



NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Phil Harrison

This month sees the community spirit flourishing in a variety of different guises including the Roving Supper, the Newsletter Dinner, the Christmas Market at the shop, village fireworks, the churchyard clean up and Remembrance Sunday. Each is an occasion to gather, to celebrate and to share. You will find more information on these events and much more in the pages that follow.

Perhaps the most important thing to draw your attention to is the article on page 5 concerning Shop at The Lee. Historically The Shop has had lots of volunteers and, if anything, has been spoilt for choice. Symeon tells me that many of those volunteers are still in the community but are no longer involved in it. Maybe they feel they have done their bit or, perhaps more concerningly, that they are no longer needed. Nothing is further from the truth so if you can, the time has come to "Raise a hand to lend a hand". If you are new to the community it is a fabulous way to meet people and be involved; if you were a volunteer your experience is invaluable.

Do you feel that cars are getting wider, the lanes narrower, walkers, cyclists and horse riders taking up more room? You are probably correct. The reason is that for way too long hedges have been allowed to get fatter. Well, it is time to put them on a diet.

They need serious pruning back to the fence line or boundary line on the property. Yes they will look bare and thin but nature has a way of restoring quickly. Maybe The Lee Forum can help identify a local farmer with a hedge trimming machine that they can use quickly to make the task much easier and very effective.

Any thoughts, objections about any of the articles or contributions for December's edition should be sent to next month's editor, Jonathan Batten, at theleenewsletter@gmail.com by 12th November please.

Your letters

To the Editor

It's always interesting to read the Newsletter and see how vibrant the village and its surrounds are. In contrast with many villages up and down the country, The Lee is in the fortunate position of having the essential elements for a healthy community. There are churches (sadly no chapels anymore), a school, a village hall, a shop and, until recently, two pubs.

Sadly, The Old Swan is closed at present but The Cock and Rabbit is

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| A graphic logo consisting of a dark grey rectangle with the word 'Recycle' in white at the top. Below it is a white circular arrow icon, and at the bottom is a dark grey rectangle with the word 'Read' in white. | <p><i>Once you've read it, why not return this Newsletter to Shop at The Lee for someone else to enjoy?</i></p> |
|--|---|

still a much loved and valued community hub. Not only can you have lunch or dinner, an astonishing range of groups also meet there on a regular or ad hoc basis: dog walkers, cyclists and rambles refuel during the day, quizzers rack their brains and cricketers or footballers rest their weary legs. It's lovely to read about local weddings, celebrations and special parties.

Trish Swain
Chartridge

Christmas orders

By Symeon Economou

Once again Shop at The Lee would be happy to supply everything – foodwise – that you need for the Christmas festivities. This includes all poultry, meats, fruit and veg, bakery, dairy and some ethnic delights. We assemble everything, almost all fresh from local suppliers, and have it ready for you to collect on Christmas Eve from the Parish Hall. Order forms will go live online from early November.

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Smiles at The Old Church

By David Ireson

The audience at The Old Church on Sunday 6th October was treated to a wonderful evening of wit, melody, sentiment and nostalgia. Stefan Bednarczyk – the King of Cabaret – entertained us with music and anecdotes in the company of Tom Lehrer, Jake Thackeray, Noel Coward and Flanders and Swann, with a guest appearance by Joyce Grenfell.



Making a welcome reappearance at The Old Church after four years, Stefan gave us 'highlights' from the four one-man shows that he has developed over the years of a long and successful career. He charmed us with stories about his past life which he cleverly linked to the songs he performed for us.

We started with Tom Lehrer's gruesome Irish Ballad, *Poisoning*

Pigeons in the Park and the delightfully subversive *Vatican Rag*. After immersion in a couple of Jake Thackeray's love songs we moved to the marvellous songs of Noel Coward with such favourites as *Mrs Wentworth Brewster* and the sentimental *Where are the songs we sang?* Coward's fusion of witty lyrics and a mastery of styles at the keyboard also gave us *Nina* and *Don't put your daughter on the stage Mrs Worthington*. Stefan rounded the evening off with some of Flanders and Swann – *The Gasman, I'm a Gnu* and *In the Bath*. Joyce Grenfell made an appearance in the song that she and Donald Swann performed together about the Ladies Choral Society singing in the Royal Albert Hall.

A wonderfully entertaining evening in The Lee. How lucky we are to have such talent brought to us in the lovely surroundings of The Old Church.

Diamond wedding anniversary



By Tina Dixon

My parents, Bryan and Pauline Monk, first met in 1955 when they attended The Misbourne School at the respective ages of 13 and 12. Bryan lived along Oxford Street, Lee Common and Pauline lived in South Heath – they caught the same coach to school – and that's where it all began!

They were married at The Lee Church on Saturday 26th September 1964 with Susan Monk, Jill (née Humphreys) Carleton-Smith and Judy Cripps being Mum's bridesmaids. Their

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wedding reception was held at The Lee Parish Hall.



After their wedding, their initial home was a small caravan at the bottom of Tom and Joy Peace's garden, which was situated along Oxford Street. They lived in their cosy caravan for around nine months, while Dad finished off building what was to be their second home, and this was situated along Cherry Tree Lane. Once the building work was complete, they moved into their new home in 1965. It was very common back in those days for mothers to deliver their babies at home and Liza came along on 5th October 1967 (which also happened to be Dad's 25th Birthday!). In 1969 they then moved to their 'forever home' being 2 School Cottage (which they subsequently renamed Gaydon) and this is where they still live today. I came along on 29th May 1970 and that was their perfect little family complete.

They were very surprised to receive a 60th Wedding Anniversary

Card from The King and Queen Consort and to celebrate their very special day, the 'kids' treated them to a meal at The Polecat in Prestwood and tickets to see an ABBA tribute band at The Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury.

Guy Fawkes

By Pippa Hart

As I write, the bonfire in the field next to Garden Cottage is already taking shape. The fireworks, sparklers, hot dogs and mulled wine are ordered. The posters are being printed and will be going up around the village any day. The Parish Hall team that brings you the bonfire and fireworks display has swung into action for this much-loved annual village event.

The gates will be open from 6:00 pm so please come early to make the most of hot dogs and the first mulled wine of the season. Cherry Tree Lane will be closed to all traffic apart from residents' access. Parking is available at The Lee Parish Hall as well as on street in Oxford Street and Lee Clump Road. (Please do not block driveways).

Once again it is a CASH ONLY event due to a lack of signal in the field. Entry is £6 for adults, £3 for children under 16 and £15 for a family of four (two adults and two children under 16).

Let's hope for a clear night when the fireworks go off at 7:00 pm.

Newsletter dinner 2024

By the Editorial Team

A final reminder that the annual Newsletter Dinner will take place at the Parish Hall on

Friday 29th November. Invitations have been sent out to all those who have contributed to the success of the Newsletter in the last 12 months. If you would like to attend and haven't replied, please do so as soon as possible.

We start at 7:30 pm with a drinks reception, followed by dinner, and once again will have awards and a speaker to reflect on life in The Lee... or anything else that takes their fancy on the night! Don't miss out on the dinner of the year!

Roving supper

Saturday 16th November
7:30 pm at the Parish Hall

By Pat Lea

Those of you who haven't yet paid for your tickets please do so as soon as possible. Cheques or cash, £30 per person. Cheques made out to The Lee Parish Hall.

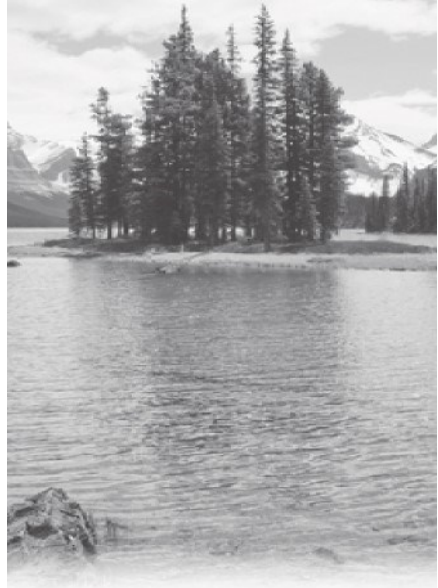
Please remember to bring cash to buy your raffle tickets.

Raise a hand to lend a hand

By the Shop Committee

“Raise a hand to lend a hand” is all about giving back to our lovely village, and volunteering at Shop at The Lee is a perfect way to do just that! For many, it's a fantastic way to feel more connected with the community. The shop is an incredible asset, and we're lucky to have it. When people first move here, they are amazed by the range of products and the fact that it's run mostly by volunteers. For those

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Every shift is different – it’s busy, sociable, and full of variety. Whether it’s sorting deliveries, checking dates or stocking shelves, there’s always something to do. The best part? Getting to know regular customers and meeting new faces, not just from The Lee but surrounding areas too. The Shop was a lifeline during the pandemic, and it continues to be a place where people can catch up on the gossip – especially on a Saturday!

So, if you’re thinking about getting involved, go for it! You’ll be surprised how quickly the time flies, and you’ll feel great knowing you’re helping keep such a valuable resource thriving. Plus, there’s always laughter and a bit of banter to keep things light!

To find out more speak to Symeon. Contact details are on page 27.

Macmillan

By Trish Swain

Pippa Hart and I want to say a massive “thank you” to everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning that was held on Friday 27th September.



The weather was truly horrible with nonstop rain all morning and we were worried it would deter our supporters, but people from The Lee and our friends and families from further afield were most generous and made the morning a great success. We raised £1,395 on the day and online donations raised another £820, making the total an amazing £2,215.



We are most grateful to the people who donated raffle prizes, cakes and biscuits and who helped with teas and coffees on the day.

[Pippa Hart has asked that we record a special mention for Trish. It

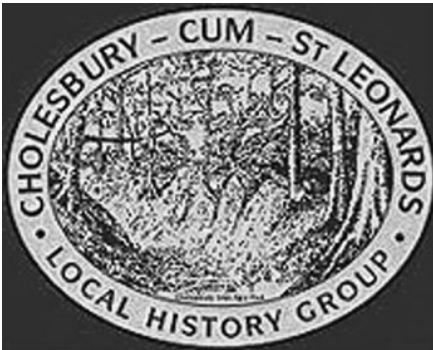
should not go unrecorded that her contribution to this annual fundraiser was quite incredible. She surpassed herself this year arriving with 15 cakes and over 100 jars of jams and marmalades to sell!]

Near-Lee

A local history group in Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards

By Anne Byrne

Less than three miles away from The Lee is a friendly local group from the Hilltop Villages whose members have an interest in the history of the local area and the Chilterns more widely. A regular feature is a varied programme of interesting talks by guest speakers and meetings take place monthly between October and May.



Last year we enjoyed a variety of talks in the village hall with topics including the Kedermister Library, shopping in Amersham, Georgian food and the Aylesbury duck and prune. Our January meeting is usually held via Zoom to avoid the worst of the winter weather in the Hilltop Villages.

Our first meeting of the new season was held on Friday 4th October when Revd Dr Tim Yates talked to us about the history of Bellingdon, another of



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our near neighbours. This will be followed on Friday 1st November with a talk by Keith Fletcher and Eleanor Phillips on *Cricket Ramblings: Famous Players and Funny Incidents in Local Cricket* and on Friday 6th December with a new talk by Stephen Barker called *Trench Humour in the First World War*, taking a light-hearted look at trench humour in slang and through tunes, cartoons, satirical journals, concert parties and in many other ways.

These meetings will be at St Leonards Village Hall and doors open at 7:30 pm for a prompt 7:45 pm start. After the talk there will be tea, coffee and biscuits, providing an opportunity to meet and talk informally to our speakers and chat to fellow members.

Guests are very welcome and the fee for attending a single meeting is £4. Membership for the season is £10.

For more details please see <https://www.cholesbury.com>


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Nature-Lee

By Johanna Free

I always wake up early every morning and sit in my little sunroom looking down over the valley. I choose not to focus on the viaduct that HS2 thinks is acceptable in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty but that's a different story; instead I look at the sky, the fields and if I am lucky deer, foxes and a little wren who busily hops about the potted plants by my back door. My mum loved this room and when she could no longer get out and about, she could still enjoy the views of nature.

One frosty morning late last year at the top of the garden near my mum's writing shed I noticed on the grass an area of melted frost. It looked odd and unnatural, so I went up to have a look. On seeing this melted patch, I could see it was in the shape of a deer who had been sitting on the lawn. It came into the garden, sat down and enjoyed the early morning sun then quietly went on its way. I felt so humbled that this magnificent creature felt so relaxed in my garden and was happy to just sit there. It started to make me think how I could encourage nature into my garden. So now there are two hedgehog houses, a stumpery and a stinging nettle patch. Not every garden can accommodate or want wandering deer but we all can have things like a bird table and bee hotel.

I love the deer who now walk up so close to the back door I can see their summer coats changing to their winter ones and see the twinkle in their eyes. I also don't mind the badger digging up the lawn or the fox marking his territory. Maybe I have a little bit of my mum's spirit still here, I don't know. But it wouldn't surprise me to think of mum looking down and having a little smile.

Team Frog update

By Giles Robertson

With the recent rainy weeks, I've been reminded of the frogs we've lost on the roads.

I suspect we'll see even more frogs crossing next spring – possibly due to all this rain. Is there a correlation?



At the beginning of this year, our first-ever Frog Patrol team of six

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volunteers patrolled from 21st February to 26th March and saved 26 frogs, toads, and newts – a truly satisfying result!

Exciting news: the Frog Team are starting a project together with Lee Common School!

Helped by the School Council, the Frog Team will soon be leading a school assembly to inspire and educate our young learners and to launch a whole school art competition to design a logo for tabards for our frog patrollers. The children will also be designing and creating some “Caution: Frogs Crossing” warning signs.

We hope that the project will help the children see how they can do their bit to protect the natural world, as well as further strengthening school-community links.

We'd love to hear from any local people or businesses interested in

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sponsoring a few signs and tabards. That would be amazing.

Lastly, we're always welcoming new volunteers. Saving frogs only takes 10 minutes a night – and it's a truly rewarding way to make a difference!

1904

By Carol Addison

This postcard is of the Grand Union Canal flowing through Halton. On the front is written, "This is where the little waggie tails swim."

The postmark is dated 30th December 1904 and was sent from Aylesbury to Miss Mary Larry in Leicester. The sender hoped she enjoyed the Christmas holiday and had returned to work in earnest. The final sentence says, "We are just off to see the wreckage at the station and to hear the ducks quack. Yours Drakes."

After a little research I found this refers to the worst rail disaster that has

ever occurred in Aylesbury. In the early hours of 23rd December 1904 an express train owned by the Great Western Railway left London Marylebone heading for Manchester. Unfortunately, primarily due to driver's error and excess speed, this train was derailed at Aylesbury station with tragically four men losing their lives.

Friend-Lee

By Julia Eyles

The Village Friends continue to grow in strength. At our last coffee morning at The Cock and Rabbit, we welcomed four new ladies who were embraced into the chattering throng.

Our ethos is "All are Welcome". Events are organised by our members so there are a variety of activities.

In September, a number of us travelled to Newbury to visit The Old Chapel Textile Centre, which is home to The National Archive of Needlework. In October we visited



Little Missenden Church to learn about its history and to see the medieval artwork on the walls.

Future events

In November we shall be holding a Beetle Drive in Ballinger Church, with a Christmas wreath making workshop scheduled for December.

Regular meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10:30 am in The Cock and Rabbit.

For more information about joining, please contact Frankie Little at Frankie.little@btinternet.com or on 07816 871622.

Local Treasure

A conversation with Ann Ash
By Louise Wadsworth

This year marks a significant milestone for Ann Ash, who has lived in our village for 50 years. Ann, originally from Kent, moved here in 1974 with her husband,



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Chris and has been an active member of the community ever since. I spent a lovely hour chatting with Ann about her life, her career and what she loves about living in Lee Common.

Moving to the village

Ann grew up in Sittingbourne, Kent, and later trained as a teacher. After meeting her husband in Southampton, they moved to Lee Common. "My husband was looking at houses in the area in his lunchtime as he had started working for a company based in Amersham. After visiting Lee Common he reported back, 'You won't like this place, there are no streetlights, no gas, no pavements and no mains drainage'.

"When I walked down Oxford Street, I knew right away it was the place for us," Ann recalls. "The house we bought was opposite the

allotments and I didn't care about the lack of streetlights!"

As the family grew, they moved across the road to a bigger house and then when the children were grown up, due to a chance conversation, she discovered her old house was up for sale and she moved back across Oxford Street. She even used her own wheelbarrow to move her belongings across the road.

Ann taught in various schools before joining Lee Common School, where she spent 15 fulfilling years. She fondly remembers the school's headmistress, Miss Coldham, and the sense of camaraderie in the school. After the Great Storm of 1989, when the front door of the school had blown out, Ann and Miss Coldham dragged the door back across the playground where it had landed and secured it in place with skipping ropes from the PE cupboard.



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Beyond teaching, Ann has always been a talented needleworker, whether making curtains for the Parish Hall or contributing to the kneelers in The Old

Church. A longstanding member of the Women's Institute (WI), Ann proudly showed me a beautiful piece of embroidery she created as part of a WI project depicting the four seasons.

The Lee Flower Show

One of Ann's most enduring roles in the village was as the Entries Secretary for The Lee Flower Show, a position she held for 40 years. "We were looking to move houses at the time," she explained, "and the people whose house we were buying told us we could only have it if I promised to take over as Entries Secretary! A role which had previously belonged to that household!" This became one of her favourite village activities, and she loved seeing people of all ages "traipsing" through her kitchen in order to sign up for the show. Coincidentally, Susan Cottam who took over Ann's role in 2024 now lives in her old house!

Friends and family

Ann's two children Matt and Becs, now with families of their own, still live in the vicinity. Ann's son-in-law Ricky runs 'Block and Butcher' in Wendover.

Reflecting on 50 years in the village, Ann talked about the importance of friendship and adaptability. "We survive and thrive because we are adaptable," she says. "I have lovely friends who I have known for many years."

Getting to know Ann, her love for the village is clear, "I just like being here," she says simply. Ann's story is one of resilience, creativity, and community, and her 50 years in the village have definitely earned her the title of Local Treasure.

To nominate someone as our next Local Treasure, please contact theleenewsletter@gmail.com

Cricket-Lee

By Patrick Walsh, Chair, The Lee CC

After getting off to a rather soggy start, the 2024 season at The Lee Cricket Club very much reflected the character of our community: one where a familial, fun atmosphere presides, and cricketing highlights punctuate our time together, adding joy (and sometimes surprise!) to the experience.

Our Friday evening Kwik Cricket continues to see 70-80 boys and girls developing their passion for cricket with fun skills sessions, followed by our popular weekly barbecue – a regular 'fixture' that is very popular with parents and children alike.

It's important to acknowledge the immense contribution of the dedicated volunteers who commit to coaching and managing our junior cohort, plus those

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who add their names to the rota to staff the bar and the grill – without them this much-loved gathering wouldn't happen. Special thanks to Neil Binns for overseeing the Club's Junior Cricket offer, and to Rachel Harris for her continued commitment to the club, which ensures the bar is stocked and we have supplies for the barbecue and other needs. Her behind the scenes efforts are not to be underestimated.

The club's colts players have been extremely active with a busy season of league and cup fixtures, culminating in the U13 team winning the Bucks South East league. Some notable highlights this year include half centuries for James Harris, Ed Harris, Tegan Stockdale and Freddy Beckford, and a phenomenal four wickets in four balls for Henry in our U11 side playing against Chalfont St Giles. The Glanfield Fair Play Award

went to Reece M, a youngster who has contributed much to our U14 squad this season.

One of the most gratifying aspects of the season – and a testament to the strength of the club's colts section, nurturing a passion for the game and funnelling new talent into the senior squads – was the emergence of skilled juniors who are now thriving as regular First and Second XI team players.

Special recognition goes to Tom Tillyer, Benedict Taylor, Tegan and Caia Stockdale, Henry and Freddie Glasgow and Daniel Boakes, all of whom made significant contributions to the First XI's success. And to the likes of Luke Dawes, Freddie Hastings, Molly McIlgorm, Sophie Hollister, Freddy Beckford, Riley Orpin, Ollie Binns and Hyder Munir, all of whom were valued members of the Second XI team.

Milestones and mentions

Overall, we've seen 134 batters playing for the club across adult and colts fixtures, with 9,065 runs scored, including five centuries – two from Alex Morgan in the same weekend back in May. A total of 118 bowlers took 542 wickets across 2,226 overs.

Many of our colts have made a significant contribution to our senior teams this season, proving the wealth of talent being produced in our midst.

Some key milestones include Henry Glasgow and Jordan Essex both passing the 100-match appearances this year, with York Woodford-Smith and James Sharman both marking 150 matches for the club. Guy Morgan has now notched up over 350 cumulative appearances and Ed Boakes has passed the 400 mark.

Jon Swain, who has turned out regularly for the club intermittently

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since the early 1970s (with a few seasons at – ahem – Chesham CC) reached 260 appearances for us this season and has taken 300 wickets for The Lee (15 of which were this season). He’s proved handy with his bat, too, and we were all disappointed when he announced he would be hanging up his boots after the final fixture of the season. Jon has not only added considerable statistics to the club as a player, but his calm and measured mentorship on the field has proved invaluable to a plethora of his teammates. As a former committee member and Chair of the club, he contributed much over the years, consolidating our junior cricket offer and providing sound strategy for the club’s future. It was wonderful to have Jon as our guest of honour at the end of season dinner and to see Jules Swain return to the club with a poignant speech in tribute to Jon’s cricketing career. We also recognise the immense dedication of Trish Swain, who has contributed much to life at Manor Park with countless delicious cricket teas over the years. We hope to see you all on the boundary enjoying the club’s future fixtures as a supportive spectator.

2025 season

With winter nets to look forward to after Christmas, we welcome anyone who is interested in joining the club for the 2025 season, from beginner to more experienced players. Next year sees The Lee Cricket Club celebrating its 150th anniversary, with a number of commemorative events planned for past, present and future players and anyone else who cares to join us in marking this auspicious occasion.

More to follow next month with a review of Girls Cricket, the 1st XI, the 2nd XI and the Sunday XI.

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Merry Fayrfax!

By The Lee Old Church Trust

You may not be hanging up your stocking on the bedpost just yet, but you really should be booking your places for the Fayrfax Consort at The Lee Old Church on Sunday 8th December at 7:30 pm before it's too late!

Under the direction of the talented David Ireson, Musical Director of St Albans Chamber Opera, these wonderful songsters will once again be spreading the Christmas cheer with a fabulously festive selection of seasonal songs, uplifting readings and traditional carols – all by cosy candlelight.



As the final applause fades away, there'll be a glass or two of bubbles along with canapes to enjoy, so make sure you get your Christmas season off to the best possible start. Call Pam Garner on 01494 837501 or Jilly Carleton-Smith on 01494 837205 now, to make certain of your tickets. Alternatively, you can email Pam at avgj33@btinternet.com or Jilly at jillycs@btinternet.com

Santa in The Lee

By the Editor

Thursday 12th December is in Santa's diary for a visit to The Lee. Is it in yours?



Santa enjoys his trips to see us and is especially grateful for all the donations we give him for his worthy local causes. One way to help raise funds if you are putting something on the forum is to ask for a donation rather than just giving it away.

I am delighted that the Occasional Singers are lubricating their tonsils and dusting off their song sheets. Pam Hearn has offered to conduct the choir this year and is airing her baton. If you want to join the Occasional Singers, please let Keith Taylor know by email at keithwtaylor@btinternet.com

The Cock and Rabbit is planning a special choice of food for all ages, with mince pies and mulled wine available for a small donation to Santa again this year.

There will be more details including timings in December's Newsletter.

The Lee Parish Council news

By Hayley Farrelly
Clerk, The Lee Parish Council

Hedge and tree cutting

This year has seen a huge growth in hedges, and we are now well into in hedge-cutting season. Any hedge or tree on your property which overhangs the public highway (roads and footpaths) or obscures sightlines or signs on the highway is your responsibility. Every other road or footpath user relies on you to maintain your hedges.



Furthermore, if an accident were to occur as a result of a lack of reasonable action, you could be found negligent and at least partly liable.

So, check whether your hedge obscures sightlines or signs or overhangs the highway or a public right of way.

If it all looks too big a job to tackle yourself, there are lots of people locally capable of doing some serious hedge-trimming for you.

Residents who identify a hedge that appears to be interfering with

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highway or footpath safety can report it to Buckinghamshire Council at fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

High trees and hedges

The following is extracted from Bucks Council's website.

There is currently no restriction on the height to which individual trees may be allowed to grow. Technically the owners only have a duty to ensure that their trees are safe. The owner cannot be forced to prune a tree that is not unsafe.

However, there is 'high hedges' legislation which applies to a row of two or more evergreen trees planted as a hedge, which is over two metres high and acts as a barrier to light. The legislation provides a course of action for those who feel that a neighbour's hedge is hindering their reasonable enjoyment of their property.



Residents are encouraged to resolve the dispute civilly between themselves: Bucks Council will usually only get involved if it can be proven that there has been a dialogue between the parties.

The first step is to approach your neighbours and try to settle the matter amicably. Keep a copy of any letters to demonstrate you have tried.

If this does not work, you can contact a mediation service to try to resolve the matter. Mediation Bucks provides a free service to residents www.mediationbucks.org.uk.

If the above steps are unsuccessful and the hedge meets the definition of a high hedge, then a complaint can be made by completing the form at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/trees-and-hedges/complain-about-a-high-hedge/. There is a charge for registering a complaint.

Bridge too far!

By Kathryn Dickinson et al

These hands don't occur too often – when dealer and responder have a match in Spades and potential for a slam.

♠ K Q J 9 3 2
♥ 7 4
♦ -
♣ Q 10 5 4 3

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

♠ A 8 7 6
♥ A 10 9
♦ A K 8 5
♣ A 8

Dealer: East
Vulnerability: None

How would you bid to slam? See page 25.

HS2 updates

By Cllr Colin Sully



The Secretary of State for Transport and the Chancellor will no doubt have been weighing up their options for a way forward with this huge infrastructure project in preparation for the Budget announcements, due on 30th October.

It has been reported that the government is also carrying out another review of the project, this time to include the management within – and the relationship with – HS2 Ltd, the company set-up to manage the project, and wholly owned by the government. The possibility of dissolving HS2 Ltd and bringing the project management directly under the control of the Department of Transport is apparently being considered... I've definitely got mixed feelings on that one!

At the local level, while we wait for the big picture to re-emerge, there is really nothing much new to update you on this month... except perhaps to say that ALIGN have cut the hedges on Leather Lane!

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



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Christmas market

Shop at The Lee
Saturday 9th November

By Katie Michaelson-Yeates

Just a few days to go and your village shop will hold their Christmas Market in the Parish Hall.



Lots of goodies will be for sale at very competitive prices. New for this year are some great kids' stocking fillers – make your own bracelets and solar system craft sets. For the table there are new design luncheon and dinner paper napkins, whilst for the cook there are matching robin tea towels and oven mitts.



All the Christmas food staples, gift wrapping and charity cards, festive table settings, gifts, plants and so much more will be filling the hall to the brim, so please come along. The market will be opening early at 8:30 am, closing at 1:00 pm.

Prepared- Lee



By Enzo D'Alessandro

With the Scouts year in full swing now, we're settling in the new patrols: the older and wiser (?) Scouts take age-appropriate leadership responsibilities, while the others learn to divide work and respect each other's role.

You will read this article around Remembrance Day; at the time of writing, world affairs demonstrate that its relevance, if it ever were in doubt during time of peace, is as immediate as ever. This time of reflection prompts us not only to remember the fallen and those close to them, but also to think of the contributions we can make, big and small.

Baden-Powell proposed in 1928 a thought that the Scouts might want to consider during the two-minute silence, and in turn I propose it to you all (abridged): "When we observe the silence, what shall we ask of ourselves in those solemn moments of thought? Could it not be to [do] our bit to bring about peace and goodwill in world affairs? In the Scout Movement we are trying to do our little bit in this direction, by bringing together in friendship and under common ideals the future generation of every country in the world."

The idea of "trying to do our little bit" is at the core of everything we do. We might be overwhelmed by the magnitude of the events; our Scouts from Ukraine teach us how to smile and keep going in difficult times: we should use this example to think forward to positive contributions we can make. In the words of a Scout volunteer in the Scout International

Relief Service (working at the end of WWII to help refugees and survivors of the concentration camps): “We can’t do much, but it’s better than doing nothing”. So, what can you do?

Back to school at Lee Common



By Michelle Green, Headteacher

We are all very excited to be back at school for another fantastic year of learning! There has been a wonderful buzz around the school as our children and staff settled into their new classes. If you have passed the school recently, you will have seen that the front and the Early Years playgrounds have been resurfaced, making our PE lessons and play times a much-improved experience.

This term Year 1 and Year 2 have been learning all about ‘The Great Fire of London’. They are writing fire themed poems, exploring the diary of Samuel Pepys and building their own model houses. Nursery and Reception have settled in well, making new friends and getting to know the classroom and the routines. Their topic is ‘All about Me’, so they have been painting self-portraits, making friendship bracelets and taking part in circle games and activities to get to know each other.

Forest School has returned as part of the children’s ‘Wellbeing Wednesdays’. The children have enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen, using the bird-watch station and hunting for bugs. The school is also very lucky to have a new music teacher join this term, who is leading

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Christmas Fair

**Saturday 7th
 December
 12-3pm**

FREE ENTRY

Children’s Activities
 Santa’s Grotto | Raffle
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whole school singing on a Friday morning, followed by music sessions for each year group. It is an absolute joy to have the school filled with music and singing!

Finally, our new student school councillors are looking forward to running a community nature project with local resident Giles Robertson – see his article to find out more about how you can be involved.

Two-factor authentication

By Ruth Fowler

In last month's newsletter, I discussed how strong passwords are essential for security. But sometimes, a password alone isn't enough. Many websites and apps now

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use Two-factor authentication (2FA) to provide extra protection.

What is 2FA?

2FA requires two different types of verification, called 'factors' before granting access to an account. These factors fall into a few categories:

- **Something you know** – Like a password, PIN, or answer to a security question.
- **Something you have** – A physical object like a phone, keyfob, or security token.
- **Something you are** – A unique physical feature, like your fingerprint, face, or voice.
- **Somewhere you are** – Your physical location, used for additional verification.

The idea behind 2FA is that even if someone steals your password (something you know), they'll also need to have something else – like your phone (something you have) – to log in.

Two-factor authentication

Pick any two: Something you know, something you have, something you are

Common 2FA methods

- **One-time code:** This is the most common second factor. After entering your password, you'll need to enter a one-time code sent to or generated by a device that you have.
- **Physical device:** Some systems require a physical object, such as a USB stick or smart card. You must insert this device into your computer or connect it wirelessly to verify your identity. Without this device, access is blocked, adding a strong layer of security.

- **Push notifications:** A push notification is sent directly to a secure app on your phone. The notification shows details of the login attempt, and you can approve or deny it with one tap. This method is becoming more common, especially in banking apps, where you confirm purchases or logins via your mobile app.
- **Biometric authentication:** 'something you are' refers to biometric data, such as fingerprints, facial recognition, or voice identification. Modern smartphones and laptops often allow you to use these features. For example, after entering your password, you may need to scan your fingerprint or use facial recognition software to complete the login.

The next article in this series will look at how two-factor authentication works, why you should use it and the future of authentication.

Church events

By Revd Chris Haywood

The Lee's Harvest Festival service was celebrated on the last Sunday of September (a fifth Sunday of the month giving a little more scheduling freedom). As the sun faded, we gathered in church for our worship. It was wonderful to welcome so many for this important rural occasion and we were grateful for the generous harvest gifts for the Chiltern Foodbank, which have duly been delivered. Afterwards, Georgie and I were pleased to host a Cheese and Wine Harvest Supper in the



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Vicarage and receive in such a convivial crowd! We were especially grateful to the anonymous donor of the splendid cheese board.

The Family Service Harvest Festival the following week was an equally joyous occasion, kindly hosted by Mary Clow in her barn conversion at Small Dean Farm. We enjoyed doing harvest crafts and a joyous interactive time of worship, before sharing a simple harvest lunch together – jacket potatoes with a variety of toppings, hot dogs and chocolate mousse!

Georgie and I continue to be bowled over by the generous support, affirmation and best wishes we have received of late. The Parish Meeting on 16th September was by all accounts an incredible outpouring of appreciation and affection, for which we are very grateful and which will have been noted I'm sure. The Church Wardens from across my parishes met with Bishop Steven and Archdeacon Guy on 24th September and were updated on the situation. I will meet with the Bishop and Archdeacon in due course to discern a way forward. Certainly, it's clear we need to agree a modus operandi for the four parishes whilst I remain the incumbent. We'll organise a feedback session in due course (most likely taking the form of a 'surgery' in The Cock and Rabbit).

Next on the agenda is Remembrance Sunday on 10th November 2024. Our remembrance service in the New Church will be at 10:00 am and the act of remembrance around the War Memorial will commence at 10:50 am to coincide with the two minutes silence at 11:00 am. Wreath tributes are warmly invited to be laid. The service and act of remembrance will be led by Revd Martin Williams as I shall be leading the Remembrance Service in the Hilltops this year.

In readiness for Remembrance Sunday, we shall be having an autumnal graveyard clear up on Saturday 2nd November from 9:00 am. Do come along and help us get the graveyard ready for winter and weather permitting share in a BBQ lunch afterwards. Come suitably dressed (gardening gear, stout shoes etc.) with helpful equipment (strimmers, hedge cutters, shears, secateurs, fork and spade). We want to make it a real community occasion. We'll be on hand to direct the effort.

In Ballinger

By Anne Ellis

Christmas fair

This follows hard on the heels of Shop at The Lee's splendid morning and gives you an opportunity to buy some early Christmas presents from talented local craftspeople.

Come along to Ballinger Hall, meet up with friends and enjoy a glass of warming mulled wine, tea or coffee and treat yourself to a homemade slice of cake. Why not try your luck in the raffle and win a hamper? It's always a wonderful morning and you'll experience a touch of Christmas sparkle to brighten your day. Saturday 16th November from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Lighting up

This very popular annual social start to the Christmas countdown is not to be missed.

Having decorated your house and/or hedgerow with lights, hotfoot it along to Ballinger Hall. Bring your own drinks and a plate of food to share and enjoy the company of family, friends and neighbours in the convivial surroundings of the hall on Sunday 1st December from 5:00 pm.

Dedication of the Wilson Grey Porch

Brian and Barbara Wilson's four sons and their wives will attend the service at St Mary's at 9:30 am on 3rd November, as the porch is dedicated to their family in recognition of their long and very close association to St Mary's. Miss Grey was a renowned organist who played at the church for over thirty years and the Wilsons wanted her involvement to be appreciated too.

This is a very special Eucharist to which everyone is invited. A generous community effort has allowed us to completely repair the porch and its roof and Maggi and I would like to thank everyone who made it possible.

Bridge afternoon

The Ballinger Bridge Afternoon will be held at St Mary's on Wednesday 20th November at 1:00 pm for a prompt 1:30 pm start.

This is a first for St Mary's and we look forward to welcoming all those who have booked a table.

Bridge too far!

There are several ways to get there, but at our table after South opened 1♠, North used the 'Splinter Bid' to show support in Spades and a void or singleton in Diamonds.

Bidding then proceeded using Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB) to show no Aces and one King.

| | | | |
|------|------|------|-----|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | pass | 1♠ |
| pass | 4♦ | pass | 4NT |
| pass | 5♣ | pass | 5NT |
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Dear Diary

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

November

Friday 1st. Cricket ramblings. 7:30 pm at St Leonards Village Hall. Tickets £4. See page 8.

Saturday 2nd. Churchyard clean up from 9:00 am. See page 24.

Sunday 3rd. Chalkstreams and the River Chess Association. 7:30 pm at The Lee Old Church.

Tuesday 5th. Village Firework Display. 7:00 pm, gates open from 6:00 pm for refreshments.

Thursday 7th. The Lee village walk. 9:30 am at The Lee Green.

Saturday 9th. Shop at the Lee Christmas Market. 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Sunday 10th. Remembrance Day at St John the Baptist Church at 10:00 am and on The Lee Green at 10:50 am.

Tuesday 12th. The Lee Parish Council Meeting. 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

Saturday 16th. Ballinger Hall Christmas Fair. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Saturday 16th. The Lee Roving Supper. 7:30 pm. See page 5.

Wednesday 20th. Bridge afternoon at St Mary's, Ballinger. See page 25.

Tuesday 26th. Village Friends. 10:30 am at The Cock and Rabbit.

Friday 29th. The Lee Newsletter Dinner. 7:30 pm at The Lee Parish Hall. See page 4.

Church Services

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

Sunday 3rd. Family Service at the New Church. 11:00 am.

Sunday 10th. Remembrance Service at the New Church. 10:00 am.

Sunday 17th. Holy Communion (BCP) at the Old Church. 8:00 am.

Sunday 24th. Parish Communion (CW) at the New Church. 11:00 am.

St Mary's, Ballinger

Sunday 3rd. Dedication of The Wilson Grey Porch. 9:30 am. See page 25.

Coming Soon

Sunday 1st December. Lighting Up Ballinger from 5:00 pm followed by social at Ballinger Hall.

Thursday 5th December. The Lee village walk. 9:30 am at The Lee Green.

Sunday 8th December. Fayrfax Consort. 7:30 pm at The Lee Old Church.

Friday 6th December. Trench humour in WWI. 7:30 pm at St Leonards Village Hall. Tickets £4.

Thursday 12th December. Santa's visit to Lee Common and The Lee. Oxford St at 5:30 pm and The Lee Green at 6:00 pm.

Saturday 14th December. Christmas and anniversary celebration at The Cock and Rabbit.

Thursday 2nd January. The Lee village walk. 9:30 am at The Lee Green.

Tuesday 14th January. The Lee Parish Council Meeting. 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

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

Naphill
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01494 509 377
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01494 358 358
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Lettings Great Missenden
01494 864 225
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