2 Ltd

H S2 Ltd has announced that it is planning to bring the first part of Phase 1 of the new railway into early use by taking advantage of the excellent progress made by ‘Florence’ and ‘Cecilia’ – the two tunnelling machines that recently completed their 10-mile drive under the Chilterns.

Despite delays and cancellations elsewhere along the route, the Chilterns tunnelling work – by ALIGN JV – has made such good progress that HS2 has decided to bring emergency platforms already being built at the portals and at the ventilation shafts, into early use for a local train service.

It is planning to run a regular high-speed passenger service between Maple Cross (near the M25) and Great Missenden (South Heath), calling at Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont St Giles, Old Amersham and Little Missenden. Eventually the service will be extended to somewhere near London and to somewhere near Birmingham.

David Ells, HS2 Ltd’s Project Director, said: “We have seen great progress on the tunnel, which will take our trains deep under the Chiltern hills, safeguard the woodlands and wildlife habits above and significantly reduce disruption to communities. This early opening of the Maple Cross to Great Missenden section of the HS2 line will also bring early benefits to all the residents of the Chilterns, take traffic off the busy A413 and relieve the congested Metropolitan Underground and Chiltern railway lines.”



Site for Amersham Old Town station

“The progress that Florence and Cecilia have made would not have been possible without a huge team in support, and I’d like to thank everyone involved.”

All enquiries should be sent to HS2enquires@HS2.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

- *A regular shuttle bus service will connect the South Portal at Maple Cross to Denham Golf Course railway station and the North Portal at South Heath to Great Missenden station (Mon to Fri only: off-peak hours).*
- *Services are expected to start on 1st April 2024.*

Wine, cheese and charcuterie

By Symeon Economou

Shop at The Lee is planning to trial a wine, cheese and charcuterie social evening in May.

We plan to source wonderful, authentic, freshly made antipasti boards from the Italian shop in Maidenhead. These will be augmented by selected cheeses, artisan baguettes and a few pickles and the ticket price will include red and white wines to compliment the food.

Tickets will be available from mid-April and, in the light of the heavy

demand we experienced for our pre-Covid pop-up restaurant, we would initially like to limit them to residents within our catchment area.

The date is Saturday 11th May – more details soon.

The Lee Forum

By the Forum Administrators

In last month's Newsletter, The Forum Administrators mentioned that we had written to a number of members of the forum who we had identified as not being active users.

We started by determining what constituted 'active use', and decided that it was those who had either logged in to the forum within the last year or those who received and read email notifications.

Approximately 300 people were identified as not meeting either of those criteria, and they received a letter asking if they wished to retain their membership, advising them that they would be deregistered if we did not hear from them within a few weeks. Of those, around 30 replied that they wished to retain their membership, whilst a similar number were prompted to log in, set up a subscription and/or start reading their emails – thus becoming reclassified as active members.

When we wrote last month, forum membership stood at just over 850. Having deregistered those users deemed to be inactive, membership now stands at 622 of whom 52.5% are residents of The Lee Parish, a further 43.75% live in our neighbouring villages and the remaining 3.75% live further afield (Amersham, Chesham and beyond).

Having recently discovered that sending multiple mails which either cannot be delivered or are not being read could cause the forum to be classified as a sender of spam, and prevent members from receiving mails, we are pleased that

we have undertaken this review. If you would like to (re)join the forum, please complete an application at www.thelee.org.uk/new-user

Different Bridge

At some tables the bidding went:

S	W	N	E
1♠	pass	1NT	pass
3NT	pass	pass	pass

After a heart lead, 3NT will make as North can make a heart trick and also establish the K♦.

At other tables East overcalled 2♥ and the interference bid led to very different outcomes.:

S	W	N	E
1♠	pass	1NT	2♥
?			

Most North-Souths then bid up to 4♠ or 5♦, neither of which should make.

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Friday night foot balls

By Paul Mi-Legge

The Lee Friday night football is to be televised live! Advanced notice of ticket sales for the end of year season event with special hosts.

Sly Sports TV special

Thanks to Miracle Master Marks, we now have the technology to video record matches. Matches will be beamed live back to the Cock and Rabbit on a Friday night from 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm and also feature on Sly TV's 'Not the Main Event' channel. Oliver will soon be installing stadium seating and will be supplying motherhood and apple pie as part of his new menu.

Safe standing areas will also be provided. Tickets will be on sale for

The Cock & Rabbit and Café au Lee



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£10 and include a free pie and pint. The C&R branded beanie hats will also be on sale (see photo of Oliver modelling the merchandise). The beanie hats – pink for 25, red for 50, green for 75 and blue for 100 represent the attendance at the C&R games. Pat (Patterson not Lea) has already secured the coveted 100 blue hat but has only played 41 games, by virtue of the fact that he is always in the C&R, game or no game.

You also get a chance to meet and mingle with the players in the bar after the match. Shop at The Lee will be selling sticker books so you can collect stickers of your favourite players of the Class of '24. If sales are good Symeon is rumoured to be commissioning a calendar for 2025: 'The Football Calendar Boys of The Lee 2025'.

Oliver will be planting an orange tree in the pub garden to supply those all-important half time oranges to the lads. Due to global warming he has been assured that the growing conditions will be perfect. Anyone

else interested in these special orange trees for their own garden? Please contact Messrs Dun-Uplike A Kipper and Sons who can be contacted on 01494 000000.

December 2024 Awards dinner – book early to avoid

Planning is already underway for the next (Couldn't Hit a Ballon (Barn) d'Or Awards ceremony. We are in advanced talks with Sly TV to televise the event which will be hosted at the Cock and Rabbit, by local girl Gabby Logan and Gary 'Lugs' Lineker (if Oliver is not happy to change the current Cock and Rabbit crisp offering to Walkers – we may have a deal breaker).

With demand for tickets expected to be high they will go on sale from Shop at The Lee on 1st April. To ensure authentic purchasers, please wear a woollen hat and say the words "Pullover the eyes please" to secure tickets.

In search of special grazers

'Laces' Robertson has recently been complaining about the length of the grass on the pitch at the Chiltern Hills Academy. Apparently, according to Giles, at our most recent game, he would have scored a worldie if the grass hadn't been so long.

Wanted: baa-gain sheep

We are therefore seeking a special breed of sheep to keep the Astroturf to an acceptable length. If anyone has access to sheep of the Gullible or Stro Turf breed, which are both known for their special digestive tracts which enable them to collect micro plastics safely, please get in touch.

Ee Long Musk the Yorkshire investor is rumoured to be interested in a marine version of the sheep to help clean up the oceans.



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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).

April

Thursday 4th. The Lee village walk. 9:30 am on The Lee Green.

Sunday 14th. Shop at The Lee AGM at 12:30 pm. See page 3.

Thursday 25th. Arts Society Ballinger. 'Hogarth at The Hustings'. Rupert Dickens.

Saturday 27th. The Lee Parish Hall 75th anniversary tea party. See page 9.

Saturday 27th. Scannappel Back to

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the 80s night. Cock and Rabbit 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm. See page 2.

Church Services

St John the Baptist, The Lee

Sunday 7th. Holy Communion (BCP) at The Old Church. 8:00 am.

Sunday 7th. Family Service at the New Church. 11:00 am.

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

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

Sunday 28th. Parish Communion (CW) at the New Church. 11:00 am.

St Mary's, Ballinger

Sunday 7th. Holy Communion 9:30 am followed by refreshments.

Coming Soon

Thursday 2nd May. The Lee village walk. 9:30 am on The Lee Green.

Tuesday 7th May. The Lee Annual Parish Meeting 7:00 pm at the Parish Hall, *followed by The Lee Parish Council Meeting.* See page 8.

Saturday 11th May. Wine and Cheese evening at Shop at The Lee. See page 22.

Saturday 8th June. Ballinger Hall Centenary Celebration event.

Saturday 20th July. The Lee Flower Show and Dance at The Lee Manor Park. See page 17.

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

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@theartssociety.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: Ruth Fowler, Mary Godfrey, Liz Macann, Jen Ogle, Adam Speller, Colin Sully and Louise Wadsworth.

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To book the Parish Hall

'phone Pippa Hart on 837340 or
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hazlemere@wyeres.co.uk

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

Prestwood
01494 868 000
prestwood@wyecountry.co.uk

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

Naphill
01494 565 555
naphill@wyecountry.co.uk

Stokenchurch
01494 509 377
stokenchurch@wyeres.co.uk

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

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

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Park Lane Office
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