



NEWSLETTER

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



Sales & Lettings

64 High Street Great Missenden
Buckinghamshire HP16 0AN
Tel: 01494 890990
email: info@jeremyswan.co.uk
www.jeremyswan.co.uk

From the Editor

By Peter Archer

Looking back over the past 50 years or so, it is hard to recall a time when we lived with as much political and economic uncertainty as we are currently experiencing. Even on a local level the local authorities are consolidating into a unitary council which may take some time to settle down.

So it is with some comfort to know that The Lee Parish Council continues as before without the political conflicts which arise elsewhere! Indeed we can draw comfort from the belief that life in The Lee should continue as before with the Church Fête and the Flower Show to look forward during the Summer.

As for the Newsletter, we have some excellent news, as reported elsewhere in this edition. We are delighted to have recruited, two new members whose addition will not only boost the gender balance of the Editorial team but, importantly, participate in future editing and setting roles.

Next month's editor is Phil Harrison. If you have some material for the March edition please send it to him via the normal email address theleenewsletter@googlemail.com or hard copy to Lane End, Crocketts Lane, Lee Common by 12th February.

Leslie Robins

By the Editorial Team

It is with great sadness that we report that Leslie Robins of Lee Common died on Christmas Eve and his funeral took place on Tuesday 22nd January at St John the Baptist Church.

A full tribute to Leslie will appear in the March Newsletter.



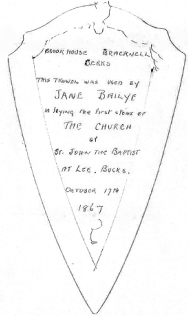
Your letters

Desperately seeking Jane

To the Editor

Our family in Australia has a silver trowel in its possession which is engraved: *"This trowel was used by*

Jane Bailye in laying the first stone of THE CHURCH of ST JOHN THE BAPTIST AT LEE, Bucks, OCTOBER 17th 1867."



Through the website, The Lee residents have been able to confirm to me that according to parish records:

"On September 26th of the said year, 1867, the work of building the new church was commenced by Honour the builder under the supervision of Mr Frere as Architect."

... and that:

"On February the 3rd, 1869, a service in the Old Church was held for the last time and on February 6th following, the Consecration Service of the new church took place."

However no one has so far been able to identify Jane Bailye and in particular no one can confirm that there is (or was) an 1867 foundation stone at the church. It has been speculated that this may be because in 1910 there was a substantial enlargement of the church.

The inscription on the 'new' stone to mark this says: "This foundation stone was relaid on the 14th October

1910 by Emma Louise Liberty on the enlargement of the church".

It could be that any original inscription was lost at that time.

I wonder if any resident has any knowledge or records of this original stone or indeed of Jane Bailye. John Bailye <John@twbgroup.com>

Life in The Lee

To the Editor

Many congratulations to the Lee Old Church for putting together the wonderful evening on Remembrance Day. It was so interesting to hear the voices of residents living through and after the First World War. It seemed very much that life then was in many ways much as it is now in the Lee and the surrounding villages, though as yet we haven't had a murder!

It was fascinating to hear of the incredible storm which caused so much damage 100 years ago in May, as almost to the week in 2018, the same fields were scarred and great rivers of flints deposited on the footpath between the village green and Ballinger. The fields looked like a rushing torrent had blasted its way through them and the footpaths still haven't recovered. At Pipers we had a flood in our cellar and there were several other houses similarly afflicted, including the Roald Dahl museum which was closed until nearly the end of October due to the damage.

Like 100 years ago, Amersham was not affected, Great Missenden was flooded and the sink-hole, which we know as Chesham, was, as usual, flooded. It would seem that some things never change.

Fiona Baxter
The Lee

Leeside Nursery

To the Editor

It is with great sadness that we confirm the closure of Leeside Nursery on Friday 15th February.

This has been a very difficult decision, having explored numerous options to try to secure Leeside's future which ultimately proved unsuccessful. We will write more fully about this in the March edition.

Our thanks to everyone that has supported us over the last year. Melissa Woodford Smith and Ali Siddle

The Lee Parish Council report

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk

Clhrs recently toured parish roads with representatives of Transport for Bucks (TfB) and pointed out many areas of concern. It is clear that our roads are continuing to deteriorate and what was deemed 'non-urgent' one day can become quickly more serious.

To report a pothole direct to TfB you can use the link below – it only takes a couple of minutes and is by far the quickest way of registering a problem with the people who can do something about it.

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/>

Unitary Authority update

We reported in December that the Secretary of State had decided that there will be one single new unitary authority in Buckinghamshire.

However, his draft orders have been rejected by all four district councils, meaning the Secretary of State must now legislate for the merger by the end of March.

In a joint statement the leaders of Chiltern and Wycombe DC, said they had written to the Secretary as a preliminary step to legal proceedings.

(See also page 6.)

Parish Task Force

The Parish has a small volunteer task force to undertake minor maintenance work on parish assets. We are looking to supplement this group. A willingness to undertake DIY / garden maintenance type-work, under supervision, is all that is needed.

If you would like to join this group please contact me on 01494 837068 or at theleeparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk.

Convivial Canines



Dog walking service based in The Lee

As from the end of February, I have availability for one more dog to be walked.

I also offer home-visits to feed or let out your pets whilst at work or away.

Dog-sitting services available. References available on request.

Contact:

Adele: 07547 100312
adelefrancis@rocketmail.com

Benches in The Lee

By Cllr Ruth Fowler

Following on from the article in the last newsletter about notice boards, I thought I'd try to list all the benches and picnic tables in the parish. Tracking down the benches and determining who is responsible for each has not been as easy as I'd anticipated, but I think I've got there. By location, with details of those responsible for each in brackets, to the best of my knowledge they are:

Swan Bottom crossroads: bench (Parish Council)



Swan Bottom crossroads

The Green: benches in memory of Susan Cowdy (Stewart-Liberty family)

Parish Hall: bench in the tennis court in memory of Roger Morgan (Parish Hall); picnic table on the grass by the shop (Shop); bench by the flagpole in memory of Kate McCree (Scouts); bench in front of the shop in memory of Audley and Marjorie Humphreys (Shop); picnic table between the basketball net and football area (tba); bench in the rear

play area in memory of Sarah Warner (Parish Hall)

Playground: benches in memory of Andrew Stacey and Pat and Bill Pidgeon (Parish Council); picnic table (Parish Council)

Allotments: bench in memory of Tony and Nancy Humphreys (Humphreys family)

Jubilee Well: bench attached to the gate (Parish Council)

Field End Lane: bench in memory of Emily Morris (Parish Council)



Field End Lane

In addition there were three other benches in recent memory which have either been removed or fallen into complete disrepair: 'Jim's Seat' by the entrance to Kingswood Lodge/House, opposite the Old Swan; bench by the bus stop on Lee Clump Road near the junction with Princes Lane; bench by the bus stop at the top of Lee Clump Road near the junction with Red Lion Hill.

If you are aware of further benches past or present, or would like to claim/deny responsibility for any of those listed, please contact the Clerk at theleeparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk or on 01494 837068.

Puzzling-Lee

By the Mathematics Guy

A reminder of the last puzzle

At the Christmas family gathering, Sam asked her mother and grandmother how old they were.

They each replied: "My age in years is a square number".

Her grandmother then added: "The sum of our ages is also a square number."

How old is Sam's mother?

Answer to the puzzle

Let's start with the 'square numbers': 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, 81, 100, etc. The question is: what combination adds to a number which is also a square number?

If we take 3^2 and 4^2 , they add to 25 which is also a square number (5^2) – but that would make the mother 9 years old and the grandmother 16 years old... clearly ridiculous.

Similarly if we take 5^2 and 12^2 , they add to 169, which is also a square number (13^2) but mum would then be 25 and gran 144... also ridiculous!

The only combination that makes any sense is ($6^2 + 8^2 = 10^2$) i.e. mum is 36 and gran is 64. So... that must be the correct answer!

We are in fact back to our good old friend Pythagoras: $X^2 + Y^2 = Z^2$.

When X, Y and Z are all whole numbers they are known as 'Pythagorean Triples' (3,4,5) (5,12,13) (8,15,17) etc. and multiples of these triples (6,8,10) (9,12,15) etc.

Not a lot of people know that!

[Ed: I think we need to retire these Mathematics guys. Thanks!]

Pilates

@HOME

'FLEXIBLE TO THE CORE'

1 to 1 Pilates... in the comfort and convenience of your own home

Mat Pilates for all abilities
Improves posture, flexibility,
core strength, muscle tone
and sports performance

Individuals [or small groups of up to 4]

Qualified Mat Pilates instructor for
Beginner, Intermediate and
Advanced Levels

"In ten sessions you will feel the difference,
in 20 you will see the difference and in 30
you will have a whole new body"
... Joseph Pilates

If you are interested or require further
information please contact:

Karen on 07790 081670



Email: info@karensabsolutePilates.co.uk
www.karensabsolutePilates.co.uk

From the County

By Cllr Tricia Birchley



A new year and a new Council confirmed for Buckinghamshire, ready to go on 1st April 2020. (See also page 3.) The name chosen is 'Buckinghamshire Council' and it will be made up of three councillors per Division, making 147 Members in all. A shadow authority will be set up composed of all existing County and District councillors with 'twin hatters' having only one vote. The government has suggested that the current Leader of BCC will chair the Shadow Executive for 12 months. This will have responsibility for preparing the budget for the new authority and implementing the unitary proposal.

Bringing the five existing councils together was never going to be easy but long-term savings should reduce duplication, the number of buildings currently occupied and simplify processes such as planning and refuse disposal. I am determined that although the number of councillors in this Division will reduce from five to three, we shall work diligently together to ensure your needs are met and that we protect our valuable landscapes from future development.

HS2 continues to appear prominently in the Press while all the time seeming more and more ridiculous (see also page 18). Talk now is of reducing the number of trains from 18 to 14 an hour, no longer enabling 60,000 people to get aboard from London to Birmingham in the evening rush hour. This confirms what we all

thought, that London will be even more congested and doesn't take into account connectivity at Euston in terms of buses and underground services.

So far the winter has been relatively mild but snow is forecast following storms on the west coast of America. The footpaths are relatively dry and the number of people walking in the Chilterns continues to grow. The conversation about a national park is ongoing but would take a very long time to implement. I have asked Simon Kearey, the new chairman of the Chiltern Society, not to lose sight of managed access to our most popular sites. I fear much of the wildlife has vanished in places like Wendover Woods!

I am here to raise your concerns with officers at County Hall. Please contact me on 01296 651823 or at pbirchley@buckscc.gov.uk

Down in the dumps

By the Editor

Bucks County Council has been considering some changes to the running of the county's household recycling centres and, early in January, following local public consultation, decided to introduce the changes with effect from 1st April this year in the hope of being able to achieve annual savings in the order of £1.25 million.

For those of us who are accustomed to visiting the local 'dump' this will have some impact. Our nearest Council recycling centre is in Chesham and from April it will be closed on

Wednesdays and Thursdays. Two other centres, in Rabans Lane (Aylesbury) and Burnham will also be closed on those days.

Another change that will be introduced in April will be the introduction of charges for anything that is classified as non-domestic waste: examples include waste resulting from construction, demolition or alteration of houses and outbuildings, rubble and soil.

Let us hope that these changes do not result in an increase in fly-tipping!

Bridge too far?

By Liz Ford et al

Our recent Bridge hand illustrated the use of the 'Losing Trick Count' (LTC) once you had found a trump suit fit.

♠ Q 8 7 3

♥ 6

♦ A Q 7 6 5 2

♣ Q 9

♠ 6 5

♥ K Q 8 7

♦ J 4 3

♣ A J 8 6

♠ A 10 2

♥ A J 9 5

♦ 10 9

♣ 5 4 3 2

♠ K J 9 4

♥ 10 4 3 2

♦ K 8

♣ K 10 7

Dealer: North

Vulnerability: Neither

The bidding started:

N E S W

1♦ - 1♠ -

Where do you think LTC took us?
See page 10.

MEAT THAT'S GOOD TO EAT

Buckmoorend
farm shop & kitchen

HOME REARED MEATS

LOCAL PRODUCE

KITCHEN OPEN AT WEEKENDS

Chequers Estate, Missenden Road
Butlers Cross HP17 0UT
SHOP: Wed-Fri 10-6 Sat/Sun 10-4
www.buckmoorendfarmshop.co.uk

CALL US: 01296 622 472

KINGSHILL

CARS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

CHILTERN

AIRPORTS

LONDON

01494 868699
Email: bookings@kingshillcars.co.uk

HS2: security vehicles

By the Editorial Team

After a number of sightings of the same vehicles behaving in a strange manner over the Christmas period, HS2 Ltd has provided the following information.

HS2 Ltd now has a number of Security and Safety Support Vehicles (SSSV) operating along the route. They have been provided to ensure that the public and those working on the project, as well as property and sites along the route, remain safe and secure in regard to HS2 activity. Locally, the Government now owns properties and land in the South Heath/Potter Row area, near The Lee green, at Kings Ash and of course farther afield.



MARTIN THE MILKMAN

Refrigerated delivery of fresh milk, dairy produce, bread, eggs, fruit juices and more.

To place an order call

01442 833944

PHONES MANNED 4 PM – 6 PM
ANSWERPHONE AT OTHER TIMES

The vehicles are plain white Nissan Nivaras with fluorescent panels on the rear of the vehicle and a stripe along the side. If they are required to respond to an incident and identify themselves, they will place a magnetic HS2 sign on the sides of the vehicle. The vehicles are otherwise 'unbranded' to ensure the safety of the staff in the vehicle.

If approached by a member of the public, staff will show their HS2 ID and will be able to give a contact card for the HS2 Helpdesk to confirm they work for HS2. The Helpdesk have the vehicle registration numbers and names of all SSSV staff.

The registrations of vehicles operating in the Central Area are: LO67XXB, LO67XXG, LO67XXM, LO67XHP and BP67TZN

HS2: Looking ahead...

HS2 Ltd and the contractors continue with their Drop-ins at Gt Missenden Library from 2:00 to 6:00 pm on Fridays: 22nd February; 29th March; 26th April; 31st May; 28th June.

The Susan Cowdy Award

By John Horsman

Susan Cowdy (1914-1996) donated this Flower Show cup to the winner of the annual under-35 ladies' running race. Nowadays, this is twice around the cricket square, but an earlier incarnation of it, from the 1960's, involved a road run from the cricket field, past the Manor and 'Pipers' to Hunts Green and back.



2018 Cowdy Cup winner: Gemma Thompson

Susan (nee Stewart-Liberty) was born at 'Pipers' and then moved to The Manor. Her marriage to John Cowdy in 1935 then took her to County Down, Northern Ireland, before returning to 'Swyllmers' during the Second World War with their three children. John sadly passed away in 1974. Susan subsequently moved to 'Rushmere' on the village green.

Susan was a well-known and distinguished figure, both as a natural historian and conservationist. She specialised in birdlife, through her

work both locally and at Bardsey Island (on the North Wales Coast) that she bought for the Welsh Nation. She established the Bucks, Berks and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) and was District Commissioner of the Old Berkshire Hunt Pony Club. She was awarded the MBE in 1981.

Closer to home, Susan was instrumental in creating the Conservation area at The Lee. She was a great supporter of the Flower Show and played an active part with others during the early 1960's giving it a much-needed boost. A plaque in her memory is affixed to a bench on the village green.

Anyone wishing to know more about Susan's full and interesting life are directed to her obituary that appeared in 'The Independent' newspaper at the time of her passing.

Pippa Hart Photography



Natural & Informal
Black & White
Portraits

01494 837340
www.pippahart.com

Mike Lake Friendly & Local Painter & Decorator

For that professional touch

Interior & Exterior
Also Property Maintenance

For a free quotation please call:
01494 866873 / 07723 017005
mikelake42@talktalk.net

Bridge too far?

At our table the bidding continued:

N	E	S	W
1♦	-	1♠	-
3♠	-	4♠	-
-	-	-	-

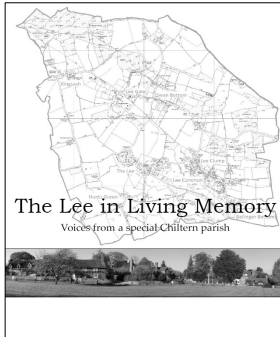
Bid using LTC, South made 4♠.

A simple high-card point count might not take you to game.

Selling fast!

By the Living Memory publication team

We estimate that 90% of the initial print run for this book has now been sold – a massive thank you to all those who bought (and sold) copies.



To get your copy – while stocks last – pop along to the Shop @ The Lee or the Cock and Rabbit. Just £7.50 buys you this wonderful evocation of life in The Lee in the last century. Don't miss out!

From the archives

First published in The Lee Newsletter in February 2004 – 15 years ago.

The Chiltern Muntjac

By Jim Hetherington

In the early 1900s, the 11th Duke of Bedford released a number of muntjac from Woburn Park. Little did he know about the impact upon our countryside that would follow over the ensuing century. Releases also from Whipsnade Zoo, together with secret introductions in other counties, accelerated the spread of the animal; it is now the most widely-distributed deer in England. Because of the damage it can cause to the environment, it is now an offence to introduce the muntjac to areas where it is not already present. The feral population is estimated to be around 40,000 and growing at 10% a year. There are no natural predators; numbers are reduced prematurely only by very cold winters, aggressive dogs and by man with a shotgun or at the wheel of his motor car.

The muntjac we see today crashing through the Chiltern woods and fields is called the Reeves muntjac, one of many animal specimens sent back to England by John Reeves FRS, a naturalist living in China in the early 1800s. It is more colloquially known as the 'Barking Deer' – not because it was found in Essex or is particularly mad but because of the raucous sound it emits repeatedly and tediously when alarmed and when we are trying to sleep.

Indigenous to South East Asia where they are hunted for their meat

and skin, muntjacs are the oldest of all known deer, their remains having been found in Miocene deposits over 15 million years old. The animal is the smallest (up to 50cm high) and undoubtedly the least attractive of the deer family. It walks jerkily, head lowered and hunched forward. The long tail is conspicuous when erect and when its white underside is revealed in flight. Both bucks and does have spectacular facial markings with rather ugly large glands below the eyes which secrete a substance used for scent-marking territories.



Our Chiltern countryside with its dense woodland and abundance of thick cover is ideal for this rather solitary and secretive animal which generally forages and feeds at dawn or dusk. A ruminant, the muntjac browses in hourly bouts before retiring to safe cover to chew the cud. It will eat what is readily available – ivy, bramble, grasses, herbs, fruit (especially apples), nuts, berries, fungi, vegetables and flowers, both wild and carefully cultivated. Regrettably, they are also partial to primroses, orchids, honeysuckle and bluebells which can be wiped out. The muntjac's detrimental effect on flora and fauna is causing much concern and will almost certainly lead to culling and other controls.

Because of its sub-tropical origins, this primitive deer does not have a seasonal rut. Unlike badgers, all of whom celebrate their birthdays in February, muntjacs can be born at any time of the year. The doe reaches sexual maturity after only eight months; after being then served, she will usually be pregnant for the rest of her life.

Despite the damage the animal undoubtedly causes, most of us are happy to share our Chiltern countryside with this little deer which has adapted very successfully to our habitat and climate. He was not after all an asylum seeker but brought here against his will. The same was the case of the grey squirrel – another Woburn introduction in the 1890s – that has become a much greater ecological problem. But that, as they say, is another story!

Mervyn's Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Services

Independent carpet cleaning specialist with over 30 years experience.

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

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

For a no obligation quote 'phone
01525 371724 or **07975 847027**
Email: mersu@btinternet.com

Return to Prayer

By Revd David Burgess



Slowly but surely, things are getting back to normal. As many people know I'm hoping to be back at work soon – but 'soon' has been a movable feast in my case over the past few months! I'm waiting on a health assessment to decide when that happens and at what pace my initial work is going to be.

But enough of me, I've been promising a lot of people that I'd be boring you silly with thoughts on prayer in the coming months. Other

people's prayer – your prayer – has been a vital part of the last year in terms of my recovery. I'm deeply grateful for this and it means more to me than I know how to express.

I also emphasise prayer at this point because I've had conversations with some people, church members included, who say they don't pray because they don't believe it works. Take it from me, it does. I'm not making any special case for myself but medics have said my recovery is "remarkable"; and as well as the physical recovery comes the emotional and spiritual support. I compare it to the difference between spending a difficult night on a hard wooden bed and spending the same night on a sprung mattress. The support makes all the difference.

The last year, I think, has been a learning time for vicar and churches alike. The congregations and PCCs have been asked to do things they haven't done before. I'm going to have to think very carefully about the best use of my time and resources when I return. Together we will need to decide what the best way is to continue the work of Christian witness and service in our four villages. A return to prayer once again will need to be the basis of what we do.

I hope you think that all this is important, whether as a church member or not, or whatever your stance on faith. As Christian communities our churches need tirelessly to return to prayer again and again. I hope that this last year has shown that, and that it will make a difference in the future.

Digital & Litho Printing Brochures
Business, Social & Wedding Stationery
Business Cards Invoices **Roller Banners**
Large Format Prints **Booklets** Photocopying
Leaflets Plan Printing Finishing Services
Photographic Services **Scanning** Restoration



www.orbitpress.co.uk

You can find us on Facebook and Twitter

11 Market Square Chesham HP5 1HG
01494 778053 info@orbitpress.co.uk

Services for February

St John the Baptist

3 rd	8:00am	HC	Revd Janet Whales Old Church
	10:00am	AA	Joint Service with Lee Common Methodist Church Gerald Tomkins
10 th	10:00am	PC	Revd Martin Williams
17 th	10:00am	Matins	Lay-led
24 th	10:00am	PC	Revd Geoffrey Howell

HC Holy Communion (said)

PC Parish Communion (sung)

AA All-age service

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

Methodist Church

3 rd	10:00am	AA	Joint worship at St John the Baptist
10 th	3:00pm	HC	Revd Nigel Wright
17 th	3:00pm		Gerald Tomkins
24 th	3:00pm		Revd Gregory Hargrove

Our **Coffee Mornings** continue on Saturday 2nd February 10:30-12 noon. All are welcome.

St Mary's, Ballinger

3rd 9:30am Morning prayer followed by refreshments.

A fête appeal

By Rod Neal

It may seem early to start planning summer activities, but not when it concerns one of our key local events, such as the annual Church Fête at The Lee. Last year, the organising committee decided to disband to make way for some new blood that could bring more enthusiasm and original ideas to this very worthwhile and traditional occasion, raising much needed funds for the parish church as well as being a gathering point for the local community.

I am therefore appealing now for volunteers to take over the organisation of the 2019 fête, which hopefully will take place on Saturday 15th June, with the permission of the

TIM SIMMONS IS

THE VERMINATOR

PEST CONTROL SERVICES

WASPS
GLIS-GLIS
SQUIRREL
RATS
MICE
MOLES



ALL
INSECTS
FOXES
RABBITS
AND
ANTS

FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE

LOW PRICES - HIGH QUALITY

07734649305

**WE WILL ALSO PROOF YOUR
HOUSE/PREMISES TO STOP THEM
COMING BACK**

Stewart-Liberty family. This may seem a daunting task but not so really; over the last five years, I have streamlined the whole process with the use of spreadsheets and email communications which has reduced the amount of time required significantly. Last year the committee met just once. There is of course a vast amount of support from the community, which miraculously appears during the build-up and on fête day. However, it does require someone with a small team to get the thing off the ground with some early planning and then to act as co-ordinator. To lighten the load, we already have a commitment for teas to be provided on the Green – an essential component – and we have booked the pony!

Carolyn Widera Soft Furnishings



Curtains, Roman Blinds & Pelmets
Lampshades, Cushions & Loose Covers
Window Seats & Headboards
Armchairs, Dining Chairs & Footstools

01494 837794 / 07708 702023
carolynwidera@hotmail.com

www.carolynwidera.com

Carolyn-Widera-Soft-Furnishings

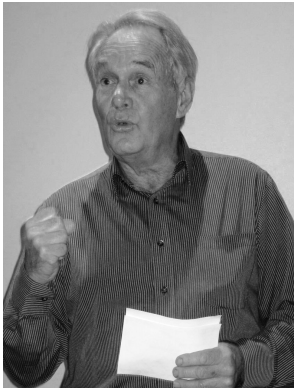
@CarolynWidera

If you could join the ranks of those who have kept the fête running for so many years in the past, particularly if you are new to the area, then do please get in touch. My number is 837264 or email: rolandjane.neal@gmail.com.

Newsletter celebrations

By the Editorial Team

The Parish Hall was packed on the last Friday in November to celebrate the end of another record-breaking year for the Newsletter: more contributors, more pages and more advertisers than ever before, all resulting in more invites to the Newsletter Dinner.



Peter Macann enthralled the audience

Speaking at the dinner, Peter Macann recalled stories of his early days as a reporter on the South Coast

interviewing (and befriending) John Lennon's aunt (his surrogate mother) at the time of John's murder. He also enthralled the audience with tales of his crossing (and not crossing) of the Atlantic on the Virgin Atlantic Challenger.



The evening ended with the announcement that the Newsletter Annual Award for 2018 was being presented (much to his surprise) to Jonathan Batten (above right) – who, judging by the audience's reaction, was a most worthy winner. The Award goes to Jonathan for the great many contributions he makes to the Newsletter and in recognition of his wider contributions to community life.

Our thanks go to all those who made the Newsletter such a success in 2018 and to those who helped pull together such a splendid evening.

Litter pick-up

By Pat Chinnery

Please join us for our yearly litter clearance on Sunday 24th March. Please contact Pat Chinnery 837564 or Ann Ash 837550 if you can help.

Newsletter Editorial team

The Newsletter Editorial team has been boosted this year with the arrival of two new team members:

- * Liz Macann joins us as one of our part-time editors – look out for her 'first edition' later in the year
- * Ruth Fowler joins us as a part-time setter – also bringing with her valuable links to the Shop and to the Parish Council.

We still have vacancies on the Editorial team, so if anyone else would like to climb aboard in 2019 please get in touch by emailing us at: theceenewsletter@googlemail.com



Great Missenden Supported Living

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

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

Tel: 01494 865026

or email for a brochure
info@abbeyfieldgreatmissenden.co.uk

Find out more on our website
www.abbeyfield.com

Fields and woods map

By Annie Pearce



I thought this map might be of interest to residents of The Lee. The picture was presented to my grandfather, Frank Pearce, on his retirement from the Parish Council.

This map keeps alive the names of fields and lanes and dells and woods, and provides a link to past inhabitants of this lovely village.

I can offer limited edition prints, which are on high quality paper and measure 515 x 425 mm. The cost is £50 which includes a print, postage and packing. I will recover my costs for arranging this and anything above that I will donate to The Lee church.

Multiple copies could be posted together, which would reduce the cost.

Please contact me if you are interested on 07717 623734 or email annieraj@btinternet.com.

Lest we forget

Digital Collection Day

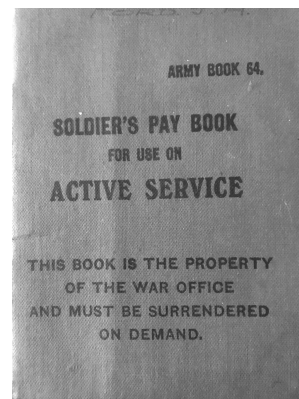
By John Ford

Many thanks again to all who have expressed an interest in taking part in the digital collection day, whether as a contributor, a volunteer helper, or in some cases both.

To recap, the event involves an opportunity to record family artefacts such as photographs, letters, stories, or other items relating to the First World War, on a digital database. 'Lest We Forget' is a national project sponsored by the University of Oxford and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission which seeks to preserve family memories as an act of commemoration as well as creating an extensive archive of social history. The aim is to recognise and record memories from the First World War that survive not in museum collections or history books but in the homes of the people and families affected.

Anyone with collections of family photos or other records is encouraged to bring them along. Some may be genuinely heroic, some more mundane. I have attached my grandfather's pay book from 1917 as an illustration. It records his training in "drill, musketry and gas." The specimen "Short Form of Will" made out by "Thomas Atkins" is particularly poignant.

The event will take place on Saturday 23rd February in the Parish Hall. We aim to start the main event at 10:00 am but training for collection volunteers may start earlier.



More details on the Lest We Forget project can be found at <https://lwf.web.ox.ac.uk/home> or please contact me directly at john.ford35@btinternet.com.

PC Kevin Flint

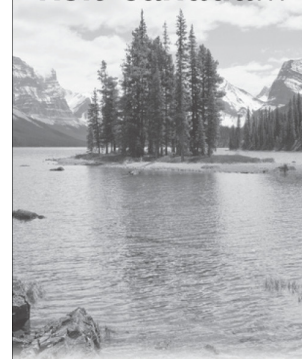
From Thames Valley Police

It is with great sadness that we confirm the tragic death of serving Thames Valley Police officer, PC Kevin Flint.

PC Flint, a neighbourhood officer based at Chesham (and with specific responsibilities for 'Chesham Rural'), died in a motorcycle crash whilst off-duty, travelling home from work on the evening of 15th January.

Our thoughts are with his family, as well as his friends and colleagues at this extremely difficult time.

Looking to visit Canada...



TOP 8 UK CANADA AGENT AS RECOGNISED BY DESTINATION CANADA

For help with creating the best itinerary for you, please call or email us

- Canada specialist since 2001
- Friendly, honest advice from an independent travel agency
- Specialist in tailor-making holidays to destinations worldwide
- Extensive experience to arrange every detail
- Using fully bonded tour operators
- No booking fees



Travel Impressions

01442 890265

enquiries@travelimpressions.co.uk
www.travelimpressions.co.uk

Suite 4, George House, 64 High Street, Tring, Herts. HP23 4AF

So that's OK!

By Colin Sully

HS2 'Enabling Work' has resumed again since the New Year. There is not much else to report locally on HS2 (except for concerns about security vehicles – see page 8). However, in case you missed all the exciting HS2 national news over Christmas/New Year, here are some of the highlights!

All change at the top

In December, the FT revealed that Theresa May was poised to sack the chairman HS2 and Crossrail after only four months in the job. In fact he 'resigned' from the job a week later.

His removal was taken as a clear sign that both HS2 and Crossrail have continuing problems. However, the Transport Secretary, Chris Grayling, continued his mantra of HS2 being "on time and on budget". So that's OK!

Contractor short of cash

Kier were one of the three companies in the joint-venture 'CEK' awarded the contract to construct the HS2 route from South Heath to Warwickshire. The first, Carillion, has already folded... and we are now left with Eiffage-Kier (EK).

In December, Kier announced an emergency plan to raise £264m to cut its debt. Investors shunned the fundraising effort, with just 38% of the new shares being taken up, leaving the financial institutions who underwrote the cash-call to mop up £164m of unwanted stock. Kier's shares, which had already fallen more than 40 per cent in 2018, fell further following the

announcement and as a result dropped out of the FTSE 250.

However, the Chief Executive of Kier announced: "The company enters 2019 with a strong balance sheet, which puts us in an excellent competitive position." So that's OK!



Illegal cartel operating

Following an investigation by the Competition and Markets Authority, Stanton Bonna Concrete Ltd and CPM Group Ltd, which supply HS2 and Crossrail with pre-cast concrete products, admitted they ran a cartel, so they could artificially inflate prices and corner the market.

The two companies admitted that they held regular secret meetings over seven years to control the market, during which time the companies increased their market share from 50% to 90%.

In 2017, CPM Group was acquired by Marshalls, whose Deputy Chair just happens to now be the new HS2 Ltd Chairman, Allan Cook. So that's OK!

Deceiving Parliament?

Panorama ran a special investigation in December in which a former senior HS2 Ltd manager claimed that the company had deliberately deceived Parliament over the escalating cost of land acquisitions.

HS2 Ltd Chief Executive, Mark Thurston, rebutted these claims, saying that estimates of the costs of all elements of the project were

constantly under review and that the overall projected cost remained "within the budget envelope".

So that's OK!

More delay at the ends!

The announcement of which firms would build the two London stations at Euston and Old Oak Common was originally due to be made by the end of 2018, but this date has been pushed back to "quarter one 2019".

Similarly, the award of the contract for the design and build of Birmingham (Curzon St) station has been put back to quarter two 2020.

An HS2 Ltd spokesperson said: "We are working closely with government to complete the contract award process."

So that's OK!

Cutting costs... and benefits?

In January, it was reported that in order to reduce costs, HS2 Ltd was now considering:

- reduction the train speed by 50 kph
- reducing the train frequency to 12 or 14 per hour, instead of 18
- changing back to ballasted track.

The removal of slab track could achieve a significant cost reduction and other technical complications become less onerous at a lower train speed. However, Leader of the House, Andrea Leadsom pointed out that reducing the train speed and capacity might actually destroy the business case... but as it probably never had one anyway, that's also OK!

2019 Spending Review

Finally, also in January, Liz Truss, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced a major review of Government spending.

She says the Government will "conduct a zero-based capital review – examining all major investment projects across Government... In reviewing this evidence, we must be prepared to junk the white elephants, the programmes that haven't worked."

Jacob Rees Mogg followed-up by specifically urging the Government to scrap HS2 and a day later, the Prime Minister was asked whether it was time to cancel the project. Mrs May replied: "We are (already) seeing it spreading prosperity, 10 years before it has opened" seemingly acknowledging that it is already two to three years late!

So, is 2019 going to be the year in which it is finally realised that in fact all is not OK on the HS2 gravy train?

Just maybe!

SHORT-TERM RENTALS

From £295 per week (all inclusive)

Self-catering holiday or temporary accommodation at Lee Common

Moving house?

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

Expecting Visitors?

Need extra accommodation?

*Self-contained Period Property:
sleeps four guests*

Tel: 01494 837798

e-mail: lowerbassibones@yahoo.co.uk

Gregorian Chance

From The Lee Old Church Trust
Committee

These days you could expect to enjoy all kinds of musical treats here at The Lee Old Church, from the harp, violin, clarinet to light opera, but have you ever wondered what you'd hear if you could take a trip back in time to the Middle Ages?

Well, on the 23rd March you'll have the chance to find out. Because, David Ireson and his Friends will be with us to take you on a magical, de-mystifying tour of Church music through the ages right here in our 800 year old Grade I listed Church - the oldest building in the Chiltern District.

Hear Gregorian chants brought to life and see how they influenced composers hundreds of years later. Find out how Do-Re-Mi (the tonic sol-fa) came about. Discover how music came to be written down.

There'll be scores of musical illustrations to go with the history, ranging from examples of plainsong to 16th Century works by Thomas Tallis, William Byrd and Robert Parsons –

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.

plus Gregorian chant-inspired music from Maurice Durufle.

What an opportunity to listen to music that will almost certainly have been sung in the Old Church in the Middle Ages, and to music that pre-dates the Reformation...and survived it.

The climax of the evening will be a short service of Compline sung by candlelight... close your eyes and let the ancient sounds of the monks carry you away to simpler times.

Afterwards, you'll be able to reflect over canapés and a glass of wine, or two.

So join us for this uniquely exquisite experience: tickets are just £15 each, available in advance from Pam Garner on 837501 or Jilly Carleton-Smith on 837205.

(Bitter)sweet Shop?

By Symeon Economou

It was a bittersweet ending to the year for the Shop at The Lee. 2018 was not without its problems but we nevertheless ended it with record sales – up about 1.5% on 2017. The Greek and Turkish Food Event in the spring and the Christmas Food and Gift Market in November have now become established popular events. Also, Christmas Eve, when we successfully fulfilled over 50 orders, was a huge success. These, combined with the continuing support of our customers resulted in sales of just under £200k.

As ever, I must stress that nothing would be possible without the

enthusiastic and cheerful support of about 50 volunteers – not only those behind the counter but unsung heroes who keep track of the numbers, do the buying from Peterley, select wonderful wines, seek out our unique range of greetings cards and haggle at markets before the crack of dawn to provide our unrivalled array of flowers and plants.

Against all this was the sadness of losing Leslie Robins, whose quarterly forensic examination of our accounts gave a clear vision of how we were doing and kept us on the straight and narrow. It would be an understatement to say he will be sorely missed.



For 2019 we will continue to try to review our product range to keep it fresh and relevant to our customers and a bit of a spruce-up is also possibly overdue. We have tentatively embarked on getting into the 21st century with our new Facebook presence ('like' us at ShopAtTheLee) as part of our review into how we communicate with the community. Also, as and when funds allow, we aim to improve the frontage of the shop, possibly with an awning and outside display.

Cromar Carpets Ltd

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

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

J Brown Funeral Services
67 Woodside Road, Amersham, HP6 6AA
01494 727474 (24 hours)

A truly independent family funeral directors

Bespoke and traditional services
Private chapels of rest
Pre-paid funeral plans
Off street client parking
Home visits



Contact Jason Brown on: 01494 727474
jason@jbrownfuneralservices.co.uk



Recommended by
The Good Funeral Guide

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).

February

Saturday 2nd March. Coffee Morning. Lee Common Methodist Church 10:30 am to 12 noon.

Thursday 7th March. The Lee Walking Group. Meet at The Lee Green at 9:30 am.

Tuesday 12th March. Ballinger Evening WI. 'The importance of Musical Education': Virginia Burgess. 8:00 pm. *Saturday 23rd March. Digital Archive Day* at the Parish Hall. See page 16.

Thursday 28th March. The Arts Society Ballinger. 'London's Changing Skyline, Past Present and Future' 8:00 pm. Guests £8.

Coming soon

Saturday 2nd March. Coffee Morning at the Methodist Church.

Thursday 7th March. The Lee Walking Group. Meet at 9:30 am.

Saturday 9th March. 50s and 60s Legends Night at Ballinger Hall. Live golden oldies music with dinner and dancing. Save the date.

Tuesday 12th March. The Lee Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7:30 pm.

Tuesday 12th March. Ballinger Evening WI. 'Building Georgian Towns': Adam Smith. 8:00 pm.

Saturday 23rd March. Gregorian Chant at The Lee Old Church. See page 20.

Sunday 24th March. Litter pick-up. See page 15.

Thursday 28th March. The Arts Society Ballinger. 'From Bronzes to Banksy - an armchair tour of public and street art.' 8:00 pm. Guests £8.

Tuesday 9th April. Ballinger Evening WI. 'Volunteering in Cambodia': Carol McCutcheon. 8:00 pm

Sunday 14th April. The Lee Old Church AGM.

Tuesday 14th May. Ballinger Evening WI. The Thames Path: Jo Laurie.

Tuesday 11th June. Ballinger Evening WI. 'Seated Flexibility Exercises': Joan Cooper. 8:00 pm.

Saturday 15th June. The Lee Church Fête. See page 13.

Tuesday 9th July. Ballinger Evening WI. Bagels and Bacon: Jeff Rozelaar.

Saturday 20th July. The Lee Flower Show. Save the date!

Tuesday 10th September. Ballinger Evening WI. 'The Disappearance of Major Glenn Miller': Tony Eaton.

Tuesday 5th November. Bonfire night! Save the date!

Saturday 16th November. Roving Supper. Save the date!

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

The Newsletter

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

We welcome letters and articles of interest and relevance to The Lee. Copy should be sent to the Editor of the month (see page 1) by the 12th of the month before publication.

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

To advertise 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 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, Ruth Fowler, Phil Harrison, Liz Macann, Jen Ogley, Adam Speller and Colin Sully.

Printed by Strongs: 01442 878592.

To book the Parish Hall or Scout Hut

'phone Anne Barnett on 837796

Rates	9 am - 1 pm 2 pm - 6 pm	6 pm - midnight
Mon - Fri	£30 or £10/hr	£45 or £10/hr
Sat/Sun	£12/hr	£70
Bank Holiday	£12/hr	£70
Car park only	£10	
Crockery/cutlery	£15 (hire outside the hall)	

Lee Common C of E School
School office, 837267
office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk

Lee Common Methodist Church
Marian Tomkins, 837479

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

Leeside Nursery
Nancy Stephens, 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
Chair, Lesley Wickham, 865480
ballinger@theartsociety.org

The Lee Cricket Club
www.theleecc.org.uk
Secretary, Mike Harris
07788 345555

The Lee Flower Show
Chairman, Jonathan Batten,
837450

The Lee Newsletter
theleenewsletter@googlemail.com

The Lee Old Church Trust
Secretary: Pam Garner 837501

The Lee Parish Council
Clerk: Hayley Farrelly, 837068
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