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March 2018



# NEWSLETTER

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

## From the Editor

By Peter Archer

Winter time brings with it cold and wet weather but I cannot help thinking that we seem to have endured colder, wetter and windier weather than for many years – or is it just my poor memory?

Anyway, it is therefore a good time to welcome what may become a new feature in the Newsletter in which contributors can write about their travels to unusual and interesting places. This month Phil Harrison tells us of his recent visit to Vietnam which will have provided him with a welcome escape from winter in The Lee! (The Editorial team is always keen to come up with new and interesting themes for future articles in the Newsletter and if any of our readers have experiences or news of events which might be of interest to others, please let us know.)

Readership of the Newsletter extends beyond the Parish boundaries and it is good to see growing contributions of articles from the neighbouring villages of Ballinger and South Heath.

The editor for the April edition is Jonathan Batten. Please send material to [theleenewsletter@googlemail.com](mailto:theleenewsletter@googlemail.com) or hard copy to Saddlers, Swan Bottom by 12<sup>th</sup> March.

## BCC responds to library concerns

By Noel Brown, Cabinet Member of Bucks County Council

Firstly, I would like to explain to your readers that I wasn't able to respond in time for the previous edition of The Lee's community newsletter; this was because the mobile library consultation report wasn't formally agreed until later in January.



I know that the 511 people who have used Buckinghamshire's mobile library service in the past couple of years and who have not visited a branch library, really value the enrichment of the library books, magazines and DVDs that our mobile

library vehicles quite literally deliver to our local communities.

However, it is an unfortunate truth that the mobile library service is an expensive one to run, and the number of people who solely use the mobile service is dwindling – over the last two years, three-quarters of the mobile service stops had an average of four or fewer customers at a time, and over one-third of the service stops had only one mobile customer.

The County Council's budget has been steadily reducing in recent years; there is now much less money available to us for funding all of the services that we have previously provided to our residents once funding has been allocated to the critical front-line services we need to provide, such as social care for children and vulnerable adults. The pressures on our budgets are also being intensified by other factors, including meeting the needs of a rapidly growing and changing population.

With a challenging savings target over the next two years of over £500,000 needed to be saved by the libraries service – on top of the £2.3 million already saved by the service over the last eight years – we need to continue to look critically and creatively at every aspect of the service we provide.

When we reviewed mobile library usage over the last two years we looked at the number of customers using our library services. We found that usage of the mobile service is declining with 13,227 fewer visitors compared with three years ago, and lends made from mobile libraries accounting for only 2% of total library lends.

The cost of running the mobile service is also high and increasing, with the average cost per item issued at a mobile library (£4.57) being substantially higher than items issued at library buildings (£1.13).

We are proposing that from May 2018 the mobile library service is discontinued in its present form, and we have recently run a full and wide-ranging public consultation to gather people's views on these proposals. I highly value all the feedback given.

A decision on the future of the mobile library service will be made in due course; but I want to make it clear that we are not looking to stop the service without having good, affordable alternatives in place for people who struggle to visit library buildings, so that all our mobile library customers still have the opportunity to use library services.

We are hoping to put in place, where appropriate, a number of alternative community-based ways which people can use to access library services. These include:

- **The home library service** where a named volunteer visits you at home each month at a convenient time with a selection of books to match your interests.
- A **library buddy**, a scheme where your trusted friend, neighbour or family member visits a library to borrow and return items on your behalf.
- **Click and collect**, where you reserve books over the phone or online to be collected from a nearby venue.
- **Local community book collections**, a small selection of

books provided to an accessible local building for you to borrow from.

- And, although not suitable for everyone, our **online eLibrary service** offers a full range of downloadable books, audiobooks and magazines.

We'd like to provide a more flexible, community-based library service that is still easily accessible for our mobile library customers and which can be adapted to suit the differing needs of local communities – shaping a local library service that is better for customers.

## Bridge too far?

By Kathryn Dickinson et al

**T**his recent hand presented us with a competitive bidding challenge. How would you see the bidding progress and the hand being played?

♠ A K Q 10 5 2  
♥ 9  
♦ K 10 7 5 4  
♣ 5

♠ 9 8  
♥ 8 6 5 4 3  
♦ -  
♣ A K Q J 9 8

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

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

Dealer: North  
Vulnerability: N/S

See page 11 for our result.



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## Your letters

To the Editor

### Count the birdies

I found the articles by Don Stone on the huge range of beautiful birds and butterflies we have in this area absolutely fascinating. They have prompted me to open my eyes a little wider as I go about my daily business.

One question baffles me however. How does he get such a precise count on the number of birds flying over? For example, in the February edition: "156 Fieldfares, 287 Starling and 369 Redwings over Sly Corner".

Does he have an App that you just point at the sky and it identifies and counts the birds?

Colin Sully  
Swan Bottom

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To the Editor

I moved just before Christmas, in the snow, from The Lee to Lee Common.

I always knew that I was living in a very special village but I have been particularly touched by the kindness shown to me since the move.

I just want to say thank you for the cards, gifts and help that I have received.

Mary Dovey  
Lee Common

## Notes from a Natural Garden

By Don Stone

### Part 3 November-December

**2<sup>nd</sup>**, Blackbird & two Mistle Thrushes are the first to start feeding on the Cotoneaster berries; **3<sup>rd</sup>**, two Dartford Warblers at a site in the county; **4<sup>th</sup>**, along with Stewart Dennis, watched as 44 Hawfinch flew to roost at Great Hampden; **8<sup>th</sup>**, Marsh Tit on feeders at Swan Bottom; **10<sup>th</sup>**, Golden Plover flock has moved to fields behind 'Annie Baileys'; **13<sup>th</sup>**, Great Tit with extended lower mandible visiting bird feeders at Swan Bottom, gave it an appearance similar to a Humming Bird; **16<sup>th</sup>**, Golden Plover flock has grown in numbers to 176; **19<sup>th</sup>**, Snow Bunting at Tring Reservoirs; **26<sup>th</sup>**, 50 Linnets at Liberty's Nature Reserve; **30<sup>th</sup>**, Marsh Tit has been visiting feeders throughout the month.

**December 1<sup>st</sup>**, Snow flurries early morning; **2<sup>nd</sup>**, two Goldcrest quietly



*Snow bunting*

going about their business in our front hedge, so close I could nearly reach out and touch the little green sprites. They think they're invisible being so small, it's for moments like this that I leave the hedge uncut until late winter; **3<sup>rd</sup>**, Male Sparrow Hawk (Sprawky) dropped in for breakfast at the feeders, but left with an empty belly; **4<sup>th</sup>**, 54 Greenfinch dropped into Laurel hedge to roost at Great Hampden House, two pairs of Mallards feeding on bird seed on the lawn; **5<sup>th</sup>**, Redwings start to demolish the Cotoneaster berries; **8<sup>th</sup>**, Simon next door reports that Wrens have returned to their old habit of roosting in the House Martin nests; Pied Wagtail at feeders, judging by the Goldfinch feathers scattered below our gate Sprawky got lucky; **10<sup>th</sup>**, at 4 pm a Kestrel seen perching on overhead telephone cable bracket under the eaves of a detached house on the edge of the village, then much squawking & squabbling as another tried to join it/ remove it from its perch. They eventually flew off in separate directions. Another Kestrel or maybe one of these seen to fly to farm buildings to roost at 4:15 pm, up to eight inches of snow fell overnight and during the day, a few branches on our

conifer snapped under the weight of the snow; 21 Wood Pigeons & seven Blackbirds on the lawn; **16<sup>th</sup>**, a record count of 15 Long-tailed Tits on the fat balls; **24<sup>th</sup>**, while cutting the holly boughs to decorate the house (a lack of



*Long-tailed tits*

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berries here this year), I came across a few small clusters of green berries, never seen these in previous years. Sheep attacked by loose dog in local field, a month later and the animal is still receiving treatment; 26<sup>th</sup>, three male and one female Bullfinch feasting on dried-up blackberries in front hedge. After the recent snow melt and yesterday's rain the natural pond is beginning to refill, Sprawk spent 18 minutes sitting in the pond, mainly nosing about, but did have a quick bath; 27<sup>th</sup>, 40 Golden Plovers at Hyde Heath, Great Spotted Woodpecker on sunflower heart feeder, cock Pheasant spent two and a half hours feeding on scattered seed, the first for many years, one inch of snow fell during the morning, 29<sup>th</sup>, Female Stonechat at Herbert's Hole;



*Great Spotted Woodpecker*

30<sup>th</sup>, whilst cutting up the branches brought down by the snow for fire wood, thinking about how long the tree had stood, my mind went back to the programme presented by Judi Dench on trees (the cynic in me thought she was only presenting it for the money, but she has a real affinity for trees and nature) and the rule of thumb for aging them, one inch equals one year, measured at chest height around the tree. Trying it on two trees I knew the age of, as I'd planted them in my younger days, the method was only a couple of years out, which aged the conifer at 96 years and our largest Oak at 112 years, now they've seen a few changes, and not always for the better; 31<sup>st</sup>, as New Year approaches, a few words of wisdom from the pen of Joe Strummer:

*"If you're after getting the honey,  
hey*

*Then you don't go killing all the  
bees;*

*What the people are saying,*

*There ain't no berries on the trees."*

The Clash imploded; the world's eroded.

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## It is a quirky world out there

By Philip Harrison

There is an increasing amount of concern and press coverage in the UK regarding the use of plastics. For example The Shop @ The Lee is working to reduce the amount of plastic used to package the goods we buy. On a recent trip to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) in Vietnam I could not help but notice that there is a completely opposite approach. They simply throw everything and anything wherever they are. Plastic is a primary form of packaging and it is scattered everywhere; the Saigon River is a slow meandering waterway full of plastic bags, bottles, thermacol blocks and detritus that had no home. Makes you wonder how we can make an impact on this damage if there are parts of the world that simply have a polar opposite approach.

Whilst in this ancient land we also discovered a number of other strange and quirky things. Things that bring a smile to the face and it made me wonder how many of the numerous travellers from this part of world notice such things: if you do then why not share them with us?

### Currency

Great fun to get some money out of a cash machine, as suddenly you are a millionaire, albeit briefly as denominations are bonkers. 32,000 dong to the £ so 1 million dong = £32!! Even better when you check your balance.



### Living like a local

We hired an apartment in downtown HCMC, 45 minutes by taxi from airport and all the fun of the fair to find our apartment on the 18th floor with views between the other blocks in a massive high rise development consisting of six or so tower blocks.



Vietnamese homes don't have ovens or toasters. Bit of a challenge for the Sunday roast.

Interesting things we found that are unusual are such things as no flat

plates in the apartment only bowls of various shapes, sizes and depths. No knives other than sharp kitchen knives, just spoons, forks and chopsticks. No potatoes in the supermarkets. People don't like to look you in the eye and are gently polite.

We were invited to visit a local family at home. We ended up in a warren of streets receiving very strange looks from locals who were probably not used to seeing white Anglo Saxons walking through their neighbourhood. They were bemused, smiling and in no way threatening.

On finding the house we enter through some tall gates and find a courtyard the size of a postage stamp full of motor scooters which overflow into the inside passageway that led to a staircase, at the bottom of which are dozens of pairs of shoes. (It is custom and practice to remove footwear before entering a home). Clambering up the stairs we enter a sort of Buddhist shrine that we subsequently learn is where the father of the house prays daily and the woman we have come to see meditates. The inside of the home was a mix of styles and furniture full of statues of Buddha.

Welcoming and hospitable we are offered a glass of clear liquid that looked

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a little slimy. A glance at my wife and daughter's faces told me that it was time to take one for the family. I gulped down the contents, trying to keep a straight face and not gag. The girls bite their tongues or inside cheeks to avoid a fit of giggles and we hastily conclude the visit just in case the slime decides to reappear in true Alien style. What it was that I drank I cannot even begin to identify and I just hope it was meant to be drunk.

### Traffic merry-go-round

As it was Sunday when we arrived, the traffic was light but manic as thousands of motorbikes weave in and out. No tuk tuks or cyclists. Everyone goes in every direction and joining a junction with traffic coming from the right involves gently pulling out without looking right so the traffic approaching you takes the avoiding action. No frustration or temper tantrums but an interesting exercise for the sphincter.

The traffic at first appears daunting, but the average speed is very slow. Rules of the road are a bit weird. There is a six-lane highway near the apartment with a traffic island running between lanes 3 and 4. Lanes 1 to 3 are for motorbikes and cars, whilst 4 to 6 are for lorries, vans and cars. So far so good until you add in the occasionally parked lorry in lane 4, the odd motorcyclist going in the opposite direction in lane 1 and the occasional driver stopping their car, getting out and dashing across the highway to the shops on the other side of the 12 lanes. When the traffic snarls up the motorbikes take to the pavements and the pedestrians take potluck. All the edges are sloped curb stones to enable the motorcyclists to use the pavement for parking.



Silly fact but there are more motorbikes than cars in Vietnam with the average bike ownership per family being four. Strange sights abound from Mum and Dad on a bike with ankle biter wedged between them. One chap was driving along with large (4ft high) fridge on the back that he was holding with one hand whilst driving with the other. Texting and riding along is very common. Everyone has to wear a crash helmet but they really look like soup bowls so not sure what protection they offer. They are certainly not the full-face protection we are used to. Many women ride along in incredibly high heels or as the girls refer to them "tart's



trotters". We have all heard of Uber. Well here there are Uber motorcycles.

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You can tell them because the helmets of both driver and passenger say Uber.

We have made mention of the number of motorbikes here. It appears that they have more than one use. Falling asleep on a clothesline is one thing but this is something else.



## Health & Safety not reached here yet

We went out for dinner one evening and found that the restaurant was in a converted home and appropriately called 'Mad House'. The outdoor dining area was on a platform/decking they had installed over the swimming pool. Only thing was the designer decided to create large rectangular gaps with water features and lights in them. Sounds lovely doesn't it? That is until you realise

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there are no barriers around the gap, the tables are situated very close to them so if you get out of your chair the wrong side you go swimming. In fact the waiter told us that it was not unusual for a tipsy patron to fall in.



The H&S challenge here is: what do you think this lady is doing?



The answer is that she is the crane operator for lifting buckets of concrete on a very high-rise development – this one is eight stories. She has two levers, a bunch of sandbags to hold her in place and a very long piece of string. Low-tech even down to the sunshade as we don't think it is a safety shelter in case the string snaps.

## The TET Festival

We are approaching the Vietnamese New Year and Year of The Dog, which

may sound familiar, as it is the TET festival. (Remember one of the big events towards the end of the war here was the TET Offensive). Being predominantly Buddhist their calendar is dictated by the phases of the moon. It is as big to them as Christmas is to us. Everywhere is covered in decorations and lights. On the ground floor of the apartment block we have a number of kindergartens. It was just like being around schools in the UK at the end of the Christmas term with fairs, plays, kids dressed up in a variety of costumes and proud parents and grandparents in abundance. A children's crocodile – Vietnamese style.



Apparently something like 40% of the 90 million Vietnamese are below 25 years old. Staggering given they have TV.

## Bridge too far?

The bidding at our table went:

N	E	S	W
1 ♠	-	1 NT	2 ♣
2 ♦	3 ♣	4♦	5 ♣
5 ♦	-	-	-

At our table North made 5♦; 5♣ could also have been made. 5♣ by West definitely does not make.

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## The Lee Parish Council news

By Liz van Hullen, Parish Clerk

### Drop-in... best yet!

**A**fter a slow start, the Drop-in on 3<sup>rd</sup> February came to life and became very busy. There was specific interest in the two topics we advertised (fort replacement and HS2 update) but there were also other topics raised by residents:

- general support for the fort re-development ideas... but not at any cost
- a strong preference for a Colne Valley type viaduct at Wendover Dean rather than the design concept we have been shown by (C)EK



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- increased concerns about the HS2 effects on traffic on the A413, given the impact of some relatively small works at the GM roundabouts this week.
- concern about the unfinished mess left by Freedom after their electricity supply work between Oxford St and Cherry Tree Lane (see below)
- potholes/road repairs throughout the parish and traffic driving dangerously at Oxford St/Princes Lane junction
- possibility of 30 mph speed restriction at the Hunts Green end of Kings Lane
- local planning applications.

Our thanks to all the residents and Cllrs who attended... it's good to talk!  
**HS2 update**

Apart from the delays on the A413 caused by roadside 'investigation work' (see above), perhaps the most significant HS2 news since the last Newsletter is the fact that the HS2 Phase 2a (West Midlands to Crewe) Bill received its second reading in the Commons with a majority of 295 to 12. The project clearly still has cross-party support and petitioning for this next section of the line will now begin.

### Muddy paths and tracks

In November of last year contractors for UK Power Network set about removing the overhead cables that crossed the village allotments and playground area. These cables have now been sunk underground, all the way across Cherry Tree Lane and into the Park.

As we would expect from any ground works carried out during the

winter months, a result of this work has been an awful lot of mud. We met with the contractors last week and have every confidence that once the weather allows, a proper surface will be restored to the entrance of the playground from Oxford Street; the path through will be reseeded and the surface at the gateway out onto Cherry Tree Lane will also be resurfaced. They have also to make good the ground on the other side of Cherry Tree Lane and within the Park. Until then we will have to make the best of the muddy paths, but hopefully only for the short term.

### Jubilee Well refurbishment

It's been ten years since the last work was carried out on the Jubilee Well in Oxford St and you may notice some changes to its appearance in the coming weeks. The well itself will be repainted, as will the surrounding floor area. On the exterior some of the oak panels will be temporarily removed for renovation and repair, and all will be spruced up. Temporary fencing/panelling will be put in place whilst the panels are removed, to ensure that the well remains secure.

Weather permitting, work will start towards the end of March and continue into April.

Did you know that... although access to the well drop is restricted by a padlocked plate, it is accessed on a regular basis by the water authorities to check the level and quality of the water?

If there are any Parish Council matters you would like to discuss, please contact me by email at theleeparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk or by telephone on 758800.

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## Services for March

### St John the Baptist

4th 8:00 <sup>am</sup> HC	Rev. Geoffrey Howel, Old Church
10:00 <sup>am</sup> AA	All-Age Worship. Lee Common Methodist Church
11 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 <sup>am</sup> PC	Four Parish Mothering Sunday service. Bishop of Buckingham
25 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 <sup>am</sup> PC	Rev. Alan Davies
28 <sup>th</sup> 7:30 <sup>pm</sup>	Compline Lay-led
30 <sup>th</sup> 12 noon	Devotional Service. Rev. Alan Davis
1 <sup>st</sup> April	
8:00 <sup>am</sup> HC	Rev. Ian Ogilvie Old Church
10:00 <sup>am</sup> PC	Rev. Ivor Cornish

HC Holy Communion (said)  
PC Parish Communion (sung)  
AA All-age service

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We welcome the Bishop of Buckingham to The Lee who will be taking the four parish communion service on Mothering Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Contacts:** *Vicar:* The Rev. 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

4 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 <sup>am</sup> AA	Joint all age Worship at Lee Common Methodist Church
11 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 <sup>am</sup>	Mothering Sunday Service at the Parish Church
18 <sup>th</sup> 3:00 <sup>pm</sup> HC	Rev. Nigel Wright
25 <sup>th</sup> 3:00 <sup>pm</sup>	Rev. Gregory Hargrave
27 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 <sup>pm</sup>	Holy week Communion Service
1 <sup>st</sup> April	
3:00 <sup>pm</sup> HC	Rev. Nigel Wright

Our next **Coffee Morning** is on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 10:30 to 12 noon. All are welcome.

Looking ahead to Spring! Come and see our collection of PLANTS and CAKES on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 10:30 – 12:00 noon which will be sold for Christian Aid and the Lindengate Project at Wendover. This is a

gardening charity concerned with helping those with mental health problems. All welcome.

### St Mary's, Ballinger

4<sup>th</sup> 9:30<sup>am</sup> Morning Prayer followed by refreshments.

## How did you travel to school today?

By Ros Morris

Lee Common School is trying to give the children a little healthy exercise before class while at the same time reducing the traffic along Oxford Street in the mornings. We have introduced a new system on our interactive white boards so that when the children come to school they click their name on the



board and then answer how they travelled to school. There are rewards for children who come into school on foot. So watch this space and hopefully there will be more space for everyone as the children become keener to walk in.

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## What happens to rubbish in Bucks?

By Peter Archer

In last month's edition of the Newsletter there was a bit of criticism of the services provided by Bucks County Council. I thought, therefore, that it would strike a more positive note if I wrote a short article about a visit I made to Greatmoor, an energy from waste site.

I have to confess that I had not heard of Greatmoor until a visit to it was arranged by an 'old boys' luncheon club of which I am a member.

Starting in 2013, the Council commissioned the development of a power station which generates electricity from non-recyclable waste collected from around the county and beyond. Often wondered what happened to the contents of our black rubbish bin that was emptied once a fortnight – now I know! No longer going to landfill, within 3 days of collection it ends up in Greatmoor and is burned to generate electricity to meet all the needs of Aylesbury and beyond.

It is a remarkably clean and impressive site which is estimated to save Bucks £150 million over 30 years.

Greatmoor is situated between Waddesdon and Bicester but is a mile or two down a specially built access road. As a result it is barely visible from any existing residential areas.

I was most impressed by what I saw and learned. I can strongly recommend a visit.



Photo courtesy of Bucks CC

## Litter pickin'

By Pat Chinnery

Our roadsides, hedges and paths are getting over-run again with thoughtlessly thrown litter.

It is really worthwhile to get involved in the 'Litter Pick' morning, which this year will be on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> March.

Please think about organising a local group to pick-up at the places you love to go visit... and walk the roads getting there and pick-up those as you go.

Pat Chinnery (on 837564) and Ann Ash (on 837550) are coordinating the event and would be very pleased to discuss your plans.

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## Have you, or a loved one, been affected by cancer?

From Bucks County Council

If so, health and care services in Buckinghamshire would like your help to ensure we are delivering the best possible care for our population – which means it is vital we hear from residents who have experienced cancer treatment.

NHS Chiltern and NHS Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Groups are working with Macmillan Cancer Support to invite people with experience of cancer to give their views in a new online survey.

Everyone's experience of cancer is different. So, for us to give the best possible care and support, we need you to help us understand what that looks like to you and how you think we should provide it.

Because you have been through it, you are best placed to tell us what works, what can be improved, and what specific cancer support should be available to you within the Bucks area.

Things may not change overnight, but if your experiences have left you with ideas of what would be good for patients in Bucks – whether improving an existing service or offering new kinds of support – we want to hear from you.

We know that being given the all-clear does not always mean the end of cancer and returning to normal. It's

vital that when treatment stops you still have the right support to get back on your feet, deal with the consequences of your experience and know how to spot signs if cancer should return.

Whether you are currently undergoing treatment, are now living after treatment, or if you have watched a loved one go through cancer, please let us know your views. Comment boxes have been distributed at a range of locations across Bucks (including GP surgeries, libraries, support group venues and many others) and you can complete the full survey via the link below. All details will be kept strictly confidential.

[www.letstalkhealthbucks.nhs.uk/consult.t/cancerservices/](http://www.letstalkhealthbucks.nhs.uk/consult.t/cancerservices/)



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## Local bridge drive turns up trumps

By Jane Neal

A very enjoyable afternoon was spent in the Parish Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> January when 48 enthusiastic players assembled for an afternoon's game of friendly bridge to raise funds for the Parish Church. No sooner had the Leaside Nursery left the hall, than the bridge drive team sprang into action, setting up 12 tables for a prompt start at 2:00 pm and preparing marvellous teas to be served by the team to all the players during the interval.

From the reactions I received, it is evident that the teas were as much a highlight as the cards. At the end, prizes were awarded and the raffle drawn. We were able to raise a grand total of £826.

Thanks are owed to all those who supported the event, to those who donated prizes, teas and hire of the hall and to members of the team for all their hard work.

## Cryptic-Lee

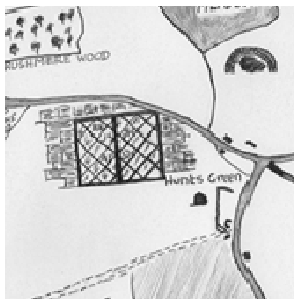
By Phil Harrison and Colin Sully

Recent editions have seen a number of cryptic clues involving locations and events in the Lee and surrounding areas based on a map drawn in 1991 by Derry Worsfold.

Most of the clues have been solved with interesting and fascinating insights along with a few debates.

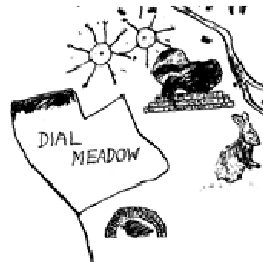
This month sees the end of the series but before we go we have two unsolved clues from November and December, respectively.

November's challenge was from the Hunt's Green area. There are leaded windows in one of the houses with initials scratched on the panes. When and in what circumstances



could this early graffiti have happened? The explanation Derry gave in 1991 was that during the Civil War (1642 to 1651) a number of Cavaliers were held prisoner in the cottages and scratched their initials into the glass panes.

December's challenge was from the area near Dial Meadow. There is a tunnel entrance (or is it an exit?) depicted. What would that be for and where does it lead? Derry's explanation was that it was a tunnel used by aforementioned Cavaliers to escape although one has to wonder where the bricks came from. Any



other thoughts as to what it may have been? If so send in your suggestions to theleenewsletter@googlemail.com

Finally what do you think Derry was hinting at in this final image? No doubt the answer to this and all the other clues over the past few months will have been a lesson for us all about our locale.



## Meet and greet

By Annie

My partner Chris and I (Annie) have recently moved to Swan Cottage from Greenwich in South London. It feels like we have been extremely lucky to chance upon such a lovely village where the neighbours go out of their way to make you feel welcome.

We're currently engaged but at the pace that we move it might be 2020 before we actually get round to planning anything. We love walking and running, as we are both originally from the Peak District, and have faced the bitter winter weather to explore the endless bridleways and footpaths that criss-cross the beautiful Chilterns countryside. But the summer months can't come soon enough when we'll have chance to make use of the great local garden centres and cafes.

It's just the two of us in the cottage at the moment, although we are hoping to join the active dog walking community in The Lee soon. For now though we'll have to suffice with borrowing the family dog on the weekends!

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## Little miracles!

By Reina Free

There is something very exciting going along King's Lane in spite of huge puddles and soaked verges. The birds are singing their little hearts out although the hedgerows are still bare. I am conscious of new life stirring.

Huge flocks of chaffinches are chasing each other (another full of joy of the coming of spring). The blue tits are examining the nest box on the wall. Yet, during the night, we had a sprinkling of snow.

These are the happiness makers, small though they are. But small things are really the big things.

This is not how I see the huge pothole on Rocky Lane and the much

longer, bigger one bordering the verge. Beware in the unfortunate event of you hitting one of these, it would cause great damage to your car and a huge repair bill!

Would the government pay your repair bill, 'No way'! Yet huge sums of money are being spent on all kinds of so called development projects like HS2 destroying the countryside. As I look over our magnificent view at Kings Ash, I could make myself deeply distressed but I do not. Today the sky is blue and spring is on its way I can only live one day at a time and with God's help I will live it with gratitude and joy. He is still in complete charge and anything can happen!

## St Mary's Ballinger Newsletter

By Anne Ellis

Well, here we are at the start of another year, looking ahead with hope and anticipation into 2018. Having read the comments in our Visitors Book, combined with the endless help so freely given to all our fundraising ventures, Maggi and I have come to realise just how much St Mary's is valued by the wider community, not only as a church and a meeting place but also as a retreat for quiet reflection.

We are exceedingly grateful and greatly encouraged by this support as it has enabled us to consider other

ways in which St Mary's might adapt to suit the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## The Festive Season

Advent and Christmas were celebrated with a packed church at every service, be it Advent Carols at the beginning of December or the 3:00 pm Christingle followed by a 9:30 pm 'Midnight' Communion on Christmas Eve. We welcomed every faith and every age, those visiting families and local residents, so that it was altogether a joyous end to the year. Our little church was cosy and warm and looked its best bedecked with holly, ivy and trees, whilst the nativity scene and advent wreath took centre stage.

## Coffee Morning: Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> January

This has now become something of a tradition as it provides a welcome start to the New Year and a fillip during an otherwise cold, wintry month. Brilliantly organised and spearheaded by Maggi, it was a wonderful morning with well over fifty people attending from far and near, including Cic Upcott and her daughter Hillary. In fact it was a pleasure to see so many chatting and catching up with old friends whilst perusing the various stalls which included cards, cakes, books, accessories (courtesy of Liz Wintgens) and bric-a-brac. We also welcomed our newest neighbours, John and Nina, who moved into Ballinger a week ago. Another coffee morning is planned for later in the year.

Many thanks to all those who provided cakes or who helped Maggi set up and then dismantle everything at the end of the morning, including

Tom Brockett our local Scout Leader and gardener who gave his time and tarpaulin for nothing more than a box of chocolates. We are especially grateful to the Great Missenden shops; Alphabet Soup, The Roald Dahl Museum, Salon 92 and also The Lee Shop for raffle prizes. Maggi and I are extremely appreciative of the enormous contribution from within the local community. We are pleased to announce that over £300 was raised for church funds.

## Other projects

Once the warmer weather arrives Maggi and I will be tackling the inevitable outside tasks which accumulate all too quickly, namely; cleaning the wrought iron gate, repairing/replacing the St Mary's sign, adding a light above the notice-board, clearing the borders and planting up the tubs.

Maggi applied to Sweet Charity in Prestwood for a grant to cover the cost of repairing/replacing the outside shed. The good news is that they have agreed and given us the go ahead. They are also prepared to financially sponsor our ongoing project to replace some of the pews with suitable chairs once a decision has been made as to which design would be the most appropriate.

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## The Lee Cricket Club

By Trish Swain

In the cold, snowy and rainy days of February, the cricket season still seems a long way off. On the positive side, daylight hours are increasing and we know that spring must surely be on the way. Awaking from their winter dormancy, players are gearing up for The LCC AGM taking place on the 19<sup>th</sup> February, and team captains will be elected, and other roles will be filled too, hopefully.

Just a reminder that adult winter nets are taking place every Wednesday, 8:30 – 10:00 at The Beacon School in Chesham Bois. £5 a session and all ages and abilities are welcome. Please contact Patrick Walsh for more details: [patrick\\_a\\_walsh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:patrick_a_walsh@hotmail.co.uk)

We have just learned of the death of Mr Ernie Brown, a stalwart supporter of the Club as a Vice-President and Trustee. For many years, before he became too frail, he would drop by in his pick up truck to watch a few overs and enjoy a cup of tea and chat. The Club sends its condolences to his family.

## Health matters

By Lynda Cooke

In the June 2017 issue, I wrote an article about Patient Participation Groups and I am pleased to be able to bring readers up to date with recent progress.

## Virtual patients needed...

At Prospect House, since September, we have a new and enthusiastic practice manager and once again are addressing the problem of attracting more virtual patients to our PPG. They should be happy to receive and could, if they wished, respond, to occasional emails on health related topics.

## ...and committee members

We would also welcome anyone who might be interested to join our small committee, particularly anyone with good computer skills! If you think you might like to get involved or just find out more, please send an email to me, Lynda Cooke, at: [ppgprospecthouse@mail.com](mailto:ppgprospecthouse@mail.com).

Rectory Meadow practice PPG has invited PPG members from other surgeries to attend events which it organises.

## Raffle

At the autumn flu clinic we held a raffle raising £160. Added to previously raised funds, it will be used to buy two items of equipment, a Cryotherapy kit to enable warts and other minor things to be dealt with in-house and a D-dimmer and GRP kit for use in detecting deep vein thrombosis.

A raffle was held at which Dr Moukli drew the winning ticket – a meal for two at Merlin's Cave in Chalfont St Peter.

One prize winner kindly donated his large tin of shortbread biscuits to the reception staff and another, the cash equivalent of an M&S token back into the equipment fund. Both



*Drawing the winning ticket*

gestures were very generous and gratefully received.

## An evening talk

Finally, it is worth mentioning that we have organised a talk to be given by a Bucks Healthcare consultant rheumatologist, Dr Magliano, on the treatment of, and how to live with, rheumatic diseases on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 6:30 pm. It will be held at Barn Meadow Community Hall, Pondwicks, Amersham, HP7 0ER. To make a reservation call 01494 727711.

## From the archives

**D**ebate as to what to call the place we live comes up fairly frequently in the archives.

*Here is an article from 2003.*

The-Lee or not The-Lee?

That is the-question

By Mike Senior

The October editorial raised the question of whether The Lee should or should not be hyphenated (The-Lee).

  
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Compared to, say, the problems in the Middle East or even the gropings of Arnold Schwarzenegger this issue is, of course, small beer. Nevertheless, since it has caused some little controversy in the area, it is worth a line or two in this month's Newsletter.

The problem is that our village seems to have had a number of names in its time. One of the earliest spellings comes from the twelfth century records of Missenden Abbey which refers to 'Lega'. Then in 1356 the Abbot of Missenden, Ralph Marshall, was convicted of "counterfeiting and clipping the King's coin, namely groats and sterling, at his manor called Legh". This schizophrenia continued into Henry VIII's time when, in 1537, the village was once again referred to as 'Lega'.

Just ten years later, some papers from Edward VI's reign make mention

of "the lordship and manor of Lye, alias, Ley". Thomas Plaistowe's memorial (1715) in the Old Church refers to 'the Lee' (with a small 't') and during the nineteenth century the village became known simply as 'Lee'. In 1847, for example, the Revd W. Watson "was nominated curate of Lee". In his "History of Buckinghamshire" (1832), J. J. Sheahan goes further and not only calls the village 'Lee', but says that it was "formerly called Lee Chapel".


It was in the 1890's and early 1900's that the hyphen began to appear in The-Lee and the Victoria County History of 1908 stated that the official postal address was 'The-Lee'. The hyphen persisted during the 1920's and 1930's, but, just to complicate matters, Kelly's Directory of 1939 calls the village "Lee (or The Lee)". Today, most people would settle for "The Lee".

I suspect that Sir Arthur Liberty was the man behind the hyphen – it was just his style. The story goes that when the local Council put up new sign-posts sometime about 1910 they called the village 'The Lee'. This displeased Sir Arthur who immediately sent out a gang to paint in the hyphen.

So there we are. What's in a name? Take your pick – Lega, Legh, Lye, Ley, Lee Chapel, the Lee, Lee, The-Lee or The Lee. What does it matter anyway? But, come to think about it, how about Lee-Common, Hunts-Green, King's-Ash and Swan-Bottom? Well, perhaps not.

*If you have an interesting story, photo or article about village history, do let us know and we will be happy to share it with our readers: Ed.]*

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## 'Farm brands' and a plea for farm shops

By The Editor

**D**aniel Hares of Buckmoored Farm on the Chequers Estate at Butlers Cross feels passionately about farming, the environment and the need to provide consumers with products of known and genuine provenance. He is keen to draw attention to the fantastic local food and drink supplied in farm shops across the area. He thinks we have some fabulous places to food shop – especially in the Chilterns.

Daniel recently featured on local radio station Mix96 to voice his concern for shoppers about 'false' farm brands in some of the supermarkets and championing genuine local farmers and our great local farm shops.

"The plastics argument all over the press recently demonstrates the public's concern about environmental issues," he says. There are no simple solutions and it is very difficult for any one supplier to get everything right, but from his own example at Buckmoored Farm Shop he is able to minimise the food miles travelled for

his produce. "The majority of the meat we sell here is from animals that I have reared myself as a third generation farmer on the Chequers Estate. The animals have been reared non-intensively and have been fed on home grown barley and grass – grazing methods that *enrich* the environment. We sell meat from our farm and Steph and I sell as many locally sourced products as we can. No need to make up an imaginary farm brand here! We are also lucky in that we can minimise the amount of packaging we use."

He urges consumers to look to their local farm shop and perhaps make a change for 2018. "We are passionate about what we do and we want the best for our customers – and this applies to environmental issues too."



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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 12<sup>th</sup> of the previous month (see contact details on page 1).

## March

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>. The Lee Walking Group.** Meet on The Lee Green at 9:30 am.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>. Ballinger Horticultural Society.** 'The Back Gardens of England' with Matthew Biggs. 8:00 pm.  
**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>. Coffee Morning** at Lee Common Methodist Church. 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. All welcome.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>. Ballinger Evening WI.** Spring Supper.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>. The Lee Parish Council Meeting** at the Parish Hall, 7:30 pm.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>. Annual Litter-picking morning.** Please contact Pat Chinnery 837564 or Ann Ash 837550 if you can help on the day. See page 16.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>. The Lee Old Church Trust AGM.** 7:30 pm at The Lee Old Church.

### 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.

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>. The Arts Society Ballinger.** 'Judas: The Wickedest Man Who Ever Lived?' with Janet Robson. Ballinger Hall, 8:00 pm. Guests £8.

## Coming soon

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April. The Lee Walking Group.** Meet on The Lee Green at 9:30 am.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Ballinger Horticultural Society** Spring Show.

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Ballinger Evening W.I.** 'Wild Flowers' with Brenda Harold, 8:00pm.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April. Coffee Morning** at Lee Common Methodist Church.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April. The Arts Society Ballinger.** 'The Amadeus Myth: Mozart (1756-91) and his world of culture' with Sandy Burnett, 8:00 pm. Guests £8.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Ballinger Horticultural Society.** 'The Victorian Garden of Mary A Disraeli' with Piers Hory: 8:00 pm.

## Directory of local contacts

### Ballinger Horticultural Society

Chairperson: Brenda Gover  
info@ballingerhorti.co.uk

### Ballinger War Memorial Hall

Bookings: Jane Ogden, 837379

### Ballinger Evening W.I.

Contact: Frankie Little, 837659  
frankie.little@btinternet.com

### Lee Common C of E School

School office, 837267  
office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk

## The Newsletter

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

We welcome 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 12<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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

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

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

For queries regarding distribution contact Barnaby Osborne on 837382.

Other members of the Editorial team: Peter Archer, Zoe Berkeley, Richard Dickinson, Phil Harrison, Jen Ogle, Adam Speller and Colin Sully.

### To book the Parish Hall or Scout Hut

'phone Anne Barnett on 837796

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### Lee Common Methodist Church

Marian Tomkins, 837479

### Lee Common Scouts

Scout Leader Thomas Brockett:  
837294 or brockett8@hotmail.com

### Leeside Nursery

Melissa Reading, 837719  
www.leesidenurseryschool.co.uk

### Shop @ The Lee

Symeon Economou, 837195  
theleeshop@yahoo.co.uk

### St John the Baptist Church

See centre pages.

### St Mary's Ballinger

Contact: Anne Ellis, 837247  
anne.ellis1004@gmail.com

### The Art Society Ballinger

Chairman, Peter Archer, 837933  
ballinger@theartsociety.org

### The Lee Cricket Club

www.theleccc.org.uk  
Secretary, Mike Harris,  
07788 345555

### The Lee Flower Show

Chairman, Jonathan Batten,  
837450

### The Lee Newsletter

theleenewsletter@googlemail.com

### The Lee Old Church Trust

Secretary: Pam Garner 837501

### The Lee Parish Council

Clerk: Liz van Hullen, 758800  
theleeparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk  
www.thelee-pc.org.uk

Allotments: Alison Weir, 837529

### The Lee Parish Hall Committee

Bookings: Anne Barnett, 837796  
Chairman: Tony Lea, 837237

### The Leeway

Contact, 837177

### Vocal Lees

Jeannette Batten, 837450