



NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Jonathan Batten

A spring lamb of an edition, frolicking through the newsfields of primroses, daffodils and bluebells, filled with optimism for the month of May.

Our team of indefatigable newshounds has been prowling the footpaths seeking out stories of local news and events now unleashed in black and white ready for you to read all over.

In the meantime, relax with this spring inspired song written in the 1960s by Donovan:

*Rain has showered far her drip
Splash and trickle running
Plant has flowered in the sand
Shell and pebble sunning
So begins another spring
Green leaves and of berries
Chiffchaff eggs are painted by
Motherbird eating cherries*

*In a misty, tangled sky
Fast a-wind is blowing
In a newborn rabbit's heart
River life is flowing
So begins another spring
Green leaves and of berries
Chiffchaff eggs are painted by
Motherbird eating cherries*

*From the dark and wetted soil
Petals are unfolding
From the stony village kirk
Easter bells of old ring*

*So begins another spring
Green leaves and of berries
Chiffchaff eggs are painted by
Motherbird eating cherries*

Please send your comments and contributions for the June edition to the editor, Phil Harrison, by 12th May, at theleenewsletter@gmail.com

Your letters

AI will get you

To the Editor

The testing of the drink-and-drive AI cameras in The Lee on 1st April (see April Newsletter) did not pass without incident. Although it appears no arrests were made, traffic was reported as driving much more slowly that day, indeed many vehicles seem to have avoided the area altogether.

Just goes to show the positive influence this newsletter can have.

Havin Alaff

Lee Ningtower

Primrose heaven

To the Editor

Last month it was snowdrops, this month a covering of primroses. It's

Recycle



Read

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

worth a walk round the church to enjoy them.

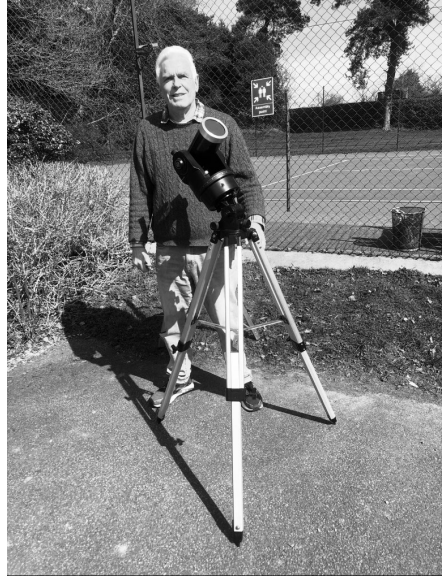


The clear up of the churchyard certainly has had a wonderful effect.
Pam Garner
The Lee

Eclipsed

To the Editor

A big thank you to Barry Middleton for setting up his telescope in the



village shop car park on Saturday morning, 29th March.

A queue quickly formed and we all had the excitement of viewing a partial solar eclipse. A magical experience.
Mary Dovey
Lee Common



SOPHIE UNDERWOOD THERAPIES

REFLEXOLOGY

SWEDISH MASSAGE

INDIAN HEAD MASSAGE

FACIALS

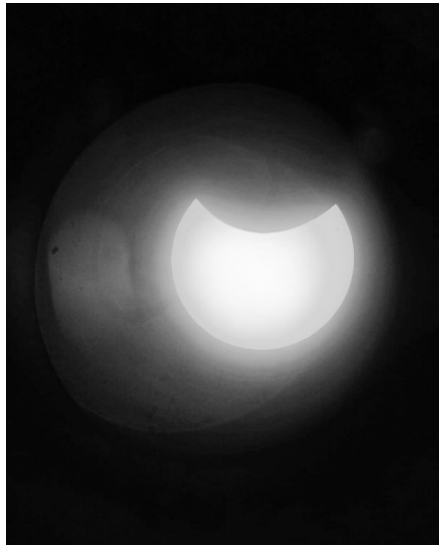
sophiepw@gmail.com

07970 022190

sophieunderwoodtherapies.co.uk



MEMBER



Saving lives in The Lee

By Louise Wadsworth

Last month, around 15 of us gathered at The Lee Parish Hall for a highly informative and practical CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and Defibrillator Awareness session, led by Ruth Dunkin, one of the CPR Ambassadors from Thames Valley Air Ambulance (TVAA).

It was fascinating to learn more about the vital work that TVAA does across the region, and the session itself was excellent, clear, hands-on and confidence boosting.

Like many others, I've been meaning to refresh my CPR knowledge for a while, especially as I often find myself in large groups through work. Before this session, I might have hesitated to step in during a medical emergency. Now, I feel much more prepared and empowered to help if someone suffers a cardiac arrest (although I sincerely hope I never need to!).

Learn the acronym DRCABC

A key takeaway:

- D – Danger: check it's safe to approach.
- R – Response: tap the person and speak to them to see if they respond.
- C – Call: call for help and dial 999, or make sure someone else does.
- A – Airway: check the airway is clear.
- B – Breathing: look, listen and feel for breathing.
- C – CPR: begin chest compressions if they are not breathing.

We also learned how to use a defibrillator – it's far less daunting than it sounds! Devices are available for

Juliette's Home Hair



HAIR SERVICES

Ladies cut and finish	£35
Gents cut	£12
Children	From £12

COLOURING SERVICES

Full head of highlights	£65
Half head of highlights	£48
T section of highlights	£35
Root regrowth	£25

Have your hair done in the comfort of your own home

I provide a professional service at a time convenient to you

10 plus years experience including courses at Vidal Sassoon

For more information, advice or to book an appointment, please contact Juliette on 07403 227878



public use at The Lee Parish Hall, the Cock and Rabbit, Ballinger Memorial Hall and Ballinger Cricket Club – see <https://www.thelee.org.uk/defibrillators/>

Do it

This was the fourth such session in our area and, if TVAA offers more, I strongly encourage you to attend. It could one day help you save a life.

The suicide lane

By Carol Addison

The Great Missenden Bypass was built in 1960, along with the bridge leading to the Church of St Peter and St Paul on the hill.

The A413 goes straight through Missenden Abbey Park with the Abbey to the left of the road. The River Misbourne is in full flow here.

Traffic was sparse then and the road had three lanes which confused drivers. The middle lane was for overtaking slower vehicles in either direction and was nicknamed ‘The Suicide Lane’.

A concert for Diana McVeagh

By Michael Dubus

Diana McVeagh, or as some of you may know her Diana Morley, is the doyenne of British musical biographers and still going strong in her 90s.

Some of her notable books are: *Gerald Finzi, His Life and Music*, published in 2005; *Elgar, The Music Maker*, published in 2007; *Gerald Finzi's Letters 1915-1956*, edited by Diana and published in 2021. The *Letters* is a monumental tome of over 1,000 pages which Diana spent many years collating.

This concert has been put together by her friends, Iain Burnside, Piers Lane, Roderick Williams, Lucy Russell, Michael Foyle and Susan Bickley to feature works by composers associated with Diana, and music close to her heart. The programme will



include works by Bach, Biber, Elgar, Finzi, Duparc and Weill.

The concert, followed by a reception, will take place on 6th May at 7:30 pm at the Razumovsky Academy Recital Hall, 56 College Road, London NW10 5ET.

There may be some tickets still available from the Razumovsky Academy Recital Hall website if you would like to attend.

The Lee Parish Council

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk

Parish Council elections

By the closing date for nominations, there were just four applications to fill the seven vacancies on The Lee Parish Council:

- George Baggaley
- Heather Barrett-Mold
- Adam Bunce
- Colin Sully

It will therefore be an uncontested election, and these four nominees will be appointed as the new councillors on 6th May – see also page 20.

Voting on 1st May will still be for Buckinghamshire Council (Unitary)

Mike Lake

Friendly & Local

Painter and Decorator

For that professional touch

Interior & Exterior

Also Property Maintenance

For a free quotation please call:

07723 017005

Or email mikelake145@gmail.com



NEVER ALONE . LOVED ALWAYS

Welcome to NALA's, where we combine passion and professionalism to deliver an exceptional, premium daycare experience for your beloved dogs.

We are a small daycare located in The Lee; open Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4 pm
Our daycare includes drop off / pick up

NALA's prides itself on creating a safe, structured, and enriching environment tailored to meet the unique needs of every dog.

Licensed, insured and first aid trained

We believe in your dogs having fun with us in a safe environment, as well as having a structured day that includes settle and sleep time, individual play, enrichment and training, as well as group supervised 'free time'.



If you're interested in booking your dog with us please enquire at Nalas.doggydaycare@gmail.com

Website: www.naladoggydaycare.com

councillors. Polling stations will be open from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm.

Annual Parish Meeting

On 20th May (at 7:00 pm) we will be holding The Lee Annual Parish Meeting. Although organised by the Parish Council, it is not in itself a meeting of the council, so any subject relevant to The Lee may be raised for discussion.

If you have a particular subject you would like to raise, it would be useful (although not necessary) to know in advance what that might be.

If you can, please let me know at clerk@thelee.org.uk or 07769 698652.

The Lee Parish Council AGM

The first meeting of the new Parish Council (its Annual General Meeting) will immediately follow the Annual Parish Meeting on 20th May at 7:30 pm. All welcome.

Pippa Hart Photography



Natural & Informal
Black & White
Portraits

01494 837340

www.pippahart.com

HS2 updates

By Cllr Colin Sully

A413 closures continue

Overnight closures on the A413 will continue whilst the Small Dean viaduct is being worked on, and concrete pours and parapet installation is completed. The final road realignment will also require overnight closures, expected later in the summer.

As motorists will have noticed, the dates are very much subject to change, but at the time of going to press we understand that there will be overnight closures (8:30 pm to 5:30 am) on:

- Tuesday 29th April – Friday 2nd May (3 nights)
- Monday 5th May – Thursday 8th May (3 nights)
- Monday 12th May – Saturday 17th May (5 nights)

The first of these is of particular concern, as parish councils have also been notified by Bucks Council that both roundabouts on the A413 at Great Missenden will be closed for roadworks from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am from 25th April to 5th May. All these closures at the same time, would clearly make travelling to/from The Lee extremely difficult. We are on the case.

For the latest updates on works in the area, including the latest Advance Works Notice, you should visit www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map/

Rocky Lane

We reported last month on the concerns that residents continue to have about the closure of Rocky Lane. (see <https://www.thelee.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Rocky-Lane-closure-2025-Review-1-v1.pdf>). These have been discussed with EKFB and Bucks Council.

It is with regret we report that none of the recommendations we have made have been accepted by the project – except for the provision of data from the recent traffic monitoring on Leather Lane, which suggests that there are perhaps 100 extra vehicle movements per day on Leather Lane because of the closure of Rocky Lane – an increase of around 20%. The other 1,200 vehicles per day that were using Rocky Lane are presumably using Frith Hill, the B485, Swan Lane or some more distant diversionary route.

Leather Lane overbridge

It is expected that the project will submit its detailed plans for the design and construction of the Leather Lane overbridge in late April / early May.

The HS2 main works contractor, Align, are hosting an information event in the afternoon and evening of 21st May at Missenden Abbey Hotel. Align will be showcasing visuals from their works activities in the South Heath / The Lee area, their programmes, and artists' impressions of what the area will look like upon completion / in years to come.

Full details will be posted on The Lee Forum when available.

Bowood Lane overbridge



The Bowood Lane overbridge was opened in April – for pedestrians – then scheduled to be closed completely and then reopened again on 2nd May! A date for motor traffic is still some way off.

If you have a question or complaints about HS2 please contact the HS2 Helpdesk on 08081 434 434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

The Lee Church Fête

Saturday 21st June

By Pippa Hart

The Fête Committee are busy bringing the plans together for this year's Church Fête.

There are so many different stalls that we will need help with on the day – all your usual favourites will be

LOUISE BIHHS

Pilates with Louise



Mat-based, mixed ability group
Pilates classes for men and
women of all ages

The Lee Parish Hall

Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am - 10:00 am
Wednesday evenings at 5:45 pm - 6:45 pm
Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Thursday mornings at 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Ballinger War Memorial Hall

Monday mornings at 9:15 am - 10:15 am
Friday mornings at 9:15 am - 10:15 am

Contact Louise for more information at 07879 843955
www.TheCoreConnection.co.uk

there as well as a return of the hugely successful new attraction *Temptation Alley* for your four-legged friends!

The following people are managing stalls that need major content input – please start putting aside your old books, quality bric-a-brac, raffle prizes and bottles to help fill them nearer the time.

- Bottle Tombola: Mike Buckley 07866 502646
- Raffle: Judy Hart 01494 837328
- Tea Tent: cakes and preserves, Pippa Hart 07785 323232
- Book Stall: Andrew Cowper, The Kites, Oxford Street 07504 589828
- Bric-a-Brac: Elizabeth Boakes 07860 146243
- Plants: Trevor Pearce

If you have an hour of two or more to spare and can help us on the day please contact Pippa Hart on 07785 323232 or pippahart@freeuk.com

HOME REARED MEATS,
LOCAL PRODUCE
& HOME COOKED FOOD

BESPOKE GIFT HAMPERS



Free Home Delivery &
Contactless Collections

Chequers Estate | HP17 0UT
SHOP Tues - Fri 10 - 6 & Sat - Sun 10 - 4
KITCHEN Fri - Sun 10 - 4

www.buckmoorendfarm.co.uk

If you would like to help us on the committee, we could really do with your help too – just a couple of meetings, but particularly your help ‘all day on the day’!

More details to follow in the June Newsletter and on The Lee Forum.

70s night out for charity

By Ana Brown

On Saturday 10th May at The Cock and Rabbit, 70s night will be in aid of the Rennie Grove Peace Hospice (formerly known as Rennie Grove), who provide patient centred palliative care and bereavement support throughout Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire.

The dress code is 70s fashion or fancy dress and the vibe is distinctly groovy! DJ Bonkers will be back so do send me your favourite 70s tracks when you get in touch to book your tickets.

Tickets are just £10 in advance by email from anabrown921@gmail.com or message 07513 105050; every penny from ticket sales will go to the charity.

There are also a limited number of tables if you would like to have a meal at the start of the evening, but they need to be prebooked. Do let me know when you book your tickets if you would like a table.

A short story winner!

By the Editorial Team

George Baggaley, a resident of Kings Ash, has recently won an award at the Chesham Literary Festival Competition for his short story *The Bailiff*.

The Bailiff is a story about a local enforcement agent completing his inspection of shuttered shops under his management, in a typical small British town hit hard by the current cost of living crisis and a squeeze on small business owners. However, his usually uneventful inspection circuit is disrupted by his final stop of the day at a recently boarded up delicatessen.

The story touches on many contemporary British issues – from immigration and multiculturalism to the decline of our high streets – while also challenging readers’ preconceptions about people as the tale unfolds.

Congratulations, George.

You can find the full story on The Lee website at www.thelee.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/thebailiff.pdf

John Burton

1938 – 2025

By the Editorial Team

It is with sadness that we mark the recent passing of John Burton, longtime resident at Swan Bottom.

John was not only a local resident, but also the proprietor of Elmwood kennels – or more accurately *Elmwood Exclusive Hotel for Dogs* which catered for the kennelling needs of various celebrities and high-flyers. Regular customers included the canine pets of model and author Sophie Dahl, Iron Maiden lead singer Bruce Dickinson and Suede drummer Simon Gilbert.

Interviewed by the Bucks Free Press in 2002, John explained, “Some of the owners have unusual requests for their dogs. One lady insists on giving fishfingers twice a week as breakfast for her dog, but they have to be a named brand. Other owners insist on mineral waters.”

John will be missed by Jenny, Mark, family and friends.



Kingshill Cars

01494 868699

bookings@kingshillcars.co.uk

**30 years in The Lee
& surrounding area,
Always at your service**

www.kingshillcars.co.uk

More about the Chilterns
www.theheartofthechilterns.co.uk



Great Missenden Supported Living

A warm, friendly, house for the elderly, in the picturesque centre of the village.

Come and take a look to see for yourself and have a chat with Carol Lauder-Ross (Manager)

Tel: 01494 865026

**or email for a brochure
manager@afgm.co.uk**

**Find out more on our website
www.abbeyfield.com**

Wendover Arts

By Deborah Hale

Art lovers will want to experience the Wendover Arts Festival 2025, taking place over the Bank Holiday weekend of Saturday 24th to Monday 26th May.

The festival will be showcasing a diverse range of artistic talent, featuring works from over 70 artists across multiple styles and forms, including paintings, textiles, sculptures, pottery, ceramics, cards, glass, and jewellery.

It opens with an invitation only preview evening on Friday 23rd May and then from 24th May it is open:

- Saturday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Sunday: 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm
- BH Monday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Admission is set at £2 per adult, which includes a festival catalogue, and is free for under 16s. All artwork will

be for sale with all major credit cards accepted. With free parking available, visitors will have the opportunity to immerse themselves amongst the inspiring work of local artists.

The festival is situated in Church Lane, Wendover, HP22 6NL, right on The Ridgeway in the heart of the Chilterns, making it a perfect stop for walkers and cyclists looking to enjoy some beautiful art en route.

Additionally, visitors can indulge in delicious food at the Waffle Café, which will be serving a variety of hot and cold food. Whether you are an art collector, enthusiast, or simply looking for a creative and engaging way to spend the weekend, the Wendover Arts Festival promises to be a must-visit event.

This highly anticipated annual event has previously been held in Mentmore and was known as the Mentmore Arts Festival. After 15 successful years, the festival is relocating to Wendover and will now be known as the Wendover Arts Festival, with the same organiser and many repeat artists. Check out www.wendover-arts-festival.co.uk or contact Deborah Hale on 01296 625024 / 07831 707023 or at deborahhale58@yahoo.com

SHORT-TERM RENTALS

From £495 per week (all inclusive)

**Self-catering holiday
or temporary accommodation
at Lee Common**

Moving house?

Completion dates don't coincide?
House sale falls through?
Builders outstaying their welcome?

Expecting Visitors?

Need extra accommodation?

*Self-contained Period Property:
sleeps four guests*

Tel: 01494 837798

e-mail: lowerbassibones@yahoo.co.uk

The Lee Flower Show

Saturday 19th July

By Jonathan Batten

Included with this newsletter you will find your own personal copy of the Flower Show schedule which has been kindly delivered to your abode by the trusty newsletter distributors.

Put on your partial solar eclipse glasses, so that the bright colours don't overpower you, and prepare to be

amazed by the quality and width of opportunities laid out before you.

Our thanks to Kerry Binding of Ballinger for his help and expertise in producing it. Take your time to read it; keep it on your kitchen table for reference over the next couple of months and prepare yourself so that you are competition ready at entries time.

How about your vegetables, fruit or cultivated flowers?

For potheads

If you like pot plants, but haven't already got a prize specimen, don't panic, go out and buy one by 20th May, feed it, read it articles from the Newsletter, watch it grow and enter it.

Take a tip from Constance Spry or dip into *The Flower Arranger Magazine* to inspire you to prepare for the floral art classes. Not so many of you try these so why not resolve to do so this year?

Cookery classes are open to all – try making the delicious Chocolate Olive Oil cake recipe on page 17 for class 75 amongst the other delights.

Handicrafts give scope for all types of skills and the wide-ranging photographic subjects lay down a challenge to everyone with a camera or a phone.

Please encourage your children and grandchildren to join in – there are classes for all age groups including special classes for Lee Common School and Lee Common Scouts, Beavers and Cubs to enjoy.

Visitors rule OK

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

Solid silver prizes

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

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

and later... live with Shakedown

Tickets are £25 each for The Lee Flower Show Dance and will go on sale from 23rd May – engrave that date in your diary.

Make a day and a night of it!

FOR ALL YOUR PEST CONTROL NEEDS...

VERMINATOR UK

- Wasps
- Rats & Mice
- Squirrels
- All flying and crawling insects
- Solar panel proofing against pigeons also undertaken



THEY WON'T BE BACK

**Call Tim Simmons
THE VERMINATOR**

**07734 649305
0808 1972 730**

verminatoruk.com | info@verminatoruk.com

Trump support needed?

By Liz Ford et al

On this recent hand, South opened 1♠ and was pleased that North was able to show support for the bid suit. What bid did North make?

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

Dealer: East

Vulnerability: E-W

How did the bidding progress and what was the final contract? See page 21.

Spring at the vicarage

By Revd Chris Haywood

The main event this month is a Commemoration service on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

VE day is actually Thursday 8th May but communities are being encouraged to mark it on the Bank Holiday Monday.

I will be conducting a short service at the War Memorial from 11:45 am to mark the occasion – commemorating



and giving thanks for those that lost their lives in WWII especially and also celebrating the end of hostilities and the liberty which the day celebrates. We shall also be ringing the church bells – which Alex Carleton-Smith will be taking a lead on (volunteers welcome).

Also, this month we celebrate Ascension Day on Thursday 29th May. It's an often-overlooked festival of the church and its importance is frequently underappreciated. It marks the ascension of the risen Jesus into heaven and celebrates his glorification for all that he achieved at Easter. It's very much a part of the Easter story and is a key staging post between Easter and Pentecost, which this year is celebrated on Sunday 8th June.

Before Jesus ascends into heaven he entreats his Disciples with a great Commission – to go and make disciples of all nations, which emphasises how the message of Easter is for everyone and is truly transformative.

VE Day

By Johanna Free

The VE Day celebrations will no doubt mean different things to different people. To some it is an excuse for a party, to others it is a time to remember family stories and to a very few it will be reliving their memories.

Sadly, my mother will not be here to celebrate but her memories were very fresh and different than for many in the UK. She was a young girl of six in Holland when war broke out and soon the realities of war and living in an occupied country became all too real.

She lived in 's-Graveland, a small village near Hilversum, with her parents and twin sister in an old house by the edge of the canal that looked as if it came straight out of a Vermeer painting.

Occupation

For her and her twin sister they had to adjust to the occupation with soldiers searching their house for radios and other forbidden things like the Resistance newsletters which my mother kept and I still have. She also had to queue for food and clothes as all the shops were shut. She can remember cutting down small trees in the woods for fuel in her last coat which was, as always, tailor made. This was forbidden and the soldiers often chased her and her sister, but despite pushing a small hand cart they always got away.

There was also a time she queued for hours for shoes and when it was her turn, she was handed a pair which were brown and pointed and far too big for her. She hated those shoes!

One day a V-bomb dropped near the village and many of the windows in the house blew out and her parents decided to live in the kitchen for safety and to keep warm and the only light came from a green glass oil lamp.

There are many stories like these and many will be repeated in the coming weeks.

Liberation

The Liberation, as Mum called it, was very special to her. As the Allies advanced, Mum could remember the Lancaster bombers flying over on their way to Germany and her father would say, "Look, Reina, the Tommies, the Tommies". She also recalled the food drop when allied planes dropped large green tins of Jacobs cream crackers because by this time everyone was starving due to lack of food.

When Liberation came it was sudden. Mum looked out of the window one night because she could

BB Remedial and Sports Massage



Lee Common HP16 9JR

Bryony Benwell
Soft Tissue Therapist

bryonybenwell@hotmail.com

07740 796309

www.bbremedialmassage.com



Timber Creations Limited
Bespoke joinery

**Bespoke, hand-crafted joinery
with a personal touch**

Finest quality staircases, doors,
windows, one-off mouldings, built-in
units, authentic period property
repairs and more

All individually designed, built and
installed to your unique specifications
by skilled craftsmen using traditional
carpentry techniques

**For wood with wow call
Alasdair Cunningham on
01494 890145 or email:
Office@timbercreationsltd.com**

hear a noise. It was the soldiers leaving the village on bicycles which they took from the villagers. The next morning the allied forces entered in tanks, jeeps and marching.

Everyone went wild. The adults celebrated in their ways and the children received sweets and in many cases cap badges. After six years of war and occupation they were free.

On VE Day when we celebrate let's not forget those who lived through those times and those who died.

I am sure in The Lee we will do just that.

New bus rides serve The Lee

By John Horsman

A new operator, Carousel Buses, started on 6th April which, we hope, will be more reliable than the previous incumbents. The timetable has changed as set out below.



Routes 177/190

To Chesham via Swan Bottom and Chartridge:

- 7:58 am (school days only)
- 9:09 am (Saturday), returning from Chesham at 12:25 pm
- 11:15 am (Monday, Wednesday and Friday), returning from Chesham at 2:00 pm

- 2:06 pm (Tuesday and Thursday), returning from Chesham at 4:05 pm (school days only)

These timings are for The Lee Church (layby) with timings for Lee Common (school) being two minutes before and for Swan Bottom three minutes afterwards.

Riding along on a carousel

Towards Lee Common, Ballinger and South Heath:

- 9:05 am (Tuesday and Thursday) then on to Great Missenden, Little Missenden, Old Amersham and Amersham Station
- 12:40 pm (Saturday) then on to Great Missenden
- 2:15 pm (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) then on to Hyde End and Chesham, returning from Chesham direct at 4:05 pm (school days only)
- 4:22 pm (school days only)

These timings are for opposite The Lee Church (layby) with timings for Swan Bottom being three minutes before and Lee Common (school) two minutes afterwards.

Gobb-Lee-gook

By Diana Taylor

I must go down to Innesfree,
Or to land where the Bong tree grows
And all I ask is a pea green boat
And that star which guides where the
boat goes

I must get away from the Cheshire Cat
And Lacrosse with a hedgehog ball
For I'm old, as you know 'cos the
young man said
And I fear I've no brain at all

But to get to a doctor means going to
Gloucester
And my Wellington boots will get wet

So I'll make do with Alice and down
at the palace

We'll see which guard she can get

No doubt at all, we shall need a sieve

In which to set out to sea

We need to go where the Jumblies live

And shake their blue hands and agree

For sooner or later they'll rule the skies

Meg and Mog will be in a big mess

They'll no longer be free for, required
in disguise

They'll be spies in musk fancy dress

Perhaps Super Gran can save us

Now that Skeleton Man wants a fight

Oh, where is James Bond when you
need him

When your nightmares are not just at
night?

Now the days of childhood nonsense

Have gone with that time without care

But wait – what is that in the distance

Could be it be those four horses that
scare?

No matter. They cannot change things

There's no real need of Innesfree

For we're here on the hill, like Jack
and Jill

Where a Cock and a Rabbit serve tea

Neither of those could lay Easter eggs

We must search for the little black hen

There's no doubt in a village of farmers

We can find at least five big men

And not only that – we have heroes

Volunteering with genuine smiles

And kindness that prospers like
innocence

So stay here, no need to be travelling
miles

For here, as we say, is where the heart is

And here is where goodness can thrive

And despite the whole world now in
need of escape

In The Lee we continue to thrive – and
are happy to still be alive.

J Brown Funeral Services

Independent Family Funeral Director

jbrownfuneralservices.co.uk

Serving Wendover, Aylesbury, Amersham,
The Chalfonts and all surrounding areas.

Jason Brown has over 25
years experience and is here
to assist you with making
funeral arrangements.



- Winner of the Bucks Business Award for excellence in customer service 2021
- Recommended by The Good Funeral Guide

Wendover

23 High Street

HP22 6DU

01296 312222

Amersham

67 Woodside Road

HP6 6AA

01494 727474

Mervyn's Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Services

Independent carpet cleaning
specialist with over 30 years
experience.

CARPETS. UPHOLSTERY.
RUGS. HARD FLOOR.
CARPET PROTECTION.
FULLY INSURED.

Friendly and reliable service.
Most work by recommendation.
Environmentally friendly
cleaning materials.

For a no obligation quote 'phone
01525 371724 or **07975 847027**

Email: mersu@btinternet.com

Frogtastic results – year 2

By Giles Robertson

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the second year of our Frog Patrol. It's been wonderful to welcome some new faces, and we are so grateful for the continued support from our sponsors – The Parish Hall, Shop at The Lee and The Lee Parish Council – who've helped us with this vital initiative.

This year, we had six regular volunteers and several additional helping hands. A special mention to Fletcher for designing our brilliant Frog Patrol logo.

Thanks also to Don Stone, our dedicated data gatherer. With two years of data now recorded, we're starting to see the real impact of our efforts – and it's encouraging news.



TIDY TAILS DOG GROOMING

Amy Easeman

Email: a.easeman@icloud.com

Call: 07710268200

Offering the following Services:

Bath blow dry / Nail clipping / Hand stripping / Deshedding / Puppy grooms / Full grooms

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram
@tidytails dog grooming



Our 2025 results

- 128 amphibians saved (compared to 26 last year)
- 40 amphibian deaths (up from 18 last year)
- Species saved included: 80 frogs, 30 toads, 16 smooth newts, and two crested newts.

That's a big improvement in the number of lives saved. In fact, for every three amphibians we helped, only one was lost – a much healthier ratio than last year.

We're learning as we go, and one area we need to look at further is newts, who seem to have a higher road strike rate. It may be because they move more slowly or tend to cross during fewer, more specific evenings.

Raising awareness works

It's been encouraging to see some drivers slowing down, thanks to our 'Frog Slow' banners and the visibility of the patrol team in hi-vis vests. Please continue to drive carefully during the crossing season – every life counts.

A highlight this year was welcoming Lee Common School's Forest School to visit my pond after the patrol season ended. It was a joy to show the children frogspawn and explain what our patrol is all about.



Want to help?

The best way to support frogs, toads and newts is simply to join a patrol. It only takes 15-20 minutes in the early evening (just after dark) and makes a huge difference. This year, we patrolled between 20th February and 26th March – so it's a short, focused effort with real impact.

If you have a pond but haven't spotted amphibians yet, consider adding a shallow access point. This makes it easier for toads, frogs, newts – and even hedgehogs and birds – to get in and out.

Looking ahead, we hope to save even more amphibians next year. Warm, wet evenings seem to be the busiest.

We're also considering inviting an expert to come and speak about similar

Cromar Carpets Ltd

**CARPETS, VINYL AND
WOOD FLOORING
SUPPLIED AND FITTED**

**9-11 STATION APPROACH
GREAT MISSENDEN
01494 862125**

Quality Building & Renovation Projects

Based locally, PVE Construction are well known for providing high quality work throughout the Chilterns and surrounding areas.

We specialise in both residential and commercial projects offering a wide range of services from individual home improvements to complete new build management.

Call Phil Easeman on **07771 863880**
or visit www.pveconstruction.co.uk



Professional Reliable Trusted

patrols elsewhere, so we can learn from their experience and keep improving.

Thank you again to our wonderful Frog Patrol team and to Lee Common School for their interest and support. Until next time – and here's to even more frogs being saved!

St Mary's, Ballinger

By Anne Ellis

Now that spring has arrived with sunshine and showers, birdsong in the air, a hustle and bustle in the hedgerows, the sweet scent of flowers and the wretched deer who happily munch anything green and tasty, it's a time of great contrast and change. The latter is true at St Mary's where one minute we are dealing with damp and condensation, and the next with the heat.

Around the church

St Mary's looked spick and span for our service in March which was well attended despite several of our congregation disappearing on their travels. Maggi and I seized the opportunity to rejuvenate those areas which needed a little attention after the long winter months, particularly the vestry and the internal window ledges.

Mind you our list of jobs is still a long one – the grass will shortly need a haircut and the borders a tidy, the wrought iron gate could do with some TLC and the vestry re-stained outside. We're also in the middle of investigating the cause of the occasional damp patches which appear of the back of the church and are consequently exploring dehumidifiers to counteract the topsy turvy temperatures. However, the newly restored porch survived the winter without demur; it was a joy to realise that we are no longer contending with a leaking roof and rotting felt.

A festival of flowers

After an absence of many years, our next big fundraiser is a Festival of Flowers on Saturday 10th May (from 11:00 am to 4:30 pm) and Sunday 11th May (from 11:30 am to 4:30 pm). It's a rare opportunity to appreciate beautiful displays reflecting all aspects of village life, created by local clubs and societies. There will be delicious refreshments (tea, coffee, cold drinks and homemade cakes) live music, a lovely church to explore and a chance to rest awhile in the garden. Entry £1 per adult. Children welcome.

The weekend will be brought to a close by a special service of Evening Prayer. The money raised will help to maintain the building as a church and community meeting place; each display will be accompanied by relevant information about the organisation it reflects. If you are able to help out at our flower festival in any way (perhaps baking a cake or serving refreshments) please contact Maggi or me.

Coffee mornings

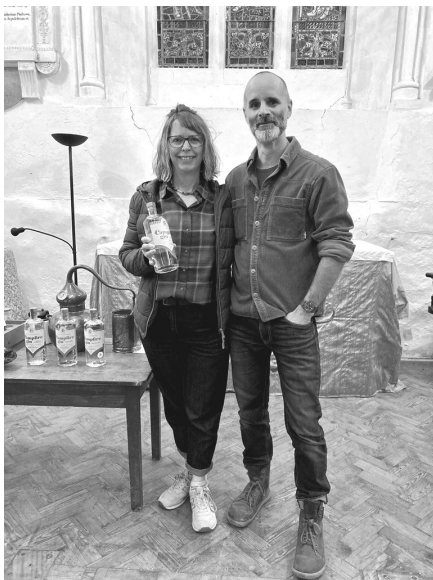
The next Friday coffee morning (10:30 am to 12:00 noon) is on Friday 16th May. Coffee, tea and biscuits are provided for a small donation.



Mother's ruin at Old Church

By Alex Carleton-Smith

On 5th April, The Lee Old Church Trust welcomed Puddingstone Distillery for an engaging and delightful evening that attracted local spirits enthusiasts and villagers. Puddingstone Distillery, renowned for their exceptional gin, entertained us with a fascinating talk covering their company ethos, inspiring journey and an insightful guide to crafting the perfect Martini.



During the talk, Ben and Kate Marston, co-founders of Puddingstone Distillery, shared their passion for sustainability and authenticity, pillars that underpin their business. They reflected on their journey from establishing the distillery in 2016, with its humble beginnings in Tring,



Your local friendly Osteopathic Practice, set in the beautiful Chiltern Countryside.

Everyone at the Chiltern Osteopathics Practice is committed to providing the highest standards of osteopathic care for the treatment of all back and joint problems.

For over twenty years, our practice has continued to provide each patient with the most appropriate and effective treatment in order to reduce the risk of reoccurrence and aggravation.

The aim of working with each patient is to obtain the maximum benefit out of the minimum number of treatment sessions.

Please contact us for an initial consultation. Private parking is freely available.



01494 783962



INFO@CHILTERN-OSTEOPATH.CO.UK



OAKWAY, KEEPERS LANE, HYDE HEATH, AMERSHAM, HP6 5RJ



WWW.CHILTERN-OSTEOPATH.CO.UK

Hertfordshire, to becoming a multi-award-winning producer of gin.

We were captivated as they recounted milestones in their story, such as launching the pioneering and award winning *Campfire Gin* range and staying true to their belief in sourcing local ingredients and maintaining environmental responsibility.

Following their talk, we were all served perfectly prepared gin and tonics made with their flagship *Campfire London Dry Gin*. We were also given the opportunity to taste and savour the profiles of their range, from the bold *Campfire Navy Strength Gin*, the complex *Campfire Cask Aged Gin* and the traditional 18th century style *Campfire Old Tom Gin*. Many attendees eagerly bought bottles, ensuring that the evening's enjoyment would continue beyond The Old

Church's walls, with new-found inspiration on the ideal preparation of a Martini and a Negroni.

We are thankful to Puddingstone Distillery for their enriching talk, the warmth and enthusiasm they brought to the event were matched only by the quality of their gins and we highly recommend visiting them at their distillery in Wilstone.

On other Trust news, we will be hosting an Open Afternoon on Sunday 1st June from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The doors will be open for the afternoon and members of the Trust will be on hand to show new friends and old the building and explain the history and Trust's ethos. Tea and cake will be on offer for donations. Please do pop in to learn more about this remarkable and unique building.

From the Parish Chair

By Cllr Colin Sully, Chair
The Lee Parish Council

You will have read earlier that by the closing date for nominations in April there were still three unfilled vacancies on The Lee Parish Council. It is particularly disappointing that for the first time in living memory (possibly ever), there are now no parish councillors who are residents of Lee Common or from around The Lee Green area.

This gap in representation will be one of the things the new council will wish to urgently consider when it first meets on 20th May. Do consider whether you would be interested in serving The Lee local community as a co-opted parish councillor. It is a volunteer role and operates outside of

Shop at The Lee



For all your daily needs

A community shop, financed and run by the village; the shop lies at the heart of the parish.

Current opening hours:

Weekdays: 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 8.00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
Sundays: 7.30 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

Tel: 01494 837195
shop@thelee.org.uk

party politics, managing the assets of the Parish Council and representing the interests of residents.

Please contact the Parish Clerk to find out more if you might be interested at clerk@thelee.org.uk or 07769 698652.

Congratulations!

Finally, may I also use this column to congratulate Hayley Farrelly, Clerk to The Lee Parish Council on her (uncontested) election to Great Missenden Parish Council, representing the South Heath / Ballinger Ward, along with Mike Johnstone. We wish them both well.

Splintered!

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

Opening lead K♦

The option to use the 'splinter' convention doesn't arise often; North's bid of 4♦ showed trump support, game points and a singleton or void in Diamonds.

After South cue-bid Hearts, North used RKCB to ask for Aces and the 6♠ contract was found and made.

MARTIN THE MILKMAN LTD

Your local independent dairyman Est 1989
Doorstep delivery of milk and produce

To place an order call:

01442 833944

Phones manned between
4pm-6pm Mon-Fri



euronics
the home of electricals

Kitchen appliances
from your local independent
electrical retailer



Price Match Guarantee
Professional Installation
Expert Knowledge

Chiltern Domestic Appliances Ltd

20-22 Red Lion Street
Chesham HP5 1EZ
01494 771682

www.chilternappliances.co.uk



Dear Diary

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

May

Thursday 1st. Local Elections.

Thursday 1st. The Lee village walk. Meet at The Old Swan for the bluebell special walk. 9:30 am.

Monday 5th. VE Day 80 celebration on The Green and at The Cock and Rabbit. See page 12 and back page.

Saturday 10th. 70s Night at The Cock and Rabbit. In aid of the Rennie Grove Peace Hospice. See page 8.

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th. A Festival of Flowers at St Mary's Church, Ballinger. See page 18.

Tuesday 20th. The Lee Annual Parish Meeting. See page 6. 7:00 pm at the Parish Hall, immediately followed by...

Tuesday 20th. The Lee Parish Council Meeting. 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

Tuesday 27th. Village Friends. 10:30 am at The Cock and Rabbit.

Thursday 29th. Arts Society Ballinger. 'The Mayan Civilisation'. 7:30 pm at Ballinger Hall.

Church Services

St John the Baptist, The Lee
Sunday 4th. Holy Communion (BCP) at the Old Church. 8:00 am.

Sunday 4th. Family Service at the New Church. 11:00 am.

Monday 5th. VE Day Commemoration Service at the War Memorial. 11:45 am to 12:00 noon.

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

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

Sunday 25th. Parish Communion (CW) at the New Church. 11:00 am.

Thursday 29th. Ascension Day Communion (CW) at the New Church. 5:00 pm.

St Mary's, Ballinger

Sunday 4th. Informal Holy Communion at 9:30 am followed by refreshments.

Coming soon

Sunday 1st June. Open Afternoon at The Lee Old Church. 2:00-4:00 pm. See page 20.

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

Saturday 21st June. The Lee Church Fête. 2:00-5:00 pm. The Lee Green.

Tuesday 24th June. Village Friends. 10:30 am at The Cock and Rabbit.

Thursday 26th June. Arts Society Ballinger. 'Magic in Byzantium'. 7:30 pm at Ballinger Hall.

Thursday 3rd July. The Lee village walk. 9:30 am at The Lee Green.

Saturday 5th July. Summertime Strings at The Lee Old Church. 7:30 pm.

Saturday 19th July. The Lee Flower Show and Dance. 1:45 pm at The Lee Manor Park. Dance at 7:30 pm.

Directory of local contacts

Ballinger Babies and Toddlers Group
ballingerbats@gmail.com

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

Village Friends

Jules Eyles 01494 260162

Frankie Little 07816 871622

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 Ogley, Adam Speller, Colin Sully and Louise Wadsworth.

Printed by Orbit Press: Chesham. 01494 778053.

To book the Parish Hall

'phone Pippa Hart on 837340 or
07785 323232

Rates

Mon-Fri - £15 per hour

Sat/Sun - £17 per hour

Bank Holiday - £17 per hour

Car park only - £10

Crockery/Cutlery £15

(hire outside of hall)



The Cock
& Rabbit 

PUB CAFÉ BISTRO



5th May, Bank Holiday Monday

VE Day 80th Anniversary

VE Day service held at the war memorial on
The Green at 11:45am followed by BBQ and
music in the garden of The Cock & Rabbit



Coming soon...
watch this space!

The Lee HP16 9LZ Tel: 01494 837 540

 @thecockandrabbitinn  @thelee.cockandrabbit