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May 2016



NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Jonathan Batten

No space to write anything this month but “every picture tells a story don’t it”: spot this verge damage when you walk round the village – whose tyre tracks are those?



Next month Viv Robins takes over as editor; please send your contributions to theleenewsletter@googlemail.com or hard copy to Crocketts, Lee Common by 12th May.

Your letters

A gift of foresight

To the Editor

While researching back copies of the original Parish magazines, I came across a memorable example of foresight in the issue of September 1914.

Ivor Stewart-Liberty was the editor at the time. His leader article, Editor’s Notes, was a response to a letter received from a Lee resident living abroad who claimed the editorial content of the magazine had become monotonous.

The editor responded at some length and suggested that, of course “we who live at the Lee do not realise the great changes that, within a few short years, have taken place”. Inferring perhaps, we are quite comfortable in our special countryside monotony – regularity, stability and good order.

In conclusion, Ivor writes “come back soon, dear colonist, before the cinema performance at Kingswood becomes a twice-nightly show, and ere the Underground Rural Railway rears its Suburban head in Martin Dell”.

Ivor was surely gifted with remarkable foresight.

George Barnaby
Lee Common

Devon broadband

To the Editor

A friend of mine moved recently to Braunton, North Devon, a village of about 7,000 people, on the coast west of Barnstaple.

He told me that he gets 18.78Mbps upload speed on his shiny new

broadband, and that's almost exactly 100 times what I get.

I ran the maths: if I have an upload of more than 618MB, it's quicker for me to drive it down to him with the data on an SD card, even though the round trip is 7hr 38mins. Dismal!

Peter Osborn
The Lee

The Lee Forum

To the Editor

Could I remind readers of a few issues in respect of The Lee Forum?

1) The way the Forum works is that most subscribers to the Forum elect to have notice of all new topics emailed to them on the assumption that they are specifically local issues. *(Some elect not to do this and have to visit the website to view new topics.*



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The fact that so many people get emails within a few hours of a new topic appearing provides the real benefit of the Forum... e.g. when dogs or keys are lost or found or when urgent notice of a meeting or event is needed between Newsletter publication dates.

2) Partly for this reason, and in order to ensure that unwanted emails are kept to a minimum, we do not allow commercial advertising on the Forum. We do allow 'small ads' and, where appropriate, service recommendations to be made. The guideline we use in deciding what is commercial and what is not is that "*if HMRC ought to know about it then it is commercial*".

3) Finally, the computer server on which the Forum is hosted is 'case-sensitive'. That means that it will not recognise Another@emailaddress.com as the same person as another@emailaddress.com. I have noticed that some devices now automatically insert an initial capital at the start of an email address and some do not... so please be wary of this.

Colin Sully

The Lee Forum

Verges

To the Editor

I was interested to read of the concern for overgrown verges in the area, and the possibility of traffic accidents or inconvenience to pedestrians, at the very least.

Several years ago, when I was still editing The Chiltern Society's

magazine Chiltern News, I received a number of complaints about overgrown verges and hedge trees. The matter was discussed at Executive Council and my husband Derek, then Vice Chairman, offered to follow these concerns up with Bucks CC's Highways Department. I also offered to raise the issue in the next edition of the magazine.

The results were extremely interesting. Derek went out with a road man, with a few tools in the boot, and they drove around a wide area, looking at particular problems. Overhanging hedges were a major problem, visibly, but what they did find was many inches of verge actually covering up – guess what? The original white demarcation lines! Technically, it is the job of the Highways department to maintain these roads and lanes back to those official lines. Herbert's Hole was one they tested: at least six inches of road was covered beyond each line, still clearly visible under the grass. Our edging tool found a new use: three days' outings uncovered an awful lot of overgrown roadways. Action taken? Not a lot, I am sad to say. As ever, no money.

The magazine article also attracted interesting replies from many members all over the Chilterns. One was from a coach driver in the Wycombe area: he was extremely concerned about overgrown hedges, as he had to drive on many lanes collecting and delivering school kids. His coachwork suffered many expensive scratches and he was forced to drive in the centre of the lane or road to avoid those scratches and also

the wet and slippery verges, despite the hazard of other road users travelling towards him. There were several reports of minor accidents, some involving horses and cyclists, because the lane or road had been narrowed. Not only that, but walkers could not easily use those verges, as they were overgrown, and very treacherous. Some still had remnants of ditches, invisible under the growth, and likely to cause a sprained ankle at least.

What's to be done? Well, it won't be our road men, surely. No money. Voluntary effort? Well, OK, but it is a bit much to expect us to keep our roads clear. Driverless cars? Well, that's a thought that appeals to me, now I do not drive myself ...

Cic Upcott
Ballinger

Dead board walkers

To the Editor

We are a group of walkers who recently came upon your delightful and unusual old church while on a circular walk. Always on the lookout for the unusual, we noticed the three wooden bars outside the church bearing carved inscriptions – in memoriam to residents, we supposed.

We wonder whether anything is known about these unusual memorials and why they are presented in such a way. Are you aware of any history, please?

Rosie Bartley-Crozier
Essex

I may not know the answer but I know someone who does – see the next article. Ed.

Wooden grave markers

By Andrew Burnett

I was most interested in the articles in recent editions of Marsworth News about the wooden grave markers in the churchyard (if indeed that is what they are). In my previous village (The Lee) we had three very well preserved examples of these dating from the 1840s.

I have shown the illustrations in Marsworth News to several authorities on churchyard memorials and all have been of the opinion that these are indeed wooden grave markers and not coffin rests. As was pointed out in the April edition of Marsworth News,



Grave markers in The Lee

coffin rests would normally take the form of a resting stone within the lych-gate where the minister would receive the body into the churchyard.

The overall design can be seen to be very similar to those at The Lee. Normally they would be expected to be the length of the body (with the posts set at the head and the foot); these are quite short but this could be explained if they mark the graves of children. The lack of any visible inscription could be because the original inscription was painted rather than engraved, and has long since worn off.

It seems that these grave-boards (also known as dead boards, grave



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rails and Hertfordshire bedsteads) were once common in Bucks/Herts and other areas where the supply of stone for gravestones is limited. This type of memorial was made mostly during the late 19th and late 18th centuries and revived at the beginning of the 20th century and can often be seen in topographical views of churches. At one time these wooden memorials were more common than stone ones, and were intended as permanent memorials though most have now been lost.

Reprinted from the Marsworth News

Oh my Lord!

By Colin Sully, CRAG



CHILTERN RIDGES HS2 ACTION GROUP

It's been another strange and busy month on HS2...

Simon Morris reported in last month's Newsletter on the conclusion of the House of the Commons Select Committee process and on the urgent need to repeat the whole petitioning process with the House of Lords. Well, as it turned out, the whole period for petitioning the Lords has been squeezed into the time between him writing his article and me writing this one!

An announcement was made on 23rd March that the Lords petitioning period would start on 24th March and end on April 18th – a period of just three weeks and four days, which happened to include all of the Easter holidays. Cynical? I couldn't possibly comment!

Locally, we did our best. CRAG's resident lawyer swiftly

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drafted a template for a local petition, detailed queries on the petitioning process were raised and resolved with the House of Lords' Clerk, emails were circulated locally to all and sundry, three 'drop-ins' were hastily arranged for the Parish Hall, cash and cheques were collected and petitions were finally prepared and posted, emailed or hand-delivered to the House of Lords before the deadline. Phew!

As we go to press, it is not clear how successful we have been in generating long tunnel petitions for the Lords; neither is it quite clear what powers the Committee will actually have. We believe that the total petition count has passed 700 but we don't yet know how many of these will have been from Chiltern petitioners; we are hoping for a good proportion.

United we stand

The good news is that when presenting to the Lords all local authorities, statutory bodies, action groups and societies promoting a long tunnel will be throwing their weight behind the same option – one based on the CRAG T3i tunnel, with an 'intervention gap' at Durham Farm and with the option of boring it from one end or both.

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Meetings are being requested with HS2 Ltd to progress technical issues on this tunnel design and to demonstrate to HS2 Ltd, to the Lords, to the Department for Transport and to the Minister... that the Chiltern petitioners have not gone away!

The Commons Select Committee process did make useful changes to the Bill, albeit not all that we would have wished. There is, at the moment, no reason to assume that the Lords can't do the same. As they say, we live in hope!

Commons' calamity

By our parliamentary correspondent
Robin Vivian

Working as I do only very occasionally for the BBC's *Today in Parliament* programme on Radio Four it is often my fate to cover some obscure debate in the House of Lords (although to be honest a lot more sense tends to get talked there than in the House of Commons, even though far fewer people are listening).

However on 23rd March to my gratification I was asked to report on the High Speed Rail Bill as it cleared its final hurdle in the Commons. As readers will know this has been a mammoth process which began in parliament more than two years ago. I would be lying if I said I had followed every twist and turn of it, but that afternoon I was dispirited if not entirely surprised to find that the conduct of the debate showed the Commons at far from its best.

The reason was that party business managers had allowed only three hours for what are known as the "remaining stages" of the Bill – the report back to the House from the Committee stage (and we all know how long *that* was!) and the Third reading when the general principles of the bill are once again discussed.

Yet more than 50 amendments had been tabled, many from our own MP Cheryl Gillan. She was one of several who complained to the Speaker John Bercow about the truncating of the debate, especially as only a few hours previously the Commons Public Administration Committee had published a report accusing HS2 Limited of showing "complete disregard" for the public over the consultation process. As Mrs Gillan pointed out, this had come too late for the criticisms to be incorporated in MPs' amendments.

To add insult to injury any attempt to force a vote on any of those amendments – which routinely takes 15 minutes or so out of Commons business – would result in the three hours available for debate being docked still further.

To say that John Bercow was sympathetic to these complaints would be an under-statement. There would be "very real consternation", he said, about the way that critics' concerns had been "blithely dismissed" by the executive. There were those who felt that all that mattered was to get the business through in a "hard-headed and perhaps even cynical way", he added, but it was important that the views and interests of minorities should be taken into account. As MP

for the constituency of Buckingham, which is also stands to be hard hit by HS2, John Bercow is on record as denouncing the scheme as "monstrous" and calling for it to be scrapped, although he made no mention of his interest in the matter on this occasion.

Among Mrs Gillan's many amendments were moves to put a legal duty on HS2 to reimburse local authorities for costs such as damage to highways and loss of business rates, together with the appointment of an Adjudicator to protect the interests of communities and the natural environment. Yet even before she had the chance to propose these amendments for debate the Transport Minister Robert Goodwill got up and, after a nod to Mrs Gillan's "tireless advocacy" on behalf of her

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constituents, announced that the government would be opposing all of them because they were points that had been discussed before and, he added pointedly, “at length”.

With the support of Labour’s front bench for the bill – after all they were the ones who first mooted HS2 – it completed its passage within the given time without amendment by it critics, to the clear frustration of almost all the backbenchers who spoke.

The most they got was a promise from the Speaker that their concerns over the brutal time-tabling would be passed on to the Speaker in the House of Lords, where the bill has now arrived. Such tactics to curtail debates are not allowed over there, so there could be some long sessions. Hopefully *Today in Parliament* will give me a call!

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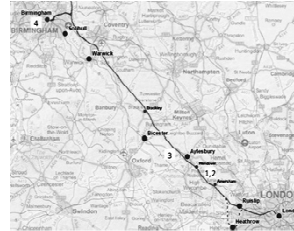
Potter Row to Curzon
Street, Birmingham

By Rudi Kalveks

This new cycle route follows on from news that the Government may repurpose the HS2 track as a cycleway between London and Birmingham. The new cycleway will offer breath-taking views of the remaining unspoilt countryside in Buckinghamshire, passing through picturesque hamlets, villages and towns including Potter Row, Hunts Green (now the highest point in the Chilterns at 300m altitude), The Lee and Wendover. As a futuristic Department for Transport spokesman said in April 2026:

“As a result of severe power shortages arising from implementation of the latest EU Climate Change Directive, which has forced the closure of the last remaining fossil fuel power station in the UK, it will no longer be possible to run high speed trains, with their high demands for electric power. Instead, the Government will be encouraging business travellers to cycle along the recently built track between London and Birmingham, which will be resurfaced. A fit cyclist setting off from Euston at 6:00 am should be able to make a lunchtime meeting in Birmingham and be home in time for Newsnight.

The carbon footprint reduction by using cycle rather than high speed rail on an estimated 50 million passenger journeys between London and Birmingham will amount to 0.4



million tons of CO₂ each year. In addition, the calories burned, at 5,000 per journey, will help ensure the UK meets the EU Citizen Physical Exercise Directive. Exhausted cyclists will be catered for by a café to be built at Potter Row. Virgin Rail will also be offering tickets on its existing conventional train service, equipped with cycle racks that will make the return journey non-stop from Birmingham in less than an hour.”

Route Finding:

1. Start from the new café at Potter Row and head towards Birmingham.
2. After a mile or so, pass the spoil heap at Hunts Green and head downhill.
3. With luck, you should be able to coast to the other side of the Vale of Aylesbury.
4. Continue on to Curzon Street. (No exits before then).

For the return journey, retrace tracks.

Total distance: 75 miles each way. One main descent/climb of 250 feet down from/up to The Lee. Allow five hours each way, depending on wind speed and direction.

Don't forget: helmet, puncture repair kit, water. Stop for no one. It will be impossible to get lost, so no map is required. Good cycling.

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On wings of song

By Judith Sheridan

Vocal Lees will present a selection of light classical pieces, jazz and swing to while away a summer's afternoon on Sunday 26th June at 4:00 pm at The Old Church, The Lee.

Following their highly successful Christmas concert, Vocal Lees will lend their voices to familiar and well-loved melodies. As their voices and the temperatures soar, enjoy a glass of chilled bubbly and strawberries and cream to welcome in the summer.

Tickets: £10 (children free, teenagers £5) available from the Shop @ The Lee and members of the choir.

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The Lee church fête

By Claire Anthony

Here we are in May and for the last few months the organising committee has been planning the logistics for this year's fête on Saturday 18th June. This involves seeking permission from Liz Stewart-Liberty to hold the fête, contacting the wonderful people who year after year run the various stalls, ensuring we have enough gazebos and marquees, booking the bouncy castle, organising the posters, informing the police, to name a few.

We also brainstorm new ideas to try and ensure that this year's fête is bigger and better than in previous years, whilst keeping the traditional elements that people attending come to expect, such as the Tea Tent with its delicious array of cakes, the Bric-a-Brac stall, Coconut Shy, the Pimm's stall and Ice Cream stall. The Tombola is always a key part of the fête and this year we have not one, but two in the marquee, one for adults and one specifically for children.

We are also delighted to confirm that once again the popular Maypole Dancers from The Lee Common School will be performing, as will The Whitethorn Morris Dancers and the tug-of-war will take place during the afternoon – all staples of tradition for any village fête. The saxophone quartet, the Allsorts, will provide the wonderful musical backdrop to the fête and will get everybody tapping their feet.

As Allan mentioned in the last Newsletter, Liz Stewart-Liberty has

completed a special painting that she is kindly donating for a separate raffle, the proceeds of which will be donated towards the much needed new boiler for the church. Tickets for the painting are currently available from Liz Stewart-Liberty.

I can also reveal that we have been pledged some wonderful prizes for the raffle including our top prize which will undoubtedly be the drive of your life! This prize, which has generously been pledged by a resident of The Lee, is a fantastic four hour drive (conditions apply) in a brand new DB11 which will be one of the first of this new model produced by Aston Martin in September. This magnificent car has a twin turbo-charged 5.2 litre V12 engine and, as the most powerful DB production model in Aston Martin's history, is guaranteed to thrill all your senses.



As we grow closer to the date of the fête, when all the fundamental elements are in place, the committee now turns to you to ask for your much needed help.

Firstly, we need all you wonderful bakers to start thinking about what delights you can provide for the cake stall and the tea tent. I'm sure that people travel for miles for these legendary homemade delights so we cannot disappoint them.

We always know we can rely on your generosity for the Tombola and this year is no exception. We need

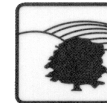
donations for the Tombola, either prizes for adults or children, and once again we will be placing a collection box in The Shop @ The Lee from the end of May or you can call Claire on 837842 to arrange a collection time to suit you.

Are you starting to think about a spring clean? Do you have any items which could be donated to the Bric-a-brac or book stalls? Do you have any CDs or vinyl records that you no longer want?

Can you spare some time on the day of the fête to help erect the marquees, put up bunting, man the car park or a stall? We can never have too many helpers for these vital jobs. If you can spare any time at all, please call Rod Neal on 837264. Your help could make the difference between a great event and a fantastic one!



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Right time, right place

By Revd David Burgess

History tells us that the Roman Emperor Nero liked the sound of his own voice. So much so, in fact, that whenever he spoke – lengthily – in public, his audience was literally a captive one. They weren't allowed to leave until he'd finished.

So an audience with the Emperor could turn into a real trial. Records of the time describe women having to stay on to give birth while Nero was in full flow, and of men pretending to die so that they could be carried out of the auditorium!

History also tells us that there was a darker side to Nero's reign, of course. His was the Roman world, that strange mix of efficiency and depravity, of civilisation and utter cruelty.

And it was into that Roman-dominated world that the Christian Church was born. Admittedly, some 25 years were to pass before the Church experienced the full oppression of the Empire at Nero's hands, but it seems that spiritual and secular authority were destined to meet headlong from a very early stage.

In fact, the Church came to life in a time and place that was a ferment of religious, political and intellectual activity. Jesus and the early church



leaders, especially Paul, encountered the clash on a daily basis. Such was the extent of this cross-cultural rubbing of shoulders that it was even possible in a first-century imperial backwater like Palestine. The Book of Acts shows us that a whole range of nationalities was gathered together at about nine o'clock one Pentecost morning in Jerusalem in the mid-30s AD.

I don't think that the time and place were coincidental. God knew what he was doing. Lest we should dismiss too much of the ancient world as 'primitive', we should remember that the influence of the Greeks and Romans and the legacy of other cultures had produced a sophisticated system of trade, transport and communication throughout the known world. A common trade language – 'koiné' Greek, a stripped-down version of classical Greek – was universally spoken and understood. It happens also to be the language in which the New Testament was written.

Sophisticated, yes – but not overly so. Civilisation was still basic and down-to-earth enough to rely on spoken and written communication, on the person-to-person relaying of facts, belief, and opinion, or of more considered discourses in the carefully-crafted written word. A personal God had ensured that the Good News of his Son's death and resurrection was personally communicated in an environment which was neither too primitive nor over-advanced, but just right.

And communicated it was; explosively so, in fact. It was always going to be seen as a threat to Judaism

– after all, it grew from it, frequently challenged it, and drew adherents from it. But to be seen as a threat to the Empire within a quarter of a century, it must have been growing at a phenomenal rate.

They would have been heady days; exhilarating and terrifying in turn. Early Christianity had a razor-sharp cutting edge which we in the 21st-century West only see today at second-hand and in distant places. This isn't necessarily all bad; we have a long-established tradition of Christian ministry and service, which at its best provides a developed, mature perspective on God and the world.

The mature and youthful church alike, though, each needs to look back to its roots – to remind itself of a God who has always acted at the right time and in the right place, and who did so spectacularly on the day of Pentecost,

Services for May

St John the Baptist

1 st 8:00am	HC	Revd P Lewis
10:00am	AA	Lee Common Methodist
5 th 10:00am	HC	Revd Tim Yates
8 th 10:00am	PC	Ascension Day Revd A Davies
15 th 10:00am	M	Rogation Lay leader Pentecost
22 nd 10:00am	PC	Revd P Lewis
29 th 10:00am		Joint service at Cholesbury

Service Key:

HC	Holy Communion (said)
PC	Parish Communion (sung)
AA	All age
M	Matins

Contacts: Vicar: The Revd David Burgess (01494 837315). Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Tony Eccleston (07777 640386) Churchwardens: Roderick Neal (01494 837264) and Trevor Pearce (01494 837601). Vergers: Bill Pearce (01494 785191). Treasurer: David Stephenson (01494 867617).

Methodist Church

1 st 10:00am	Joint All Age Worship at Lee Common
8 th 3:00pm	Revd Anne Ellis
15 th 3:00pm	Revd Anne Ellis
22 nd 3:00pm	HC Revd Vincent Jambawa
29 th 10:30am	Circuit Service at Little Chalfont

We have a **special coffee morning** on 7th May 10:30 am - 12 noon in aid of Christian Aid and fresh water for Uganda, when there will be **plants, cakes** etc. for sale. Please come and support these worthy causes. All welcome.

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One flew over the cuckoo's nest - part two

By Jo Boon

Remember where our heroine was last month; waiting for a 'lobotomy'!

Surely someone would have come in to discuss it all with me – surely I would have to sign a form or something. I rang the bell...

But nobody came. Perhaps I should make a 'phone call – who to? The Court of Human Rights? The CAB? Time would seem to be of the essence and all that would take too long. Perhaps I should just ring for a



cab and go home, but I didn't know where my outside clothes were and standing outside in my night attire would seem to be a confirmation of the problem. My lunch came and went untasted.

I was just practicing deep breathing when at precisely ten past two the door flew open and in came a care assistant dragging a huge machine on castors with a cable and plug trailing behind it, Oh my God, I thought, it's the lobotomy and she's going to do it. She didn't inspire confidence – her hair appeared to have been styled by an egg whisk and she had a wall eye. "What's that?" I said – pointing to the machine. "It's luvly is this," she said, "I luvit. I brought it all the way down from oopstairs". "Yes," I said, "but what is it?" "They won't let me do it with normal one," she said, "but they let me do it with this," and gave me a conspiratorial wink. "Do what?" I squeaked. "Teke yer blood pressure," she said as if to a child. She pulled the machine close to the bed, pressed the plug into the panel behind it, wound a black rubber bandage very badly round my upper arm and pulled down a lever. For a long moment nothing happened then

suddenly the bandage tightened and my right arm shot up with a great force to the ceiling. She peered at the dial "Nothing appened," she said, "It didn't register – I'll ave to do it again". Same procedure, same reaction, negative result. "Ah know," she said, "it don't like right arms, ah'll ave to do it on the left." "No you won't," I said, "I'm not going through that again." "Ooooh," she said, "ah'll ave to tell Sister" "You can," I said. "I've already got one arm out of action, I'm not ending up with two". She rushed out of the room and reappeared, dragging Sister with her and explaining what had happened. "Oh dear," said Sister, "you'd better try it on me then".

I watched with barely contained glee as Sister went through the preliminaries and then suddenly gave me a salute that any self-respecting Nazi would have been proud of. "Ouch," said Sister, "that hurt." Loopy Loo peered at the dial and said, "It worked that time – shall I ave another go on Mrs Boon?" "No," said Sister, "Mrs Boon doesn't need her blood pressure taken" and rubbing our arms we watched her drag her infernal machine out of the door in search of another victim.

"Oh well," said Sister, pushing herself away from the wall with a sigh, "I must be getting back." "Just before you go, Sister," I said, "should I be expecting any more, er, interventions in the next couple of days?" "Well physio, of course, but that won't start until tomorrow". "I just thought I heard you mention my name on the telephone this morning in some connection," I said. "This morning?" she said vaguely. "Well, I phoned Phlebotomy – about your blood, you know, but everything is perfectly fine," and with a tired smile she left the room.

I suddenly felt terribly tired and lay back against my pillows. This place is an absolute madhouse I thought as I began to doze off, but at least it isn't boring. I'm quite looking forward to tomorrow.

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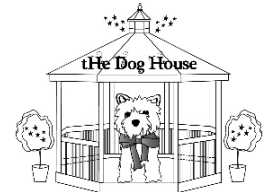
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The Lee Flower Show

16th July 2016

By Jonathan Batten

Soon after you read this there will be a reassuring thud on your doormat as your personal copy of the schedule for this year's flower show is delivered through your letter box.

It's a brightly coloured, flowery looking book so take your time to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest it to see which classes you and your family can enter.

How about your vegetables, fruit or cultivated flowers?

If you like pot plants, but haven't already got a prize specimen, no worries just purchase one by 16th May, feed it, talk to it, nurture it and enter it.

Come on you budding flower arrangers the floral art class is there for the taking!

Cookery classes are open to all – you don't have to have appeared on 'Masterchef' to win!

Handicrafts give scope for all types of skills and the photographic subjects are a challenge to all.

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

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

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!

If you prefer to download visit the village website: www.thelee.org.uk and follow the links to the flower show pages.

and later... live with Pop Culture

Tickets are still only £20 each and will go on sale from 6th June.

One hour or one cake... or both!

By Kelly Stone

Kelly and Claire once again require plenty of volunteers to help create Cream Teas at The Lee Flower Show on Saturday 16th July. Give them just one hour of your time and, if you can, please bake a cake for serving in the 'pop up café' on the day.

Last year was our busiest – we served a continuous stream of 800 people throughout the afternoon with a

mouth-watering array of over 100 cakes, 100 scones, sandwiches and savouries. Home bakers of all ages made wonderful creations in advance for us.

Claire Wise explains: "It was a brilliant team effort – and we know our success was only possible because we were helped by so many cheerful volunteers throughout the day".

Setting up, serving and clearing happens from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm. All we ask for is just one hour of your time ensuring you too can enjoy the show.

If you've helped before, please email me now for more information, or to let me know your availability, at kelly.stone3@btinternet.com or sign up at the village shop to become part of the team.

If you are new to the village – put the date in your diary and sign up too. The Lee Flower Show is the biggest event in our village calendar – and helping serve teas is a great way to meet and get to know your new neighbours.

The Lee Parish Council news

By Jo Jordan, Parish Clerk

WW2 Searchlight site

The Clerk has received a second request for information about the location of a WW2 searchlight which apparently was sited in The Lee. This request is from someone in Bungay in Suffolk and he suggests that there was a searchlight

on the common. There must be someone who knows about this searchlight so if anyone has any information on the site of this searchlight please let the clerk know so that we can assist the person with his research.

Allotments

All the allotments are now rented out and we would like to wish the allotment holders a successful and enjoyable season.

Planning

The following planning application has been decided:

2015/2292 Woodside, Village Road – installation of a new sewage plant – conditional permission granted.

The following planning applications have been withdrawn:

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2015/1450 Kingsgate Farm – proposed construction of 5 bungalows. 2016/2390 Hay Barn, Swan Bottom – front extension.

Annual Parish Meeting

All residents are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday 10th May in the Parish Hall from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. This meeting provides an opportunity for residents to discuss current issues affecting the parish, to air their views and to ask questions.

A Parish Council meeting will follow this parish meeting. You may, of course, also stay for the Parish Council meeting if you wish – we look forward to seeing you there.

Pothole reporting

We recognise that Bucks County Council is under great financial pressure at the moment and that it needs to prioritise expenditure in all areas. When it comes to road maintenance and repairs, the best way of ensuring that problems get reviewed quickly by Transport for Bucks (the highways authority) is through their on-line reporting system at www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport/tell-tfb/ or to telephone 01296 382416 (Monday - Thursday

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9:00 am - 5:30 pm; Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm).

If you consider the problem to be dangerous or an emergency, you should telephone as above or, out of hours and weekends, 01296 486630.

It would also be useful if the Parish Council knew that you had reported the problem and the reference number you are given. Please email this information to the Clerk at theleeparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 837175.

Many journeys

By Reina Free

Because of my Kings Lane stories you may have come to the conclusion that I am among other things a true country woman.

I have been given the gift to see all kinds of things big, small and very small in detail. It never ceases to amaze and give me joy. It's always new!

Even some parts of the hedgerows are already in blossom. I have spotted large flocks of small birds and my neighbour, Sandra, who has a great knowledge of birds told me they could be siskins or bramblings migrating from the southern countries to countries in the north.

Before long the swallows will be returning all the way from Africa. I love to see them flying low over the field catching small insects for their hungry young. Greenfinches I have not seen for a very long time.

Where have they gone?

I have been watching on the television many thousands of people

migrating from war torn countries like Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan for safety. Or from other countries for a better standard of living.

Of course these two migrations cannot be compared; the world of man and the world of creatures. Will the world ever learn? Has wisdom died with everyday common sense?

"Do to others as you would like others to do to you." Is this not the time to be kind and compassionate?

We have all become neighbours of one another.

Now something different and closer to home, HS2! I am angry, very angry. What an incredible immoral waste of money. However for what it is worth I think it will not happen. There are already too many problems big and small and more to come. Yet...?

In June the people of the UK will be given the opportunity to vote either to stay in the EU or to leave, to be an independent Great Britain again. I have lived in England for well over 50 years. I always say that the British are an island people with island characteristics with unusual strengths in times of crisis and great talents in many field like medicine, science engineering and the arts.

They also have a unique sense of humour often misunderstood by non-British people like myself.

Sadly also some of the unique Britishness has gone or is hidden.

Through the years I have become a kind of a 'nationality mongrel', in many ways still very Dutch but also British.

I am proud to live in England. I have a great love for the British, I greatly respect the Queen. You bet for what I will vote for!

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Another Easter at The Shop

By Symeon Economu

For a while now we at the Shop have been thinking about trying a themed weekend.

We considered that spring might be a good time and the theme options included BBQs and Italian or Greek food. As it happens, the Greek Orthodox Easter this year falls on Sunday 1st May, so I thought I would make my father proud and try a weekend of Greek, or more accurately, Mediterranean, inspired foods.

So, on Saturday 30th April, possibly spilling over to Sunday 1st May, we will have a range of Greek foods on offer. This will include traditional Cypriot Easter flaounes, (cheese, egg and mint pastries, as seen recently on The Great British Bake Off), proper olives, koupes, (cracked wheat shells with minced meat and parsley filing, admittedly more Turkish than Greek), olive bread, the inevitable taramasalata, village halloumi, maybe some camel meat sausages (!) and, of course, authentic baklava cakes dripping in honey. Everything will be sourced the

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day before from Greek and Turkish shops in London.

Please come and try a few things, and, if it is a success, we will try other themes. Any ideas?

History first-hand

By Anthea Hartley

Many of the more senior members of our community in and around The Lee have witnessed, or participated in, historical events that most of us have only read about in our history books. Whether they be political, military, sporting or social events, events connected with the arts and media or encounters with significant historical characters – there is a wealth of fascinating experiences waiting to be brought to life and described, first-hand, by these eye witnesses to our nation's history.

Each month we will feature a senior member of our community who will recount an experience of significant, historical importance that they have witnessed prior to 1960. If you, a member of your family, a neighbour or a friend would like to contribute an article which you think would be of interest, please contact me and we can discuss your story.

Delve into your memory, re-visit your youth and share the most historically significant event during your lifetime. This idea was inspired by the wonderful stories and accounts told by the guests at our 'Contact the Elderly' tea parties – these eye witnesses truly bring our history to life.

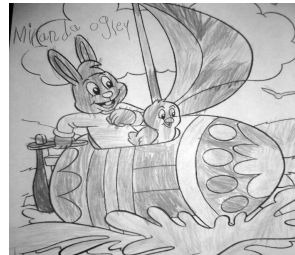
Please contact me on 837372 or e-mail bassibones@yahoo.co.uk

Prospect House Surgery

By Lynda Cooke

The Friends of Prospect House Surgery are a very informal small and friendly group of patients who try to raise funds for additional equipment for the surgery and are always looking for others to join them.

However, the purpose of an Easter colouring competition held recently at the surgery for children under 11 years old was not to raise funds but merely to create awareness of the existence of the Friends Group as well as providing some fun for the participants. Eventually four very creatively completed colourings were put on display in the surgery and their owners were awarded prizes of an Easter egg, kindly donated by the Co-op on Station Approach for which we thank them.



The Friends will be continuing their fund-raising efforts later on this year. In the meantime there is a second-hand book stall permanently in the surgery which has proved a great success; so please do bring in anything which you think others might enjoy reading!

If you would like to become involved with The Friends you can fill out one of the forms on or near the book shelf and hand to anyone at reception or telephone Lynda on 01494 864413.

Dancers past still haunt the Guild Room

From The Lee Newsletter:
May 2003

By Pat Le Neve Foster

I was filled with nostalgia when I read Mike Senior's suggestion in the April newsletter that Friday night dancing in the Guild Room should be resumed. Sadly, since those nights the Guild Room has been gentrified and is no longer friendly to heavy boots and cigarette ends.

However, do not think that there is no longer dancing in the Guild Room on Friday nights. The dancers are here: not intrusive, like ghosts, but phantoms who can only be seen should one wish it.

Here are the farmers and lusty farm workers, the local youths and girls in their pretty frocks, the cheery cricketers and the wistful wallflowers. But the most poignant of all are the soldiers on leave during the two World wars, worn by battle and disillusioned by war, hoping for gaiety, laughter or perhaps romance. Here they dance wildly, perhaps for the last time: young men dancing towards their doom.

So let us not disturb these phantom dancers but leave them to re-live their lives, in their own 'haunted ballroom'.

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

Friday 6th. The Lee Walking Group - starting at 9:30 am.

Saturday 7th. Special coffee morning at Lee Common Methodist Church. All welcome.

Tuesday 10th. A talk about **Simply Walk**. 11:00 am, Great Missenden Library. Contact Fiona Broadbent for more information on 01494 475267 or email simplywalks@buckscc.gov.uk

Tuesday 10th. Parish Annual Meeting. 6:30 to 8:00 pm. An opportunity for you to raise and have discussed, parish-related issues. See page 18.

Tuesday 10th. The Lee Parish Council Meeting. 8:00 pm at the Parish Hall.

Thursday 12th. CRAG meeting at the Parish Hall: 8:00 pm

Sunday 15th. Beacon Community Choir performing Misa Criolla and

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

Songs of Sanctuary. 6:00 pm at St Mary the Virgin, Ivinghoe. Tickets £10 (children free) from Lindsay Hewlett on 01296 660670, email hewlett@tinternet.com or on the door.

Wednesday 18th. 'Frankenstein' – A Live Royal Ballet screening from the Royal Opera House, showing at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre; Elgiva Theatre, Chesham and Cineworld Cinema, Wycombe.

Saturday 21st. The Lee Old Church Concert. Harpist Melissa Parmar. See April Newsletter.

Coming Soon

Saturday 4th June. Coffee Morning at Lee Common Methodist Church.

Saturday 11th June. Open garden in aid of Scannappeal at Garden Cottage, Cherry Tree Lane, Lee Common: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm.

Saturday 18th June. The Lee Church Fête. See pages 10-11.

Sunday 26th June. Vocal Lees presents a selection of light classical pieces, jazz and swing: 4:00 pm at The Old Church, The Lee. See page 10.

Saturday 16th July. The Lee Flower Show and Dance. See pages 16-17.

Cricketers clear up

By Trish Swain

Sunday 10th April dawned bright and sunny, the birds were in full song and the hearts of cricketers across The Lee were beating that bit faster, not as a result

of indoor winter nets, but at the prospect of the sound of leather on willow on warm summer afternoons.

No one had told Jack Frost though, and he had paid a visit overnight.

Fortunately, the frost soon melted and a willing band of volunteers gathered at the ground to prepare for the summer ahead. The sound of strimmers filled the air, debris and litter were raked up, sheds were sorted and refelted, whilst the youngsters found bats, balls and stumps and commenced an impromptu game of cricket.

They were only hindered by the exceptionally long grass and bumpy outfield; the wet winter has delayed some essential preparations and so with great regret the first game of the season on 17th April had to be cancelled.

The new chairman, Patrick Walsh was heartened by the turnout, especially the presence of three former colts, now returning as adults to give something back; a great example.



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 theleeenewsletter@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 Ogle, Viv Robins, Trish Swain, Colin Sully and Barnaby Usborne.

Printed by Strongs: 01442 878592.

To book the Parish Hall or Scout Hut

'phone Anne Barnett on 837796

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