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March 2016



NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Peter Archer

Despite the seemingly never ending rain, wind and cold as the editing of this month's issue of the Newsletter takes place, we are beginning to look forward to sunnier and warmer times in the months ahead. By the time you read this the Church Fête will be only three months away and we have a short article encouraging support for this highlight of our year in The Lee.

Readers will also be pleased to learn that the village has a growing number of trained first aiders to resuscitate us should we collapse on the way to the village shop! Diana Taylor has given a glowing account of the thorough training which was given to her and her fellow trainees.

For many years I have seen the odd decaying bus stop sign in The Lee but have rarely seen a bus, other than school buses, serving the village. I have often wondered about trying out my bus pass but never knew the timetable. Well, I am delighted to be able to include a timetable in this month's edition!

Next month's editor is Jonathan Batten. Please send material to him, preferably by email at theleenewsletter@googlemail.com or hard copy to Saddlers, Swan Bottom. The deadline is 12th March.

First Aid in The Lee

By Diana Taylor



Oh dear! If you are thinking that is what your First Aid efforts should produce then perhaps you could do with a St John's Ambulance First Aid Course!

Eight villagers did take a course on Wednesday 27th January, and every single attendee gained knowledge of practical and theoretical First Aid skills.

Liz Connors of St John's Ambulance came to train us and her expertise scored 'excellent' in every area covered. Liz was not only an earnest and efficient teacher, she was also fun and interesting as she helped each individual to get

through a huge amount of learning and hands-on practice during over three hours of training.

With video footage of circumstances leading to the need for First Aid, several of us felt that we might have preferred a horror film! After all, when you see an accident waiting to happen which goes on to happen before your eyes, it can be stressful. Liz explained that this made an emotional impact upon us which would aid our memory of what to do in a similar crisis.

We learned what the role of the First Aider is and how to manage any incident to ensure all round safety. We gained advice on how to make sensible, accurate and helpful reports to the emergency services. We discovered that the number 112 is a number equal to 999 in an emergency. You can download an app on your mobile phone, in advance, which can enable you to text an emergency call! For this, look up St. John's Ambulance on the Internet. St. John's Ambulance also has an app, covering all matters of First Aid in a simple and easy-to-use format.

Having been shown how to assess the casualty and how to monitor the situation, we went on to do practical



work dealing with an unconscious patient, putting him or her in the recovery position in order to maintain the airway and keep them breathing. Taking turns to use one another as 'dummies' caused a few laughs but we were glad of the chance to learn how to give such important care.

We had a chance to squirm again as we looked at videos of various wounds but we soon cheered up when it was time to practise bandaging one another and Liz supervised us so that we got our dressings right whether they were of the head, limb or hand.

Topics such as bleeding, convulsions and heart problems kept us all attentive and everyone needed to practise dealing with choking in babies, small children and adults.

Finally we had the chance to learn how to give cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to anyone of any age. We found out how to give breaths and how to compress the chest to keep

heart and lungs going until the ambulance arrives. To do this is very hard and tiring work but it is ALWAYS worth trying.

However, as Liz explained, the chances of maintaining life in situations that need CPR are enormously increased if an automated external defibrillator (AED) is to hand. Our class of eight was able to see one of these machines in use. It was amazing. An automated voice guided the user through the process of applying the machine to the patient and using it to restart the stopped heart. The machine needs to be used in conjunction with CPR and therefore really does come into its own where First Aiders are to hand.

Our trainer, Liz, and everyone in the group, felt that our slightly remote, hilltop village could certainly benefit from having one or two of these AED machines. They cost between £800 and £1,000 each. Interestingly, none of us felt daunted by this. By the end of the evening, we expressed pride in the fact that we live in a place where people get together to work for the community, a place where £1,000 can be raised if



we all chip in to buy a machine that can help our village.

First Aiders save life. It is a serious matter, requiring serious ideas and if anyone has suggestions of how to raise the money, please write in to the Newsletter.

We give special thanks and acknowledgement to Viv Robins who organised it all and without whom we could never have got started. Thank you Viv and thanks to our trainer, Liz.

Lee Common School

By James Edwards,
Headmaster



Pupils and parents at Lee Common CE School have been delighted with the excellent quality of the new hot school meals. The food is prepared to order every day from an extensive menu. The children are able to order either a red (meat) option, a green (vegetarian) option or a yellow (chilled) option. Recently the Year 1 and 2 children wrote thank you letters to Pauline Eggleton, Head Cook, describing which meals were their favourites. These ranged from roast dinners to lasagne, pizza and fish and chips.

The school has been delighted with the service and food quality provided by their new catering company, Hertfordshire Catering Limited. The company is also providing theme days throughout the school year.

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Your letters

To the Editor:

I have just discovered The Lee website and the September 2012 Newsletter article on the sad story of Jenny Witney. Jenny was a distant cousin of mine. There were several more Witney families in Lee Common at the turn of the 20th century and most of them were inter-related. In addition to Jenny's sad story, there were also other tragic events among the Witneys.

First, her father, James Witney died in an accident with a horse and cart in 1904. He had been at a sale at Weedon Hill Farm near Hyde Heath and his horse slipped at the crossroads at South Heath. He and his companions were thrown out and he later died.

Next, his brother Fred was in an accident in December 1907. He had been bringing coal from Great Missenden when he fell off the cart on the Aylesbury Road and was run over by the cart wheels. He died that same day. He was 34 years old.

Then, in 1916, another uncle of Jenny's, Walter George, passed away.

However, the strangest case was the death of Harry Witney, also a

resident of Lee Common. Harry was my grandfather's brother and he married Elizabeth Witney, Jenny's aunt. As it turns out, Harry and Elizabeth were first cousins. Harry and his family are listed at Lee Common on the 1911 census, but in the 1920 list only Elizabeth and their son Frank appear; no Harry. A death is recorded for Harry Witney of approximately the correct age in November 1919. He died in a cow shed on a farm near Great Hampden; cause of death bronchitis and heart failure due to "cold exposure and want of proper food". He is listed as "of no fixed address". An article in the next week's Bucks Herald describes the coroner's inquest, but the article makes no mention of his having a family at Lee Common. It seems odd that the connection was not made by the coroner. Perhaps Harry had deserted his family or maybe he had committed some horrible offence that caused them to disown him. We may never know but I don't have any doubt this was my Harry. He was buried at Great Hampden.

I would be happy to communicate with anyone with an interest or with more information.

Bob Witney
Elmira, Ontario, Canada.
bobwitney@ymail.com

To the Editor

Peter Jordan in his letter in last month's Newsletter asked why the Chiltern Society has installed a metal gate on the Chiltern Way path rather than a wooden one.

The choice of gate is made by Bucks County Council after consultation with the landowner and

the gate's donor. Normally a landowner wants a gate to be stock proof and the donor likes it to be easily accessible to friends and family. The Chiltern Society merely installs the gate as requested by the county council.

Many people might agree with your correspondent that wooden gates look more natural, but they do not last as long and they are not as reliably stock proof as metal gates, particularly for sheep.

It is the intention to replace more stiles with gates on the Chiltern Way whenever the money is available. If anyone would like to donate a gate under the scheme they would be very welcome... and they would then have a say in its type and location.

Barnaby Usborne
Lee Common

To the Editor

I should like to thank The Parish Hall Committee and Tony Lea for the beautiful flowers they sent me.

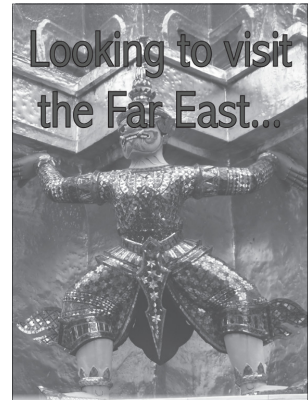
So kind! They really cheered up my 'mouse hole'.
Susan Allison
Laugharne, Wales

Local policing

From information supplied by
Thames Valley Police (TVP)

Last month TVP reported that the front desk at Chesham police station is shortly due to close and that from April, Amersham will be the nearest 'open' police station to The Lee.

The neighbourhood policing team will however continue to be based at



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the Police Station on Broad Street, Chesham. The team currently consists of an inspector, three sergeants, five PCs (including PC Kevin Flint, oft seen in The Lee) and nine Police Community Support Officers (PCSO).

The public can still contact the police 24 hours a day by calling 101 in a non-emergency or 999 in an emergency.

Burglaries

TVP reported that there were four dwelling burglaries in the 'Chesham neighbourhood' during January and two attempts, where no entry has been gained. This compares to the two confirmed offences during December, which was an unexpectedly low figure. Locally, there were recent burglary attempts in Kings Ash, Swan Bottom, Bellingdon and Chartridge.

TVP say that three suspects have been arrested concerning one of the Chesham neighbourhood burglaries; they have also been interviewed regarding other burglary offences in the area. Additionally, two more suspects have been arrested as regards another of these crimes, and active lines of investigation exist in each case.

TVP asks that we all continue to keep up the great work in securing our property and outbuildings.

THE LEEWAY – YOUR VILLAGE SUPPORT TEAM

If you have difficulty getting to your doctor or the hospital, doing your shopping or would like a home visit and a friendly chat, then please ring:

01494 837177

Mon - Fri: 10 am - 4 pm. Sat: 10 am - 12 noon. Please give us reasonable notice of your requirement to help us organise it.

Road safety in Oxford Street

PC Kevin Flint and PCSO Andy Piotrowski also visited Lee Common recently, at the invitation of the Parish Council, to observe the road safety issues during school pick-up and drop-off times. The problem of parents and young children sharing the narrow highway with vehicles was well evidenced during the visit.

As with many other local schools, this is not an easy problem to solve. Possible improvements now need to be discussed with the school and others to see whether there is any more that can be done.

Have Your Say

If you have any problems or concerns in your area, do come along to a 'Have Your Say' meeting.

The next one will be held between 11:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Market, High Street, Chesham Town Centre on Wednesday 2nd March.

Midsomer Cicely

By Colin Sully

The Lee was appeared under yet another new name in February when it became 'Midsomer Cicely' in 'Saints and Sinners', a recent episode of Midsomer Murders.

Described in the publicity as "a lovely village full of unlovely villagers", Midsomer Cicely included a vicar with a dark secret shared with a pub land-lady and her son (see picture), a shotgun-toting lady farmer,

a gang of archaeologists, who all hate each other, and some passing metal detectorists. Oh, it also included three gruesome murders!

The plot was as convoluted as ever and I won't spoil the ending for those who haven't seen it, but it is worth watching, if only for more great shots of The Lee green, the Cock and Rabbit (a.k.a. the Rose and Chalice), the frontage to the church graveyard and Swan Bottom Lane.

If you missed it, it might still be available 'on demand' – otherwise you'll have to wait for the repeat... which I'm sure won't be too long!



Photo outside the 'Rose and Chalice'
by Bentley Productions / Mark Bourdillon

Chiltern Ridges

By County Cllr Tricia Birchley

The good news is that our students in Chesham, The Lee and the surrounding villages out-performed their peers across the country at GCSE last year. The latest league tables tell us that Chesham Grammar and Dr Challoner's High



School were two of the five schools in Buckinghamshire to achieve 100% pass rate at A* to C, whilst 13 schools in the county achieved a pass rate of 97% or better. These outstanding results give our young people the opportunity of a university place. For many years the County Council resisted the move to abolish grammar schools and this has enabled our students to benefit from an academic environment.

We can be equally proud of our upper schools and the high quality of teaching they provide. I am proud of the facilities at Chiltern Hills Academy in Chesham where the staff are inspiring and the teaching facilities are second to none.

Many senior people educated in Buckinghamshire contribute to the

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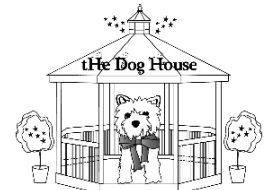
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continued success of Britain and can be found working in international positions across the globe.

Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet recommended its proposed 2016/17 Budget of £327 million to a meeting of the full Council on 18th February. Buckinghamshire residents are called upon to provide a high percentage of council income by comparison with authorities further north. Here the figure is close to 75% of the revenue income. By 2019/20 the Government will have eliminated all the income currently received in the form of our Revenue Support Grant plus a cut in our Business Rate income. The Leader of the council has held three meetings at Westminster in the last month to protest the unfair deal Buckinghamshire gets from the Government.

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Time is moving swiftly on HS2 with the Government hoping to get Royal Assent as early as October 2016. Whilst our petitioning to the House of Commons Select Committee has not yet produced a Chilterns Long Tunnel it is to be hoped that our petitions to the House of Lords will help our case. CRAG is working with Wendover to ensure we have a design everyone is signed up to and the continued commitment of our communities will be rewarded if we can remove the burden on local residents that the green tunnel and viaducts would cause.

Please let me know if I can raise your concerns with officers at County Hall.

The Lee Cricket Club

By Patrick Walsh, Chairman

Are you interested in playing cricket this summer?

The Lee Cricket Club has two adult teams playing league cricket on Saturdays in the summer and a Sunday afternoon friendly team. We also have junior teams at various age-groups, from ages 10 to 19, and run children's softball coaching sessions on Friday nights between May and September.

For more details please contact me at (patrick_a_walsh@hotmail.co.uk)

We are also currently running pre-season indoor nets for adults on Thursday evenings using the excellent new facilities at the Amersham School.

For more details on this please contact Ed Boakes (coup206@sky.com)

Midsummer Music

By the Editor

This chamber music festival will take place at St Mary Magdalene Church in Latimer between 24th and 26th June

Arrangements are being finalised by Paul and Bjorg Lewis, the artistic directors of Midsummer Music who, have invited the following world-class musicians for June 2016:

- Paul Lewis, Aleksander Madzar, piano
- Valeriy Sokolov, Tamsin Janny-Cohen, violin
- Jennifer Stumm, viola
- Bjorg Lewis, Gemma Rosefield cello
- Alon Sarel, lute and mandolin
- Mark Padmore, tenor

The five programmes of chamber music Paul and Bjorg have planned will be published on the Midsummer Music website in early March <http://www.midsummermusic.org.uk>

The Supporters of Midsummer Music

Please do consider joining the Supporters of Midsummer Music. By doing so, you become a vital part of the foundations upon which the festival flourishes. Midsummer Music's principal aim is to promote chamber music played by some of the most accomplished musicians of our times. A key benefit for all Supporters is a priority booking period for an event which sells out more quickly with every year which passes.

Full details of the donation options available - plus an application form and gift aid form - are available at info@midsummermusic.org.uk or 01494 783643.

HS2 update

By Simon Morris, Chairman of CRAG

As I mentioned in the February Newsletter, it seemed that the HS2 Select Committee was hell-bent on finishing its business by early February, and sure enough, the last day of hearings was 4th February. The Select Committee will now complete its final report and it should be published before the end of February.



CHILTERN RIDGES HS2 ACTION GROUP

One of the issues that the report is likely to comment on is the Need to Sell Scheme which came in for some severe criticism in particular on its approach to valuation. However, it seems very unlikely that the report will include a volte face on its prior major decisions such as its rejections of a Long Tunnel through the Chilterns AONB and of a shorter tunnel extension to Leather Lane. We need to be ready to carry on the fight for a tunnel in the House of Lords.

Once the Select Committee's final report is published, the Hybrid Bill enters the Bill Committee Stage, when it is examined in detail and some minor changes may be made. Then, probably during March, it will have its third reading in the House of

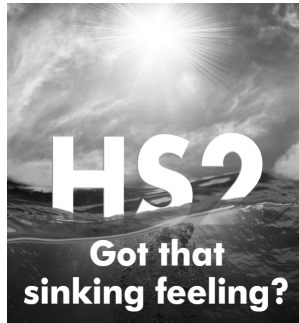
Commons after which it goes to the House of Lords. The House of Lords petitioning stage would start after the Bill's second reading in the House of Lords. This might well take place shortly after Easter.

Going through the petitioning process again in the House of Lords sounds a bit daunting but it should be a lot easier on the second time around now that we have been down the learning curve. The changes needed should be relatively easily drafted. Peers will no doubt turn up to visit us in perhaps rather smarter buses and we would have the opportunity to show them our villages, the beauty of our AONB and the site of the spoil heap. Posters and itineraries could be dusted down and used again. The prize of a tunnel continues to be well worth fighting for. CRAG will keep you in

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touch with developments through this Newsletter, the CRAG monthly public meetings and the email circulation list.

Local mitigation

We cannot of course rely only on getting a tunnel. The issues of mitigating the surface route through the Chilterns have to be worked on as well. The major issue that has arisen recently regarding the construction in our area is that of traffic problems and haul roads. A haul road is a temporary road built to carry traffic needed for the construction work. In the case of this haul road the traffic will be HGVs, specialist mega trucks for spoil and also some works passenger traffic. As part of the AP4 provisions for the extension of the tunnel from Mantles Wood to South Heath a haul road was proposed running from the new tunnel portal site to the north of South Heath down to the Great Missenden Link Road roundabout on the A413.

Great Missenden Parish Council and others raised a number of objections to this proposal primarily on grounds of safety and the traffic problems it would create. The haul

road would lead to large volumes of HS2 spoil and other traffic passing very close to the playground and skate board park near that roundabout. Furthermore it could make a potentially bad traffic situation even worse. Indeed it has been suggested that it could lead to grid-locked traffic during the rush hour periods of the day.

The Select Committee hearings on this were set short when HS2 Ltd came to an agreement with Buckinghamshire County Council and Chiltern District Council that they could change the location of that haul road, moving its access to the A413 further north of Great Missenden, provided BBC undertook the land acquisition that would be required. The issue that has to be worked out locally is where exactly this haul road should be put. The haul road will definitely benefit the hill villages because it will keep the construction traffic off Kings Lane and Potter Row. However, if it is located close to Leather Lane then access for The Lee and Lee Common could be badly affected whilst if it were too close to Great Missenden traffic problems there could be serious. The Councils are looking at all the options.

Meanwhile let me leave you with this thought. The Government has been courting the Chinese as potential contractors for HS2 and for providing loan finance for the project – which of course we would have to repay over the next two generations together with interest. However, the Chinese economy has not been growing as fast as it has in the past and there are rumours that they may not actually have the funds available to lend to us in 2017 when building starts.

Wouldn't that be a pity!

The Lee Church Fête

By Rod Neal, Fête Organising Committee

Another year, another feat as the Committee starts planning for this year's fête, to be held on the Green on Saturday 18th June at 2:00 pm by kind permission of Liz Stewart-Liberty.

A chance to meet old friends and make new ones whilst helping to raise funds for the parish church. As many readers will know, we have incurred an exceptional item of expenditure this year, namely replacement of the central heating boiler, and so we are hoping to raise record funds this summer.

We will be counting on your support in whatever form: prizes, donations, offers of help as well as your presence on the day. It has always proved a great day out for the family, whatever the weather.

Please watch out for further announcements in the Newsletter and make a note of the date in your devices and diaries.

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An Easter mixture

By Revd David Burgess

As I've looked back through several years of my Easter Newsletter articles, I've noticed that I've tended to use a combination of one or more of several themes; surprise, joy, transformation and mystery: the story of the first Easter Day is indeed a wonderful, heady mixture of all those things. The Lion Handbook to the Bible summarises that Sunday morning as follows:

"In the stillness of that Easter morning, the extraordinary news gradually broke; the light dawned. Jesus was alive! As day broke on that Sunday morning, Jesus' followers were shadow-men.... Yet within twelve hours everything is changed.... Despondency and mourning are things of the past. Fear is gone, and in its place, indescribable joy."

There's a contradiction about the central part of the Easter story and it happens in two historical eras. We who read it two thousand years on are in a state of mind where we're bowled over by the Resurrection because of its newness each time we encounter it, but not surprised because it's such a central and familiar part of our faith. Similarly, the first witnesses of the Resurrection shouldn't have been



surprised by it because it was promised in scripture and by Jesus himself. Yet, their reaction was one of amazement and, in some, even disbelief.

We can't blame them. The thought of someone conquering and overcoming death is an idea that's almost impossible to grasp. If the rising of Jesus to life wasn't such a mysterious, joyful, surprising and transformational event, it could almost be seen as playing with people who were in a deep state of grief – people who only two days before had seen a best friend, a teacher, a son, a brother, dying a terrible death.

God didn't bring about the Resurrection either to toy with people's emotions or to promise them a magic cure to everything. The rising of Jesus from the dead is a sign of the new life that he offers to each of us. As Christians, the phrase is sometimes used that we are 'Easter people'. This means that we live in the light of the events of that first Easter Sunday morning, that we ourselves have been transformed, even surprised by God's wonderful love for us and that we know that, because of the first Resurrection, we ourselves are promised new life with God for ever.

So, my hope and prayer is that Easter for all of us will be a season of joy, mystery, transformation and surprise alike. As we look forward to Christ's coming at Christmas (but know it has already happened) so we look forward to Easter knowing what has happened in history, but being certain also of God's continuing, surprising presence with us through the life, death, and Resurrection of the risen Lord Jesus.

Services for March

St John the Baptist

2 nd	10:00am	HC	Revd D Burgess
4 th	10:30am		Women's World Day of Prayer <i>(hymn practice from 10.00 am)</i>
6 th	8:00am	HC	Revd D Burgess
	10:00am	PC/AA	Old Church Revd D Burgess.
13 th	10:00am	PC	Mothering Sunday Service
20 th	10:00am	M	Revd D Burgess Palm Sunday Lay Leader
23 rd	7:30pm		Compline Lay Leader
24 th	7:30pm	PC	Revd D Burgess Maundy Thursday Four-Parish at St Leonard's
25 th	12:00 noon		Good Friday Devotional Service
27 th	10:00am	PC	Mr A Eccleston Easter Day Revd K Royle

Service Key:

M	Matins
HC	Holy Communion
PC	Parish Communion (sung)
AA	All-Age Worship

Contacts: Vicar: The Revd David Burgess (01494-837315). Churchwardens: Roderick Neal (01494-837264) and Trevor Pearce (01494-837601). Verger: Bill Pearce (01494-785191). Treasurer: David Stephenson (01494-867617).

Methodist Church

6 th	10:00am	AA	Mothering Sunday. Joint Family Service at St John the Baptist.
13 th	3:00pm		Revd Gregory Hargrove
20 th	3:00pm		Revd Vincent Jambawo
22 nd	8:00pm	HC	Holy Week Service Revd Vincent Jambawo
27 th	3:00pm	HC	Easter Day Revd Anne Ellis

Women's World Day of Prayer is amazing! Every year the people of 170 countries come together to mark the Women's World Day of Prayer. Every year it is prepared by a different country. This year it is Cuba.

Come and join us at The Lee Parish Church at 10:30 am on Friday 4th March. You will be able to take part in the Service which echoes from dawn to dusk over the whole wide world. All are welcome, women and men!

Our next coffee morning is on Saturday 5th March 10:30 – 12 noon. All are welcome.

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Catch the bus!

By John Horseman

Looking at the old buses in last September's Newsletter encouraged me to research the modern day equivalent, which is very useful for shopping trips (etc.) to Chesham or Great Missenden.



Here are pictures of old and present day buses on the route from The Lee to Chesham. Readers may also find these timetables useful.

From the Lee to Chesham:

- 08:02 Schooldays
- 09:05 Tuesday and Thursday (via Great Missenden)
- 09:14 Saturday
- 10:58 Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- 12:39 Tuesday and Thursday
- 13:37 Monday, Wednesday and Friday

From Chesham to The Lee

- 08:50 Tuesday and Thursday
- 10:35 Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- 11:50 Tuesday and Thursday (via Great Missenden)
- 12:50 Saturday
- 13:25 Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- 16:05 Schooldays


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How well do you know the Parish?

Where was this picture taken?



Answer on page 17.

- From The Lee to Great Missenden
- 09:05 Tuesday and Thursday
- 13:04 Saturday
- 16:20 Schooldays

- From Great Missenden to The Lee
- 09:00 Saturday
- 12:25 Tuesday and Thursday

Stops at Lee Common and Swan Bottom are made a couple of minutes either side of these timings dependent upon which way round the loop the bus goes.

Concessionary passes can be used after 9:00 am. Some of the buses are not that well used so let's hope they remain.

Enjoy!!

Heritage Group launch

By The Editor

The Chiltern Society has recently formed a Heritage Group with the aim of establishing a small number of projects which will aim to champion and protect the heritage and history of the Chilterns. In part its establishment has been stimulated by the threat of HS2.

A formal launch of the Heritage Group is to take place on Saturday 9th April at Chenies Manor at 10:00 am. Earl Howe, the Society's patron will formally launch the Group and will outline some of the projects that the Group is working on.

Tickets for the event are limited but readers who are interested in attending should contact www.chilternsociety.org.uk

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A country saying

By Reina Free

Red sky in the morning is the Shepherds Warning and how very true this old country saying proved to be in the weeks that followed.

I watched the red sky from my bedroom window and, where we live, I had a ring-side seat. Every time I see a sunrise or a sunset, the beauty of the colours in all their various shades and the shape of the clouds, completely take my breath away in total amazement.

But then, from across the Atlantic, the storms and gales came with a ferocity not experienced very often. These were accompanied with down-pourings of rain which never seemed to stop.

Here in Kings Ash I have never seen the fields so very badly flooded; impossible to be ploughed for quite some time.

Still, all this could not be compared with what was happening in the North of England, especially in Cumbria, Lancashire, Yorkshire and also in Scotland. Whole villages were flooded as well as parts of some towns; furniture, precious possessions all covered in water. Heartbreaking viewing on the television with elderly people calling for help from their bedroom windows.

I come from a country (Holland) where some parts are below sea level. In 1953 there was a terrible disaster in the Province of Zeeland, part of which is

made up of islands, where many people drowned. The Dutch are very clever in the making of dykes. So what did the Dutch do? They closed the sea arms between the islands with huge dykes which, of course, cost a lot of money. But never mind that, no more disasters!

I remember, where I lived, the canal was dredged on a yearly basis and we, as children searched for hidden treasure in the mud.

Something, in this country, needs to be learned from the Dutch. Regular dredging of rivers and the building of dykes. No expense should be spared!

Does it not make sense to scrap projects like HS2 and to spend money on projects that will protect our country from natural disasters in the future?

May the God of the Red Sky in the Morning give wisdom and common sense to all those in authority...and the sooner the better.

I would very much like to know why the Government is behind this very expensive HS2 project which will not even stop in the centre of Birmingham.

PS. The good news is that the bluebells are coming up, daffodils are in the verges and snowdrops are in the hedgerows and, its only 10th February!

Where is this?

The picture on page 15 is of the Stewart-Liberty family grave at The Lee church.

If you have a picture which you think could leave our readers stumped please do send it to theleenewsletter@googlegmail.com

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Giles Knowles: a short history

By Catherine Lloyd



It was actually Bill Bryson who wrote a book called a short history of nearly everything, but asked to pay tribute to Giles,

somehow that title seemed to fit this task. I read somewhere that Bill Bryson employed an incredible number of researchers to get it done, I was rather jealous of that, but it turned out that I had my own army to call upon. So many people, on hearing the sad news of Giles' death, started sharing anecdotes and memories with me and I want to thank them for that. This is their tribute also.

Bizarrely, nearly all memories of Giles seem to have three things in common.

Red shoes, with the occasional nod to green shoes and one memory of purple shoes. I never knew, until Sally told me recently, that he bought ordinary shoes and coloured them in.

Secondly, jumpers. Pig jumpers and sheep jumpers.

And then, of course, there are the earthworms. But more of them later.

I remember our conversations in the car. They, like Giles, roamed far and wide. That was one of the things about Giles, like me, he loved arguing whether it was the nature of evil or the rights and wrongs of financial support for the fishing fleets of Cornwall; from the sublime to the ridiculous, we debated it. He was a very intelligent man and he was very well-read. He was one of the few people I knew who had a copy of Stephen Hawking's 'A Brief History of Time' and had not only read it, but understood it and took it upon himself to try to explain it whilst stuck in a traffic jam at seven o'clock in the morning.

Quite what he got up to when I dropped him at Abbots Hill School



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was another story. He always spoke with some pride about his early teaching experiences in other schools, especially how he encouraged pupils in horticulture and agriculture, as well as academic science. And latterly, before he was fully retired, he taught at Dr Challoner's High School. But for the time I knew him, he was teaching at Abbots Hill – he did eighteen years there and I know he made a great contribution to the Science Department, not least leading on the design of the new Science block.

They say, don't they, that no-one forgets a good teacher: can you imagine, as a pupil, ever forgetting the experience of being taught by Giles? Which brings us back to earthworms and a biology lesson somehow constructed around their nutritional value, tested, like all good science, in practical experiments. In other words, eaten. Goodness knows what Ofsted made of that.

As well as a passion for his subject, Giles was very good with young people. He was never patronising, that's something my children have said about him, and they appreciated that. Just as he had a mind that went off in all sorts of interesting and random directions, so he encouraged young people to be the best possible sorts of learners: creative and, like him, happy to explore the road less-travelled.

Giles contributed to The Lee Newsletter, in the column entitled "Ramblings of a Rural Dilettante". For the Millennium Diary, he did a whole year's worth of entries,

including one on getting a 'hedgehog haircut' (which might explain something about his hairdo), and another with a recipe for an earthworm omelette. He also wrote about some of his amazing journeys and did a talk in the Parish Hall on his Conservation Trip to the Amazon. I remember him being nervous, getting all the slides ready, thinking no-one would go. It was, of course, virtually standing room only.

In the last year, he was thinking about writing again, this time writing down some of his memories and linking them to food. Whether it was earthworms, barbeques in the summer evenings in The Lee with the sound of leather on willow behind us, or smoked salmon at Sally and Giles' New Year's party,



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food, like cricket, was one of Giles' great passions.

His contribution to community life in The Lee went far beyond the Newsletter. He was a parish councillor for quite a few years in the noughties. The noughties I suspect might be rather an accurate description of some of his contributions to local political life, given his tendency to say what he thought more or less as soon as he thought it. He was also a governor and then Chair of Governors at Lee Common School. How typical of Giles to see what a great start that school had given Rob and Melanie and then to want to give something back to other families and their children.

Giles was a curious mixture of someone who could be quite selfish, but he was simultaneously, incredibly selfless and kind. What he did in the community, whether it was leading the refurbishment of the playground, helping to set up the village shop, or year after year, humbly directing the traffic at the Flower Show, he did it to help other people and with no expectation of reward of any sort. And he was an equally selfless and thoughtful friend. "Hey kiddo," he used to say when he saw me, "how's it going, baby?" (His vocabulary, like his dancing, was rather stuck in the sixties). Anyway, if it wasn't going well, Giles was always ready to help. And if it was going well, he was always ready to party.

It would be ridiculous in the short history of nearly everything not to devote a chapter – half the book, maybe the whole book, to how incredibly proud Giles was of his

family. He always acknowledged that Sally was the best thing that ever happened to him, they had good times together. Simon and I were privileged to share some of them. And above all else – yes, even more than earthworms, his children made his face light up. "That's my Mel," he would say to me, "she's something else." Or "Rob - he's a great kid". He was right, of course.

And no offence, Melanie and Robert, but I've missed out some important family members. The dogs. NO account of Giles' love of his family would be right without a reference to his beloved Sykes.

He will be greatly missed.

News from the Parish Council

By Jo Jordan, PC Clerk

The Lee Parish Council met on 19th January 2016 and two new councillors were welcomed – Cllr Fowler and Cllr Little. It is felt that both of these councillors have much to offer the local community and we look forward to working with them.

Planning

The following planning application has been decided and conditional permission granted:

2015/2180 – Home Mead. Field End Lane

Footpaths

At the January meeting each Councillor was allocated responsibility

for particular footpaths in the parish and you are urged to contact the Parish Council if you have any matters to raise about the footpaths. In the first instance contact the Clerk who will forward anything on to the individual councillors as appropriate.

HS2

The Parish Council are liaising with Bucks County Council to ensure that they begin local consultation on the traffic impact during the construction of HS2.

Bus Passes

Bucks County Council have asked us to remind people who have a BCC Bus Pass that they need renewing every 5 years and that you need to check yours. You can renew your pass online at www.buckscc.gov.uk/travelinfo or by telephone on 01296 873011. Further information on the Parish Notice Boards.

War Memorial

We have recently received a notification from Historic England that they are considering listing the War Memorial on The Green. This has arisen from the government's commitment to seeing all the nation's memorials placed in a good state of repair by 2018, as part of which it will greatly increase the number which are listed.

There is a presumption that all memorials over 30 years of age will be listed, and in the case of The Lee War Memorial the process is likely to be completed by the end of March. We don't expect the listing to have any major impact; no specific new responsibilities will be placed on the Parish Council and the

memorial will continue to be used and cared for as before.

Donate-a-Gate

The Parish Council would like to draw your attention to The Chiltern Society scheme whereby people can provide a donation to erect a gate to replace broken stiles on local footpaths. There are many reasons why one might wish to Donate-a-Gate particularly in memory of loved ones. For further information see the Chiltern Society website at www.chilternsociety.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings

Reminder – the next Parish Council meeting is on 8th March 2016 in the Parish Hall at 7:30 pm. There is an allocated time in the Agenda for members of the public to ask any questions – so why not come along?



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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).

March

Wednesday 2nd. The Lee Walking Group - walk starting at 9:30 am at the village green.

Wednesday 2nd. Thames Valley Police 'Have Your Say' meeting. 11:00 am - 1:00 pm in Chesham. See page 5.

Thursday 3rd. Ballinger Horticultural Society. 'Life and times of a gardener'. By Christine Walkden, BBC gardening presenter. Ballinger Hall. 8:00 pm.

Saturday 5th. Coffee Morning at Lee Common Methodist Church. 10:30 am - 12:00 noon.

Tuesday 8th. The Lee Parish Council Meeting. 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

Tuesday 8th. Ballinger Evening W.I. Ballinger Hall 8:00 pm.

Sunday 13th. Annual Village Litter Clearance. See February Newsletter.

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Thursday 17th. CRAG meeting at the Parish Hall: 8:00 pm

Thursday 31st. Ballinger DFAS. 'Ancient Egyptian Treasures in the Ashmolean Museum'. Ballinger Hall 8:00 pm. Guest tickets £6.

Coming Soon

Saturday 9th April. Wendover Music Concert. Martin James Bartlett, BBC Young musician of 2014. Piano. St Mary's Church 7:30 pm.

Saturday 9th April. Chiltern Society Heritage Group launch at Chenies Manor. See page 15.

Thursday 28th April. Ballinger DFAS. 'Glad Tidings – the story of the Annunciation'. Ballinger Hall. 8:00 pm. Guest tickets £6.

Saturday 18th June. The Lee fête.

Saturday 16th July. The Lee Flower Show and Dance.

Volunteer path representatives wanted

By the Chiltern Society, Rights of Way Group

Any type of voluntary work makes a welcome and interesting change from our day-to-day lives. You can make a real difference by becoming a volunteer Path Representative and devoting a couple of hours each week towards helping our Rights of Way Group (RoWG).

The Chiltern Society RoWG has been monitoring the condition of and

helping maintain public footpaths throughout the Chilterns for nearly 50 years and has had a really positive impact on the quality of the footpaths in the Chilterns, footpaths which attract so many visitors to the area because of the outstanding views, great walks and wonderful countryside.

We are looking for Path Representatives in the following areas to help complete our team:

Buckinghamshire area – Ellesborough, Great Missenden, Stokenchurch, The Lee, Denham, Farnham Royal and Fulmer.

Dacorum area – Great Gaddesden

Each of our path representatives checks the condition of footpaths in a village, parish or part of a parish. Most of our path reps live locally to their 'patch' but others are happy to travel a few miles.

Their main task is to:

- walk their allocated paths with a view to identifying and reporting, to their Chiltern Society Area Secretary, any problems they come across
- carry out some minor maintenance work on their paths.

We're looking for people who love being outdoors, enjoy walking and relish the pleasure that volunteering can give.

Why not give it a try?

If you are interested in helping us as a Path Representative, please contact Brian Lawson (Group secretary) on 01494 815814 for an informal chat or email Brian at zen85175@zen.co.uk

The Newsletter

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

We welcome original letters and articles of general interest and relevance to The Lee. Copy should be sent to theleenewsletter@googlemail.com or, if on paper, to the Editor of the month (see page 1) by the 12th of each month.

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

To advertise or place an insert, please contact Paul Apicella on 837377 by the 12th of the previous month.

If you have photographs for publication please contact Jonathan Batten on 01494 837450 or email battenjonathan@hotmail.com.

Other members of the Editorial team: Peter Archer, Jo Jordan, Gilbert Nockles, Jen Ogley, Viv Robins, Trish Swain, Colin Sully and Barnaby Usborne.

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To book the Parish Hall or Scout Hut

'phone Anne Barnett on 837796

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