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NEWSLETTER

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

October 2016

From the Editor

By Peter Archer

Back in January, I suspect none of us would have predicted the events that have taken place during the last nine months. We have witnessed quite extraordinary political changes which will make an impact on all our lives in the years ahead

It is therefore perhaps appropriate for the Newsletter this month to include the memories of those who have been through previous times of danger and change. Indeed, we have a strong historical element to several of the articles this month.

For some time now we have been planning to reintroduce a seasonal article on farming in and around The Lee. The intention is to invite our local farmers to take it in turns to write an article and I am delighted that we start with a piece from Ellie Crawley-White.

We still have much to look forward to in The Lee as winter approaches, ranging from Bonfire Night to the Newsletter Dinner. Details of these and other events are given in Coming Soon.

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

Cream Tea – a special occasion

By Charlotte Reynolds

This is to say a HUGE Thank You to all who baked, served, washed-up, ate and drank their way through the recent Cream Tea Event at Kingswood House. This end-of-summer celebration in aid of St John the Baptist church was a resounding success, with just over £670 raised.

Thanks in no small part go to Tim and Judy Hart who opened their garden, Claire Wise who led the team on the day, Bette Brumpton who organised the





fabulous music and every one of you who offered help and time and money!

It proved to be a wonderfully cheerful and sunny afternoon, a real community get together and celebration.

Thank you one and all.

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Moments in history recalled

By Mike Saunders

As a former resident of Swan Bottom until the early 1970s – my parents lived in the village until the 1990s – I was interested in Anthea Hartley's article in the May Newsletter asking readers to recall the most historically significant events of their lifetime.

I can straight away think of four in The Lee. In chronological order, the first was the provision in 1948 of mains electricity to Swan Bottom, Kings Ash and other out-lying hamlets. This made a considerable change to life: no longer was there the worry of a fire caused by a candle or a knocked-over oil lamp. Light could just be obtained by turning on a switch. We forget about the wonder of this in our modern world of technology.

The second memorable event was the death of King George VI. I remember this was announced while my class was in Lee Common School Hall for 'Singing Together' on the wireless. Suddenly the programme was halted and an announcer came on to say, "This is London," and went on to state that the King had died in his sleep and all government offices, schools etc. were to close for the day. We were all sent home, much to the consternation of our mothers. It seemed to be expected that a parent would be at home to receive us!

The third event was the death of Ivor-Stewart Liberty and the sale of

many of the cottages and houses which were part of the estate. Every house it seemed had a 'For Sale' notice outside. My parents' property and several others owned by various members of the Saunders family were the exceptions, although they were facing their own problems over ownership following family deaths.

The fourth was when the new Misbourne School was opened in Great Missenden and Lee Common School was no longer an 'Elementary'. I only attended the Misbourne for seven months, having passed the examination to go to Chesham Technical School.

If I can just mention something I noticed when looking through the article about the Liberty influence on The Lee Village website. The large stone on the brick plinth was actually moved to the site by my great-grandfather's traction engine driven by one Johner Pearce. The stones are in fact glacial erratics and were uncovered in a field near Lee Gate. I wonder if the others are still visible as they were in my childhood. No doubt the Lee Manor estate paid well for this job, which was a bit outside the normal field of agricultural contracting.

Finally, I must also mention that my great-great-grandfather was the landlord at the original Cock and Rabbit which was located on the corner of The Lee green where the war memorial stands. I have a photograph of him sitting outside, with his name on the board as licensee. Incidentally, this was found in the barn at Bassibones, at that time known as Judges Barn.

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It's a farming life for me

By Ellie Crawley-White

How nice it was to be asked to contribute towards The Lee Newsletter, and to kick off I thought I'd say a few words about what I'm all about!! I'm sure many of you have noticed me trundling through the village in my red tractor with my furry friend, Ozzy, and it's always nice to get a smile and a wave – especially from the children who love to see a tractor.

My family have been farming at Chartridge End Farm for nearly 200 years so I consider myself a true local! We are very privileged to farm in such a beautiful part of the country and, although certainly not the best soils or large fields to work with, as my Dad says “You always have the view” and how right he is. Farm-mad from birth, unlike my siblings, poor Dad got stuck with a girl but I think I've turned out alright in the end and in partnership with my lovely husband Stuart the farm continues to improve and hopefully safeguard a profitable farm business for our own family to take on should they wish.

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So what is it about this life that I love? Certainly, when it's tipping down and you're trudging about knee-deep in mud or a reluctant cow has just booted you in the leg and you're not sure whether to laugh or cry, there are times you wonder why are you living this mad life! Indeed, I'm sure many of my friends think I'm quite crazy when I'm regaling them with my day's antics whilst they've been at a very comfortable coffee morning and seen the latest range at M&S, but I can honestly say I wouldn't want to do anything else.



Firstly, there are the people of the agricultural industry and how lovely they are. If you go anywhere and find a farmer you can have the most delightful conversation with him or her as if you'd known them your whole life. There are some real characters who bring such colour into a world becoming quite void of 'difference' at times. Beware – they like to speak their mind, though, but you'll know exactly where you are with them and there are no frills or pretentiousness. Kind, generous and will always help a fellow farmer in difficulty, they truly are a great bunch. Also a wealth of knowledge can be learned just by listening. Whether it be the acquired wisdom of the older generation or the

new concepts being practised and preached by the up-and-coming, so much can be gained just by listening to each other and – as I often tell the children – you never stop learning till the day you die.

Then there is the beauty we work in every day. How wonderful it is to have a freedom in life where you are not restricted to four walls. What a privilege to work and care for the land as my forebearers have done before me. There is so much focus on material things today but if we all opened our eyes, there is so much available to everyone to enjoy in the countryside. With that, there should also be a great deal of respect for the land, the animals and the people who work there because without the input of the farmer the countryside would certainly look a very different place. It needs to be managed and there needs to be a balance between nature and man. This is something that has been going on since time began and is an integral part of being a farmer.

I get great satisfaction from what I do. There is no better feeling than seeing a new-born calf take its first stumbling steps despite the fact you may have been up all night to help the cow. A sick animal that you have been treating makes a full recovery and

returns to the herd. A freshly-ploughed field with straight furrows gleaming in the sunshine or, as we have seen much of lately, a newly-mown field with all that straggly grass now gathered up neatly into sweet-smelling swaths. No two days are ever the same and as each year brings new challenges they are met with the unrelenting strength of the farmer who takes it all in their stride. This job involves being somewhat of a multi-tasker. Most weeks can involve being a vet, mechanic, plumber, electrician, welder, accountant or general labourer and the ability to mend a machine using a few bits of baler twine and some bits and bobs off the workshop floor. It's a bit like being part of the A Team!

So for me it's a life destined to be spent in grubby overalls – but I wouldn't have it any other way.

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Dark days in wartime Holland

By Reina Free

As children living in the security of our parents' home we were not aware at first of what was happening all around us but that was to change very quickly.

The German forces demanded that all radios had to be handed in to prevent the Dutch people receiving news about the war via the BBC News. Father hid our radio underneath the staircase and every night the neighbours came to listen to the latest news which started with the Morse code signal, V for victory.

But there were other means to keep the people informed. British planes dropped small booklets over fields and meadows for the people to collect and pass the news on.

The Germans would try and interfere with the radio signals by dropping black and silver strips similar to tin foil.

Of course there was also the Resistance, delivering, in the dark of night, news sheets on very thin paper

paid for by those who received them. I kept ours hidden in the clothes cupboard but mother found them and burned them, afraid the Germans would find them. But I kept a few and still have them to this very day.

I remember our neighbour, an elderly woman, hiding a Jewish family in her loft, just like Anne Frank and her family in Amsterdam, and a young man, a student, under her stairs as young men were being rounded up and sent to work in Germany. Father was always standing-by to cross the canal with them and hide them in his factory, for the Germans were always searching houses for Jews or forbidden items. They would ransack our belongings, shout and pull open cupboards. I remember my sister hiding underneath the bed. When my uncle Willem said there was nothing here, he was pushed aside. "Ein moment bitte!" was their reply. Those were the days and we children were terrified.

But there was much more to come and these experiences and memories are with me to this very day.

Roving supper

By Pat Lea

Just a reminder – the Roving Supper will be held at The Lee Parish Hall on Saturday 19th November at 7:30 pm. The cost is £22.50 per head to cover all food and drinks. Please make cheques payable to The Lee Parish Hall.

We need people to act as hosts for the main course and others to provide canapes, desserts and raffle prizes.

Please ring me on 837237 or email patlea@aol.com

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Your letters

To the Editor

What a turnout to our Italian and Greek food event! You really make it all worthwhile, so many thanks from all of us who are involved with The Shop.



Selecting the stuff to sell at these events has been a bit 'hit and miss' for us, especially in the early days. We would really like to hear from you about what you liked and if there is anything that was missing. More importantly, please tell us if there was anything that you bought that you didn't enjoy so much. A bit of honing here and there can only make the next one better!

Looking ahead, we're planning a Christmas themed event in November and, needless to say, we will be hoping to take your orders for Christmas Eve – more details nearer the time. Thanks again.
Symeon Economou
The Lee Shop

To the Editor:

After being absent last summer a pair of Spotted Flycatchers returned to their breeding territory in our's and neighbouring gardens from their wintering grounds in Africa on 16th June. Always noisy and excited on returning they soon quieten down, by 19th July they were busy feeding young in the nest, on 1st August four chicks fledged, the purpose of their brief visit achieved, then back on the return flight to Africa. Amazing when you think about how they navigate back and forth to our little patch year after year.

Instantly recognisable by its fly-catching feeding method, as the bird perches on the outer most dead twig of a branch, spies a passing insect, flies out, grabs it, returns back to same or nearby dead twig and waits for the next

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passer-by. If you are within ear shot it's possible to hear the bill snap shut on the insect.

The Lee seems to be a bit of a strong-hold for these dainty little grey birds, having two other regular territories, (though seem to be unoccupied this summer). The birds are scarce in Bucks with only about twenty pairs recorded breeding every summer.

I've attached a couple of images of our birds.

Don Stone
Sly Corner

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History at first hand No. 3

Nursing the D-Day survivors, 1944

By Anthea Hartley

Whilst having tea with an older member of our community the other day, I asked her to describe to me what it was like to be a member of the nursing profession during the 1940s and throughout the Second World War. She asked me not to reveal her name for privacy reasons.

"It was 1944 and I was in my third year as a student nurse working in a hospital north of London. We lived in a lovely, purpose built nurses' home close to the hospital each with our own bedroom. We worked long hours, six days a week and our wages were very meagre after our board and lodging had been deducted – so little, in fact, that we were paid cash in hand.

In May of that year about eight of my colleagues and I were warned to be prepared to leave the hospital at short

notice although we had no idea why. We were to pack our bags with our uniform and 'mufti' – after twelve aprons, dresses, caps, collars and cuffs, there was precious little room for 'mufti'! One evening I was just starting a night shift when we were told that we would be leaving that same morning at 8:00 am – I worked my night shift until 2:00 am and then prepared to leave the hospital early that same morning. A coach arrived to collect us and we started our journey through London collecting a number of nurses from other hospitals en-route. Our journey took us to the South Coast where we learned that we would be nursing the survivors of The Normandy Landings which took place on 6th June 1944. The premises had previously been a mental hospital so on our arrival we busied ourselves giving it a thorough clean, making and airing the beds and preparing to receive the casualties. It was two or three weeks before the first patients arrived in char-a-bancs that had been converted into ambulances to cope with the aftermath of D-Day. The patients were mostly English and required general nursing to treat their various injuries but they did not spend very long in the hospital, the doodle



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bugs were raining down along the coast and the patients were moved as quickly as possible to the safety of hospitals further inland.

My nursing colleagues and I remained at the hospital until the last of the casualties had been transported to safer locations and then we too returned to our various hospitals where we continued our general nursing training.

There were no antibiotics in those days but we did have penicillin. We made the dressings by hand and then sterilised them in the operating theatre's sterilization unit. Cleaning and dressing wounds was our priority in the treatment of injuries. Anaesthetics were administered by a doctor dripping chloroform onto a piece of gauze which was held over the

patient's nose and mouth. I remember one time when the surgeon had to shout at the doctor to wake her up because she too was inhaling the fumes of the chloroform and was beginning to fall asleep! Often GPs would carry out the more simple operations but surgeons had to be brought out from the London hospitals to carry out the more complex procedures. My nursing career spanned many, many years and I always loved my job."

If you have a story to tell, please contact Anthea Hartley: telephone 01494 837372 or e-mail: bassibones@yahoo.co.uk

Chiltern Ridges news



By County Cllr Tricia Birchley

'Bucks is Brilliant' said the Bucks Examiner in early September! The pass rates at A level and GCSE were excellent, and whilst Dr Challoners Grammar had 100% pass rate at A* to C, the upper schools, including Chiltern Hills Academy in Chesham, improved their results too. These results bucked the national trend which saw lower grades this year and will help so many of our young people pursue their chosen careers.

Buckinghamshire also does well with the 9th lowest rate of overweight children, the fifth healthiest population and comes second best out of 150 local authorities with just 11% of

people smoking. I could also add that we are amongst the best in terms of physical activity and are fortunate to have such wonderful countryside for our leisure activities.

On 1st September I visited the Bucks County Show in my role as Vice-Chairman of the Council and met many of the sponsors, competitors and exhibitors. It was wonderful weather for the show bringing out a large crowd who enjoyed spectacular rides, an impressive cattle show and, of the 300 owners who entered their horses, some qualified for the Royal International Horse Show. I have a spare show catalogue if anyone wants it.

Another important event on 1st September was the arrival of Rachael Shimmin, the new Chief Executive of the County Council. I met Rachael at the selection stage at Missenden Abbey and welcome her appointment, with a background in children's social care. She comes south to take up the appointment and appears very competent. She will be warmly welcomed as we debate the issue of a Unitary Council for Buckinghamshire this autumn with local communities.

Last but by no means least, we have to hope that the Government will now have a change of heart on HS2.

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The news that the House of Lords does not support the long tunnel is highly disappointing and the County Council is working closely with local action groups to ensure the best possible mitigation measures are provided and that our local road network is maintained during the construction phase. Many of us have fought it and we have to hope that HS2's proposal to get Royal Assent in December is consigned to history.

I am out and about regularly looking at road defects with John Lowe, the Amersham Depot Manager, discussing footpath problems and helping people to access social services. Please let me know if I can help you!

You can contact me on 01296 651823 or at pbirchley@bucksc.gov.uk

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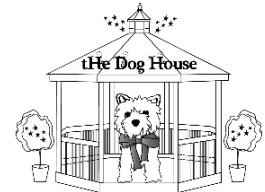
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Conversations with the Revd David Burgess

No. 4: Heaven

In a series of articles for The Lee Newsletter, the Revd David Burgess is interviewed by Tony Brignull, an old friend and lifelong Buddhist. In this piece they explore the concept of 'heaven' for the 21st century.

Tony Brignull David, the idea of heaven is central to Jesus' teaching. He's always telling us to make it our priority. But what does heaven mean for an affluent society in a technological age?

David Burgess I always come back to a permanent relationship with God founded on His unconditional love for us.

T.B. In this life or the next?

D.B. There has been a promise from Old Testament times, that when our time on earth is over there'll be another life, not in the sense of reincarnation, but as a new beginning, a re-creation.

T.B. How does this refer to heaven?

D.B. Christ and other teachers assert that time is finite and will end, then what is imperfect will be eliminated and perfection will endure forever.

T.B. David, this might seem a bit 'jam tomorrow' for those whose idea of heaven is, for instance, sitting on the balcony of the Gritti Hotel in Venice sipping cold white wine as the sun goes down over the Grand Canal.

D.B. I must say that sounds heavenly to me too, but we have to come back from holidays to everyday life. This is



when the relationship with God is so very helpful – in little humdrum problems as well as the enormous stresses and distresses which afflict rich and poor alike.

T.B. The word heaven is mentioned twice in the Lord's prayer and the kingdom (of heaven) twice more. Jesus instructs his disciples – and us – to seek the kingdom of heaven before anything else, and all these things will be added to us. Isn't he saying that heaven is available to us right now, today?

D.B. As I see it, he's saying that heaven on earth is available and can be sought and found in this life, but that our understanding of a relationship with God is imperfect and will only become perfect in the next life.

T.B. Whereas I see the 'new life' beginning as soon as we make a sincere attempt to find it.

D.B. What we experience in this life is, if you like, a foretaste of the heaven to come in the next.

T.B. The number of times Jesus refers to heaven is quite remarkable.

D.B. It illustrates how important he

feels it to be. In so many parables he tries to show us what heaven is like, a grain of mustard seed or a treasure buried in a field, for example.

T.B. But what about all these other things that will be given to us if we make a relationship with God our priority?

D.B. It's part of the bargain, the contract: if we put God first, our father in his love for us will look after our needs. This doesn't imply a passport to worldly riches or untold success, but that we'll be given what we need. However, it may not always be what we like, or when we want it.

T.B. David, I still feel that if Christianity is to speak to people of the new millennium it will have to redefine what heaven means - or perhaps, rediscover it?

D.B. I prefer *rediscover* because it suggests seeing afresh, as when a venerable building is hosed down, the grime of centuries removed and the architect's original intentions are revealed in their original glory.

T.B. In these conversations so far, David, I've been trying to find common ground between our two traditions. Would you agree that if we seek and find heaven now, which Buddhists try to do in every moment which presents itself, then, when the body dies this heaven will continue uninterrupted?

D.B. Yes, because the relationship of love with God is eternal and once found cannot be lost again – unless we, ourselves forsake it.

T.B. I think we're edging towards a happy agreement. Having spoken of heaven this time shall we discuss sin and hell next?

D.B. Certainly.

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Services for October

St John the Baptist

2 nd 8:00am	HC	Rev D Burgess Old Church
10:00am	AA	Mr Tony Eccleston
5 th 10:00am	HC	Rev D Burgess
9 th 10:00am	PC	Rev I Cornish
16 th 10:00am	Matins	Lay Leader
23 rd 10:00am	PC	Rev D Burgess
30 th 10:00am		Joint Four-Parish Communion Rev D Burgess with guest speaker Ms Sian Chattle, representing the Lindengate Charity

HC Holy Communion (said)

MHC Midweek HC (said)

PC Parish Communion (sung)

AA All-age service

8:00 am services are in the Old Church.

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). *Verger:* Bill



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Methodist Church

2 nd 10:00am	AA	Joint Family Service at St John the Baptist
9 th 3:00pm		Gerald Tomkin Harvest
16 th 3:00pm		Celebration and Circuit Service. Revd Anne Ellis
23 rd 3:00pm	HC	Revd Stephen Watts
30 th 3:00pm		Jaqi Sheppard

Our next **Coffee Morning** is on
Saturday 1st October 10:30 am - 12
noon.

We welcome Revd Stephen Watts
who is being ordained, was Chief Inspector of
Police for Hammersmith.

We celebrate our **Harvest** on
Saturday 15th October 6:30/7:00 p.m.
If you wish to join us please contact
Jan Moseley 837594.

On Sunday 16th October we
launch our new **Circuit Charitable
Project**. For the next two years we
will support Lindengate – based at the
far end of World's End Garden
Centre. This is an organisation which
seeks to promote Health and Well-
being through Nature and
Horticulture. A speaker from
Lindengate will be with us on Sunday
16th October at 3:00 p.m. You are
welcome to join us.

St. Mary's, Ballinger

2nd 9:30am Holy Communion

HS2 update: October 2016

By Simon Morris, Chairman of CRAG

As an antidote to my rather
depressing article last month
about the lack of prospects for
our Long Tunnel proposal I want to
tell you the more positive story about
the threat to HS2 itself. After years in
which it has been difficult to excite the
Press about HS2 and its faults,
recently there has been an increasing
amount of Press coverage of criticism
of the entire HS2 scheme. Clearly
Theresa May's unexpected decision to
reassess the proposed Hinkley Point
nuclear power station has raised the
prospect of the Government
questioning the merits of HS2.

HS2: It's time to think again.



At the end of July, Ross Clark in the
Spectator wrote a critical article
comparing HS2 with the Hinkley Point
power station project stating that they
were both political “vanity projects” and
questioning their worth to the nation.

On 30th August Maggie Pagano in
The Times wrote an article citing five

reasons for HS2 to be stopped. They
were: its cost, estimated at £80billion;
it would enable a north to south brain
drain; it would involve decades of
disruption including the closure of the
M1 for a period and during these
decades she believed the North would
get relatively poorer and
unemployment there would increase; it
will not provide a “rib cage” including
connectivity between the major towns
in the North, but simply a second
“back bone” to the north (the first
being the east coast main line); and
finally that successful regional
development involved creating areas
where people could live and work in
the same or neighbouring towns so
they did not have to move if they
changed their jobs. This last point
refers to research in Germany and
Scandinavia on successful regional
development. Several of the above
points we have known for ages but it
is significant that The Times thought
that such criticism is now worth
writing about again.

The following day, Professor
Roderick Smith of the Future Railway
Research Centre, Imperial College,
published an article saying: “The project
has got out of control and it's not clear
what thinking is driving it.” Professor

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mikelake42@talktalk.net

Smith has in the past been a strong supporter of HS2. Then in early September Nigel Wilson, the Chief Executive of Legal and General, a big investor in infrastructure projects, called for the plug to be pulled on the "Three H's", Hinkley Point, Heathrow expansion and on HS2.

Add to the above critical comment the announcement in early September that Simon Kirby, the Chief Executive of HS2, had resigned then it is reasonable to conclude that the future of HS2 must be a little less certain. Simon Kirby was only appointed in June 2014 and his pay package at £750,000 per annum made him the highest paid civil servant in the UK. Joe Ruikin of Stop HS2 was quoted in The Telegraph as saying that HS2 was beset by major problems and he



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CHILTERN RIDGES HS2 ACTION GROUP

suggested that Kirby was "getting out before the true scale of the mess he has presided over is realised." If Theresa May does decide to review HS2 she might find good reason to cancel it or to "kick it into the long grass" being the way politicians tend to deal with such problems.

However, this may all be wishful thinking and, to end on more immediate prospects, there are two shorter tunnels, which would benefit the Chiltern AONB, that are being actively pursued at the moment. A shortened version of the REPA Tunnel is being proposed and would extend the bored tunnel from South Heath to Liberty Lane which is about 350 metres short of Leather Lane, REPA's original destination. The second is a proposal by Wendover for a mined tunnel from the north of Wendover to replace both the cut and cover tunnel running south of Wendover and the Small Dean Viaduct and would surface somewhere between Rocky Lane and Durham Farm. It is thought that these proposals might be able to overcome the Additional Provisions problems I described in the last Newsletter and if successful will certainly save more of the Chiltern AONB. We continue to seek ways we can raise the Long Tunnel and if both short tunnels were accepted the remaining gap would be less than three kilometres.

Meanwhile we should all try to put pressure on the politicians to take a fresh look at HS2 and persuade them it

is a very expensive project that will not achieve most of its original aims. There are much better ways of using the money to help the North. So do write letters to your MP and the Prime Minister.

A history of The Lee

By the Newsletter Editorial Team

Most people in The Lee will already have a copy: but, if you are new to the area or simply missed out last time, then you will be thrilled to know that our bumper booklet '*A History of The Lee: The story of a special Chiltern Parish*' is still available.

Featuring striking pictures by local photographer Pippa Hart, *A History of The Lee* explores some of the events, places and people that have helped shape the village we know and love, from Neolithic times to the twenty-first century.

For example, did you know that the first person to 'own' The Lee rode with William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings and has been immortalised on the Bayeux tapestry? Or that The Lee Old Church is the oldest standing building in the Chiltern District?

At the ridiculously low price of just £5.00 it's a must-read for anyone who lives in The Lee ... or knows someone who does... or used to. To get your copy wrapped in time for Christmas (sorry, but someone had to get in first!) pop into the Shop @ The Lee while stocks last or order one on-line via The Lee website: www.thelee.org.uk



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Roger's Bench

By Tony Lea

On Tuesday 2nd August a bench dedicated to the memory of Roger Morgan was officially put in place on the Parish Hall tennis court. Members of Roger's family and his wife Judy were invited to the Parish Hall for drinks and canapes beforehand, and were joined by members of the Parish Hall Committee, several ladies who use the tennis court and other friends from the village.

In a break in the weather the party moved onto the court where Tony Lea made a short speech and Judy cut the ribbon on 'Roger's Bench' - Judy later commented that there was something very special about the engraving on the bench - telling us that when Roger



Judy with her daughter, Son in law and grandson.

was running his lab he had a number of staff working for him - but 'Roger's Bench' in whichever lab he had at the time was under the window and was never to be sat at by anyone else!

He did a wonderful job for the Parish Hall and we the committee felt that it was a fitting way to remember him.

The Lee walking group

By Judy Hart

This year we decided to trial having the walk on a different day each month. The general consensus has been that this is confusing and that we should go back to having the same day each month. So, having completed - in October - two cycles of different days, from November, the walk will be held on the first Thursday of each month, starting with 3rd November, meeting at 9:30 am on the Green. [Note: the October walk is still on Friday 7th.]

We do sometimes meet at the shop so please check The Lee Forum where we will post any changes.



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Bridge too far?

By Kathryn Dickinson et al

These hands occurred during our weekly bridge evening and provide an interesting bidding challenge. How would you bid them?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>♠ 10
♥ 5 3
♦ A 10 8 6 4
♣ Q J 10 5 4</p> | <p>♠ 8
♥ A K Q J 10 8 6
♦ J 9 7
♣ 6 3</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
- ♠ A K Q J 9 6 3 2
♥ 7
♦ 3
♣ 8 7 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: None

Turn to page 21 to see how we bid this hand and whether or not it made.

The Lee Parish Council news

By Liz van Hullen, Parish Clerk

Traffic in the village

As we head into another school year, the level of congestion in Oxford Street at certain times of the day cannot go unnoticed. Parish Councillors are very aware that there is work to be done here to improve safety for all - residents, children and other road users - and

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have taken the initiative to start discussions with all influencing bodies. It will take a while to gather enough information to then consider options and understand cost implications. Ultimately we will need the approval of Transport for Bucks Highways Department if we feel significant changes are necessary; so please do bear with us. In the meantime we would welcome constructive views and suggestions to The Clerk in the first instance.

Parish Council Web

The Parish Council now has its own web page (www.thelee-pc.org.uk) and councillors have Parish Council dedicated email addresses. Please visit the page for information on who we are, what we do, when we meet, and of course residents are welcome to all Parish Council meetings. The page includes useful links to district and county council departments and a list of Parish Councillor email contacts.

Task Force

Initiated by the Parish Council, the purpose of the Task Force is to offer residents the opportunity to contribute towards the general maintenance of the village playground and other features within the village. The Task Force has identified various jobs including the

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cutting back of branches and shrubs behind the swings and around the bench, repairs to the fort and general weather proofing of the wooden construction of The Well. This is a brilliant way to get to know fellow villagers, get some fresh air and help keep this lovely village looking so good.

The Task Force will be meeting again on Saturday 15th October, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, at the Playground. If you would like to join us please register your interest with The Clerk and come along!

Contact The Clerk via email (theleeparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone 01494 758800.

Well! What do you know?

No. 19 Bucks economy

By Colin Sully

Population up...

Recently released population data for 2015 reveals that Buckinghamshire's population rose 6,478 in 2015, to reach 528,400.

With 1.2 per cent growth, Buckinghamshire recorded the largest increase of any county council area. Internal migration (i.e. within the UK) made the largest contribution to this rise, adding 2,925 to the population, ahead of 'natural change' (i.e. births & deaths) (1,774) and international migration (1,730).

Unemployment down...

The number of out-of-work Buckinghamshire residents claiming either Job Seekers' Allowance or Universal Credit fell by 60 in June to

2,495. At 0.8 per cent of working age residents, Buckinghamshire has the 3rd lowest claimant count rate of the 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

Over the last year the Buckinghamshire's claimant count has fallen by 8.1 per cent, more than twice the national rate of fall.

There were 5,541 advertised job openings in Buckinghamshire in June, a slight increase on May but well up on the 4,989 recorded in June 2015. Vacancies for programmers and software development professionals and nurses were most common, both with 240 openings.

Private rents up...

At £1,113 per month, average private sector rents in Buckinghamshire are 35.7 per cent higher than across England as a whole, the 2nd highest among the 27 county council areas and 3rd among the 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships, behind only London and Oxfordshire.

Source: www.bbf.uk.com

Bridge too far?

This is how we bid:

S	W	N	E
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

With an opening lead of ♣Q declarer made 11 tricks. However, South could have opened 1♠ - using 'Rule of 20' (number of points plus 2 longest suits).

Please let us know if you find this column interesting and if there is anything in particular you would like to see in future editions.

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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).

October

Saturday 1st. Coffee Morning at Lee Common Methodist Church.

Thursday 6th. Conservatory Plants. Ballinger Hall Horticultural Society. 8:00 pm.

Friday 7th. The Lee Walking Group – starting at 9:30 am on the Green. Check The Lee Forum for updates.

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E: keeble165@btinternet.com

Tuesday 11th. Parrot Watching in Brazil. Ballinger W.I Ballinger Village Hall. 8:00 pm.

Thursday 13th. CRAG Meeting at the Parish Hall. 8:00 pm.

Saturday 15th. Parish Council Task Force – meeting at the Playground. See page 20.

Thursday 27th. Tapestries, the ultimate wall decoration. Ballinger DFAS. Ballinger Village Hall. 8:00 pm. Guest tickets £8

Coming Soon

Thursday 3rd November. The Lee Walking Group. See article page 18.

Saturday 5th November. Coffee Morning at Lee Common Methodist Church.

Saturday 5th November. Bonfire Night at Lee Common. Details next month.

Tuesday 8th November. The Lee Parish Council Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the Parish Hall.

Thursday 10th November.. CRAG meeting at the Parish Hall: 8:00 pm.

Saturday 12th November. Organ Recital, The Lee. See page 23.

Saturday 19th November. The Lee Roving Supper. See page 6.

Thursday 24th November. Ballinger DFAS. ‘The Collections of Napoleon and Josephine. Ballinger Village Hall. 8:00 pm. Guest tickets £8.

Friday 2nd December. The Lee Newsletter Dinner. Hold the date! See page 23.

Sunday 4th December. The Fayrfax Consort at The Lee Old Church. A joyous selection of festive choral music and seasonal carols. Tickets from Pam Garner on 837501 and Jilly Carleton-Smith on 837205.

Organ recital in the Parish Church

By Rod Neal, Churchwarden

Martin Paxton, a local organist from Chesham will be giving a recital at 7:30 pm on Saturday 12th November to mark the refurbishment of the organ, which was carried out last year by Peter Spencer, church organ restorer from Bubbenhall, Warwickshire.

Details of the programme will be published in the November edition but in the meantime, please make a note of the date in your diaries. The PCC wishes to extend an invitation to all in the community and make this a social event with no admission fee although donations towards refreshments will be most welcome.

Dinner... with conversation!

By the Newsletter Editorial Team

We are pleased to confirm that this year's Newsletter Dinner will take place on Friday 2nd December in the 'acoustically dampened' Parish Hall. We will also be celebrating 10 years of The Lee website!

Invitations to the dinner will be sent out shortly to all those who have contributed to the success of the Newsletter in 2016; please hold the date and make sure you respond quickly when you get your invite.

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, Gilbert Nockles, Jen Ogley, Viv Robins, Trish Swain, Colin Sully and Barnaby Osborne.

Printed by Strongs: 01442 878592.

To book the Parish Hall or Scout Hut

'phone Anne Barnett on 837796

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Mon - Fri	£30 or £10/hr	£45 or £10/hr
Sat/Sun	£12/hr	£70
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