



NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Peter Archer

The last time I edited the Newsletter was earlier this year for the February edition. Life was normal then and most of us were unaware of the lurking Covid virus which was about to engulf us.

I certainly had never heard of Zoom which, over the past six months, has become familiar to most of us. It was therefore a relief to find that editing the Newsletter has hardly changed. The content has reflected the impact of Covid and sadly many of the activities and events we would have been looking forward to have been greatly curtailed.

Although we continue to live in restricted times with no early signs of it ending anytime soon, it has shown how important the sense of community is to all our lives. The village shop is an example of this and it is interesting to learn in this month's edition of it hosting a collection point for donations to the Chiltern Food Bank.

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of cyclists on our roads and it is therefore very timely that we feature, this month, Rudi Kalveks' latest Cycle Tour which may be tempting to keen cyclists amongst our readers.

The editor for November is Jonathan Batten. Please send your contributions, by 12th October, by email to theleenewsletter@gmail.com.

Your Letters

Newsletter standards

To the Editor

I note with dismay that the last two editions of The Lee Newsletter both contained pictures of naked birds on the front cover.

This is clearly wrong – they should be confined to page three.

Believe me, I know about birds!

Colonel Sanders (retired)

The Lee

Jones' Hill Wood Camp

To the Editor

Following on from the article in August's edition of The Lee Newsletter, about the Jones' Hill Wood camp; for those who haven't visited the camp yet, I recommend it. The protesters are a very friendly and welcoming group, and you may not have much time to see this lovely wood before HS2 takes possession.

The HS2 contractors have now reached the field next to the camp, and are increasing their numbers in Durham Farm beneath. It's therefore best to contact the group first to let them know if you intend to visit. I'm posting the following link to their gofundme page <https://gf.me/u/yncdv8> Please help if you can.

If anyone's interested I've also made a short aerial film of the wood. If the project continues as intended it

will at least serve as a record of how that part of the landscape looked before the cuttings and the viaducts. The protesters will do their best to hold up HS2 for as long as possible. The video link is: <https://vimeo.com/448324812>

Karl Neilson
Lee Common

The value of friendship (1)

To the Editor

The article by Phil Harrison, recalling domestic life during the oil crisis of the early 70s, reminded me that good friends were as invaluable in that crisis as they are in the current one.

In 1972 many homes, as well as businesses, were without electricity for up to nine hours a day as electricity was switched off on a rota basis. We lived in North London at the time and I recall checking, in the electricity showroom window, which evenings our electricity was due to be 'off' and then checking which friends' houses were due to be 'on'. Dining-in and dining-out needed to be carefully planned. I also recall a huge, sudden growth in take-away restaurants.

Incidentally, the crisis in the 70s led to a period of extremely high inflation – peaking at 24% – and four changes of Prime Minister in one decade – something that hasn't happened since!

Colin Sully
Swan Bottom

The value of friendship (2)

To the Editor

The unsolicited kindness of people in this village never fails to impress and warm our hearts. No sooner had a text been received from Affinity Water advising that storm damage had cut

off local water supplies than there arrived on the doorsteps of Princes Lane households big containers of water. These were delivered by two of our thoughtful neighbours who had immediately galloped down to the supermarket to buy emergency supplies. Nick and Rupert, thank you so much.

Peter and Liz Macann
Lee Common

Chiltern Food Bank comes to the Shop



By Terry Bottle

I think we would all agree that the Shop at The Lee is a vital community resource which has been invaluable during the pandemic.

Similarly, the Chiltern Foodbank seeks to support the wider community and has experienced an increasing demand for its services from local residents who find themselves in crisis, unable to buy food for their family. The Chiltern Foodbank was set up in 2011 and is part of a nationwide network of 428 foodbanks supported by the Trussell Trust.

How they operate, in simple terms, is that food and other essential household consumables are donated and then sorted and stored by the foodbank. Families who are in need are identified by referral agencies who issue a voucher which can be exchanged for three days of emergency provisions.

Having become aware of the success of recent local collection days for the Chiltern Foodbank, the Shop

at The Lee Committee has agreed to set up a permanent food collection point within the shop. With such challenging times and increasing numbers of people struggling to make ends meet, the Committee felt they would like to offer the opportunity for members of our community to support and regularly donate to the foodbank.



Chiltern foodbank in Chesham

Donations of non-perishable food and other household items, either purchased in the Shop at The Lee or bought elsewhere, can be left in the Chiltern Foodbank blue collection box within the shop. Items which are specifically required will be listed each week on the box. Not all of these items will be stocked in the shop, which is why items bought elsewhere can also be donated. Other items not listed will also be gratefully received but please bear in mind, that they already have a mountain of dried pasta, baked beans and tinned soup so no further supplies of these are required at this time.

If you would like more information on the excellent work done by the Chiltern Foodbank please visit www.chiltern.foodbank.org.uk; details can also be found on their website if you would prefer to make a financial donation instead.

The Shop at The Lee Committee would like to thank you if you are able to support this worthwhile cause.

Lee Common School

By Claire Gresswell,
Head Teacher



The children have settled back into school life and seem to be thriving. It is a joy to hear the sound of learning and laughter ringing through the building again, but oh how I miss the singing! The staff and I are going to have to get creative and think of alternative ways to celebrate Harvest Festival and Christmas this year.

Despite the ever-changing guidance and the tricky job of deciding what is a cold and what is a Covid symptom, I am so pleased that we have been able to get the children back into school and are operating as close to normal as our risk assessments allow. Social interaction

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is a hugely important aspect of a child's development. On the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, 'Personal, Social and Emotional Development' is one of the three prime areas of learning as it is considered to support development in all other areas of the curriculum. It includes: self-confidence and self-awareness; managing feelings and behaviour; and making relationships. It is vitally important that we don't lose sight of this as children leave Reception and progress onto the National Curriculum; we must continue to prioritise children's personal, social and health education.

Play and collaboration

At Lee Common School we are carving out space on our timetables this term to allow the children time to rebuild relationships and adjust to the social demands of school life. This means allowing them to learn through play and through collaboration with their peers. We are also inviting our children to take responsibility for their own learning. We want our children to be curious and inquisitive and ask questions about the world around them. We want to teach them to be independent in their learning, knowing what to do if they are stuck and where they can find the resources they need to help themselves. We also aim to motivate and inspire our children by developing engaging and creative learning activities that fire their imaginations and afford them opportunities to apply the skills and knowledge they learn from their teacher.

Learning to learn

Learning to learn is one of the hardest things a child has to do. It involves a wealth of different behaviours which sometimes have to be taught explicitly. They need to

learn to listen attentively, to answer questions, to ask questions, to share and record their ideas to name but a few. They also need a great deal of perseverance in order to keep trying, practising and not give up. They need resilience when things go wrong and they need courage to try new things and make mistakes. There has been a big push in education over recent years to teach children to have a Growth Mindset. We explain how the brain works and how true learning happens when the brain is being slightly challenged; too easy and no new connections are made, too hard and children can panic and give up. It is a tricky balance to achieve, but it becomes much easier when children feel secure and relaxed at school. A stressed or anxious child cannot learn. Their well-being must always come first. I have no doubt the months ahead will continue to challenge us all, but we will learn as we go, alongside the children.

National Tree Week

By Judy Hart

This year, from 28th November to 6th December, will be the UK's largest annual tree celebration, marking the start of the winter tree planting season (November to March each year). The Tree Council, one of the UK's leading charities for trees, first established National Tree Week in March 1975 in response to the national replanting required after the outbreak of Dutch Elm disease.

We thought it would be a good week to choose to start our project (see last month's newsletter, Nature-Lee) of trying to increase the wildlife on our

land. It also provides a great chance for communities to do something positive for their local treescape. So please do get in touch if you would like to join our working party. Don't be put off, it's not hard work, we're planting trees as whips (small saplings). We will be guided by Chiltern Rangers so no expertise is required, just willing hands. There is a footpath through the fields in which we are planting so you will be able to monitor the fruits of your labours whenever you feel like it.

Please contact me if you would like to help at judy.elgood@gmail.com or phone 837328.

The Lee Parish Council news

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk



Playground

Firstly, a reminder that the children's playground in Oxford Street remains open, on the basis and understanding that:

- The Parish Council will not be cleaning or sanitising the playground equipment.
- The playground is not a supervised play area.
- Those visiting the playground use the equipment on this understanding.
- Allowing children to use playground equipment is, in this respect, done at your risk.

The Government also issued the following guidance to parents and carers of children visiting playgrounds:

- Wash your and your children's hands before and after visiting. Take hand sanitiser with you and consider taking a bottle of water if your children's hands get covered in mud.
- Ensure your children are using hand sanitiser frequently.
- Follow the current social distance guidelines when visiting and encourage your children to do the same thing.
- If the playground is busy, consider coming back at a later time. Talk to your children about this possibility before visiting.
- Follow and adhere to all current government advice in addition to the above guidance.

Public notices have been posted at the playground and at all entrances to



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this effect. A leaflet containing further information is also available at www.thelee.org.uk/playground2020.

If you intend taking children to the playground, please read it before you set out.

Dogs (again)

We continue to receive complaints about dogs fouling the children's play areas and the allotments in Oxford Street. Dog-owners and dog-walkers are reminded:

- All dogs must be kept on a lead when they are in this area. It doesn't matter how well behaved it is – put it on a lead.
- Please pick up all dog poo and take it home with you.

There can be no exceptions to these rules – people's health is at risk... and it's also very unpleasant.

Coronavirus – local updates

Buckinghamshire Council provide regular local updates on Coronavirus and its effects on Council services at <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

The site includes a weekly report from the Council Leader (scroll down to the bottom of the page).

Purple bin bag reordering

We know some people have been struggling to discover how to reorder their purple bin bags. Investigations by the Parish Council have revealed:

- you can't reorder purple bags online
- you need to ring Bucks Council 01494 586550 (there is a call-back service on that number)
- they may take up to 28 days to arrive

Parish Council meeting

The next parish council meeting will be on Tuesday 10th November at 7:30 pm. It will be held online using 'GoToMeeting'. Anyone wishing to

attend is welcome to do so, but should first contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@thelee.org.uk or telephone 07704 909324.

Christmas is open!

By Katie Michaelson-Yeates

Shop at The Lee's Christmas Market in the Parish Hall has become an annual fixture in our calendar. We feel if this is going to happen in 2020, we will have to change the format. So, this year the Christmas Food and Gift Market is taking place over three days with careful social distancing and separate entrance/exit doors.



The Parish Hall Committee has kindly let us use the hall, and the Market will be open to customers from Thursday 5th to Saturday 7th November inclusive, between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. If you would like a timed slot for yourself and your family/friends, we will have early morning and late afternoon times available (more information later).

The tables will be laden as usual with all your favourites: charity Christmas cards; pretty napkins; crackers; everything you need for wrapping your presents, including an eco selection of wrapping paper and ribbon; a bigger selection of the pop-and-slot festive scenes and advent calendars, which were very popular last year; festive fireside matches; bridge playing cards which are so lovely as presents. Chris Field's beautiful decorations, plants and flowers will also be there.



Food items will include all your favourites: panettone (including salted caramel and limoncello flavours); stollen; Christmas cakes; mince pies and puddings (with gluten free options); chocolates; Turkish delight; liqueur bottled fruit; shortbread; crispbread... 'take a breath'... snacks;

chutneys; nougat; gingerbread houses and biscuits; children's chocolates and coins; baklava and so much, much more. We also haven't forgotten the Christmas ales and spirits. We are still buying, so there will be a lot more.

We are very lucky that we can sell many items at a lower price than the larger shops, so please buy first at our Christmas Market.

Social events

By Pat Lea

In view of the new restrictions on gatherings I think we will finally have to cancel this year's Roving Supper and Bonfire and Fireworks. We had discussed various permutations but the Rule of Six makes either event impossible. Hopefully by November next year we will be in a position to reinstate both evenings.

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Chiltern Ridges news



By Councillor Patricia Birchley

The new Chesham and Villages Community Board will be working to improve the health and wellbeing of our community in the autumn. Public Health England doesn't differentiate between our rural and urban populations which have varying degrees of need, but 85% of people in this division have good or very good health, 58% work in a managerial role, 39% have a bachelor's degree or better, 71% are economically active and prior to Covid about 2% claimed employment benefits. 25% live alone and this will be closely watched as we are outliers in terms of loneliness.



There must be some way out of here...

Unsurprisingly, the condition of our roads is considered most important in terms of Council services, and during the past month Councillor Jane MacBean and I have held several meetings with Transport for Bucks (TfB); as a result drainage schemes have been pumped out, roads patched and ditches cleared. Unfortunately the Utility companies have also been digging up roads, most regrettably in

Oxford Street which was resurfaced only last year. Having just returned from Devon I'm really impressed with the quality of their rural roads and will continue to press TfB for more and better work in our parish.

HS2 and their contractors will be measuring traffic flows on our local roads and your councillors are attending monthly briefings with them to understand their forward plans. Building HS2 is a complex business and the tunnelling machines are now being assembled near the south portal in Denham. The development of the five ventilation shafts has been arranged so that each location is ready when the boring machines arrive. Excavation work will start in June 2021 and continue until 2025. [See page 14 for further HS2 news. Ed]

The Local Government Boundary Commission has begun an electoral review of Buckinghamshire. It will announce the total number of new councillors, number and boundaries of electoral divisions, number of councillors representing each division and name of the divisions. Consultations will follow before the boundaries change in 2025.

Bucks Business First is holding a series of events and business information sessions to help local companies rebuild their business. Buckinghamshire Council achieved £75 million of Covid grants on behalf of local companies in record time, and their website <https://bbf.uk.com/news> and <https://bbf.uk.com/events> are well worth a look for local companies.

Do ask if I can raise your questions with officers at County Hall.

Patricia Birchley Chiltern Ridges Division 07714 704017 or email Patricia.Birchley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Forum Freda

Rather than questions this month, Freda thought she'd give you some insight behind the scenes. Although the forum mostly runs itself, there are a few areas where Freda and the rest of the website team actively get involved.

Membership

The forum was set up for the benefit of residents of The Lee Parish, but those living in our neighbouring villages are also very welcome – and in fact are some of our most active members. Occasionally however we get applications from further afield, at which point we always ask for a bit more information about the applicant's interest in and connection to the village. This is one of our favourite responses, from an applicant based in south-east London.

"I realised after I'd completed the registration that I had signed up on the wrong website! Silly me!! I meant to sign up for the forum for Lee in London."

I realised when I saw the photos of your lovely village and thought that doesn't look like London!!"

As an aside, it's always been the website's goal to be placed higher up the Google rankings than Lee in North Devon, but it seems that we are also higher up the rankings than Lee in London which has a population 20 times the size of our parish. The Lee continues to punch above its weight!

Advertising

The Forum wasn't designed for commercial advertising of goods or services – the place for that is this newsletter – it's there for small ads posted by people selling personal belongings. From time to time we are

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approached by people wanting to advertise who we point in the direction of the newsletter, but sometimes members forget the T and Cs and post an advert anyway. We always send a quiet note to remind them, and in some circumstances will also remove the post completely.

The only exception to this rule is Shop at The Lee, which is a community owned, not for profit shop rather than a commercial enterprise.

We also tend to turn a blind eye to one-off posts by students trying to earn a bit of pocket money.

Failed notifications

Although sometimes we receive 'bounceback' messages when individual notification emails are rejected, there have been times when several have been received in succession. In these latter cases, often when someone has exceeded their mailbox limit, we always endeavour to contact them in another way to alert them to the fact that they may be missing mails from other senders as well as us.

Don't forget that answers to various questions can be found on the Common Problems page of the website at <https://www.thelee.org.uk/common-problems/>. If you need some specific advice, please email admin@thelee.org.uk giving details of the problem.

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:

07845 029500

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

Well! What do you know?

By The Lee website team

Did you know that The Lee is home to the oldest building in continuous use in the former Chiltern District?

The Lee Old Church is a Grade I listed building, tucked away at the end of the path through the churchyard, beyond the parish church.

Built around 1220, it is believed to have replaced an earlier wooden chapel on the same site. The Old Church has survived the Reformation and Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Commonwealth of Oliver Cromwell and subsequent Restoration, plus many other monumental and historical happenings, and is still in regular use for both secular and religious events. If buildings could talk, we're sure it would have some wonderful stories.



We've recently heard that the Old Church sits on a site surrounded by ley lines, with the altar being positioned over a point where an underground river splits into two. Maybe the location has been used for worship over an even longer period than we know?

The village website has an extensive history of the building at <https://www.thelec.org.uk/the-lee-old-church/> – and if we find out more about the ley lines we'll update it with more details.

Bridge too far?

By Rita Sully et al

This was the first hand to be dealt when we sat down to play recently. Did we find the best way to bid it?

♠ 9 3 2

♥ -

♦ 8 7 5 3

♣ A 10 7 6 5 2

♠ K

♥ A K J 7 6 5

♦ Q 10 9 4 2

♣ 8

♠ A J 7

♥ 10 4 3 2

♦ A J 6

♣ K J 4

♠ Q 10 8 6 5 4

♥ Q 9 8

♦ K

♣ Q 9 3

Dealer: West
Vulnerability: All

At our table the bidding was:

W	N	E	S
1♥	-	2NT*	-
4NT	-	5♥	-
-	-		

*Jacoby; forcing to game with four card support

How do you think it played? See page 19.

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Services in October

Several local churches provide online services; for example, St Mary's Wendover has a service each Sunday at 11:00 am on Zoom. Details can be found at <https://stmaryswendover.org/> St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden stream a service on Facebook each Sunday at 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. Details can be found at <https://www.missendenchurch.org.uk/>

St John the Baptist, The Lee

We are always available via churchall4@gmail.com with messages for any of the churches being passed on to the appropriate person.

Contacts: *Parish Administrator:* Joanne Evans (07811 094416). *Churchwardens:* Trevor Pearce (01494 837601) and Mike Sherratt (07597 158269). *Vergers:* Bill Pearce (01494 785191). *Treasurer:* David Stephenson (01494 867617).

Lee Common Methodist

We hope to be able to hold the following services:

4 th 10:00 _{am}	Gerald Tomkins
11 th 3:00 _{pm}	Revd N Wright Harvest Festival
18 th 3:00 _{pm}	Revd A Wells
25 th 10:00 _{am}	Gerald Tomkins
November	
1 st 10:00 _{am}	Gerald Tomkins

As numbers are limited due to Covid regulations, please telephone Gerald or Marian Tomkins on 01494 837479 if you would like to attend. Masks will have to be worn and two metres social distancing maintained. Sadly we will not be allowed to sing but we hope to listen to some hymns.

The Lee Old Church

4th 8:00_{am}

Holy Communion

St Mary's, Ballinger

4th 9:30_{am}

Harvest Festival

Anyone who would like to attend, please contact Anne Ellis on 01494 837247 as numbers will have to be limited.

On Sunday 6th September we held our first service at St. Mary's since March – a 6:00 pm Evening Prayer. The church was filled to socially distanced capacity and it was lovely to achieve some semblance of normality after so long. Like everyone else, we are only able to take one step at a time and so are planning a month ahead rather than publishing a list of intended services as was done in the past.

Police update

By Ian Stacey. Police Neighbourhood Administrator Chiltern and South Bucks. and Sergeant Darren Walsh

Figures show that Chiltern and South Bucks is one of the most targeted areas in the force for burglaries. We use analysis to identify crime areas and times when burglars are likely to target addresses. Targeted houses will often be attacked by a gang of people rather than an individual.

From working with my community I was asked for more information about how break-ins occurred, and when. This information has been obtained and shared with the public. Statistics showed that over the last three months the two most common ways of entering houses were by the front and rear doors. Surprisingly the front door was the most used method of gaining entry and in the evening the most likely time of an attack. From

CCTV I've seen this month one group of burglars are pulling up onto people's driveways, testing the door before then calling to see if anyone is in. There were several reports of items being stolen with no forced entry. The most valuable bit of crime advice that we can give out is to keep your doors locked at all times not just at night.

Burglaries	June	July	August
Amersham	2	6	7
Missendens	3	2	4
Chalfonts	3	5	10

[The Lee falls within the Chesham neighbourhood. Ed]

Car theft

There has been a large increase in cars being stolen without the burglars even having to enter the house to steal the key. Investigations have shown that criminals are going up to front doors and scanning keys through the door. As people start to adapt to this new threat so do the criminals. A recent case showed a burglar going to the rear of the property and using garden furniture as a way to get higher to try and obtain a signal. Another incident occurred at around 5:30 am where a male knocked claiming he was collecting someone for work. Whilst talking to the homeowner he has been fiddling with a device in his man bag which we suspect was a possible attempt to get a signal. Beware of men with man bags.

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Please be careful with your car keys, at home and when out and about, and be aware of the risks when left next to the front door on the sideboard or in a coat pocket. Metal tins can be used to block car keys signals or signal blocker pouches can be purchased for around £6.

Due to the success of previous operations Amersham Neighbourhood Policing have been leading the way in running and working with other forces in cross border operations. This resulted, over a seven day period in June, in five people being arrested, two vehicles being seized and 22 people being reported or issued with fixed penalty notices for various offences. A three day operation took place in July with nine arrests, four vehicles being taken off the road and 10 people being reported or issued with fixed penalty notices for various offences. In August, over eight days, there were five arrests

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and 12 people were reported or issued with fixed penalty notices for various offences; four vehicles were seized and taken off the road. The Op even resulted in some fly-tippers being caught red handed.

Drug dealing

We are seeing County Drug Line Gang members starting to arrive in our area. This is a worrying trend and poses a risk to those who are most vulnerable. Amersham and Chesham Neighbourhood Teams will be dealing with this head on. Identified problem areas can expect to see an increased police presence and they will be informed of the concerns which we have and asked to report suspicious activity. We want to make life as uncomfortable as possible for any would-be gangs so that we can protect our community.

The use of stop and search powers are being used as a tool to target this by my team and we have the highest percentage of interventions by using this power. The Neighbourhood Teams are constantly developing intelligence from reviewing cases to being out on patrol.

We've found that the joint operations have also been great at disrupting drug dealers and users. There have been a large number of arrests for drug driving.

Nitrous Oxide

Commonly known as 'legal highs' this term is misleading and from now on the official term for drugs which are still legal or yet to become illegal is new psychoactive substances, often shortened to NPS. I am currently working on a project around Nitrous Oxide and this will include working with schools to educate children of the risks and how it can ruin lives. Working with the Town and Parish

Councils we are in the process of creating signage for the parks to get the message out. Areas where NOS canisters are being found are having increased patrols. Where people are found with the canisters they are being confiscated and letters being sent to them and parents informing them of the risks. There has been positive feedback from this approach.

Stay safe and keep your eyes peeled!

HS2 update

By Colin Sully, The Lee Parish Council

The announcement in September by the Government of "the formal start of the construction of HS2" was of course just political spin. Nothing different happened the day after the announcement than was happening the day before. Anyone living anywhere near the line knows full well that 'construction' started some time ago, as our own experience with the Great Missenden haul road and this picture of the southern portal to the Chilterns tunnel clearly testify.



What the announcement does appear to have been, however, is a statement by Government that, amidst all the other U-turns it has made, it has no intention of making one on HS2... or at least not on the London-Birmingham section.

Also in September, HS2 protesters escalated their 'passive resistance' to the project nationally and locally, on the A413 near Wendover and in Jones' Hill Wood. A winter of tough 'community engagement' for HS2 contractors and protesters appears to lie ahead.

Local HS2 developments

A full update on local HS2 issues has recently been prepared for the Chesham and Villages Community Board and is available on The Lee website at <https://www.thelee.org.uk/HS2updateSept-2020> It covers:

- the local programme of works
- mitigation measures
- community engagement

The Lee, along with the Missenden Parish Councils and Buckinghamshire Council (BC), are due to meet next with HS2 Ltd and their contractors on 22nd September, when we expect to be updated further on the local programme of works. We will update the online report after that meeting with anything useful.

Catch 22 is alive and well

We reported last month that, as part of HS2's preparation works, automatic traffic counters were due to be installed (in August) at six locations in the immediate area. At the time of writing, the sixth one (on Potter Row) has yet to be installed due to 'technical difficulties' and so the monitoring still hasn't started.

This further delay is frustrating, in that this monitoring was supposed to start 'in advance of construction' – so that changes due to HS2 can be monitored – which it clearly now can't.

Also in September, we were given notice of further local archaeological and ground investigative works which, it is argued, need to be accessed from Kings Lane thus

necessitating temporary road closures and diversions. Further details of the October temporary closure have been posted to the website.

Construction traffic on HS2 locally is supposed to be using an internal haul road, which is due to be built from the Link Road roundabout, up to the portal and then all the way along the line to Rocky Lane. Of course, the archaeological and ground investigation traffic can't use this internal road until it is built, and it can't be built until the investigation work is completed.

So, we end up with construction traffic using the other 'safe-guarded' access points along Potter Row and Kings Lane... and no means of monitoring this construction traffic

We have pointed out this 'double Catch 22' to HS2 Ltd, to BC and to the contractors, but don't expect it to make any difference!

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Art4Lee

By Ruth Fowler

The other day I woke up with a completely random, but fully formed idea to showcase the many varied talents within the village.

This would be to hold an arts and crafts event which is derived from a blend of Bucks Art Week with the Flower Show, but with a unique The Lee twist on things.

The idea of Art4Lee would be for people to share the outcome of their hobbies with others in the village, by hosting a display in their house or garden of things they wish to showcase. This could range from just opening their garden to show off their green-fingered talents to a display of paintings, photographs, pottery, sculpture, carvings, tapestry or (for the younger at heart) Lego models. Art

takes many forms and the performing arts wouldn't be excluded, so anyone wishing to give a musical recital, puppet show, poetry reading etc. could also participate. Refreshments are always welcome, so anyone wishing to display (or sell) homemade cakes, jams, chutneys, drinks etc. would also be able to set up a stall in their house or garden.

I'm sure the list is endless, and that there are many hidden talents I haven't touched upon.

The event would be held over the bank holiday weekend at the start of May, with the exact day and time to be decided upon. The idea would then be that people could stroll around the village looking at the various exhibits, hopefully making this a very sociable occasion.

Art4Lee

Obviously we don't know now what kind of Covid restrictions might or might not be in place in May, but let's think positively as I'm optimistic that this could be made to work safely.

There would need to be a minimum number of exhibitors to make Art4Lee viable, so before it can definitely take place I would need to know that there is sufficient interest in the village to make it worthwhile. If you might be interested in exhibiting, please email ruth.fowler7@gmail.com to let me know what you would wish to showcase, or call me on 837438. If you would be interested in joining a small group of organisers, please also contact me as above.

I'll let everyone know in the next edition of the newsletter whether or not this is likely to go ahead – but let's try to make the inaugural Art4Lee arts and crafts event happen.

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A kindly request

By Diana Taylor

Three things I have remembered
From all my mother said
“Say your please and thank you nicely,
Clean your teeth when time for bed”

Well, that’s when I was little
Then, as teenage years passed by
I learnt how to kiss and never tell
And the meaning of “just try”

As I became an adult
Other things I had to learn
Like it’s easy to spend more on junk
Than it is, the cost, to earn

In my learning I’ve been diligent
But now, my latest task,
Is to keep my distance, wash my hands
And, in public, wear a mask

It’s not just an expectation
Like “don’t drink too much or smoke”
For now it’s really life or death
As Covid is no joke

If you breathe in at the wrong time
When another’s breath is near
Then that morbid little virus
Could really cost you dear

Don’t be blasé when you go to shop
Don’t think it’s too much fuss
If you don’t care for your own health
Then spare a thought for us

We’re the ones who, being cautious
Might miss out now on the fun
But we want to live another day
After Corona’s gone

So wherever you are going
And whatever are your plans
Wear a mask and keep your distance
And be sure to wash your hands.

Thank you.

From the archive October 1920

By the Newsletter Team

Compiled from articles by Mike Senior and Liz Stewart-Liberty published in the October 2003 edition of the newsletter, this piece refers to events of 100 years ago in October 1920.

Background

Captain Backhouse died on 21st June 1800, and was buried in Havenfield Wood.

By the first part of the 20th century, locals using the footpath to Great Missenden through the wood claimed it was very haunted and frightening and implored Ivor Stewart-Liberty (the Stewart-Liberty family had owned the land since around 1900) to ‘do

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something'. He did. Because Captain Backhouse had elected to be buried standing upright, his sword in his hand and his naval West-to-East hat in position, the feeling that the wood was haunted had grown. As he was buried in unconsecrated ground, it was therefore an uneasy spirit, and this feeling disturbed those using the footpath.

In the 1920s, Captain Ivor Stewart-Liberty had the body dug up and removed to Hampden churchyard. An obelisk was erected bearing an inscription with an explanation for this rotten high-handed act of removal.



The lettering on the monument in Havenfield Wood reads: "Site of Captain Backhouse's Tomb 1800. I.S.L. 1920"

Back in 2003, when this article first appeared in the newsletter, the obelisk was in good order but was hard to find as it was surrounded by thick brambles and nettles. There is also a very dangerous deep pit from which chalk has been excavated which should be avoided.

The archives

The October 1920 Lee Magazine includes an article by William Atlay

(signing himself W.A.), who lived in Potter Row, giving us another angle on this eccentric soldier: "Captain Backhouse was a curious old Hero who stood no nonsense from his employees. If annoyed with them he used to let them down on a rope into a pit on the estate and leave them there for a day or so with little water and a bit of tallow candle to eat till he thought they had had enough of it and I believe that they generally agreed with him that they had had enough, when he was ready to pull them up."

Trespassers and HS2 should be warned – you might end up in a pit eating tallow candle.

Haunted

W.A. also tells us that "when the new drive (to Havenfield) was first made, rumour had it that Backhouse's coach used to drive up from the House to look for his grave, though I expect the bad surface of the drive was too much for his old bones let alone the springs of the coach". Ivor Stewart-Liberty added the comment: "I can assure W.A. that Captain Backhouse's ghost often uses the drive and is apt to be very unpleasant to unauthorised users of it."

It has been said that on New Year's Eve a carriage and four gallop up, but with no coachman. Liz Stewart-Liberty remembered once trying to simulate the sound of galloping hooves (coconut shells on tin) and the Geddes family, who then occupied Havenfield, were not amused.

Arthur Stewart-Liberty often walked up from Great Missenden railway station late at night through Havenfield Wood and said he experienced an ominous presence but attributed it to movement and noise from cattle in the adjoining fields, foxes, badgers, owls etc.

Here, there and everywhere

By The Lee Newsletter team

Forum Freda's article this month (see page 9) with references to Lee in London and North Devon, prompted some research into other similarly named places.

Closest in name is the hamlet of The Lee in Northumberland, whilst a more distantly named relation is Lee-on-Solent in Hampshire.

In the United States, Lee in California was only in existence from 1905-1912, whilst Lee in Florida (pop 352) and Lee in Illinois (area 0.16 square miles) are even smaller than our own parish. Lee in Maine was named after an early settler, Stephen Lee, with the towns of Lee in Massachusetts, New York and New Hampshire all being named after Revolutionary War General Charles Lee. There are also unincorporated communities named Lee in Indiana, Nevada and Tennessee. Mount Lee is a peak in the Santa Monica Mountains, most famous for having the Hollywood sign on its southern slope.

One also mustn't omit Lée in the Pyrenees in France, the 33 families who live in Lee in Uttarakhand in India, nor the electoral district of Lee in Adelaide, South Australia.

Finally, there are rivers named Lee in London, Ireland and Germany. Let us know if we've missed anywhere!

Bridge too far?

At our table, North led 7♦, East played the Ace and 12 tricks were made. Was it possible to bid a small slam?



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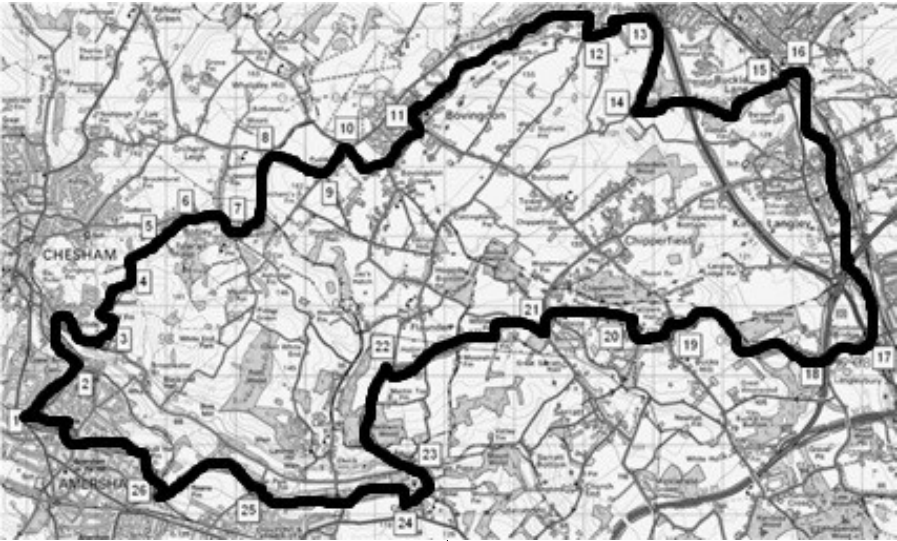
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The Lee: Off Road Cycle Tours No 28

The Chilterns East of Chesham

By Rudi Kalveks

The hills east of Chesham are home to many picturesque villages. This longish route starts from Chesham Bois and takes various bridleways through Botley, Ley Hill and Bovingdon, over to the Grand Union Canal near Kings Langley. The return leg skirts Bucks Hill, Belsize, Flaunden, Latimer and Chenies. Try not to get lost.

Route Finding:

1. Start from North Road, Chesham Bois. Find bridleway near junction with A416 and head downhill.
2. Go under railway and turn left onto Bois Moor Road. Then right into Latimer Road.

3. By Priests auto dealership, turn left up Pump Lane bridleway.
4. Left at bridleway T-junction.
5. Continue straight ahead on Broomstick Lane byway.
6. At Ley Hill turn right into Botley Road.
7. Just past The Green turn left onto bridleway. Head left at bridleway T-junction after small descent.
8. The bridleway is signed "Chiltern Heritage Trail". At Chesham Road turn right onto another bridleway.
9. At Pudds Cross turn left onto road.
10. Turn right into Green Lane and keep left to Bovingdon.
11. At the Bell PH, turn left into High Street, then immediately right onto Church Lane. Continue onto Stoney Lane signed "unsuitable for motor vehicles". Remain on this as it becomes a bridleway and crosses various minor roads. Eventually emerge onto Felden Lane.
12. Left onto Featherbed Lane, continue past tower.
13. After a short road section by the M25, turn right onto bridleway to Rucklers Lane.

14. Left onto Rucklers Lane. Pass under A41.
15. At traffic lights, cross under railway and straight across A4251 onto Nash Mills Lane.
16. Cross bridge over Grand Union Canal and turn right onto towpath. Follow towpath for 2.5 miles, changing banks half-way.
17. At Hunton Bridge, leave the towpath, turn right then cross over A41 into Langleybury Lane.
18. At Langleybury House, turn right onto bridleway to Bucks Hill. Continue past sign "Model Farm".
19. At Bucks Hill, turn left into road then right onto Quickmoor Lane.
20. At Cart and Horses PH turn right. Then continue straight ahead on Permissive Bridleway.
21. Descend into Belsize village. Head left up Poles Hill then sharp right into Bragmans Lane.
22. Continue straight, past Hollins Hall, then onto Bridleway straight ahead. Shortly turn left onto Restricted Bridleway to Chenies/Latimer. Follow signs to Chenies through Baldwin's Wood. At TJ of bridleways at bottom of hill, head left.
23. At Mill Farm, join road, cross the River Chess, then head left uphill to Chenies.
24. Skirt around the South side of Chenies Manor, then find the bridleway from the rear car park.

25. Follow the bridleway along the top of Lane Wood. The bridleway crosses some lanes, and acquires "Chiltern Cycleway" signs.

26. After Raans Farm, cross the railway, then right into Quill Hall Lane. Continue through housing estates along Chestnut Lane back to Chesham Bois.

Total distance: 26.5 miles. Three main climbs for total 500m ascent. Allow around four hours, depending on conditions.

Don't forget: Helmet, puncture repair kit, water, go slow for horses.

Recommended: OS Explorer Maps: Chiltern Hills North (181), Chiltern Hills East (172), St Albans & Hatfield (182).

Good cycling, Rudi

A colour version of the map shown here can be found at <https://www.thelee.org.uk/Cycle-map-28>

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Dear Diary

The fastest way to let everyone in the Parish know about an event you are arranging is to publish it right here in the Newsletter. Contact the Editor by the 12th of the previous month (see contact details on page 1).

October

Thursday 1st October. **The Arts Society Ballinger.** As if by Magic: The Secret of Turner's water colour. Lecturer: Nicola Moorby. Online.

Thursday 15th October. **The Arts Society Ballinger.** The Black Death. Lecturer: Imogen Corrigan. Online.

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Cancelled

Thursday 5th November. **Bonfire Night.**
Saturday 14th November. **Ballinger
Christmas Fair.**

Ballinger Horticultural Society will not be holding any meetings until next year. Please check website for all up to date details ballingerhort.co.uk

Coming Soon

Thursday 5th-Saturday 7th November. Shop at The Lee Christmas Market from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm each day in the Parish Hall. See page 6.

Thursday 5th November. **The Arts Society Ballinger.** In Search of Lookadiya Kasperova: Musical Adventures in Russia. Lecturer: Graham Griffiths. Online.

Tuesday 10th November. **The Lee Parish Council Meeting.** 7:30 pm. Online. See page 6.

Thursday 19th November. **The Arts Society Ballinger.** Unfolding the Art of Georgia O'Keefe. Lecturer: Deborah Jenner. Online.

Thursday 3rd December. **The Arts Society Ballinger.** The Field of The Cloth of Gold Lecturer: Jo Mabutt.

Thursday 17th December. **The Arts Society Ballinger.** The Queen of Instruments: The Lute within Old Masters Paintings.

Directory of local contacts

Ballinger Horticultural Society

Chairperson: Katherine Hersee
07801 948650, kjhersee@gmail.com
Membership Secretary:
jennywooding@btconnect.com

Ballinger War Memorial Hall

Bookings: Jane Ogden, 837379

Ballinger Evening WIContact: Frankie Little, 837659
frankie.little@btinternet.com**Lee Common C of E School**School office, 837267
office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk**Lee Common Methodist Church**

Marian Tomkins, 837479

Lee Common ScoutsGroup Scout Leader: Chris Nevill
864881, gsl@1stleecommon.co.uk**Shop at The Lee**Symeon Economou, 837195
shop@thelee.org.uk**St John the Baptist Church**

See centre pages.

St Mary's BallingerContact: Anne Ellis, 837247
anne.ellis1004@gmail.com**Tennis Court @ Parish Hall**

Bookings: Judy Morgan 837787

The Arts Society BallingerChair: 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@gmail.com

The Lee Old Church Trust

Secretary: Pam Garner 837501

The Lee Parish CouncilClerk: Hayley Farrelly, 07704 909324
clerk@thelee.org.uk
www.thelee.org.uk/pc
Allotments: Alison Weir, 837529**The Lee Parish Hall Committee**Bookings: Anne Barnett, 837796
Chairman: Tony Lea, 837237**The LeeWay**

Contact: 07845 029500

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.

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To book the Parish Hall or Scout Hut

'phone Anne Barnett on 837796

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